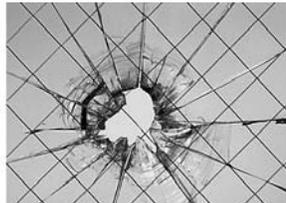


Antisemitic Violence



2008 Hate Crime Survey

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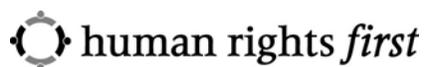
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Human Rights First is practical and effective. We advocate for change at the highest levels of national and international policymaking. We seek justice through the courts. We raise awareness and understanding through the media. We build coalitions among those with divergent views. And we mobilize people to act.

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HRF's Fighting Discrimination Program

The Fighting Discrimination Program has been working since 2002 to reverse the rising tide of antisemitic, racist, anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, and homophobic violence and other bias crime in Europe, the Russian Federation, and North America. We report on the reality of violence driven by discrimination, and work to strengthen the response of governments to combat this violence. We advance concrete, practical recommendations to improve hate crimes legislation and its implementation, monitoring and public reporting, the training of police and prosecutors, the work of official anti-discrimination bodies, and the capacity of civil society organizations and international institutions to combat violent hate crimes. For more information on the program, visit www.humanrightsfirst.org/discrimination or email FD@humanrightsfirst.org.

2008 Hate Crime Survey

Antisemitic Violence is an excerpt from Human Rights First's *2008 Hate Crime Survey*, which includes sections examining six facets of violent hate crime in the 56 countries that comprise the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE): *Violence Based on Racism and Xenophobia*, *Antisemitic Violence*, *Violence Against Muslims*, *Violence Based on Religious Intolerance*, *Violence Against Roma*, and *Violence Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Bias*. The Survey also examines government responses to violent hate crimes in sections on *Systems of Monitoring and Reporting* and *The Framework of Criminal Law* and includes a Ten-Point Plan for governments to strengthen their responses. The Survey also includes an in-depth look at the *Russian Federation*, *Ukraine*, and the *United States* and contains a *Country Panorama* section that profiles individual hate crime cases from more than 30 countries within the OSCE.

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Antisemitic Violence

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Executive Summary

Antisemitic violence continued to rise across many parts of Europe and North America in 2007, despite improvements in some countries where there nevertheless remain historically high levels of violence motivated by anti-Jewish prejudice. But even in these places, there is pressure on people to conceal their Jewish identity. The decline in levels of antisemitic incidents in some countries coincided with an alarming trend toward an increasing number of violent personal assaults.

In 2007, overall levels of violent antisemitic attacks against persons increased in **Canada, Germany, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom** according to official statistics and reports of nongovernmental monitors. In the **United Kingdom**, violent antisemitic attacks rose while the overall incident level declined moderately. The proportion of antisemitic incidents involving violent attacks on persons held steady in **France**, even as overall levels of antisemitic incidents there dropped significantly. In **Belgium, the Netherlands** and the **United States**, antisemitic crimes of violence declined.

There are undoubtedly a number of other European countries where antisemitic violence is also problematic, but where information on attacks—either from official or unofficial sources—is much less readily available.

Between 2000 and 2005, levels of antisemitic violence had fluctuated significantly in direct relation to events in the Middle East, which provide new impetus for those already predisposed to antisemitism in Europe. Since 2005, this pattern has to some extent changed, with month-by-month levels of antisemitic violence showing little change. These more uniform rates show little correlation with specific events involving Israel and the Middle East. This does not mean however, that the threat of antisemitic violence has diminished. In fact,

the new norm is for very high levels of antisemitic violence, still estimated in a number of countries to be several times higher than that of the 1990's.

In some countries, the frequency and severity of attacks on Jewish places of worship, community centers, schools, and other institutions has resulted in a need for security measures by representatives of both the Jewish community and local or national government. Enhanced security can be credited for a reduction in attacks on Jewish sites and property in **France, Germany, and the United Kingdom**, where successive governments have made a strong commitment to protect the Jewish community. However, the need for such security is a powerful indicator of the revival of antisemitism in recent years.

Monitoring, a vigorous law enforcement response to individual incidents, cooperation between the police and affected communities, and attention to prevention, including through education, are all needed to combat antisemitism and its violent manifestations. Although some governments in Europe and North America have instituted effective systems of monitoring and reporting on antisemitic hate crimes, most have not. And, while local nongovernmental organizations and community leaders provide information on such crimes, as well as insights into the response of the communities affected to those crimes, these initiatives are no substitute for state authorities addressing the problem directly.

I. Antisemitic Violence Still Rising

As the country-by-country overview below illustrates, antisemitic violence continued to rise in **Canada**, **Germany**, the **Russian Federation**, and **Ukraine** in 2007. The proportion of incidents involving violent attacks on persons continued to rise in the **United Kingdom** and remained at high levels in **France**, even as overall levels of anti-Jewish crimes decreased in those two countries.¹ Available data had shown an increase in antisemitic incidents in all of these countries in 2006.

These country-by-country assessments are echoed by data collected on a region-wide basis as well. Global data from the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism shows a 6.6 percent rise in incidents overall, from 593 to 632 in 2007—with most reported incidents coming from Europe and North America. There were 352 reported from Europe (up from 326), 78 in the former Soviet Union (up from 76), and 140 from North America (up from 103).

Most significantly, there were 35 “major attacks” in Europe (up from 8 in 2006), 8 in the former Soviet Union (up from 4), and 8 in North America (up from 5) in the Stephen Roth data. Major attacks were defined as incidents involving weapons, arson, or an intent to kill. Overall, this represented a nearly four-fold rise in Europe and North America in the most serious incidents from 2006 levels, from 13 to 51.² Although the report registered a decline in overall incidents in **France**, **Belgium**, **Germany**, the **United Kingdom** and the **United States**, there was a rise in more significant antisemitic violence in **France**, **Germany**, and the **United Kingdom**.

