



The Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism

2008 Yearly Report

Overview and Trends



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- * This report only contains data from 2008 and does not include Operation Cast Lead, which began in late December.
- * The following data is taken from the website of the Forum for Countering Antisemitism, except where otherwise specified. Even though the data we gathered is not complete, we consider it to be a relative reflection of the general trend.

Summary/trends

1. 2008 has seen a decline in the number of antisemitic incidents in most countries. On the other hand, Germany has seen a significant rise in the number of incidents, a significant rise was evident also in the USA (based on partial data only) and a specific increase in the number of violent incidents was evident in Belgium during the month of September.
2. In spite of the decline, Britain, France and the Ukraine are still leading with the highest number of incidents.
3. The violent antisemitic activity in Western European countries and in South Africa was mostly perpetrated by local Muslims.
4. The perpetrators of antisemitic activity in member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union) and former Eastern Europe, including former Eastern Germany, were mostly right wing extremists acting from nationalist motives.
5. It is our understanding that the continued efforts of local authorities to combat antisemitism, antisemitic instigation and the activities of Islamic extremists and terrorists around the world has contributed, among other things and due to the lack of trigger (such as the worsening situation in our part of the world), to the decline in the number of antisemitic incidents.
6. Iran, the Hezbollah, Hamas and some of the Islamic Arab countries have continued to lead the antisemitic propaganda in the main media channels, the Internet, and through the deliverance of speeches, as part of the propaganda against Israel and thus, they continued to influence the minds of millions of Muslims around the world with hateful information and legitimize the support in terrorist attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets.
7. The terrorist threat against Jewish communities continues, made by global Jihad groups and by Hezbollah – with the intent of avenging the killing of Mughniyah and supported by local Muslim groups.
8. The terror attack in Mumbai has demonstrated the damaging potential the radical and local Muslim groups have on Jewish and/or Israeli institutions such as Chabad House and on locations that attract large concentrations of Israelis and are not necessarily connected with institutions of the local Jewish community.

Current state of affairs and evaluation of current situation by arenas:

The European arena:

Germany

1. 2008 has seen a rise in the number of antisemitic incidents in Germany, compared with 2007 (59 antisemitic incidents in '08 compared with 21 in '07). Nevertheless, it should be mentioned that the number of violent antisemitic incidents did not increase during '08 (5 violent incidents in '08 and in '07). Among the most prominent violent incidents during '08 are [the attack on a rabbi and his students](#) (November) [inciting dogs to attack Jewish youth in Berlin](#) (January).

Prominent developments

2. The authorities in Germany have expressed their concern in light of two issues: the rise (19 percent between January and August '08) in the number of attacks instigated by Neo Nazis in Saxony State in Eastern Germany, and the Neo Nazi activity becoming more organized and the possibility it might even spread to other areas of Germany. This data is supported by the results of a research published in '08, which found there has been a rise in the propensity for antisemitism in Eastern Germany in '08 (7.9 percent in '08 compared with 4.8 percent in '02). Nevertheless, it should be mentioned that the same research also found the general support of right wing extremism in Germany is on the decline (9 percent in '08 compared with 9.3 percent in '02).
3. The financial crisis and internal conflicts of the Neo Nazi party NPD (National Democratic Party), which won more than one percent in the elections of '05 and is the reprehensive of a number of Eastern German states in the House of Parliament, resulted in the resignation of a few of its members who were disappointed by what they considered to be the party's overly moderate stance. Nevertheless, the party is striving to expand its influence in the upcoming parliamentary elections in the states of Brandenburg and Thuringen.
4. [An increase in threats to the lives of Jewish community Rabbi, Charlotte Knobloch](#), most probably due to her continuous combat against the Neo Nazi party NPD.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

5. The recurring statements made by the German President, Merkel, and the coalition party (CDU) in support of Israel and reaffirming the commitment of Germany to combat antisemitism and to commemorate the holocaust.
6. The political system and the authority of law enforcement and security agencies in Germany take a serious approach to crimes with a racist and antisemitic motive and have an appropriate penalization system in place (the arrest of denier of the holocaust ARNOLD HOEFS, who also took part in the International Holocaust Denial Conference in Teheran, '06).
7. The struggle of the authorities against the spreading of hate propaganda on the internet while supporting related international initiatives (ratification of the European treaty and agreement on the issue of cybercrimes).
8. Activity for the commemoration of the holocaust – many events are being held for the commemoration of the holocaust (Germany declared the 27th of January, the anniversary of liberation of Auschwitz, to be the “memorial day for the victims of Nazism”, and holds a “Krystalnacht” memorial assembly); Germany has become a member of the TASK FORCE

ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION, REMEMBRANCE AND RESEARCH (Mars '08) and a permanent office of the task force was opened in Berlin. The objective of this organization is to reach a joint understanding of the meaning of the holocaust shared by all nationalities of the 25 member countries of the organization, and to increase public awareness of the danger of recurring genocide.

9. Continuation of national and international government activity for raising awareness about antisemitism and racism and combating the phenomena, the continuation of the action program: “youth for tolerance and democracy – against right wing extremism, xenophobia and antisemitism”; projects and initiatives for the countering of extreme right wing movements in states of former Eastern Germany; approving a national action program, the completion of which is expected during '08, which will be presented to the UN.
10. Continuation of authorities' efforts to struggle against the Neo Nazi party NPD and the attempts to outlaw it. A deliberation on the issue of illegalization of the party's activities is expected to be conducted in the State of Bavaria (December).
11. A number of discussions on the issue of antisemitism were conducted in the German parliament during '08. Members asked specific question relating to government monitoring of antisemitic incidents, desecration of Jewish cemeteries and funding of extreme right wing organizations.

Evaluation

12. Even though the German authorities are aware of the antisemitic phenomenon and the extreme-right groups' expressions of racism, and in spite of their commitment to fight it, this year has seen a rise in the level of antisemitic activities in Germany. We evaluate that this trend is not expected to change significantly due to the activity of extreme right groups, especially in former Eastern Germany, directed against immigrants and foreigners, most of them Muslims and some of them identified with terrorist activity. In addition to the growing impact of the global economic crisis there might be another increase in the extreme-right's antisemitic activities, especially in the regions of former Eastern Germany, which are economically weaker.

