



ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS REPORT 2007





ABOVE: Antisemitic graffiti in Hertfordshire, October 2007

FRONT COVER: Smashed gravestone, Jewish Cemetery, March 2007

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Executive summary

- 547 antisemitic incidents were recorded by CST in 2007. This is the second-highest annual total since CST began recording antisemitic incidents in 1984.
- The total of 547 incidents is an eight per cent fall from the 2006 total of 594 incidents. However, this fall is not large enough to alter the long-term trend of rising antisemitic incidents in Britain since the late 1990s.
- The fall in the number of incidents in 2007 is due to the absence of 'trigger events' that can cause temporary increases in incidents. In 2006 there was a significant trigger event, the war between Israel and Hizbollah in Lebanon, which led to a large rise in antisemitic incidents in the UK.
- There were 114 violent antisemitic assaults in 2007, the highest ever recorded by CST. This included one incident that was classified as Extreme Violence, meaning that the victim's life was endangered. Violent assaults were the only category of incident to increase in 2007 and make up an increasing proportion of antisemitic incidents in the UK, from 13 per cent of the total in 2002, up to 21 per cent in 2007.
- Incidents of Damage and Desecration to Jewish property fell by 11 per cent, from 70 incidents in 2006 to 62 incidents in 2007.
- There were 328 incidents of Abusive Behaviour in 2007, a fall of ten per cent from the 365 incidents recorded in 2006. This category includes verbal abuse, hate-mail and antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property.
- September was the joint fourth-highest monthly total on record. Of the 78 incidents recorded during the month, 35 took place on the festivals of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, when there are relatively large numbers of visibly Jewish people on the streets, walking to and from synagogue.
- In 59 incidents the victims were Jewish students, academics or other student bodies. This is a 228 per cent rise from 2006, probably because of increased reporting by students to CST. Out of 59 incidents, 31 took place on campus and 28 off campus. Six incidents occurred in the direct context of student political campaigning.
- In 282 antisemitic incidents the victims were individual Jewish people in public places. In 189 of these, the victims were visibly identifiable as Jewish.
- Synagogues were the target in 67 incidents, and congregants on their way to or from prayer were the targets in 64 incidents.
- Jewish schools or schoolchildren were the targets in 47 incidents, of which 31 were against Jewish schoolchildren on their journeys to or from school.
- There were six cases of Jewish or pro-Israel websites being hacked and defaced. In all six cases, the hackers appeared to be Islamist extremists based outside the UK.
- The lack of trigger events from the Middle East in 2007 meant the number of antisemitic incidents that included anti-Zionist discourse fell from 106 in 2006 to 46 in 2007, while the number that included neo-Nazi discourse rose slightly, from 125 in 2006 to 127 in 2007.
- In addition to the 547 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2007, a further 488 reports of potential incidents were received by CST, but not included in the total number of antisemitic incidents as there was no evidence of antisemitic motivation, targeting or content.

Introduction

The Community Security Trust

The Community Security Trust (CST) advises and represents the Jewish community on matters of antisemitism, terrorism, policing and security. CST received charitable status in 1994 and is recognised by Government and Police as a model of a minority community security organisation.

CST provides security advice and training for Jewish schools, synagogues and communal organisations and gives assistance to those bodies that are affected by antisemitism. CST also assists and supports individual members of the Jewish community who have been affected by antisemitism and antisemitic incidents. All this work is provided at no charge.

An essential part of CST's work involves representing the Jewish community to Police, legislative and policy-making bodies and providing people inside and outside the Jewish community with information to combat antisemitism.

CST has recorded antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom since 1984.

Reporting of incidents

CST classifies as an antisemitic incident any malicious act aimed at Jewish people, organisations or property, where there is evidence that the act has antisemitic motivation or content, or that the victim was targeted because they are (or are believed to be) Jewish. Incidents can take several forms, including physical attacks on people or property, verbal or written abuse, threats or antisemitic leaflets and posters. CST does not include the general activities of antisemitic organisations in its statistics; nor does it include antisemitic material that is permanently hosted on internet websites.

Antisemitic incidents are reported to CST in a number of ways, most commonly by

telephone, email or post. Incidents can be reported by the victim or by someone acting on their behalf. In 2001 CST was accorded third-party reporting status by the Police, which allows CST to report antisemitic incidents to the Police and to act as a go-between for victims who are unable or unwilling to report to the Police directly. CST works closely with Police services and specialist units in monitoring and investigating antisemitic incidents.

Not all antisemitic incidents will be reported to CST and therefore the true figures will be higher than those recorded. No adjustments have been made to the figures to account for this. It is likely that this non-reporting also varies from category to category: for instance, while most antisemitic assaults are probably reported to CST, it is likely that the vast majority of cases of verbal abuse are not. All reports of incidents are investigated thoroughly before being included in CST's incident statistics. If there is no evidence that an incident is antisemitic then it is not included: in 2007 CST received 488 reports of potential incidents that were rejected for this reason, and are not included in the total number of antisemitic incidents. These represent 47 per cent of the potential incidents reported to CST and mostly involved criminal damage to, or theft from, Jewish property, assaults on or theft from Jewish people, or suspicious activity around Jewish locations, where CST believes there was no evidence of antisemitic motivation, targeting or content.

CST takes the wishes of victims, both individuals and the heads of Jewish organisations or communal buildings, very seriously. In particular, CST treats the issue of victim confidentiality as a top priority. If the victim chooses to remain anonymous, or wishes there to be no publicity about an incident, CST will observe their wish whenever possible.

Antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2007

CST recorded 547 antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2007. This is the second-highest annual total since CST began recording antisemitic incidents in 1984, and is an eight per cent fall from the 2006 figure of 594 incidents, the highest annual total so far recorded by CST. The reduction in incidents is due to the absence of significant 'trigger events' in 2007, particularly from the Middle East, in contrast to 2006 when the record high number of incidents was a consequence of reactions to the war in Lebanon between Israel and Hizbollah.

Because there were no trigger events in 2007 to cause the kind of temporary spikes in incident levels seen in the past, the 547 incidents that form the basis of this report can be used to form a rough picture of the baseline level and nature of antisemitic incidents in Britain. Despite this lack of trigger events, the fall of eight per cent is not large enough to alter the long-term trend of rising levels of antisemitic incidents since the late 1990s, as shown by the graph on page 22.