In some countries, the frequency and severity of attacks on Jewish places of worship, community centers, schools, and other institutions resulted in a need for

security measures by representatives of both the Jewish community and local or national government. In **Germany**, special security was provided by police to synagogues and Jewish schools, and even to Jewish book stores and kosher grocery shops. In the **United Kingdom**, constant police protection was required for synagogues, Jewish schools, and Jewish institutions.

Enhanced security was credited for the reduction of serious attacks on Jewish sites in **France**, **Germany**, and the **United Kingdom**, where a strong commitment to such protection has been made by successive governments. The reality in which such protection is required on an everyday basis is, however, perhaps the truest indicator of just how far the revival of antisemitism has progressed since 2000.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has been an important source of leadership in this area. In recent years, the OSCE has hosted international conferences on the issue, appointed a personal representative to the Chairman-in-Office on combating antisemitism, announced commitments to practical measures to address the phenomenon, and developed commitments for member states to implement institutional mechanisms to fight discrimination.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) produces an annual report on hate crime incidents and responses. The 2006 publication acknowledged that antisemitic incidents and crimes continued to threaten stability and security in the OSCE.³ The ODIHR also maintains a tolerance and nondiscrimination web-based information system that includes a section on international commitments and practical initiatives undertaken by states to combat antisemitism.

Professor Gert Weisskirchen, the current Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE on Combating Antisemitism, publishes a separate annual report, outlining the goals and activities of his office.⁴ The Personal Representative has been productive in putting a spotlight on the issue, engaging and advising political leaders, investigating incidents, and participating in coordination activities. On January 29, 2008, Professor Weisskirchen testified in a United States Helsinki Commission Hearing on combating antisemitism in the OSCE region, noting that “there have been recurrent manifestations of antisemitism in many countries despite the considerable efforts that have been undertaken in many participating states.”⁵

The institutions of the Council of Europe and the European Union have also worked to promote standards, compile and publish data, and to make urgent recommendations for action to their member states. European institutions continue to make important public commitments in support of continuing efforts in this regard. For example, on June 27, 2007, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe resolved that it “remains deeply concerned about the persistence and escalation of antisemitic phenomena” and noted that “no member state is shielded from, or immune to, this fundamental affront to human rights.” The resolution further stated the unacceptability of antisemitism, while warning that it continued to be on the rise, “appearing in a variety of forms and becoming relatively commonplace, to varying degrees, in all Council of Europe member states.”⁶

The E.U.’s Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) has regularly reported on the response of E.U. states to antisemitic crime and has paid special attention to the importance of data collection to those efforts. In its 2008 annual report (for the year 2007) the FRA reported that only five countries—**Austria, France, Germany, Sweden,** and the **United Kingdom**—collect data on antisemitic crime in such a way that allows for a trend analysis over time. Of those that do, **France, Sweden,** and the **United Kingdom** experienced a general upward trend in recorded antisemitic crime between 2001–2006.⁷

In the sections below detailing various forms of antisemitic violence against both people and property, representative cases are provided. Nongovernmental monitors have captured a much larger range of incidents in their reporting than can be included in this report. We have created an online *Annex* to this report that includes a fuller range of cases with, in some instances, a greater level of detail than provided below. It can be accessed at <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/discrimination/index.asp>.

II. Antisemitic Violence Against Individuals

Throughout much of the region, antisemitic incidents increasingly took the form of physical attacks on individuals. Since 2005, the statistical findings of both official and nongovernmental monitors have identified a pattern in which such attacks constitute a growing proportion of incidents overall. Even in the absence of detailed statistical data, the evidence from incident reports and NGO analyses provide equally compelling evidence of the increase of personal assaults within a larger environment of burgeoning antisemitic and racist discourse.

A. “Visibly Jewish” Persons

The targets of personal attacks were frequently identified as Jewish because they wore a kippah (yarmulke), distinctive clothing or jewelry. Others were targeted as “visibly Jewish”—a term commonly used by Jewish community monitors of antisemitism—because they followed the customs of Orthodox Jewry. In many cases of physical assaults, attackers targeted people attending or going to or from Jewish schools, community centers, and synagogues.

- In **Ukraine**, on September 27, 2007, a group of four youths attacked a worshipper as he left a synagogue in Zhytomyr after evening prayers; the target of the attack, an Israeli Jew, responded with mace and drove off the attackers.⁸
- In **France**, on September 6, 2007, in Garges-lès-Gonesse, an unknown attacker punched a man, who was leaving a synagogue, several times and smashed the rear window of his car.⁹
- In the **United Kingdom**, on July 21, 2007, a group of teenage youths shouting antisemitic epithets attacked a man leaving a synagogue in Salford,

Manchester after evening services. They punched him in the head and threw bricks at him.¹⁰

In many cases, physical violence appeared to represent spontaneous acts of prejudice and hatred against individuals who were considered to be visibly Jewish.

- In **Germany**, on December 12, 2007, two inebriated young men in their twenties harassed two Jews traveling on a bus in Berlin, spitting on one and pushing him. The attackers, who shouted antisemitic slurs, were subsequently arrested.¹¹
- In the **Russian Federation**, men described as skinheads assaulted two Jewish men on June 11, 2007, in Ivanovo, northeast of Moscow, while shouting antisemitic epithets. The victims were wearing “traditional Jewish clothes” when attacked. Two 21-year-olds were detained, and a prosecutor said they would be charged with incitement to racial and religious hatred.¹²

B. Religious Leaders and Their Families

In a disturbing number of cases, Jewish religious leaders were singled out for violence. Among the examples of assault were:

- In **France**, on April 19, 2007, Rabbi Elie Dahan was attacked by a young man at the Paris Nord railway station. Onlookers sought to detain the attacker, but failed to do so. Rabbi Dahan’s glasses were broken, causing an eye injury.
- In **Germany**, a man attacked 42-year-old Rabbi Zalman Gurevitch on September 7, 2007, in Frankfurt, stabbing him in the stomach and shouting antisemitic expletives.¹³