Belgium

General

1. There has been a general rise in the number of antisemitic incidents in Belgium during '08 compared with '07 (32 incidents during '08 compared with 26 during '07) and specifically in the number of violent incidents (6 violent incident in '08 compared with one violent incident in '07). It should be mentioned that this is a specific occurrence of a number of violent incidents that took place only in the month of September and that in most of the violent incidents (4 out of 6) the attackers were Muslims and north Africans.
2. It is our understanding that the unusual number of violent antisemitic incidents during the month of September is a sporadic outburst which possibly started due to the fact the Ramadan coincides with the Jewish holidays, which increased the friction and tension between the Jewish and Muslim communities. This is true mainly in cities like Brussels, where there is a high concentration of Muslims, and Antwerp, where there is a high concentration of orthodox

Jews. This assumption is probable in light of the fact that between September '08 and until the commencement of Operation Cast Lead there was no record of violent incidents.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

3. Denial of the holocaust and antisemitic activity in Belgium is subject to heavy fines and even imprisonment.
4. A Member of the parliament from the extreme right wing party The National Front (November), has been dismissed from his position after being caught on film singing a mockery song about a Jewish girl in the holocaust. Prior to that dismissal, another parliament member of the same party was dismissed (October) after he denied the existence of the gas chambers in the holocaust and said his party has relations with Neo Nazi groups.

Evaluation

5. In our evaluation, it seems that the specific rise in the number of antisemitic incidents in Belgium is affected mostly by the combination of the political and economic crisis, the increase in power of local Muslim groups and the attempts of terrorist groups to enter the European arena. We evaluate that only an effective struggle of the authorities against Islamic terrorist activity in Belgium will affect the number of antisemitic incidents during '09, though not the antisemitic opinions of the right and left wing groups, the local Muslim population and the popular media.

Britain

General

1. [During '08 there has been a decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents in Britain, including in the number of violent incidents.](#)
2. The level of antisemitic and anti Israel propaganda was high and prominent. This included demonization and delegitimization of Israel by extreme-left wing groups, extreme-right wing groups, pro-Palestinians and radical Muslims. A sharp increase in such activities has been detected mainly in universities.
3. The extreme pro-Palestinian left wing, including Israeli and Jewish academics and professional unions, continues to promote initiatives for boycotting Israeli academic institutions (so far to no avail) and Israeli products, within the frame work of anti Israel propaganda which includes antisemitic expressions. Thus, they contribute to the hostile atmosphere toward Israel and its supporters. In addition, these left wing extremist groups continue to call for the persecution of IDF officers visiting in Britain for their alleged involvement in "war crimes".

Prominent incidents

- a. [Desecration of dozens of graves in Plashet cemetery in London in April.](#)
- b. [Youngsters burning contents and formularies in the Jewish center Gateshead.](#)
- c. [Threats to the life of former football coach, Avram Grant.](#)
- d. [13 years old Jewish youngster was attacked](#) (June) and robbed on his way back from yeshiva in Stamford Hill neighborhood in London. The youngster was beaten with clubs

and kicked, lost his consciousness and was rushed to hospital suffering from moderate injuries. It should be mentioned that most of the victims of antisemitic attacks are orthodox Jews due to their identifiable appearance. In addition, many of the victims were children/students.

- e. [A member of a Neo Nazi group was arrested for planning a terrorist act in Yorkshire](#), there are no details relating to the location and time of the planned terrorist act. Firearms and Neo Nazi literature were found in his apartment.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

4. Establishing the parliamentary committee for the purpose of monitoring the state of antisemitism in Britain (beginning of '08) whose function is to recommend on the manner of action to be taken by the authorities in order to counter the phenomena. The committee called for parliaments in other European states to follow its lead. On February '09, an international parliamentary convention initiated by parliament member John Mann is expected to be held in the House of Lords in London, which will deal with issues relating to the struggle against antisemitism.
5. The activity of the British authorities for curbing incitement in mosques focuses on preventing extremist Imams from entering the country. Extreme left wing groups and radical Muslims view this as a violation of the freedom of expression in Britain and call upon the authorities to avoid such activity.
6. In spite of the policy of the authorities to combat racist and antisemitic incidents, the perpetrators are rarely caught and/or punished.
7. In light of the terror threat and the rise in antisemitic incidents, the authorities decided to reinforce the governmental support in '08 (both financially and physically) in securing the Jewish community.

Evaluation

8. We evaluate that the efforts of the authorities, the significant activity of the Jewish community and the cooperation between the two, have contributed to the decrease in antisemitic incidents this year in Britain. Yet, the level of antisemitic activity in Britain is still one of the highest in Europe and the world and shall probably continue on that level. It is our understanding that the left wing groups, who lead the wide spread propaganda against Israel while gaining the support of academic circles, parliament members and leading professional unions, are influencing the increase in hostility towards Israel and the Jews, who are identified with it, especially within the large Muslim community, some of them extremists and some even support terrorist acts. Sometimes these Muslims receive legitimization from the left wing.
9. The global economic crisis, which also effected Britain, and the rising popularity of extreme right wing parties in a number of European countries might bring about a rise in nationalistic activity of the extreme right wing circles, and also the frustration of the lower income immigrants and Muslim population, which will be directed toward Jews, among others, who they see as the originators of the crisis.

France

General

1. [There was no increase in antisemitic incidents in France in '08](#). The incidents were characterized by severe physical attacks, out of which the following were prominent: the beating of a teenager with an iron bar in Paris (August '08), [the stabbing of a Jew in Marseille](#) (August '08) [and severe beatings of Jews in the suburbs of Paris](#) (October). It should be mentioned that the severe physical attacks were perpetrated by Northern African Muslims and most of them occurred in Paris and its area. It is our understanding that this phenomenon is proof of the high level of tension between Muslims and Jews, which exists mainly around Paris.

The affect of the internal situation on the state of antisemitism

2. The establishment of a new right wing party - as a result of the internal issues which afflicted the National Front party (FN) lead by Le Penne, since its defeat in the '07 elections, the economic hardships of the party and the fight for succession, an evident effort was made by the right wing organizations and activists to restore the extreme right wing movement by establishing a new right wing movement in March '08, whose objective is to become a party under the name Nouvelle droite Populaire (the new popular right). The movement strives to unite its members who were displeased with the National Front party and is intended to act against immigration and Islamization and support the building of a strong Europe independent of the USA and NATO.
3. The activity of the new movement of the "black antisemitism" - Kemi seba, the leader of the racist and antisemitic black movement Tribu-ka, which was dispersed in '06 under the order of the former Internal Affairs Minister, Sarkozy, has established a new movement under the name of MDI - Mouvement des damnés de l'imperialisme, which presumes to unite groups from the extreme right, pan-African movements, Muslims and anti Zionist extreme left movements. It should be mentioned that no cooperation between the French extreme right and the Black Antisemitic movement exists, except for local meetings of extreme right French activists with MDI activists and the attempt to organize a mutual demonstration which was prohibited by the police.
4. The promotion of antisemitic ideas and the activity of movements for the advancement of Parisian suburbs – local social organizations in the suburbs of Paris, that are committed to the social and economic advancement of the suburbs (successful immigration, advancement of suburban youth) are, in fact, the legitimate and official political body of the suburbs. During '08, these organizations were instigating antisemitic activities under the guise and protection of their official social-political activity.
5. The left wing and pro-Palestinian groups and workers' organizations that took advantage of the existing frustration with the French government due to the economic crisis, were prominent in the demonstrations protesting against the events in Gaza (march '08), where harsh criticism was expressed against the French government and its cooperation with Israel.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

6. The penalizing policy of the French authorities for antisemitism, both from the extreme right and the Black Antisemitic movement, continues. Thus, La Penne was sentenced to three months suspended prison sentence and a ten thousand Euro fine, as result of his statement that the Nazi occupation in France was not "particularly inhumane", and Kemi Seba was sentenced to four month suspended prison sentence for racist activity and one year suspended sentence for establishing the antisemitic MDI organization.
7. President Sarkozy has displayed his overt commitment to fight against antisemitism and the denial of the holocaust and he has good relations with the Jewish community in France: he even participated in the annual event of the French Jews' parent organization, CRIF.