CST classifies antisemitic incidents by six distinct categories: Extreme Violence; Assault; Damage and Desecration of Property; Threats; Abusive Behaviour; Antisemitic Literature. The definitions of these categories, and examples of the incidents that occurred in each one in 2007, are given below. In addition, and not included in the antisemitic incident figures, CST collects and analyses incidents of potential reconnaissance against the Jewish community by hostile groups and individuals, and criminal activity at Jewish locations.

Extreme Violence

Incidents of Extreme Violence include any attack potentially causing loss of life or Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH). There was one incident of Extreme Violence in 2007, compared with four in 2006.

The incident of Extreme Violence in 2007 involved an elderly rabbi in the north east of England who was walking along a pavement when a car driver mounted the pavement at speed, knocked him over, then reversed and tried to run him over again. The rabbi required hospital treatment for injuries to his head, arms and legs. The driver of the car has so far not been identified.

Assault

Incidents of Assault include any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not GBH.

CST recorded 113 incidents of Assault in 2007. By combining this with the number of incidents of Extreme Violence – one – we can see the full range of physical attacks on Jews. This gives a total of 114 antisemitic assaults, the highest number ever recorded by CST in a single year and a small increase from the 112 incidents of Assault and Extreme Violence recorded in 2006. Worriingly, this is the only type of incident that did not fall in number in 2007. Physical assaults have risen considerably in number over the long term, from 17 in 1998 to 114 in 2007, and also make up an increasing proportion of the overall number of incidents. In 2000, 2001 and 2002, incidents of Assault and Extreme Violence made up 13 per cent of the overall total. This figure has risen steadily since then and in 2007 physical attacks against Jews constituted 21 per cent of the overall figure of 547 incidents. This suggests that antisemitic incidents are becoming more violent over the long term, as well as more numerous.

Of the 114 incidents of Assault or Extreme Violence recorded in 2007, 99 were random, opportunistic attacks on Jewish people in public places. Visibly Jewish people were the targets in 78 incidents, usually due to their religious or traditional clothing. In at least six of the 114 incidents, the victims required

hospital treatment for their injuries. There were 22 attacks on congregants who were on their way to or from synagogue, while 14 were on Jewish schoolchildren. Particular targets for this kind of incident are the strictly Orthodox communities in Salford and Bury in north Manchester, and Golders Green, Hendon and Stamford Hill in north London.

Incidents in the category of Assault in 2007 include:

- A visibly Jewish student was walking through east London at night when a group of attackers shouted antisemitic abuse at him. They called him "kyke" and threw a glass bottle which hit him on the head. The student went to hospital where a piece of glass was removed from his scalp and he was given stitches.
- A strictly Orthodox Jewish student in Wolverhampton was chased by a group of white youths who called him a "fucking Jew" and punched him. Six of the youths were arrested and later released with a police caution.
- A Jewish couple were leaving a cinema in north west London when a group of black youths shouted antisemitic abuse and threw stones at them.
- Three Jewish schoolgirls were on a London bus after leaving school when a group of boys from another school said: "It's disgusting being on a bus with all these Jews". They then kicked one of the schoolgirls and spat in the face of another.
- A visibly Jewish man was leaving his synagogue in north Manchester when a group of white youths called him a "fucking Jew", threw bricks at him and punched him in the head.
- A visibly Jewish man was walking along a road in north London when a van containing

four Asian men pulled up alongside. The occupants threw bottles at him and shouted: "Hitler should have finished you" before getting out of the van to punch and kick him.

Damage and Desecration of Property

This category includes any physical attack directed against Jewish property, which is not life-threatening. This would include the daubing of antisemitic slogans or symbols (such as swastikas), including stickers and posters, on Jewish property, or damage caused to Jewish property, where it appears that the building has been specifically targeted because of its Jewish connection.

There were 62 incidents of Damage and Desecration in 2007, a fall of 11 per cent from the 2006 figure of 70 incidents. Of the 62 incidents, 19 occurred at people's homes, ten involved the desecration of synagogues and there were six desecrations of Jewish cemeteries. There were 17 incidents that involved the daubing of swastikas or other Nazi references or imagery.

Incidents of Damage and Desecration in 2007 include:

- A swastika and the words "Hitler will return" were daubed on a wall outside a Jewish youth club in north west London.



- Six cases of Jewish or pro-Israeli websites were hacked into and abusive messages left in place of the usual website content. In two of the incidents, the websites of Jewish youth movements were defaced with the slogan "Al Qaeda was here". In all six cases, the hackers appeared to be Islamist extremists based outside the UK.
- 11 headstones were daubed with swastikas at a Jewish cemetery in Surrey.
- Around 60 headstones were damaged in two separate desecrations at a Jewish cemetery in Yorkshire.
- "BNP" was daubed on a sign at the entrance to a Jewish care home in Manchester.
- "We hate Jews" was daubed on the garage of a Jewish family's home in north west London.

Threats

This category includes only direct threats, whether verbal or written.

There were 24 antisemitic threats recorded in 2007, a fall of 11 per cent from the 2006 total of 27 threats. The 24 threats included two bomb threats.

Incidents in the category of Threats in 2007 include:

- A person left a message on the answerphone of a synagogue in Brighton and Hove which said: "Now listen up you Jewish bastards. We will kill you, we're watching you. You will pay, pay for what you did to the white race."
- A white man wearing an Osama Bin Laden mask got out of a car outside a Jewish building in north Manchester and shouted: "Fucking Jews, gonna blow you up."
- A visibly Jewish student was walking through a park in Leeds when he was approached by

two Asian men. One of them asked him if he was Jewish, and then said: "If I ever see you again in Hyde Park, I will blow you up."

- A Jewish man was threatened at his workplace in Essex by a colleague who shouted "Heil Hitler", gave a Nazi salute and then told him he would make his "fucking head roll".
- An organisation that was planning a conference in London about Darfur had a message posted on its website by somebody who promised to shoot Israeli visitors to Darfur and then wrote: "I'll come to stop your Zionism, black Muslims will come to the conference to show that your Zionism must be stopped at all costs you Zionist loser (sic)."

Abusive Behaviour

This category includes verbal and written antisemitic abuse. The verbal abuse can be face-to-face or via telephone or answerphone messages. The category also includes antisemitic emails and text messages, as well as targeted antisemitic letters (that is, those aimed at and sent to a specific individual), irrespective of whether or not the recipient is Jewish. This is different from a mass mailing of antisemitic leaflets or other publications, which is dealt with by the separate Literature category. Antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property is also included in this category.

There were 328 incidents of Abusive Behaviour reported to CST in 2007, a fall of ten per cent from the 365 incidents reported in 2006. It is the second-highest total recorded in this category since CST's records began and is only the second time that CST has recorded over 300 incidents in this category.