- In **Ukraine**, on November 29, 2007, a group shouting antisemitic epithets attacked Rabbi Binyamin Wolf, the chief rabbi of Sevastopol and Chabad representative, as he left his home for a synagogue. Wolf suffered serious injuries and was subsequently hospitalized.¹⁴
- In the **United States**, on October 9, 2007, Orthodox Rabbi Mordechai Moskowitz was brutally beaten with an aluminum baseball bat in Lakewood, New Jersey. Witnesses told police they saw a man walk by Rabbi Moskowitz and turn on the rabbi, beating him in the head and body with the baseball bat.”¹⁵

C. Schools and Students

Jewish children and young people were frequent victims of assaults and threatening behavior in the street, in public spaces, on public transport, and in and around their schools. Jewish schools had their windows broken, were daubed with threatening antisemitic graffiti, and were subjected to bomb threats and arson. Children in school playgrounds were pelted with stones. Human Rights First is aware of cases in which school students were physically assaulted in **France**, **Germany**, the **Russian Federation**, the **United Kingdom**, and the **United States**. Representative examples include:

- In **France**, on October 8, 2007, a group of young people attacked a 14-year-old student of a Jewish school in Paris, kicking him and hitting him with a stick; he reportedly suffered an eye injury and scratches.¹⁶
- In **Germany**'s capital, Berlin, on January 16, 2007, four attackers accosted five students of the city's nonreligious Jewish high school, insulting them with antisemitic screeds and setting a dog on them.¹⁷
- In the **Russian Federation**'s Moscow Oblast, on February 19, 2007, a group of young people harassed three pupils from the Torat Chaim Jewish

School after classes, demanded they confirm they were Jewish and physically assaulted them, leaving one with a concussion.¹⁸

In a number of incidents, schools, from kindergarten to high school, suffered stone-throwing, bomb threats, arson, and serious acts of vandalism:

- In **Canada**, the Jewish People's and Peretz School in Montreal was forced to evacuate 500 students after a telephoned bomb threat on February 2, 2007.¹⁹ A further threat was received on February 6.²⁰
- In **Germany**, in February 2007, attackers threw a smoke bomb through the window of a Jewish kindergarten in Berlin, which failed to go off. The same individuals were reported to have sprayed swastikas, other racist symbols, and antisemitic slogans on school walls and playground equipment.²¹

Violent manifestations of antisemitism were also present on university campuses, with assaults on Jewish students and student centers, dormitories, and Jewish fraternity houses. Jewish university students were under threat off campus. In one widely reported incident in the **United States**, a group of four college students on a New York City subway train became the target of antisemitic epithets and physical assault on December 11, 2007. The victims may have been saved from more serious injuries thanks to 20-year-old Hassan Askari, a Muslim of Bangladeshi origin, who intervened to protect them and was subsequently attacked as well.²²

D. Living with Harassment and Violence

An overwhelming number of assaults reported involved incidents of harassment and intimidation involving relatively minor, but nevertheless threatening acts of violence. These incidents, in which antisemitic taunts and threats were accompanied by the throwing of

objects, spitting, slapping, or jostling, were the everyday actions that challenge many members of Jewish communities with a constant reminder of hatred and prejudice.

In many incidents, people described as visibly Jewish were assaulted as they walked on city sidewalks: pelted with eggs or trash, spat upon, or doused with unknown liquids while being subjected to antisemitic slurs. In Montreal, **Canada**, for example, a customer at a gas station spat upon a Jewish patron there after identifying him as a Jew.²³

In the **United Kingdom**, a small sampling of the reported incidents represents a virtual map of Jewish London and the Midlands, covered in egg splatter, trash, and broken bottles. The recurrent incidents leave the Jewish community angered, irritated, frustrated, and worried about what might come next. A number of representative cases from 2007 involving debris throwing, including the following:

- On June 9, in Ilford, the occupants of a passing vehicle threw white paint over visibly Jewish pedestrians who were walking home from synagogue.²⁴
- On April 3, a person who was visibly Jewish was pelted with eggs as he walked home from a Passover meal in Ilford.²⁵
- On January 30, in Wood Green, London, youths approached a visibly Jewish teenager and his mother on the upper deck of a bus, and knocked off his hat. When the two got up and went to find seats below, one of the youths followed and spat on the boy.²⁶

Similar everyday harassment and violence was reported elsewhere in the region. In the **United States**, in Howell, New Jersey, seven teenagers were arrested after having traveled through a Jewish neighborhood to throw eggs at an Orthodox Jewish resident while screaming antisemitic epithets and obscenities.²⁷

E. Constant Pressure to Conceal a Jewish Identity

Attackers have targeted and identified victims based on distinctive clothing and jewelry, or facial features, such as beards or sidecurls associated with Orthodox Jewish men. A result is a constant pressure to conceal one's identity. But for many Jews, and in particular those of Orthodox faith, a concealment of identity is neither possible nor desirable.

The constant threat of harassment or physical attack prompts some Jewish men to conceal their religious identity by wearing baseball caps or other hats over their skull-caps. In **France**, Jewish men have been under pressure to conceal their religious affiliation as a matter of safety, with several religious leaders acknowledging the need to wear concealing hats themselves over their kippahs.²⁸ A March 2008 Jewish Telegraph Agency story reported that “covering their yarmulke-clad heads with baseball caps and tucking away their Stars of David, French Jews who once advertised their Jewishness are keeping a low profile in an environment where Jews remain targets.”²⁹

In **Poland**, a 31-year-old Swedish rabbi, now a resident of Wrocław, described his feelings after an incident in which he was threatened on a train in an antisemitic harangue. Rabbi Icchak Rapaport told the *European Jewish Press* that he had not previously been the target of an antisemitic attack, and that there was a “wonderful atmosphere” in his neighborhood. But the attack changed everything: “Now I am really scared. From this day on I will wear a hat instead of a yarmulke outside my city. Once such a thing has happened I am not going to tempt my fate again. This is the sad reality. One cannot publicly wear a kippah.”³⁰

III. Vandalism and Attacks on Property

Antisemitic vandalism communicates a message of hatred and exclusion to the Jewish community and other communities as well. The swastika remains the main graphic symbol of antisemitism, used to deface homes, community centers, synagogues, gravesites, Jewish-owned businesses, and public spaces.