Evaluation

8. In the past two years there has not been an increase in the number of incidents in France, and we estimate that is mainly the result of authorities' penalizing policy. Nevertheless, the global economic crisis which was followed by a financial crisis and a rising unemployment (some 2 million unemployed), might effect this trend in '09, if the authorities will not succeed in restraining reactions and activities which stem from the social and economic frustration brought about by the crisis.

Russia

General

1. The data of 2008 reflects a decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents in Russia (a total of 120 antisemitic incidents until October '08 compared with 156 during the same period in 2007, out of which, 20 violent incidents in '08 vs. 58 in '07).
2. The violent incidents were planned ahead of time. The evidence for that are the ambushes, Molotov cocktails, and crow bars and leaflets carried by the perpetrators during the break-ins into the different facilities. The national Neo Nazi movements often took responsibility for such activities.
3. Most of the violent incidents this year were aimed against those who are visually identifiable as Jewish: [the attack against a Jewish musician in a café in Volozhny](#) (June), [the attack against synagogue goers in the district of Bashkotostan](#) (May), [the attack against two Jews nearby a Jewish center in Tula](#) (May). In addition [break-ins and attempts of assault were recorded against the goers of a synagogue in Nijni Novgorod](#) (January); [visitors to a community facility in Ulyanovsk](#) (January) and [a synagogue in Tomsk](#) (November).
4. '08 has seen the continuation of the show of force of the Russian Neo Nazi movements through marches and taking responsibility for sending threats to the Jewish communities and signing antisemitic leaflets. The organizations continued to circulate Nazi literature and documentations and were engaged in assimilating the Third Reich ideology within potential support groups. In a demonstration of about 400 SS movement activists and an extreme orthodox organization (April) in Moscow, the demonstrators declared they support terrorist acts and carried antisemitic signs. The traditional Russian parade took place this year (November) in 20 cities around Russia and during which, activists of the movements RONS, SS, DPNE (total of some 4,000 people) carried racist and antisemitic signs (especially in the town of Perm).

5. On the propaganda level, leaflets of defamations were prominent in the city of Novosibirsk before Passover and the inclusion of defamations in the curriculum of Tyumen Academy (June). The renewal of the use of defamations not within the church, which almost ceased to exist in the past few years, goes hand in hand with the return of “classic” antisemitic motives which are part of the nationalism wave sweeping across Russia.
6. The chief Mufty of Russia, Ashirov, has stated many times during '08 that Zionism is a type of cancer and compared Zionism with fascism. While a number of Muftys denounced this statement, Ashirov also received his first ever public support from senior Muslim officials. This is a change in the usually cautious management of the Muslim community's affairs that makes the distinction between criticism against Israeli activity in the Middle East and a positive attitude toward the Jewish Russian community.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

7. Senior Russian government officials, including the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (March) and the Prime Minister Putin (December), have stated on several occasions that there is a need to fight against the antisemitism and racial activities in order to prevent the destructive effects such phenomenon could have on Russian society. During 2008 and 2007, which saw Duma elected for presidency, a decline in the number of antisemitic-political propaganda has been recorded, in comparison with the prior election periods when an increase was recorded, probably due to the clear government policy and statements of the effect such activities might have on the image of Russia.
8. January '08 saw the first seminar on the holocaust, supported by the government, in 25 of the schools in Moscow and two other cities.
9. The 2008 data on the number of convictions for antisemitic/racist crimes reflect the continuation of Russian authorities' efforts to fight the phenomena in a tangible manner (despite the certain decrease in the number of convictions compared with last year). Most of the complaints submitted by the Jewish community were investigated and a number of requests for a police presence around Jewish facilities have been granted. In addition, prison sentences were given for physical assault and financial fines were given for spreading antisemitic propaganda on the internet.
10. It is our understanding that in spite of the authorities are making efforts to fight antisemitism those efforts are still inconsistent and are first and foremost in the interest of internal Russian affairs, of spreading nationalist sentiments and a negative stance toward foreigners in the country. In addition, the authorities did not make any effort to illegalize the nationalist/Neo Nazi movements and organizations, most probably since they serve the internal political interests of the government.
11. The number of murders (about 100) of work immigrants proves that the focus of the Neo Nazi movements in Russia is people of far eastern/east Asian looks. And yet, attacks against Jews and the call for their deportation from Russia continue to be one of the objectives of those movements.

Evaluation

12. In light of the increase of the nationalist wave in Russia and the merely partial restraint of nationalists and antisemitism by the authorities, we do not foresee a change in the high antisemitic levels in Russia. Russia is also among the countries facing the economic crisis, but the affects of the global economic crisis on antisemitic sentiments has not yet manifested itself on the streets. The widening of its influence within the low income populations in '09 might cause a rise in antisemitic expressions and activity, perpetrated mainly by those identified with nationalistic ideologies.

Ukraine

General

1. The data for 2008 reflects a decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents in the Ukraine (62 incidents in '08 compared with 126 in '07, of which, 19 violent incidents in '08 compared with 52 in '07).
2. This year saw a significant decrease in the number of antisemitic publications of MAUP Academy. Until august of '08 43 articles were published compared with 640 antisemitic articles published last year.