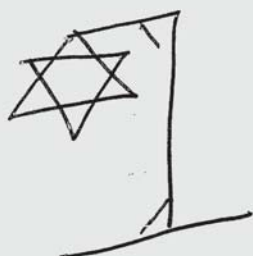
Incidents of Abusive Behaviour in 2007 include:

- A rabbi was walking away from a synagogue in Glasgow when a group

of white youths drove past him and shouted: "Hitler won't miss you next time."

- "Hitler was right" and "Gas the Jews" were daubed on a war memorial in Ayrshire.
- A group of Jewish schoolchildren were visiting the Holocaust section of a London museum. A group of soldiers from the British Army were also visiting the exhibit and three of them made antisemitic comments to the Jewish children, including "Heil Hitler". The abuse was reported to the Army who promised to investigate the incident.
- Film clips of supporters of West Ham United Football Club singing "I'd rather be a Paki than a Jew" and "I've got a foreskin haven't you, fucking Jew" during their match against Tottenham Hotspur, a club widely identified as having Jewish supporters, were posted on the YouTube website. Matthew Adam Maynard, who was accused of filming the chanting and posting it on YouTube, received a community service order after pleading guilty to indecent or racial chanting at a football match and distributing the offensive material.
- Two Asian students at a further education college in north London told a Jewish classmate that all problems were "the Jews' fault". When challenged, they said that their comments weren't racist but were merely a different political view.
- A Jewish organisation received an email that read: "You have in Israel a wonderful Nazi like killing machine (thousands of Palestinians have died or are incarcerated in camps, including Gaza and the West Bank) backed by the world's richest Jews and America...we in the UK have had enough of Israel, we (the NUJ of which I am a member) have finally voted to boycott Israeli goods...shame on you, shame on all Jews, may your lives be cursed."
- An organisation which campaigns against the academic boycott of Israel received an email that read: "Let me tell you that Jews command no respect and deserve no sympathy, because they are evil by nature and rotten to the core. The illegal Israeli has its base in terrorism (sic). There was no legal or moral justification for uprooting the innocent Palestinians and confiscating their land by the scum of the earth know as Jews (sic). The Jews once blessed people defied and played tricks with God turned out to be the most greedy, cunning and ungrateful one (sic)...I firmly believe that all Jews will burn in hell and in comparison Auschwitz will be like a holiday camp. It is never too late for the Jews to reflect on their misdeeds and repent because God is Great and Compassionate". The email was referred by Police to the Crown Prosecution Service, who declined to prosecute the alleged sender of the email.
- A Jewish man was walking down a road in north Manchester when an Asian youth drove past and shouted, "You Jewish Bastard" at him. The perpetrator was traced by the Police and admitted the offence. He was given rehabilitation work with the local Youth Offending Team.
- An elderly Auschwitz survivor in north west London was given a parking fine. When he approached the parking attendant he was told that Israel is killing people.
- An exhibit at a wildlife centre in London which contained birds from Israel was daubed with a swastika and the word "scum".
- A Jewish person in north west London was told by an East European man: "Go back to Israel, go to Palestine." The man then shouted "Heil Hitler" and gave a Nazi salute.

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Hate mail, north London, August 2007

- A woman was sat on the steps in Trafalgar Square reading the Jewish Chronicle when a man walked past her and called her a "Jewish bitch".

Literature

This category covers the distribution of mass-produced antisemitic literature. The literature must be part of a mass mailing rather than cases of individual hate-mail, which would come under the category of Abusive Behaviour or Threats (depending on content). The Literature category includes literature that is antisemitic in itself, irrespective of whether or not the recipient is Jewish, or cases where Jews are specifically targeted for malicious distribution, even if the material itself is not antisemitic. This would include, for instance, the mass mailing

of neo-Nazi literature to Jewish homes, even if the literature did not mention Jews. This category also includes emails that are sent to groups of recipients, but not material that is generally available on websites.

The statistics for the category of Literature give no indication of the extent of distribution. Mass mailings of antisemitic literature are only counted as one incident, although some antisemitic leaflets have been circulated to hundreds of Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and organisations. Thus the number of incidents reflects the number of perpetrators, rather than the number of victims.

There were 19 Literature incidents in 2007, a slight fall from the 20 incidents recorded in this category in 2006. This was the third year

in a row that the number of Literature incidents fell, after a large rise in 2004. Nine of the 19 incidents reported to CST targeted synagogues.

Examples of Literature incidents in 2007 include:

- Several Jewish and non-Jewish organisations received a copy of a letter which read: "The Jewish people as a nation today seem to be in denial over the part their forefathers played in the crucifixion of Jesus..."
- A copy of the Holocaust denial pamphlet "The Truth at Last – Did Six Million Really Die?" was sent to a Jewish person in Glasgow as part of the packaging of an item he had bought over the internet.
- Various Jewish organisations received a lengthy antisemitic email titled "Secret Jewish War against Humanity Uncovered".
- Several people received an email that read: "You put Jews in charge of anything and you can kiss all your investments goodbye. That's what they are known for, embezzlements, extortions, theft, lies and deceptions... When Jews take over a community, they also take over the businesses and the property. Once the property is in the Jews' hands, it never leaves. Once a Jew has a business and clout in the community, all the Jew will hire is other Jews, and the Gentiles the Jew can rule with an iron rod. This means that the only Gentile the Jew will hire, once he gets his hooks into a community, will be the Gentile who is tortured, raped, and who has fallen captive to the Jew, and who suffers ongoing degradations and humiliations in the Jews' hands. The Gentiles who refuse to obey the commands of the Jew will die." The author signed off with the words "Heil Hitler".

Victims

The victims of antisemitic incidents come from the whole spectrum of the Jewish community, from strictly Orthodox to Liberal, Reform and secular Jews; from the largest Jewish communities of London and Manchester to small, isolated communities all over the United Kingdom; and from Jewish schoolchildren to Members of Parliament.

In 282 incidents, the victims were ordinary Jewish people, male or female, attacked at random while going about their daily business in public places. In 189 of these, the victims were visibly Jewish, usually due to their religious or traditional clothing, school uniform or items of jewellery.

Synagogue property and staff were the targets in 67 incidents, and a further 64 incidents affected congregants on their way to or from prayers. Schools were the location of 16 incidents, and an additional 31 incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren on their journeys to and from school. There were 59 incidents against Jewish students, academics and other student bodies, while 51 incidents happened to people in their homes.