Graffiti was frequently used to intimidate specific individuals, families, and communities. Hate messages on Jewish homes, schools, and places of worship were often personal and explicit, threatening particular families or groups, such as students or members of a congregation. Alternatively, antisemitic graffiti in public places—along public highways or in city centers or even in rural areas—was targeted in a more general way. These messages to the general public aim to gain adherents, display the “reach” of the advocates of hatred and exclusion, and to broaden the scope of antisemitic threats beyond individual families or local communities.

While posing a direct threat to all Jews, the antisemitic Nazi symbols often include a more generalized message of racism, with slogans denigrating and threatening violence toward Jews accompanied by attacks on other minorities. The swastika is now used by racial supremacists and hate mongers across Europe and North America, daubed on graves; synagogues, churches and mosques; schools and universities; refugee hostels and immigrant homes.

The swastika is a symbol recalling the dehumanization and genocidal murder of the Holocaust. The swastika’s display is often accompanied by slogans that expressly invoke the Holocaust, threatening its renewal and attempting both to offend and to offer a tangible threat to Jews as individuals and as a people. The Holocaust is often *celebrated* in antisemitic graffiti, while Holocaust

denial provides a backdrop to the demagoguery of antisemitic propagandists and political movements.

A. Threats and Vandalism at Home

Perpetrators of antisemitic violence and threats often targeted Jewish families in their homes or in communal areas, vandalizing automobiles, breaking windows, daubing threatening graffiti, or smearing doors with excrement. Everyday harassment included epithets directed at family members as they went to and from their houses, being pelted with missiles, and aggressive pounding on the doors and windows of family homes. *Mezuzahs* (cases holding parchments inscribed with Hebrew verses that are fixed to the doors of many observant Jews) were also vandalized.

The majority of reports of incidents involving vandalism of homes and personal property came from Western Europe and North America, where official and community-based monitoring and reporting systems were available. Human Rights First is aware of incidents in which families were targeted for harassment and vandalism in their homes in **France**, the **Netherlands**, the **Russian Federation**, **Canada**, the **United Kingdom**, and the **United States**. Representative examples include:

- In **Canada**, in June 2007, attackers broke into the home of a Jewish family in Bowmanville, Ontario, and daubed swastikas and other antisemitic graffiti on the walls.³¹
- In the **Russian Federation**, on June 13, 2007 vandals sprayed graffiti on the home of a Jewish woman in Murmansk.³²

- In the **United Kingdom**, on April 1, 2007, vandals attacked a Jewish home in London, identifiable by a mezuzah, and smeared excrement on the front door.³³

B. Centers of Jewish Life and Memory

Jewish institutions have been particularly susceptible to attacks. Centers of Jewish life became the main targets for those seeking to express their hatred and strike a symbolic blow against Jews as a people. Places of worship, burial grounds, and Jewish community centers were the usual sites of antisemitic violence. Vandals and arsonists attacked synagogues, cemeteries, and Holocaust memorials throughout the region.

Human Rights First is aware of over 40 attacks on synagogues in **Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Latvia, Poland, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Serbia, Ukraine, United Kingdom**, and the **United States** in the period covered by the report. Examples include:

- In **Belgium**, the Machsike Hadass Synagogue in Antwerp was pelted with stones in a series of incidents beginning on December 4, 2007. The stone-throwers, who gathered on a nearby railway embankment, broke numerous windows.³⁴
- In Copenhagen, **Denmark**, the Krystalgade Synagogue was vandalized on the night of January 21, 2007, with two windows smashed by rocks.³⁵
- In Daugavpils, **Latvia**, vandals on February 2, 2007, threw a large stone through the window of a synagogue that opened there in 2006.³⁶
- In **Switzerland**, on May 24, 2007, arsonists set alight Geneva's modern Hekhal Haness Synagogue, seriously damaging the building.³⁷
- In **Serbia**, vandals sprayed a swastika on the façade of the Novi Sad Synagogue on March 17, 2007.³⁸

The desecration of Jewish graves and memorials continued to occur on a widespread basis. Grave markers and memorials to the war dead and victims of the Holocaust were smashed, daubed with graffiti, or fouled with excrement. Hundreds of tombstones marking Jewish graves were defaced with graffiti, toppled, or shattered. Attackers caused wholesale destruction in Jewish cemeteries, singling out the graves marked with a Jewish star in public burial places. Human Rights First has reviewed over 60 attacks on cemeteries and Holocaust memorials, in **Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Serbia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States**. Examples include:

- In **Armenia**, on December 23, 2007, in the capital, Yerevan, vandals desecrated a memorial to Jewish victims of the Holocaust in the city's Aragast Park, daubing it with a swastika and black paint.³⁹
- In **Belarus**, several attacks were reported in 2007. In February, vandals in Minsk smashed the cenotaph that is part of the monument marking the site of the murder of Jews from Bremen in the Minsk ghetto.⁴⁰ In June, vandals damaged four Jewish gravestones in a cemetery in Mahilyow, where previous attacks had been reported.⁴¹ In October, vandals damaged fifteen graves in Babruysk, and daubed antisemitic graffiti and a swastika on cemetery gates.⁴²

- In the **Czech Republic**, in February, unknown attackers in Česká Lípa vandalized a memorial to Jews who died there in a death march to the Schwarzhilde concentration camp in 1945. Bronze plaques and Jewish stars, as well as a bronze menorah commemorating the dead were stolen.⁴³
- In **Hungary**, in September 2007, vandals in Gödöllő, outside Budapest, sprayed antisemitic slogans on a Hungarian memorial to the Holocaust; the train carriage established as a mobile memorial in April 2006 had been on display throughout Hungary.⁴⁴
- In Arezzo, **Italy**, vandals described as neo-Nazis chose January 25, 2007, International Holocaust Memorial Day, to mutilate a hilltop olive tree that memorializes the site of an 18th century Jewish cemetery. Vandals cut all the branches from the tree and left posters with swastikas.⁴⁵
- In **Moldova**, a guard was assaulted after witnessing the daylight desecration of the Jewish cemetery in Chisinau by five young people. Police said they had initiated an investigation.⁴⁶
- In **Poland**, in August 2007, vandals at the Jewish Cemetery in Częstochowa daubed 100 tombstones with antisemitic graffiti. Police said at the time that a criminal investigation had been opened.⁴⁷
- In **Portugal**, on September 26, 2007, vandals spray-painted 12 gravestones in a Lisbon Jewish cemetery with swastikas and antisemitic epithets and disturbed a fresh grave that had no marker. Two young men described as skinheads were detained by police who were alerted by a cemetery guard.⁴⁸ It is not known whether the two were charged and tried for the crime.
- In **Romania**, vandals on February 10 and 11, 2007 desecrated dozens of tombstones and graves at the Cimitirul Mozaic Jewish cemetery in Bucharest.⁴⁹