Prominent incidents

- a. Violent incidents: [the beating of a rabbi in the Jewish community of the city of Dnepropetrovsk](#) (January), [throwing stones at Chabad school in Kiev](#) (January); [sever attack on a rabbi of the Vinizi community and his infant son](#) (September), [attacking workers of the office for the Jewish youth program in Iviv](#) (August).
 - b. [At the end of October the authorities have announced they prevented a bombing of a synagogue in the city of Kirovograd](#). Leaders of the extreme right wing group, one of which served as a local law enforcement officer in the past, were planning to harm also other minorities and attack Jews.
 - c. [Before Passover, leaflets of defamation were distributed in the city of Sumy](#) and urged the citizens to be cautious due to the Jewish custom of kidnapping and murdering Christian children for the purpose of preparing the Mazza with their blood.
 - d. [At the end of April a new Ukrainian toy was distributed in the shops: an Adolf Hitler doll](#). It should be mentioned that the Ukrainian law does not prohibit the spreading of Nazi symbols.
 - e. Among the antisemitic incidents are also the desecration of monuments [and attacks against the Jewish Agency offices in the city of Kiev](#) (September) [and the city of Chernigov](#) (October), the prominent among which are the spraying of "Allah Akbar" and swastika on the building of the Jewish agency offices in Kiev (September), which is not typical of the extreme right wing and might indicate the presence of a Muslim group in the area.
3. Compared with 2007, the violent incidents of 2008 (except for a number of individual incidents, among them the plan to bomb the synagogue in Kirovograd), reflect the revival of spontaneous activity patterns which is based upon visually identifying the Jewish victims. It

is our understanding that the move toward spontaneous patterns does not necessarily imply the weakening of the extreme right wing movements.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

4. Among the most significant activities in the fight against antisemitism is the reduction of the antisemitic propaganda of the MAUP Academy, most probably due to international pressure applied to the Ukrainian government on this matter.
5. This year there were less official statements of the Ukrainian government denouncing antisemitism. The main public focus turned toward the worrying statistics of murders of work immigrants from the Far East and the Caucasus.
6. A member of the Ukrainian parliament, Alexander Feldman, a prominent activist in the Jewish community, won the title of "Activist against racism and inter-religious relations" given by the Russian Orthodox Church to heads of states only (November).
7. The special unit established under the direct order of the President of the country (October '07) for the fight against antisemitic and racist expressions, reflects, in our understanding, the intent of the Ukrainian authorities to act against this phenomena. Nevertheless, as of now, the necessary legislation has not been implemented for the effective activity of the unit. This and more, the authorities themselves have indirectly contributed to the antisemitic sentiments of the public by publicizing, on behalf of the Ukrainian Service (July), the names of soviet government officials, among them many Jews, allegedly responsible for the Holodomor (starvation of the Ukraine population by Stalin at the beginning of the 1930's). Out of a number of antisemitic activities which actually took place, only two activities of the unit were made public (the investigation of distribution of antisemitic leaflets in December '07 in the city of Odessa and the prevention of a bombing of a synagogue in Kirovograd).
8. In '08, the Ukrainian authorities continued to blame the Russians for some of the antisemitic incidents which took place in their country. The blame was cast on the division of the Patriarch Church in Moscow (due to a dispute between the Russian and Ukrainian Church) and other organizations for "importing" antisemitism into the Ukraine.

Atmosphere and factors influencing antisemitism

9. Due to the elections, the Nationalistic freedom party and Svoboda National Movement, headed by Oleg Tiagnybok, have increased the nationalist and antisemitic propaganda activity, among others by calling for the prevention of the Jewish overtaking of the country (July '08) and organizing a demonstration protesting against the Israeli embassy in Kiev (November) due to the non recognition of Israel in the Holodomor as genocide.
10. Ukraine is among the countries suffering from an economic crisis as a result of the global economic crisis. Yet, it is still early days to evaluate its effect on antisemitic sentiments and the antisemitic activity which will stem from it.

Evaluation

21. In spite of the decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents and the reduction of the antisemitic propaganda of the MAUP, the level of antisemitic activity in the Ukraine is still high and it is expected this level shall continue. Indeed, the information and nature of the activity of the Special Unit for the Fight Against Antisemitism and Racial Crimes is partial,

but it is still possible it had some affect in light of the significant decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents and publications. Also on the propaganda level, it is highly probable the nationalist groups will continue to use the political instability and severe economic crisis in order to recruit support, while inciting against Ukrainian Jews through misrepresentation of the Holodomor issue for which they also blame the Jews.

Austria

General

1. No antisemitic incidents were reported in Austria in '08, compared with a total of 6 reported incidents in '07.
2. During the elections for the Austrian parliament (September) the power of the extreme right wing Freedom Party FPO and the Alliance for the Future of Austria doubled and together they won about 30 percent of the votes, while the Socio-Democratic Party has experienced a decrease in power (and won only 30 percent of the votes). It seems that the doubling of power of the extreme right wing parties stems from the increased hatred toward foreign immigrants in Austria.
3. In the Austrian political system, no unusual response was recorded to the death of Heider in a car accident (October), except for the state funeral which drew many people and the memorial monument which will be built in his honor.
4. Before his visit to Israel (December 15), the Austrian President stated that in spite of the doubling of power of the extreme right wing parties in the parliamentary elections, these are not antisemitic or Neo Nazi parties but parties which mainly focus on the issue of foreign immigrants in Austria. He also emphasized that Austria's current situation is different to that of the Second World War.

Evaluation

5. We evaluate that the low antisemitic activity level shall continue also in '09, in spite of the growing power of the right wing parties in the country. This is due to the focus on the issue of foreign immigrants, the fear of Muslim organizations, and the awareness of the Austrian government to antisemitism and racism in the country.

Italy

General

1. 2008 has seen a minor rise in the number of antisemitic incidents in Italy (21 in '08 compared with 15 in '07) and no worsening in their nature has been recorded. The incidents are mainly propaganda which includes hate graffiti in public places and antisemitic messages posted on blogs, some of which referred to public officials (Head of Senate and Mayor of Rome) who empathized with the Jewish people after their visit to Auschwitz. Most of the times, right wing extremists were the perpetrators of those incidents.
2. In May of '08 a prominent anonymous internet publication of a "black list" of Jewish lecturers accused the listed persons of "lobbying on behalf of the Zionists". The Jewish community and the Mayor of Rome protested vigorously against the publication and the blog was immediately removed.

3. There has been a rise in crimes with racist motives in northern Italy due to nationalist views and the residents' strive for autonomy in the area. In this context, a report published by the Italian Ministry of the Interior mentioned the efforts for unification made by Neo Nazi groups from Italy, Germany and Austria in Northern Italy.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

The Italian government has shown its commitment to the fight against antisemitism: senior officials, the Italian President among them, Bishops and the Minister of Justice, stated on different occasions that antisemitism must be fought against and the distributors of hate materials must be sentenced to imprisonment; in January the government approved a legislation against racism under which the denial of the holocaust is a crime punishable by four years imprisonment; in May a Neo Nazi web site was shut down by the authorities; during the annual book fair in Italy, where Israel was a guest of honor, the authorities prevented the holding of violent demonstrations planned by left wing extremist groups and pro-Palestinians against the "honoring" of Israeli writers and Israel.

Evaluation

4. The substantial danger to the Jewish communities in Italy is a terrorist threat from global Jihad organizations and their activity in the country. It is our understanding that in light of the policy of the authorities to fight against racism and incitement, and in light of the local Jewish community's combat against these phenomena, the extreme right antisemitic activities are expected to continue to be a nuisance, at most, to the Jewish community (so long as there is no escalation in the situation in the Middle East).