The targets in 43 incidents were Jewish communal organisations and their events, including representative bodies, youth movements, welfare and cultural organisations. The victims of 21 incidents were communal leaders, politicians, journalists or other high-profile individuals.

Perpetrators and motives

Identifying the motives and ethnicity of the perpetrators of antisemitic incidents can be a difficult and imprecise activity. Many antisemitic incidents involve public encounters where the antisemitic abuse may be generic, brief and sometimes non-verbal. In cases involving physical or verbal abuse, it depends on the evidence of victims of, and witnesses to, antisemitic incidents, and may rely on the perpetrators' physical

appearance, language or other indicators. It is obviously an easier task to analyse, for instance, a sample of hate-mail, where the content of an antisemitic letter often reveals the political motivation of the perpetrator, although it would be a mistake to assume to know the ethnicity of a hate-mail sender on the basis of the discourse it contains.

A physical description of the perpetrator was provided in 243 of the 547 incidents recorded by CST¹. Of these, 129 were white; 15 were East European; 27 were black; 52 were Asian and 14 were of Arab appearance. Therefore there were white perpetrators in 53 per cent – or just over half – of incidents where a physical description of the perpetrator was given. These figures partly reflect the fact that Britain's Jewish communities tend to live in relatively diverse urban areas. Events

during the year also have an impact on the ethnicity of incident perpetrators. The percentage of perpetrators of antisemitic incidents who are identified as being of Asian or Arab appearance tends to fluctuate according to whether the trigger events for antisemitism in a particular year are related to the Middle East. This figure stood at 38 per cent of identified incident perpetrators in 2004 and 34 per cent in 2006, when there were significant trigger events from the Middle East, but fell to 30 per cent in 2005 and 27 per cent in 2007, two years in which there were fewer trigger events from that part of the world.

Analysing the content of incidents can also help to identify the motives of incident perpetrators. In 2007, 46 incidents included direct reference to Israel and the Middle

Antisemitic graffiti, North London, January 2007



¹ CST uses the 'IC1-6' system, used by the Metropolitan Police Service and others, for categorising the ethnic appearance of incident perpetrators. This uses the codes IC1, IC2, IC3 etc, for 'white', 'East or Dark European', 'black', 'Asian', 'Far Eastern' and 'Arab' respectively. This is obviously not a foolproof system and can only be used as a rough guide: for example, an East European perpetrator could potentially be described as IC1 or IC2, depending on whether an incident victim or witness is capable of identifying their nationality by their appearance, accent, language or some other indicator.

East, of which 34 were overtly anti-Zionist as well as involving clear antisemitism. By comparison, in 2006 there were 106 incidents that referred directly to Israel or the Middle East, and 86 that were overtly anti-Zionist as well as antisemitic. This sharp fall in the number and proportion of incidents containing anti-Israel discourse alongside antisemitism is probably a reflection of the lack of trigger events from the Middle East in 2007. In contrast, the number of incidents that involved the use of neo-Nazi discourse remained fairly constant, from 125 in 2006 to 127 in 2007, while 87 incidents in 2007 had an obvious far right motivation and political content, up from 74 incidents in 2006.

There is not necessarily a direct correlation between the discourse used in an antisemitic incident and the ethnicity of the perpetrator. One feature of contemporary antisemitism is the fact that the use of far right references is no longer the preserve of neo-Nazis; nor is mention of Israel and the Middle East solely the favoured expression of Muslim or Arab perpetrators of incidents. Also, some incidents involve the simultaneous use of neo-Nazi and anti-Zionist discourse by the same perpetrator. It is more accurate to say that Israel and the Nazi period are both used by antisemites of all backgrounds as sources for material to use when abusing Jews.

Trigger events and baseline levels

It is well established that trigger events in Britain and, especially, in the Middle East, that are perceived to involve Jews or Israel in some way, can spark a temporary rise in antisemitic incidents against British Jews. In 2006, Israel's war against Hizbollah in Lebanon saw the largest such 'spike' in antisemitic incidents ever recorded by CST, when 134 incidents were recorded in the UK during the 34 days of fighting. This was the single most important reason for the record high of 594 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2006. In contrast, in 2007 there

were no significant trigger events, either from the Middle East or in the UK, to cause any identifiable spike in antisemitic incidents to distort the overall picture. Thus the figure of 547 incidents can be taken as a rough picture of the baseline level of antisemitism in the UK.

Given this, the total of 547 incidents, while a welcome fall from the high of 2006, is not a cause for optimism. It maintains the long-term rise in antisemitic incidents since the low of 219 incidents in 1997, an increase of almost 150 per cent in ten years. Although this is partly explained by an improvement in the reporting of antisemitic incidents and the growth of CST as a monitoring body, these factors are not enough to explain the steady year-on-year rise. What appears to have happened is that the frequent trigger events that have occurred in recent years have caused the baseline level to gradually increase, instead of falling back to its original level after each spike in incidents.

The lack of trigger events also makes it possible to assess the most common types of incident that make up this 'background antisemitism', using the 547 incidents recorded in 2007 as a rough sample. This appears to confirm the picture that emerged in 2006, whereby temporary spikes in incident levels that are triggered by specific events, such as the war in Lebanon, mainly consist of hate-mail or other forms of abusive communication to Jewish organisations or communal leadership. These incidents are more premeditated and 'political' than the incidents of verbal harassment, abuse or physical assault against individual Jews on the street that typifies day-to-day antisemitism in Britain today.

In 2007, for example, 52 per cent of incidents targeted individual Jews in public, while Jewish organisations, synagogues or schools were the targets of 23 per cent. In 2006, however, proportionately fewer

incidents - just 38 per cent – involved the targeting of individual Jews in public, while Jewish organisations, synagogues and schools were the targets of 33 per cent. In 2007, 58 per cent of incidents involved verbal abuse with 12 per cent coming by way of hate mail; whereas in 2006, a ‘trigger event’ year, hate mail was relatively more common, accounting for 22 per cent of incidents, while verbal abuse was relatively less common, accounting for 47 per cent.

Typology of incidents: mission, opportunistic or aggravated?