IV. The Causes and Sources of Antisemitic Violence

The dramatic rise of antisemitic violence since 2000 has been in part attributed to anti-Jewish sentiment triggered by the Second Palestinian Intifada. Antipathy toward Israeli policies sometimes translated into racist hostility toward all Jews, regardless of their political views or nationality. In countries where detailed statistics are provided, the number of antisemitic incidents increased several times over 1990's levels.

Between 2000 and 2005, levels of antisemitic violence fluctuated significantly in direct relation to events in the Middle East, which provided a new impetus for those already predisposed to antisemitism in Europe. Since 2005, this pattern has to some extent changed, with month-by-month patterns of antisemitic violence leveling off, with more uniform rates that show little correlation with events involving Israel and the Middle East. But this does not mean the threat has diminished. In fact, the new norm is for very high levels of antisemitic violence throughout the year.

In the 2007 annual report on global antisemitic incidents, the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism wrote that “the rate of violent antisemitic activities in 2007 proved once again that contrary to former assumptions, Middle East events are not the underlying cause. Some community reports, such as those of France, Canada and the UK, have already questioned this supposition.”⁵⁰

Analysts have variously attributed particular patterns and acts to the adherents of traditional antisemitism, including groups of the extreme right; and, since 2000, to a “new antisemitism” that is linked to the Middle East conflict. Ongoing violence tied to organized racial supremacist groups in Western Europe illustrates aspects of traditional antisemitism, as does the creation

of a series of nationalist paramilitary organizations in Eastern Europe—for example, in Bulgaria—that are founded on ancient antisemitic screeds. In tracking the “new antisemitism,” in contrast, monitors have focused on members of largely Muslim sectors of immigrant origin who have been influenced by a fusion of antipathy for Israel with the ancient tenets of European antisemitism.

In **Bulgaria**, the extreme nationalist Bulgarian National Union (BNU) announced the formation of a party militia to provide a means of “self-defense” against national minorities. Jewish community leaders voiced concerns that the measure seized upon an anti-Roma sentiment while pursuing a broader agenda of hatred and exclusion. In an open letter to Bulgaria’s president and prime minister, the chairmen of Bulgaria Shalom and members of the Central Israeli Spiritual Council wrote that “formations such as the national guard could threaten the ethnic peace in the country. Today this guard will ‘protect’ Bulgarians from the Roma, tomorrow from the Jewish people, and then probably from Armenians and Muslims.”⁵¹

In **Canada**, B’nai Brith Canada’s annual audit of antisemitism for 2007 provides information on the ethnic origin of known perpetrators. Of the 1,042 incidents registered, there were 24 cases in which perpetrators “self-identified as of Arab origin,”—a threefold decrease in the number of perpetrators of such background since 2006; others included 4 Germans, 4 Polish, 4 Hungarians, and 1 Romanian.⁵² B’nai Brith Canada further observed that in 2007 extreme right- and left-wing extremists found a common ground, with some on far left “borrowing Holocaust imagery” in their attacks on Israel, while the extreme

right adopted “anti-Israel rhetoric to mask their anti-Jewish animosity.”⁵³

In **France**, some of the most serious reported crimes involved attacks by nationalistic unemployed youth, often described as skinheads. On the morning of February 22, 2008, a group of six young men kidnapped and tortured a 19-year-old man in Hauts-de-Seine. The victim, Mathieu Roumi, whose father is Jewish, was handcuffed and beaten while subjected to antisemitic and homophobic epithets. The six perpetrators, aged 17 to 25 and of French, African, and North African origin, were arrested in the following days. Police said they acknowledged the crime.⁵⁴

In January 2008, Roger Cukierman, the outgoing head of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF), said that changing patterns of antisemitism were “a part of a general change in French society that is becoming more violent, in which values are wavering and sometimes lapsing into barbarity.” He added that this was a matter for the nation as a whole, and in particular required attention to those who feel excluded:

This does not concern only the Jews. But it is clear that antisemitism has touched a new public, that it is no longer the exclusive domain of the extreme right. It is now something for those who feel excluded from society and who are looking for a scapegoat. This situation will improve only if integration progresses, which really implies the involvement of the State, but also the owners of residences, the entrepreneurs.⁵⁵

The new president of CRIF, Richard Prasquier, responding to the February 2008 incident described above, said the incident showed that “antisemitism remains profoundly present,” and—despite the decline in overall numbers of incidents—“the aggressors are young people, and in this generation, violence can very quickly take an antisemitic connotation, as its part of their cultural background.”⁵⁶

CRIF also suggested that “traditional antisemitism” was on the rise in both public discourse and as a motive in

antisemitic violence, including what has been described as the “banalization of the antisemitic insult.” In the annual hate crime report, CRIF noted “a return to the most traditional antisemitic formulations, bearing on religion, the notion of race, the collusion of Jews, power, and money.” Since 2004, the organization found that “references to the Israel-Palestine conflict have almost disappeared from the forms of expression that have accompanied or motivated antisemitic acts.” While the mode of expression accompanying antisemitic acts may have changed in this regard, the report cautions that the identified perpetrators of these acts have not.⁵⁷

France’s official antidiscrimination body, the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH), noted that “international affairs and particularly the tensions in the Middle East had no appreciable influence on the pattern of antisemitism in 2007, in contrast to previous years.” At the same time, in line with the findings of other European monitors, CNCDH cited a resurgence of traditional antisemitism, with its expression founded in references “to race, religion, money and the extermination of the Jews during the Shoah.” This, in turn, was held to demonstrate the urgency of measures of public authorities to put into place “preventative measures and education oriented more specifically toward the fight against prejudice and stereotypes.”