The Vatican

Prominent in '08 were two disputes between the Jews and the Vatican: the intention of the Pope to return the "good Friday prayer" into the prayer books, in which one verse slanders the Jews, and to turn Pius the 12th, who was Pope at the time of the holocaust, to a saint. Followed by the protest of the Italian Jews and other Jews, including the state of Israel, the problematic verse was removed from the prayer and the process of turning Pius the 12th into a saint is postponed for the time being.

Scandinavian countries

General

1. In the Nordic countries – Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark – a low number of antisemitic incidents has been recorded, in spite of the very prominent anti Israel and antisemitic atmosphere (in Norway and Sweden).
2. In Sweden 9 antisemitic incidents were recorded in '08 compared with 6 in '07. These incidents included hate graffiti, verbally abusing Jews, throwing an object at a synagogue, threats over the phone, and two incidents of [placing a container of Zyklon B outside a synagogue in Malmo](#). As a general rule, most of the incidents reported took place in Malmo,

in which a large population of Muslims resides as well as a high number of unemployed youngsters who might be easy targets for recruitment by extremists.

3. 4 antisemitic incidents were recorded in Norway in '08 compared with 2 in '07, which were most probable the doing of extreme right wing groups. There is an antisemitic and anti Israel atmosphere in Norway, and not only do the authorities not interfere, they even support it in the name of the freedom of speech. For example, one entertainer, Jasperon, made antisemitic remarks regarding the Jews and the holocaust on a commercial TV channel without any protest or reprehension on the part of the authorities. A complaint was filed at the police station, but the entertainer continued making Jewish "jokes" on his TV show on the national channel.
4. There is a high level of crime in Sweden and Norway due to unemployment and immigration. This situation plays into the hands of the extreme right wing parties and the radical Muslim groups. An evident rise was recorded, especially during the elections, in the support of extreme right wing parties specifically in Sweden.
5. Some of the events can also be attributed to Neo Nazi groups who thrive in Sweden due to its liberal policy on the freedom of speech. Neo Nazi organizations are active mainly on the propaganda level, such as parades, conferences and concerts.
6. In Sweden, Norway and Denmark there are extreme left wing groups (such as GLOBAL INTIFADA and BOYCOTT ISRAEL) whose pro-Palestinian anti Israel ideology creates a hateful atmosphere and hostility toward Jews and Israel. Their main activity is demonstrations protesting against Israel. These organizations often call to boycott Israeli produce, and that call receives support from Muslim groups, Academics, high ranked officials and even Swedish church officials.
7. The level of antisemitic activity in Denmark is low, and not incidents were recorded in that country this year,
8. The media enabled the publication of anti Israel propaganda which, among other things, uses the holocaust inversion motif. Muslim extremists continue to enjoy the freedom of speech and spread antisemitic and anti Israel materials in the media and mosques. The Islamic cultural centers in the Danish and Swedish cities were also used this year as centers for Islamic conferences and conventions in which Danish, Scandinavian and all other European Muslims participated.
9. The local Muslim population in the Nordic countries, some of which adopted the extreme Islam, could very well be a convenient infrastructure for global terrorist groups and thus become a threat to both Israeli and Jewish targets. The Muslim militants in Denmark receive real support from among the extreme left, which link the Jewish state, the Jewish community and the USA. The common activity is manifested in propaganda and demonstrations and receives significant public media coverage.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism:

10. The Scandinavian authorities show great tolerance and forgiveness toward antisemitic statements and thus legitimize them. A public debate or focus on the matter of antisemitism is nearly nonexistent.

Evaluation

11. We evaluate the level of antisemitic and anti Israel propaganda shall continue to be high as long as no change is made in the position of the authorities and the public on the matter of the unbalanced criticism of Israel. At the same time, the actual and immediate threat to Jewish communities in the Nordic countries today is the terrorist threat posed by the local radical Muslim groups that are also responsible for the unmistakably antisemitic incidents. In Denmark the threat is even more tangible due to the publication of the Mohamed caricatures and repeated threats made by Muslims around the world to avenge this issue (one of those threats was realized in the form of attacking the Danish embassy in Pakistan).

Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland

General

'08 has seen a rise in the number of antisemitic incidents in Hungary and czech republic (the number of incidents in Poland remained unchanged). It is our evaluation that this rise is caused by the antisemitic activity taking place in Hungary and czech republic due to the attempts of the extreme right to gain more power in the local political arena. This activity is directed toward, among others, the Jewish community.

1. There are three countries where popular antisemitism exists, and in Poland the churches often make antisemitic remarks. Most of the incidents in those countries are perpetrated by Neo Nazis/skinheads.
2. The Jewish communities were more active this year in their struggle against the extreme right activity, with the corporation of the authorities – especially in Hungary and czech republic.
3. In Hungary, 13 antisemitic incidents were recorded in '08 compared with 6 in '07. The nature of the incidents this year was more violent and included the desecration of a cemetery, breaking the windows of a synagogue, violent demonstrations and assaults. Prominent were two incidents: [in September Neo Nazis attacked a Jewish theatre in Budapest](#) with acid and feces, and in April [a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a ticket selling shop which is identified with Jews](#).
4. In Czech Republic 12 incidents were recorded in '08 compared with 11 the previous year. The incidents were more violent and included [the attack of a rabbi in Prague](#), an arson attempt of a synagogue and demonstrations outside events held by the Jewish community. In all incidents the perpetrators were Neo Nazis, and unlike '07, when half the incidents were desecrations of cemeteries and hate graffiti, in '08 the right wing activity was more violent, provocative and bold.
5. 9 incidents were recorded in Poland in '08 compared with 11 in '07. The incidents included [assaulting an American orthodox Jew in a cemetery in Warsaw](#), [desecration of a cemetery](#), hate graffiti and antisemitic statements of politicians, sport fans and church officials making antisemitic remarks, [an antisemitic clip on You Tube made by the parliament member Buble](#) for his candidacy for president (the clip was removed due to pressure put by Israel on the polish ambassador); [a convention which drew over 100 people held at a church in Warsaw against the book of Jan Gross](#), who wrote about the role the polish people played in the genocide of the Jewish people in the holocaust. In a convention organized with the corporation of the antisemitic radio station Radio Maryja, blunt antisemitic remarks were made.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

6. In czech republic the authorities have demonstrated they are determined to fight against the activity of the right wing extremists and against their attempts to gain power and take part in the official politics. For example, Prime Minister of czech republic has illegalized the extreme labor party Denicka Strana. The police handles demonstrations held by the extreme right forcefully and even arrested those who were unruly and the distributors of antisemitic materials.
7. In Hungary, the Budapest magistrates court (December 16) has ordered to disassemble the Neo Nazi military arm, Magyar Garda of Jobbik. The militia has held marches and conventions throughout the year with the intent to recruit more young activists. In addition, an antisemitic web site was removed from the internet. In spite of the official position of the government against antisemitism, the Jewish communities in czech republic and, for the first time, also in Hungary united in order to stop the demonstrations of the extreme right with the help of the authorities and non Jewish organizations.
8. The extreme right activity in Poland is illegal and the authorities are fighting against it, which includes arrests and closing down of papers. The new Tusk government, who defeated the nationalist right in the last elections, has expressed its determination to continue the struggle against racism. Nevertheless, it is important to mention the activity of the extremists from the radical nationalist organization ONR, which held a demonstration during the "march of the living" that included antisemitic expressions, and a demonstration in support of the 1936 Pogrom against Jews in the town of Myslenice. The Jewish community this year was disappointed after the decision was made not to prosecute the manager of "Maria" radio, Minister Tadeusz Rydzyk, for making antisemitic remarks, under the pretext of insufficient evidence.