A study of antisemitic incidents recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service from 2001 – 2004² defined ‘mission’ incidents as those in which “the offender takes some premeditated action to instigate the incident by engineering their interaction with the victim. In addition, antisemitism seemingly drives the offender’s actions – as manifest by their language or symbols they use” (Iganski et al, 2005). Applying this definition to the 547 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2007 reveals that 198 incidents, or 36 per cent of the total, showed evidence of being ‘mission’ incidents. By comparison, 161 incidents, or 29 per cent, appeared to be ‘opportunistic’, whereby “the offender takes immediate advantage of an opportunity that presents itself to vent their antisemitism, rather than engineering the incident in a premeditated way” (Iganski et al, 2005). Examples of ‘mission’ incidents recorded in 2007 include:

- A vehicle was seen on two or three occasions in the space of two weeks, being driven round parts of north Manchester where there is a large strictly Orthodox Jewish community. The occupants, white men wearing balaclava ski masks, threw eggs at visibly Jewish pedestrians while shouting antisemitic abuse.
- A man phoned a synagogue in Lancashire and left an answerphone message which

said: “Jew dog, gas sniffer, six million wasn’t enough, your synagogue is on fire.”

- A Jewish man was standing in the front garden of his house in Manchester, when a group of white youths approached him, made abusive references to Hitler and the Jews, and then threw a large stone at him.

There were 75 incidents, or 14 per cent, which may be categorised as ‘aggravated’ incidents, whereby “the offender and victim are caught up in a conflict situation that initially does not involve antisemitism. However, in the course of the conflict the offender’s bigotry emerges” (Iganski et al, 2005). Examples of ‘aggravated’ incidents recorded by CST in 2007 include:

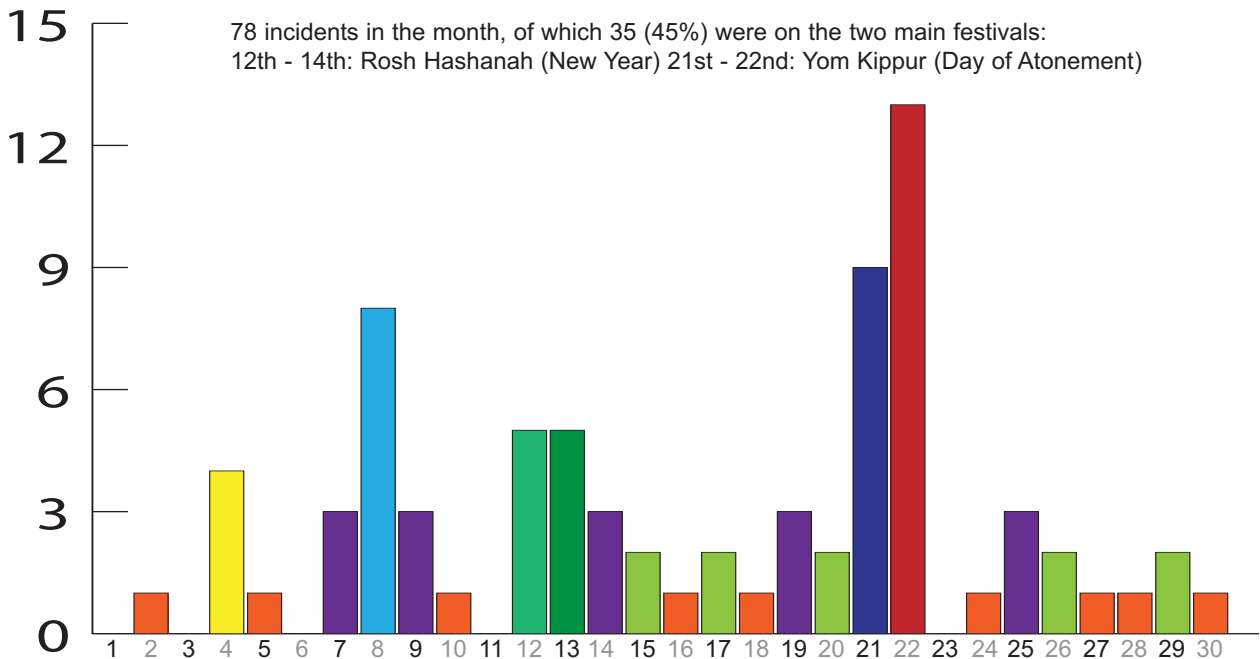
- A Jewish woman was stuck in heavy traffic after collecting her children from a Jewish school in Manchester. A driver trying to pass her car in the opposite direction shouted out of his window: “You fucking Jewish bitch, move, now.”
- A Jewish man had fallen asleep on a night bus in London. He woke up to find four men standing over him holding his jacket, which had been on the seat next to him. At that point the men saw his Star of David necklace and called him a “fucking Jew”, punching him in the face. They then stole his money and his phone and left the bus.

High Holy Days: a case study

There were 78 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in September 2007, the joint-fourth highest monthly total since CST began recording antisemitic incidents in 1984. However, there were no trigger events during the month to provoke such a high number of incidents. Instead, the high number appears to have occurred because a series of Jewish festivals, known as the High Holy Days, took place during September, most notably Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur

² Iganski et al, “Hate Crimes against London’s Jews” (Institute for Jewish Policy Research, London 2005).

CST antisemitic incidents September 2007



(Day of Atonement). These are days when large numbers of Jewish people, even those who are normally not especially observant, will attend synagogue, and there are relatively large numbers of visibly Jewish people on the streets, walking to or from synagogue. Synagogue congregants are a common target for antisemitic incidents, and were the victims in 64, or 12 per cent, of the 547 incidents recorded across the year as a whole.

Of the 78 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST during September, 35 incidents – 45 per cent – took place on the five days of the month on which Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur occurred. This pattern can be seen in the figures for previous years, although not in quite so acute a fashion: in 2006, there were 18 antisemitic incidents, or 23 per cent of the monthly total, on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur; in 2005, 15 incidents, or 33 per cent of the monthly total; and in 2004, 18 incidents or 30 per cent of the monthly total. This dynamic also affects Saturdays, the Jewish Sabbath, when synagogue congregants walk to or from prayers: in addition to the 35 incidents mentioned

above, a further 12 incidents (15 per cent) in September 2007 took place on the other Saturdays in the month, as shown in the table above.

The type of incident that occurred on these two festivals demonstrates this targeting of synagogues and their congregants. Of the 35 incidents, all but two involved synagogue buildings, their staff and congregants. Of these, 13 targeted congregants walking to or from prayers, but who were not in the immediate vicinity of their synagogue building. Verbal abuse was used in 29 incidents, or 83 per cent, of which 26 involved abuse shouted from a passing vehicle. A disproportionately high number of incidents – 27, or 77 per cent – were in the category of Abusive Behaviour, while there were six incidents of Assault. This is significantly different from the figures for 2007 as a whole, in which 60 per cent of incidents were of Abusive Behaviour, 21 per cent were Assault, and 58 per cent involved verbal abuse of which a third were from a vehicle.