The CNCDH report for 2007 noted that the perpetrators could not be identified in 54 percent of reported antisemitic incidents. In 27 cases (33 percent) those identified were from “the Arab-Muslim milieu,” a rise of 5 percent from 2006, while the “extreme right” attackers remained at 11 percent of the total. Despite a 32.5 percent decline in documented antisemitic incidents, the report concluded that there was a need to remain vigilant, and that the statistical record since 2000 showed both “that such violence had become deeply rooted and a certain banalization of the phenomenon.” This notwithstanding, there was a concern that trigger events, international or domestic,

still had the potential to provide surges of antisemitic violence.⁵⁸

In **Germany**, where public security measures to combat antisemitism fall within the framework of laws and policies to suppress right-wing extremism as a threat to the Constitution, preliminary statistics showed a rise in violent acts of antisemitism, from 43 in 2006 to 59 in 2007.⁵⁹

Germany's national leaders continued to condemn antisemitic acts in the course of the year. On January 25, 2008, in advance of an annual memorial day commemorating the victims of Nazi Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke out against both the prejudice commonly ascribed to economically poorer parts of German society, and "a more disguised form of antisemitism, that is not so readily defined." Merkel observed that "there is, in broad parts of the population, an awful silence when faced with all the historical images, with our own history, and this silence is always a danger" and "a form of middle-class antisemitism."⁶⁰

In the **Netherlands**, the Racism and Extremism Monitor observed that the contribution of extreme right-wing participants to racial violence as a whole (including antisemitism) has risen sharply (from 38 incidents in 2005 to 67 in 2006). While the group of extreme right political parties has since 2006 "receded further and further in importance," new significance was gained by "more loosely organized extreme right-wing groups." The latter includes informal movements of extreme right-wing young people (often termed "Lonsdale youth" or skinheads), and neo-Nazi groups characterized by "the absence of formal organizational elements such as a legal personality, statutes and an administrative board."

The Monitor also provided some information on the ethnic background of perpetrators, noting that in the overall survey of cases for 2006, "information was sufficiently available in 123 (of 265) cases to enable us to identify the (alleged) perpetrators as native Dutch or ethnic minorities: 97 native Dutch and 26 ethnic

minorities." In the case of antisemitic violence, they found that "four of the 35 incidents had ethnic minority perpetrators."⁶¹

The adoption of language demonizing Israel by extreme right organizations that are both antisemitic and anti-Muslim, and more broadly racist and anti-immigrant, has been observed in a number of countries. B'nai Brith **Canada**, for example, cites a bulletin of the neo-Nazi website *Stormfront* in the annual report on antisemitism for 2007, showing that the old antisemitism is alive and well and seeking a new gloss—substituting Zionists for Jews—for its ancient hatreds:

Reproduced here in the original, spelling mistakes and all, is the advice Stormfront gives to its supporters:
"Remember to say 'Zionists' ... or 'Israel Firsters' instead of 'Jews' when making public speeches or writing articles. ... It is entirely possible to stay within the bounds of the law and still promote our cause."⁶²

Similarly, a 2006 report on the **Netherlands** by the Tel Aviv-based Stephen Roth Institute observed that antisemitic adherents of the far right increasingly sought to portray their views as anti-Zionist or anti-Israeli, on the grounds that this is more politically acceptable than open advocacy of Nazi positions. The same report added that this political overlay applied broadly to acts of generalized hatred and intolerance, ranging from desecration of Holocaust monuments to arson attacks on synagogues.⁶³ In a November 2007 report, the Dutch monitoring organization Centre Documentation and Information on Israel (CIDI) expressed concern with the numerous incidents reported on May 4 and 5 (the anniversary of the German surrender in 1945), in which monuments to victims of the Holocaust were defaced or destroyed. These actions were seen to be directly related to "the rise of the extreme right," with monuments scrawled with swastikas and neo-Nazi slogans.⁶⁴

Extreme nationalist parties in some countries used antisemitism as a central tenet of their campaigning, while combining anti-Jewish slogans and epithets with a

broader message of hatred and exclusion. Increasingly, public appeals of extremist parties have centered on a message of hatred toward immigrants, including demands for mass expulsions, while still professing a virulent antisemitism as a core organizing principle. Nationalist literature and statements to the media have been accompanied by public demonstrations in which this message of broad spectrum intolerance and hatred was taken to the streets, often accompanied by violence.

The extreme right threat also evolved in other ways. In **Ukraine**, on December 8, 2007, supporters of the Freedom Party and the Patriots of Ukraine organization took part in a torchlight march through Kyiv, chanting antisemitic, ant-immigrant, and pro-white power slogans, including “one race, one nation, one motherland.”⁶⁵

V. Review of Select Countries

Only a handful of governments in the OSCE have instituted effective systems of detailed monitoring and reporting on antisemitic violence and other hate crimes. These official monitoring systems and the data they provide are supplemented by information collected by community-based monitors, nongovernmental organizations, and the media. Among the countries discussed below, systematic governmental and/or nongovernmental monitoring has been established in **Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom**, and the **United States**, and provides important insights into antisemitic violence there and elsewhere in the region. This section of the report describes the situation in those countries and the important measures to combat antisemitism undertaken by governments and civil societies there.

In other countries, local nongovernmental organizations and community leaders provide fundamental insights into changing situations, while a collation of press reports can provide a general view of more serious incidents. The situation of antisemitism in the **Russian Federation** is of particular concern, even while largely overlooked in lieu of the enormous scale of racist assaults and murders of members of other minorities and Russia's immigrant populations. Human Rights First is also concerned about rising antisemitic violence in **Ukraine**. In these and other situations where government statistics are nonexistent, we have used the available information on individual cases of antisemitic violence and reviewed the analysis of NGO and Jewish community partners with a view to identifying new developments and trends.