Evaluation

9. In the past year there has been a prominent effort made by the extreme right, especially in Hungary and czech republic, to gain power in the political arena by holding provocative rallies, more so than in '07. This activity was directed more than once against the Jewish community, which, on its part, increased the efforts to fight the phenomena with the corporation of the authorities and anti racist non Jewish organizations.
10. It is our evaluation that the extreme right shall continue to harass the Jewish communities in this area, while continuing their attempts to unite with their colleagues in other European countries (mainly Germany). From our point of view, the severe economic crisis in Europe and especially in Hungary (which is teetering on the edge of a national bankruptcy) might increase the antisemitic activity, especially in the realm of public discussions.

Latin American arena

General

1. '08 data reflects a decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents in the Latin American arena compared with '07. This '07-'08 decrease has returned the antisemitic level to its previous condition, before July-August '06 when the number of incidents rose due to the Second Lebanon War (about 70 incidents including 10 violent ones).

2. '08 saw about 40 antisemitic incidents in the Latin American arena compared with 59 in '07. Most of those incidents are hate graffiti in the vicinity of different institutions of the Jewish community as well as desecration of Jewish cemeteries (3) and attempts to attack Jews (6). An unusual incident took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, involving a bomb scare in Hebraica facility via telephone call (November '08).
3. Prominent in the Latin American arena in '08 were the political struggles in a number of countries where general, municipal and local elections were held, and in Venezuela these political struggles involved antisemitic and anti Israel statements.

Prominent incident

4. In Venezuela a [historical meeting was held \(august 12\) between the President, Chaves, and the president of the World Jewish Congress, Ron lauder](#). The Venezuelan President assured lauder he shall speak with the Iranian President and request he restrain his statements about the holocaust denial. He also said he shall verify a joint statement against antisemitism is released at the meeting of the Presidents of Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela on September 6.
5. A number of incidents in the form of antisemitic expressions were made in Venezuela by close associates of the government and even by government officials. For example, [a reporter who is a close associate of the government published an article](#) (November 25) which included antisemitic statements against a local Governor of Jewish decent, and no official denouncement or denial was made.
6. As far as we know, no antisemitic statements were made in Latin American arena at this time due to the global economic crisis.
7. The terror threat in Latin America continues to be posed by the Hezbollah with the support of Iran, which has a close diplomatic relation with the President of Venezuela and through him builds relations with other countries such as Ecuador, Bolivia and Nicaragua.
8. Due to the attempts of the Iranian government to improve its relations with the Latin American countries, a number of Jewish community presidents in the area (Bolivia, Nicaragua, Ecuador) have expressed their concerns (November) "due to the massive Iranian penetration into the Latin American countries".

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

9. The efforts of the authorities in to combat against antisemitism continues in most of the Latin American countries through legislation, memorials held for the victims and public statements made by the leaders of most countries denouncing racism and supporting the assimilation of lessons learned by the holocaust.
10. Most of the countries held special events for the international Memorial Day in memory of victims of the holocaust (January '08). Some were formal events and some were public activities with the participation of government and UN representatives.
11. In Argentina, President (December 3) Kirchner expressed her commitment to continue fighting against antisemitism in her country at a meeting held with a delegation of senior officials from the American Jewish Congress.

12. In Chile the national parliament ratified (November 13) the establishment of a museum and a memorial monument in memory of the Jewish holocaust victims in the Second World War, in the capital Santiago.

Evaluation

13. The terrorist threat level to the Jewish community in Latin America, posed by Hezbollah with the support of Iran, still stands. The threat level is expected to be even higher in the short term in light of the events in Gaza at the end of December, due to the motivation to avenge the killing of Mughniyah and also the potential of expanding the penetration and influence in the area.
14. It seems that '09 shall be a year of political struggles (due to the general and local elections) and of an economic crisis, which might, based on past experience, cause an increase in antisemitic expressions directed against the Jewish community, especially in Venezuela.

The Baltic countries

General

1. 2008 has seen the continuation of the low level of antisemitic activities in the Baltic countries (12 incidents in total until June, compared with 14 in '07 in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia). The antisemitic activity mainly involved the desecration of synagogues and cemeteries, hate graffiti, distribution of antisemitic Neo Nazi propaganda and an antisemitic intellectual/political discussion.
2. Most of the incidents this year took place in Lithuania. The most significant antisemitic incident, as far as the Jewish community is concerned, happened during a march (March) of about 200 Neo Nazi skinheads in the center of Vilna held for the Lithuanian Independence Day. The demonstrators carried nationalistic signs such as "Lithuania is for Lithuanians", but also antisemitic ones such as "grab a stick and kill that little Jew" and "Jews out". The marchers did not try to hide their faces and even gave uninterrupted television interviews. We evaluate the march as some sort of a nationalist "declaration of presence" which was legitimized by the absence of immediate response of the authorities and the absence of protest of the Jewish community.
3. The Jewish community, on its part, is more susceptible to indictments and law suits filed against its members (as well as against Yitzchak Arad, former Yad Vashem chairman – for the time being, the law suit against him was dropped) for cooperating with the Russians before and during the Second World War and helping them murder of Lithuanians.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

4. The legislation in Lithuania does not yet penalize against racial crimes. Moreover, the country has a certain tendency to glorify former SS officers as national heroes who fought for the independence of Lithuania against the soviets. In addition, the late reaction of the authorities to the march held in March, and their disregard of the accusations made against Arad and other members of the Jewish community reflect, in our minds, the indifference of the Lithuanian government to the issue of racism and antisemitism, in spite of statements made against racism and antisemitism.

Evaluation

5. The legitimization of nationalist sentiments (especially in Lithuania) and the continued attempts to persecute members of the Jewish community for their alleged involvement in crimes against Lithuanians in the Second World War and their aiding the Russians – shall continue to be of nuisance to the Jewish communities in Lithuania.