A physical description of the perpetrators was obtained in 21 of the 35 incidents recorded on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Of these,

16, or 76 per cent, were white, one was East European, two black, one Asian and one of Arab appearance. Thus white perpetrators were much more common on these days, and for this type of incident, than across 2007 as a whole. Of the 35 incidents, 13 took place in London and 13 in Manchester, with six incidents recorded in Hertfordshire and the others in Leeds (two) and Birmingham (one). By comparison, and as is explained in further detail on page 18, for 2007 as a whole there were 247 incidents recorded in London and 147 in Manchester.

Examples of incidents recorded by CST on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in 2007 include:

- A group of ten black youths walked past a synagogue in London, verbally abused one of the congregants and then assaulted him, resulting in the victim needing hospital treatment.
- A white man walked past a synagogue in London, shouted "Jew boy", sang a National Front song and gave a Nazi salute.
- Two white men drove past a synagogue in Hertfordshire and shouted "Long live Palestine" at the security officer.
- A Jewish man was walking home from synagogue in Leeds when a white man drove past him and shouted "Go back to Israel" out of his car.
- A white man drove past a synagogue in Hertfordshire and shouted "Yiddo" out of his car.

It is likely that as well as the increased number of visibly Jewish people in public on these days, the relatively high number of incidents recorded on the High Holy Days is partly because the intensive CST and Police operations mean that there is better

reporting of antisemitic incidents. Firstly, there are more CST security officers or Police officers – often on joint patrols – to whom victims of antisemitic incidents can report incidents in person; and secondly, those extra security officers often witness the incidents taking place themselves. Of the 131 incidents recorded by CST which involved the targeting of synagogues, their staff or congregants in 2007, 33, or 25 per cent, were recorded on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. It is highly unlikely that a quarter of these types of incidents took place during just five days of the year; it is much more likely that similar incidents during the rest of the year go unreported.

Antisemitic incidents on and off campus

The 59 incidents recorded by CST in 2007 in which the victims were students, student bodies or academics represent a considerable rise from the 18 incidents recorded of that type in 2006, 11 in 2005 and 21 in 2004. It is most likely that this rise (228 per cent from the 2006 figure) is largely because of better reporting of incidents to CST. CST has, in recent years, invested a great deal of effort and resources in encouraging Jewish students to report antisemitic incidents, either directly to CST's student security officers, or via the Union of Jewish Students. The large rise may also be partly due to political tensions on campuses. The ongoing campaign to boycott Israeli academics continued during 2007, although few incidents made direct reference to the boycott campaign and any indirect impact it may have had on antisemitic incident levels is difficult to quantify. Rather than indicating a significant change in the environment in which Jewish students live and study, the increase is more likely to mean that a true picture is beginning to emerge of the challenges faced by Jewish students on and off campus.

The 59 incidents consisted of four physical assaults, eight incidents of Damage and

Desecration to Jewish property, four incidents in the category of Threats, 42 incidents of Abusive Behaviour and one incident which involved the mass-mailing of antisemitic literature. Of the 59 incidents, 31 took place on campus, and 28 occurred off campus. Of the 31 incidents that took place on campus, 12 involved direct contact between incident perpetrator and victim – for instance, by verbal abuse or physical assault – while the remainder mostly involved antisemitic graffiti or hate-mail. A larger proportion of the incidents off campus, 23 out of 28 incidents, involved direct contact between perpetrator and victim. Academics were the victims in two incidents, student unions in six and students, either individually or collectively (for instance in cases of antisemitic graffiti in student buildings) in the other 51 incidents recorded.

The locations of the 31 incidents recorded on campus included 11 universities and three further education colleges. Six on-campus incidents took place in the direct context of political campaigning. Other incidents that involved political content, for instance in cases of graffiti using swastikas or other political imagery or language, did not occur in the immediate setting of otherwise legitimate political activity. Off campus, 13 of the 28 incidents recorded took place in Leeds, where there is a large Jewish student body. Other incidents took place off campus in Manchester, London, Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

Examples of antisemitic incidents that took place on campus in 2007 include:

- Swastikas and other antisemitic graffiti were scratched into the door of a Jewish student's room in a hall of residence in Nottingham, and into walls near his room.
- A Jewish student was taking part in a demonstration at Manchester University

when a Muslim student grabbed her poster from her and said that Jews will be banned from campus.

- A Jewish student was handing out leaflets outside a student union debate at Manchester University when an Arab student called him "You Jewish bastard." When challenged, the Arab student smiled and said: "Whoops, I mean you Israeli bastard" and walked off.
- Swastikas were drawn on posters advertising Jewish Book Week at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London.
- "Mossad caused 9/11" and "Fight the Jewish terrorists" were written on a desk at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Smashed window, Grimsby, February 2007



Examples of antisemitic incidents that took place off campus include:

- A group of visibly Jewish students were walking down a road in Birmingham when a white man drove past them and shouted "You fucking Jewish bastards" out of his car window.
- A visibly Jewish student was walking through Leeds when the occupants of a passing vehicle shouted "Fucking Jew" and "Yid" at him.
- "I hate Jews" was written in the frost on the car window of a Jewish student outside her student house in Birmingham. Four weeks later "Jew" was again written in the frost on her car.