What follows below is an analysis of the statistics and trends in those countries where monitoring and reporting systems are sufficiently comprehensive to allow such a review. There are undoubtedly a number of

other European countries where antisemitic violence is also problematic, but where information on attacks—either from official or unofficial sources—is much less readily available.

Belgium

Jewish community-based monitors in Belgium have tracked a modest but persistent rise in antisemitic incidents since 2003, growing from 60 in 2005, to 66 in 2006, and 69 in 2007. Only a small percentage of these incidents involved acts of violence. In 2007 those defined as “violent” dropped by 75 percent. Monitors registered one case of personal assault in 2007: an attack on a young Jewish man in Brussels.

The 2007 annual report from *antisemitisme.be*, the principle monitoring group supported by Jewish community organizations, identified as a particular problem the rising level of incidents involving the Orthodox Jewish community in Antwerp and a tendency of members of this community not to submit complaints about abuses. This community “stands out and is easily recognizable as Jewish because they wear distinctive clothing, is a priority target.” Notwithstanding efforts by both the Jewish community and Antwerp police to encourage victims and witnesses to come forward, these abuses tend to be underreported.⁶⁶ In one series of incidents in Niel, vandals damaged some forty vehicles and a dozen stores, scratching swastikas into cars and storefronts. Police sought witnesses and encouraged victims to make formal complaints.⁶⁷

Canada

The annual audit of antisemitism by B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights for 2007 found an overall rise of 11.4 percent in the number of antisemitic incidents, with

levels of violent incidents remaining much the same. A high incidence of antisemitic crimes was reported in both rural and urban areas, but the survey found that the highest rises affected “the small centers of Jewish presence” outside the major urban centers of Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa. Antisemitic incidents were also reported in new situations: in “union settings, medical facilities, retail outlets and other usually benign places where one would not normally expect antisemitism to manifest.”

Canadian cases are categorized as vandalism, harassment, and violence. The levels of violence remain largely unchanged from 2006, with 2.7 percent of the overall reported antisemitic incidents (there were 28 cases in 2007 compared to 30 in 2006). The report expressed concern at “a growing public acceptance of a certain level of hate activity as ‘tolerable’ to society.”⁶⁸

The total number of incidents rose to 1,042, nearly double the 584 mark of 2003, and continuing an almost uninterrupted upward trend since 1998, when 240 cases were reported. Levels of vandalism, representing 32 percent of the total incidents, dropped slightly, from 317 in 2006 to 315 cases in 2007. These included 22 incidents involving synagogues, down from 42 in 2006, and 6 involving Jewish community centers. There were 9 cases of cemetery desecration, compared with 1 in 2006 and 2 in 2005. An Ottawa cemetery was vandalized three times over three months, with 66 graves damaged or defaced. Vandals attacked Canadian Jewish homes in 132 cases, up from 118 in 2006.⁶⁹

While B’nai Brith’s annual audit remains the most comprehensive tracking of antisemitic incidents nationwide, and the only source that allows for an analysis of trends over time, official data has also become a useful source of information. On June 9, 2008, the government released national hate crime statistics for the first time. This report consists of data reflecting 892 hate-motivated cases from the year

2006. Police-reported data found that approximately 137 incidents (15 percent) represent anti-Jewish hate crimes. Of those, 32 incidents (23 percent) involved violence. Within the category of religious-motivated offenses (220 total), anti-Jewish hate crimes constitute 62 percent.⁷⁰ The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics—the body responsible for producing these hate crime statistics—anticipates publishing hate crime statistics on an annual basis with 2007 hate crime statistics to be published in spring 2009.⁷¹ This should provide a new source of valuable information on incidents and trends going forward.

France

In France, 2007 data on antisemitic offences from the Interior Ministry and the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH) show a 32.5 percent decline since 2006, a finding with which Jewish community monitors largely concur.⁷² The Representative Council of French Jewish Communities (CRIF), documented a 30 percent drop in total incidents in 2007, even while reporting a steady level of violent physical attacks as a percentage of overall incidents.

CRIF reported 146 acts of antisemitic violence in 2007, a decline of about 32 percent from the 213 in 2006, while registering 115 threats (contrasted to 158 in 2006), a decline of 27.5 percent. CRIF found an overall decline in the figures for most categories of incidents, such as harassment, although the proportion involving violence held steady at high levels. Of the 261 incidents in 2007, 56 percent were acts of violence, compared to the 371 cases in 2006, of which 213, or 57 percent, were of a violent nature.⁷³

Official figures on antisemitic, racist, and xenophobic violence in France for 2007 reflect a similar trend in anti-Jewish violence. This data, drawn primarily from the Interior Ministry, is compiled in the annual report on racism and xenophobia of the CNCDH. The CNCDH report, which used the statistics compiled by CRIF and

its overall findings, highlights a continuing trend toward increased personal violence, even as overall numbers of incidents decline.

The CNCDH study reported 707 racist, antisemitic, and xenophobic acts in 2007 (down 23.5 percent from 923 in 2006). Antisemitic acts, which CNCDH reports on separately, declined by 32.5 percent (386 in 2007, down from 571 in 2006) from 2006 levels (after rising 6 percent in 2006). The report concluded, however, that the levels of racist and antisemitic violence, taken together, continued to be significantly higher than those recorded during the previous decade; in 2000, for example, fewer than 250 antisemitic and racist incidents were reported.