India

1. [The murderous terrorist attack targeting, among others, Chabad House in Mumbai](#) (November) as part of a combined terrorist attack against foreign western institutions perpetrated by the organization for the liberation of Kashmir inspired by El Kaida (LET – Lashkar el tiba), points to the direct link between the international Islamic terrorist group, which acts under the patronage of El Kaida also in the interest of local-regional matters, and between the anti Israel and antisemitic activity against Jewish and Israeli targets around the world.
2. The Indian Jewish community has not suffered from antisemitic activity in past years. Nevertheless, it is possible that the involvement of locals in the Mumbai attack points to an antisemitic Islamic incitement also in that arena, which is a travel destination for many Israelis.

USA

General

1. '08 saw a rise in the number of antisemitic incidents and in their level of violence. This is based on partial data from the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism's website (the complete data will be published by the ADL in March '09). About 192 incidents occurred in '08 compared with 142 in '07, out of which 23 violent ones in '08 compared with 8 in '07. Even though the data is partial, in our view it relatively reflects the general trend.
2. Most of the incidents were hate graffiti and spraying swastikas on the walls of Jewish establishments, public spaces and homes, and campuses, desecration of cemeteries, arson at synagogues and property owned by Jews (cars, Mezuzah and so on). Jews were violently attacked and injured especially in New York (mainly in orthodox neighborhoods), in Florida, Michigan and California. As well as widespread propaganda on the internet.

Prominent incidents

- a. In January, [499 grave stones were desecrated in New Brunswick cemetery.](#)
- b. In February [a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a Jewish center in Fernando Valley, California, and another Molotov cocktail was thrown at the home of the Jewish agency emissary in Rhode Island.](#)
- c. In April [Chabad synagogue was set on fire and demolished in Miami Beach.](#) The perpetrators even tore and desecrated Torah books, Holy Scriptures and ritual objects.
- d. In April, [a synagogue in Lake Mohegan was vandalized by teenage girls.](#)
- e. [In October, a number of students in St. Louis school initiated a "beat up a Jew day" and assaulted Jewish students.](#)

3. Perpetrators of these incidents were Muslims and Arabs and also Neo Nazis and nationalists who believe in white supremacy. The most prominent phenomenon this year is the increase of incidents perpetrated by teenagers and students in the schools and on campuses, and for that reason many of the victims were youngsters and teenagers.
4. A wide anti Israel activity is evident in campuses perpetrated by Arab/Muslim left wing activists. Jewish organizations have begun reacting to the anti Israel phenomenon on campuses through establishing cathedras for Israeli/Jewish studies in some universities.
5. As part of and due to the presidential elections and the global economic crisis which started in the USA, there has been an increase in antisemitic and other racist statements on the internet, especially on blogs. According to the "Protocols of Zion Elders" the Jews ("Jewish lobby") are responsible for the global economic crisis since they control, according to the accusers, the main financial institutions of the US, and stand behind the election of president Obama as part of a Jewish-black conspiracy to take over the world.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

6. The US has an evolved legislation against antisemitic and racial crimes, including arrests, persecutions and penalties and even dismissals from jobs or from the military on account of racial discrimination. Nevertheless, the perpetrators are caught and punished only in a handful of cases.
7. In June, the House of Representatives denounced the censorship of the freedom of speech in the Arab states, which allows the publication of antisemitic materials and the denial of the holocaust without interference.
8. In June, the global Jewish congress submitted a petition signed by 200,000 people from around the world calling the UN to pass a decision on the commitment made in '04 by the UN Secretary General to fight against antisemitism and any other form of discrimination.
9. In May, the Presbyterian Church of the United States harshly denounced the antisemitism and anti Jewish terms used by political journalists when mentioning Israel.
10. In July a coalition of black and Jewish leaders was established in New York for fighting against hate crimes.

Evaluation

11. It is our evaluation that the increase in antisemitic activity in the USA is related to the global economic crisis and the election of a black president for the first time in the history of the USA. Racist and antisemitic right wing extremists have made their frustration and protest known through activities and widespread propaganda in light of the political and economic developments, and even threatened to assassinate Obama if he were to be elected.
12. We predict that this trend is expected to continue as long as the economic crisis continues, and more so when the crisis will affect the man in the street to a greater extent and harm the public's standard of living.

Australia

General

1. The high level of antisemitic activity in Australia continued in '08 (according to data of the Jewish community, 652 incidents until September 30 2008 compared with 638 during the

same period in '07). Most of the incidents are of propaganda nature. The number of violent incidents (54 compared with 51 in '07*) is the highest since the recording of antisemitism in Australia began 19 years ago*.

2. The main increase is due to hate letters sent to Jews through email and faxes, sometimes the same mail was sent to a large number of people. It should be mentioned there has been a decrease in the number of hate graffiti and hate mail. Virtual communities such as Facebook and YouTube have become channels for the expression of antisemitic ideas.

*** we emphasize that the high number of antisemitic incidents in Australia stems from a different counting system than the one used by the Forum and it does not imply that antisemitic level in Australia is the highest in the world.**

3. Unknown perpetrators have harassed Jews in malls, main high ways and other public places. Verbal harassments were mostly directed at individuals or families on their way from or to the synagogue or dinners celebrating the holidays.

Prominent incidents

- a. In February, [3 Muslims attacked a Jew on his way to the tram in Melbourne](#), threw him to the ground, injured him and yelled abuse at him.
 - b. In January, [a motorcyclist tried to run over a Jewish woman who was about to enter the synagogue in Perth](#). Only when another worshipper arrived at the synagogue and helped the woman, did the motorcyclist flee the scene.
 - c. [Students in two prestigious schools in Sydney created a group in Facebook where they slandered Jews and event denied the holocaust.](#)
 - d. A lecturer at the University of Victoria explained about the first settlements in Israel by portraying the Jews as lowly plunderers.
4. The activity of the extreme right in Australia has decreased this year due to weak leadership and lack of clear ideological direction. In places where it is still active, the attention was turned toward the Muslim community or to internal struggles, and away from the Jewish community.
 5. The extreme left has expressed its satisfaction with the promise of the elected labor party to withdraw the Australian military forces from Iraq, and thus, due to lack of motive, this political branch has not been active or prominent this year in the anti Israel and antisemitic context. It should be mentioned that the Australian left wing is having difficulties as of late to rally significant support for its activity.
 6. The conviction of the perpetrators of a terrorist act in Melbourne this year has pointed to the fact that the terrorist threat posed by Muslim and Arab groups is directed more toward Australians in general than Australian Jews.
 7. Also the anti Israel atmosphere in the campuses around Australia, inflamed by the extreme left activists and Muslims, is a nuisance to the Jewish/Israeli students.

Authorities' efforts to combat Antisemitism

8. Australian authorities are determined in their fight against antisemitism and racism and even express pro Israeli opinions on some issues. The community in this country does not feel

threatened by the antisemitic phenomena, even though it does exist, mainly thanks to the position of the authorities on this issue.