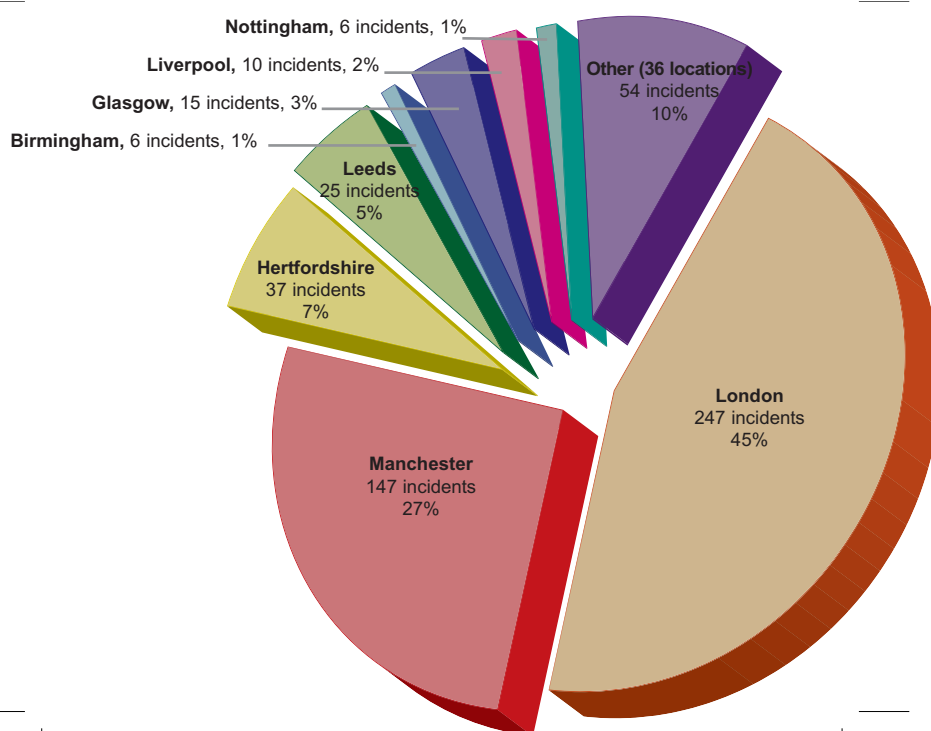
Geographical locations and differences

Almost three-quarters of the 547 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2007 took place in Greater London and Greater Manchester,

the two largest Jewish communities in the UK. Of these, 247 incidents took place in London and 147 in Manchester. This continues the pattern whereby a disproportionately high number of incidents (27 per cent in 2007) take place in Manchester, despite the fact that only ten per cent of British Jews live there. There were 37 antisemitic incidents in Hertfordshire, 25 in Leeds – of which 21 affected students at the city's universities – 15 in Glasgow, ten in Liverpool and six each in Nottingham and Birmingham. Over half of the 247 incidents in London were recorded in the borough of Barnet, which has the largest Jewish community of any London borough, while in Manchester 90 per cent of the incidents recorded by CST took place in the boroughs of Bury, Salford and Manchester.

The 247 antisemitic incidents that took place in London constitute an 18 per cent fall from the 2006 London total of 300 incidents, whereas the total in Manchester increased

Geographical breakdown of antisemitic incidents in the UK 2007



marginally from 144 in 2006 to 147 in 2007. It is likely that the reason for the large decrease in incidents in London is because of the type of incident that made up the Lebanon-related 'spike' in 2006. These incidents largely involved 'mission'-type incidents such as hate mail or abusive phone calls to Jewish organisations or leadership bodies, most of which are based in London. The absence of trigger events in 2007 meant a reduction in this kind of incident, and therefore a fall in the number of incidents in London. This theory is supported by the fact that London incidents are more 'mission' than 'opportunistic' – 40 per cent to 31 per cent respectively in 2007 – whereas in Manchester the comparable figures for 2007 are 30 per cent for each.

Manchester sees more antisemitic incidents per head of Jewish population than in London, but incident levels in London are more reactive to trigger events from overseas. This would explain why incident figures in London tend to fluctuate, while those in Manchester do not show the same pattern. In London, CST recorded 311 incidents in 2004, a year that included the second-highest monthly incident total ever recorded by CST after the Israeli assassination of the leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, in Gaza in March; 213 incidents in 2005, when there were no major trigger events from the Middle East; 300 in 2006 and 247 in 2007. In Manchester, in contrast, there were 94 incidents in 2004, 132 in 2005, 144 in 2006 and 147 incidents in 2007. The steady rise in incidents in Manchester is partly, although not wholly, explained by better reporting of incidents by the local community, in response to the increased efforts of CST and Greater Manchester Police.

Further differences between incident types in London and Manchester can be drawn out of the statistics. Incidents in Manchester are more likely to target individual Jews in public

than in London (67 per cent of Manchester incidents compared with 52 per cent of London incidents). They are also more likely to involve verbal abuse (Manchester: 69 per cent of total; London: 53 per cent) rather than hate-mail (Manchester: three per cent of total; London: 16 per cent).

Incidents in London are more likely to include political discourse: 24 per cent of incidents in London invoked neo-Nazi imagery or language, and ten per cent made reference to Israel or the Middle East, while in Manchester the figures were 17 per cent and two per cent respectively. Thirty seven per cent of identified incident perpetrators in London were white, compared with 70 per cent in Manchester. In both cities, antisemitic incidents tended to be more violent than across the UK: 26 per cent of incidents in London and 24 per cent in Manchester were in the category of Assault, compared with 21 per cent nationally.

Suspicious Behaviour, north London, March 2007



Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour

One of the most important jobs CST does is to record and analyse incidents of Information Collection and Suspicious

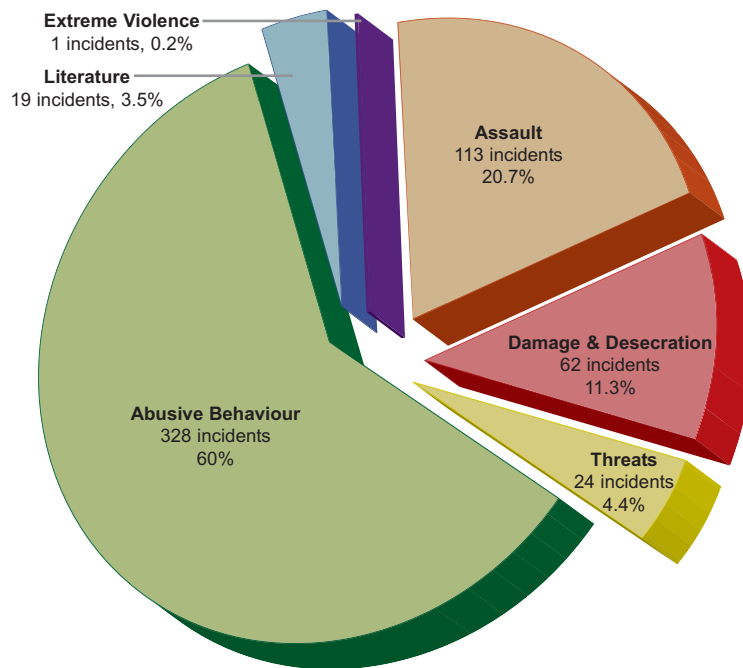
Behaviour around Jewish locations. It is well known that terrorist groups often collect information about their targets before launching an attack. Preventing the gathering of this kind of information is an integral part of CST's work in protecting the community from the danger of terrorism. Jewish communities have long been the targets of terrorists of different and varied political and religious motivations. Between 1968 and 2003 there were 413 terrorist attacks, attempted attacks and foiled terrorist plots against Jewish communities and Israeli targets around the world³. Most recently, Jewish communities in Turkey, Morocco and Tunisia have all been attacked by al-Qaeda and its supporters, while plots to attack Jewish communities in Germany, Australia and the United States have been foiled by Police action. Here in the UK, a group of Islamist extremists jailed in April 2007 for plotting terrorist attacks in Britain were found to have downloaded lists of synagogues from the internet, possibly as potential targets for attack.