9. The Australian Senate has begun investigating a complaint made by the Jewish community (October) on the abuse of the freedom of speech by the academic institutions that allow public expressions made against Israel, and its affect on the hostility toward Jews and Israel. The Senate began demanding the universities submit reports of their funding sources in order to check if non democratic countries are indeed the funders of some academic posts.
10. In the state of Victoria, the police intend to establish a special unit to deal with antisemitic attacks and other crimes related to the Jewish community.

Evaluation

11. As far as the Jewish community is concerned, the antisemitic threat in Australia is a nuisance and is added to the terrorist threat posed by extreme Muslim groups from outside the country with the support of a local infrastructure.
12. It seems that the level of the current antisemitic activity shall continue also in the coming year and it is possible that due to the worsening of the economic crisis the antisemitic propaganda on the internet shall increase.

South Africa

General

1. During '08 the level of antisemitic activity in South Africa remained the same (49 incidents in '08 compared with 54 in '07).
2. No violent antisemitic incidents were recorded, even though violent crimes were recorded also against members of the Jewish community, most of the incidents took place around Johannesburg (44) and a few in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and the capital, Pretoria.
3. Antisemitism in South Africa is expressed mainly through media propaganda, hate graffiti and sometime damage to property. The perpetrators are mostly Muslims and left wing activists cooperating with extreme Muslim groups and Pro-Palestinians on the propaganda level.
4. It is known that South Africa has an activity of terrorist organizations posing a threat, among others, to the Jewish community.
5. The World Football Cup expected to take place in South Africa in 2010 will probably increase the efforts of the authorities to try and prevent terrorist acts.
6. The crime level is very high and poses a real threat to the personal safety of each citizen and resident of South Africa, including the Jewish community, and even more so to the wealthy. The crime levels in South Africa are defined as "urban terror" and any individual or community activity is performed under the threat of criminal acts.

Evaluation

7. The real and concrete threat to the community is the crime level threatening the personal safety, and that might rise even more due to the global economic crisis. In light of the lack of personal safety it is expected the South African community shall continue to grow smaller and as a result, the immigration of Jews to Israel, among other places, is also expected to continue.

Arab and Islamic arena: Jewish communities

Yemen

1. The Jewish community in Yemen is composed of about 300 people, and is mostly centered in the town of Raida (about 250 people), north of Sana, and the other 45 or so Jews live in Sana. Sana Jews were transferred ('07) there from the town of Saada by the president of Yemen due to attempts of Al Huti tribe to harm them, a tribe now identified with Al Kaida.
2. In December of '08 a number of attempts to harm Jews in Raida were recorded, the culmination of which was the [murder of a Jew, Moshe Nahari \(December 12\) by a Yemenite citizen who shouted at the victim "convert to Islam" before shooting him](#). After this incident there were additional attempts to damage Jewish property and threats were made to the lives of Jews. The community fears more harassment due to a conflict between tribes which is the cause of expressions of hate directed at them, especially if the murderer will be executed.
3. The Jewish community enjoys the protection and support of the President of Yemen and in principle, the gates of the country are open for Jews who wish to leave it.

Iran

1. There are 17,000 people in the Jewish community in Iran, which is centered mainly in the large cities, such as Teheran, Shiraz and Esfahan. The Iranian Jews, being a religious minority, receive a status of "protégés", are granted the freedom of worship and are entitled to one representative in the Majlis.
2. As a rule, no antisemitic incidents against the Jewish community took place in Iran in '08 (or in prior years), nevertheless, the leadership of Iran, headed by the President Ahmadinejad, is leading a wide antisemitic and anti Israel propaganda campaign which includes the denial of the holocaust.
3. Thus, for example, Ahmadinejad gave a speech in the UN (October) filled with anti Israel and antisemitic statements. In his speech, he criticized what he called "the distortion" of world order dominated, in his opinion, by the USA and the Zionists, and among other things called Israel and the Zionists "a small minority which dominates the financial system of the world and the UN", and blamed Israel for the problems and hardships of the world.
4. During the summer of '08 a "documentary" series was broadcast in Iran under the name "the Armageddon secret", with the purpose of supposedly revealing, with the aid of scientific tools, the "Jewish plan to take over the world". The show presented "evidence" presented by well known Iranian professors and scientists of the plot devised by the Jewish people to relinquish all other religions and take over governments by using their economic abilities.
5. In May the official Iranian channel broadcasted programs in English where the holocaust was denied.
6. After the Mughniyah killing in February Ahmadinejad attacked Israel and called the Jewish state, "a filthy bacteria, a wild beast". This preceded by calls made by the Iranian President, on different occasions, to annihilate Israel.

7. In spite of the fact the speeches were denounced by a number of countries, the Iranian government continues its uncompromising line of action and the representative of Iran has denied the “unfounded” claims made against Iran on the issue of denial of the holocaust and distribution of inflammatory statements.

Turkey

1. There are some 18,000 people in the Jewish community (Istanbul and Izmir).
2. No antisemitic incidents were recorded in ‘08, even though antisemitic propaganda is widespread in the literature and newspapers in Turkey (a wide distribution of “Protocols of Zion Elders” “Mein Kampf” and “The International Jew” by Henry Ford).
3. The concrete threat to the Jewish community is the terrorist threat posed by global Jihad and Hezbollah activists. In 2008, a number of attempts to attack various targets, among them Israeli and western, were successfully prevented.

North Africa

1. Morocco – some 3,000 Jews are in the Jewish community of Morocco, which enjoys the protection of the authorities. No antisemitic incidents recorded.
2. Tunisia – some 1,500 Jews live in Tunisia and enjoy the protection of the governing establishment. No antisemitic incidents recorded.

Arab and Islamic arenas: Antisemitic propaganda

1. ‘08 saw the continuation of vicious propaganda against Israel in the Arab media, which is also expressed through antisemitic statements. In addition, the calls made by El Kaida to harm Jews wherever they may be continued (El Twahiri, April ‘08). It seems that harming Jews is one of the objectives of the local terrorist groups, and even more so since the attack in Mumbai.
2. During the events which took place in Gaza in March, a wide use was made in the Palestinian and Arab media of the term “holocaust” to describe the situation of Palestinians in Gaza, and in some cases comparisons were made with the European Jewish holocaust and even comparisons of Israel to the Nazis.
3. The adoption of this rhetoric by the left wing, and with its encouragement, is resulting in the demonization of Israel, the portrayal of Israel as “the worst of all” (the Nazis) and the delegitimization of the existence of the State of Israel. This might lead to a radical scenario where the killing of Jews and Israelis is allowed.
4. Iran, the Arab states and the Muslim states have continued to lead the antisemitic and anti Israel propaganda and incitement this year, for the purpose of causing a delegitimization of the existence of Israel as the Jewish State, also on international levels and in the UN. This activity continues to affect the motivation of local Muslim groups around the world to harass Jews and even support terrorism.