Cases of Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour are not included in the antisemitic incident statistics, as the motivation for many of them is not possible to determine. The vague and uncertain nature of many of these incidents means that they are easier to analyse if the two categories are combined, rather than treated separately. Taken together, there were 164 such incidents reported to CST in 2007, similar to the 2006 total of 168 incidents and the 167 incidents recorded in 2005.

Of the 164 incidents of Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour reported to CST in 2007, 34 involved the photography or videoing of Jewish buildings, while in 15 cases suspicious people tried to gain entry to Jewish premises. Although most of the 164 incidents will almost certainly have innocent explanations, neither CST nor the Police underestimate the threat posed to Jewish communities by al-Qaeda and other terrorist organisations and networks. Preventing this kind of information gathering and surveillance of community buildings or other potential terrorist targets is an important part of reducing the possibility of future terrorist attacks.

³ "Terrorist Incidents Against Jewish Communities and Israeli Citizens Abroad, 1968-2003" (The Community Security Trust, London 2004)

Antisemitic incidents category totals 2007



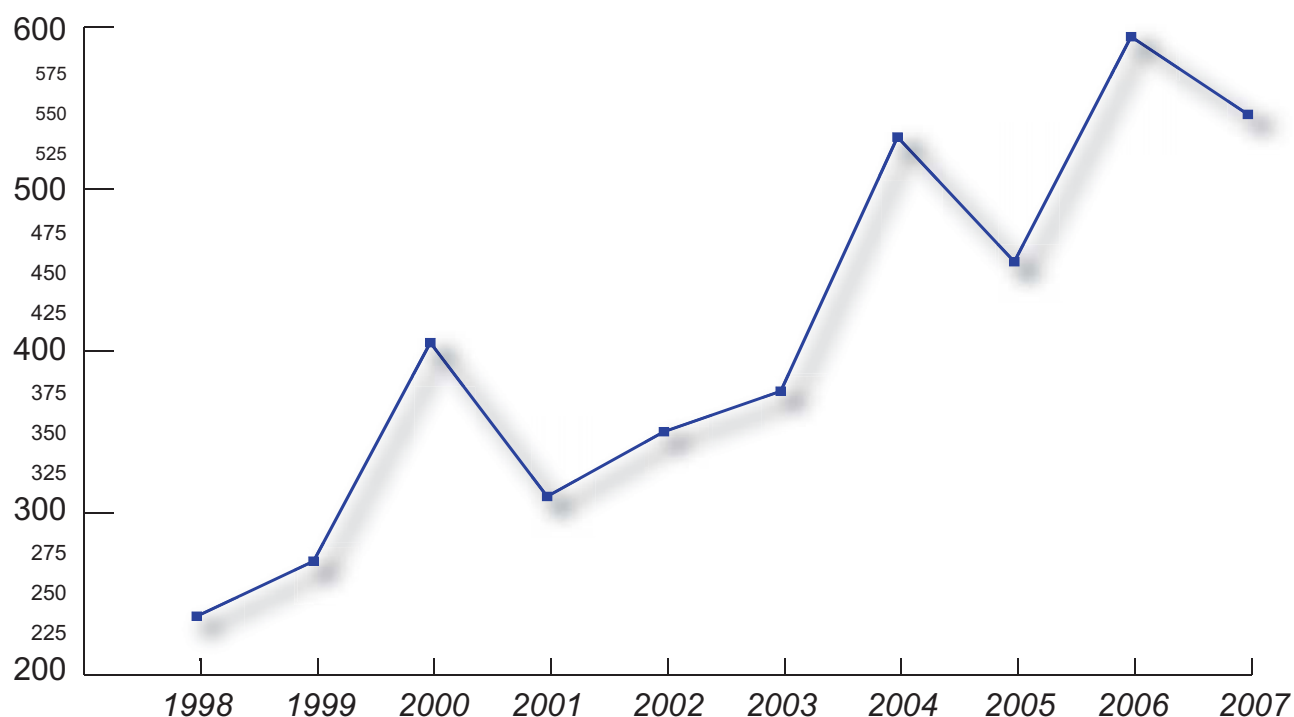
Annual incidents figures by category 1998-2007

Category	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1. Extreme Violence	0	0	2	1	5	0	4	2	4	1
2. Assault	17	33	51	40	42	54	79	80	108	113
3. Damage & Desecration	31	25	73	90	55	72	53	48	70	62
4. Threats	16	31	39	37	18	22	93	25	27	24
5. Abusive Behaviour	136	127	196	122	216	211	272	273	365	328
6. Literature	36	54	44	20	14	16	31	27	20	19
TOTAL	236	270	405	310	350	375	532	455	594	547

Annual incidents figures full breakdown

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
1. Extreme Violence	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2. Assault	8	12	5	10	5	14	10	10	13	11	11	4	113
3. Damage & Desecration	4	6	1	10	5	4	8	2	5	4	8	5	62
4. Threats	5	3	3	2	3	0	0	5	0	2	0	1	24
5. Abusive Behaviour	15	17	26	35	21	21	40	30	55	34	15	19	328
6. Literature	0	2	1	2	1	0	2	2	5	3	0	1	19
TOTAL	32	40	36	59	35	40	60	49	78	54	34	30	547

Annual incidents figures since 1998



Monthly incidents figures 1998 - 2007

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	14	26	37	16	15	23	20	60	33	32
February	16	19	19	14	11	24	28	45	56	40
March	20	18	25	20	26	48	100	39	40	36
April	23	34	35	33	47	29	62	49	33	59
May	22	29	29	32	47	27	39	41	44	35
June	38	21	24	30	26	34	64	37	37	40
July	18	20	29	28	31	30	48	41	94	60
August	18	18	16	20	15	20	29	32	78	49
September	14	25	23	50	47	22	60	27	66	78
October	20	23	105	48	45	57	29	44	59	54
November	11	24	42	14	28	36	29	22	35	34
December	22	13	21	5	12	25	24	18	19	30
TOTAL	236	270	405	310	350	375	532	455	594	547

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