The CNCDH study notes that while cases of antisemitic violence declined in 2007 by 22 percent over the previous year, cases of threats declined by 35 percent. The report states that “acts of antisemitism have retained a violent character, which elicits the concern of the CNCDH.” CNCDH reported 64 personal assaults on French Jews registered in 2007. Six victims were minors. Assaults represented more than 60 percent of the 106 incidents registered as “antisemitic acts” (in contrast to threats). The trend of high levels of personal violence continued, though not matching the extraordinary 45 percent rise in acts of violence in 2006 (with 97 incidents in contrast to 54 in 2005). Five synagogues were reported desecrated, and two were the objects of arson attacks. Six cemeteries or monuments were defiled. Twenty homes and private vehicles were vandalized. One school was attacked by arsonists, and another vandalized. The report stresses, moreover, that its coverage is far from comprehensive.⁷⁴

Adding to concerns about the level of violence is the 2007 report of the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism which cited 8 incidents of “major antisemitic attacks” in France, up from just 2 such attacks, using the same methodology, in 2006.⁷⁵

Germany

In Germany, the official Committee for the Defense of the Constitution figures showed a 25 percent rise in the number of victims of far-right violence in Germany in the first nine months of 2007 and a similar rise in violent antisemitic crime.⁷⁶ The Federal Interior Ministry said there had been more than 700 anti-Jewish crimes as of October, including 125 in Berlin. Subsequent statistics for the whole of 2007, which may be subject to further updating, indicated a rise in antisemitic crimes of violence, but an overall decline of 5.8 percent in “right-wing politically motivated offences with an extremist and antisemitic background,” from 1,636 in 2006 to 1,541.

Official year-end statistics reported a 37 percent rise in “right-extremist antisemitic crimes of violence,” from 43 in 2006 to 59 in 2007. This contrasted with a 6 percent decline in right-wing extremist crimes of violence overall, from 1,047 in 2006 to 980 in 2007. Similarly, violent xenophobic or “antiforeigner” crime dropped from 484 in 2006 to 414 in 2007. Antisemitic offences defined as major crimes of violence represented a relatively small proportion when compared to the overall toll of violent crimes attributed to the extreme right in Germany; just 6 percent of the 980 reported incidents. At the same time, these figures show only the most serious crimes of violence, excluding vandalism and the combination of desecration and often violent property damage of attacks on Jewish cemeteries and memorials to victims of the Holocaust.⁷⁷

Netherlands

In the annual report on antisemitism in the Netherlands for 2006 and the first quarter of 2007, the monitoring group Center for Information and Documentation on Israel demonstrated a significant decline in incidents of violence, with just 8 acts defined as “physical violence” and “physical threats,” down from 23 in 2005 and the lowest reported since 2001. Data from the period

January 1 to May 5, 2007, covered in the same report, showed a similar rate of violence.⁷⁸

CIDI contrasted the decline in violent crimes with a 64 percent rise in the number of cases of overall antisemitic incidents, from 159 in 2005 to 261 in 2006. Registered cases included threatening and abusive statements made on the Internet and in electronic correspondence and specific mailings of antisemitic pamphlets that came to the organization's attention.⁷⁹ It cited just 8 cases of violent attacks and 7 instances of "violent behavior." CIDI's director, Ronny Naftaniel, noted that the highest number of incidents was reported in Amsterdam, with some cases involving "shouting and insults at people wearing a skull-cap," while others included email threats and harassment.⁸⁰

The annual report of the Monitoring Racism and Extreme Right Violence project for 2006 drew similar conclusions on antisemitic violence within the broader spectrum of extremism. The report, produced under the auspices of the Anne Frank House and the University of Leiden, notes that racially motivated violence, including antisemitic incidents, decreased in 2006, with the total number of violent incidents reduced by about 10 percent over 2005.

In a separate report in December 2007, the Racism and Extremism Monitor assessed the record of investigations and prosecutions of racist violence. In 2004, the Monitor had concluded that police response to racist violence was "increasingly inadequate." In contrast, the 2007 report's headline stressed "the priority now being given to discrimination by the Dutch police and the Public Prosecution Service has been shown to be of help. Never before have so many cases been dealt with."⁸¹

Norway

In Norway, Oslo's Jewish Museum was repeatedly vandalized, even as overall levels of antisemitic violence remained low. On the night of August 2, 2007, vandals smashed a dozen of the museum's windows; another was broken on August 5. On August 7, a stone broke a window and narrowly missed a museum employee.⁸² Norway's Department of Justice and Police announced in March 2007 a determination to require police to record all incidents of hate crime. Norway's Equality and Antidiscrimination Ombudsman told Human Rights First in October, 2007, that his office was working with police to implement the decision, that registration procedures had been developed, and that "police will begin recording bias motivations based on ethnic origin, sexual orientation, and religion."⁸³

Russian Federation

The Moscow-based SOVA Center for Information and Analysis reported a significant increase in incidents in which Jews were targeted for violent assaults in the Russian Federation. These attacks occur in the context of extraordinary levels of violence targeting visible minorities, in particular those of immigrant origin. While the SOVA Center had said in the past that Jews were rarely targeted by racist violence because "in most cases they are not easily identifiable in the crowd," a new pattern appeared to be emerging. Three Jews were attacked in 2004, and four in 2005. In 2006, nine worshippers were injured in an attack on a Moscow synagogue, while four others suffered from personal assaults. In 2007, violent incidents targeting Jews "increased dramatically," as nine crimes affecting at least thirteen individuals were reported.⁸⁴

In some cases, attacks on Jews appeared to have been tied to the larger pattern of violence in which individuals were targeted because they did not appear to be ethnic Russians. On December 5, 2007, in Saint Petersburg, a

Jewish man was hospitalized after being repeatedly stabbed; an Uzbek and a Moldovan were also attacked in the same area on that day.⁸⁵

In October 2007, a drunken Russian passenger on a flight from Moscow to Munich attacked another traveler and insulted passengers he believed to be Jewish. The perpetrator, who claimed to be a “Cossack of the Don,” was subdued on the plane and arrested by German authorities.⁸⁶

Ukraine

Ukraine has experienced a rise in reported incidents of antisemitic violence, including both violent personal assaults and attacks on synagogues, memorials, and Jewish institutions. Among the reported cases of violence against individuals include the following:

- On January 24, 2008, a rabbi was severely beaten on a main street in Dnipropetrovsk. Rabbi Dov-Ber Baitman, a teacher at the Jewish educational center Shaarei Torah, was assaulted by four men who shouted antisemitic epithets.⁸⁷
- On September 29, 2007, a group of men attacked a rabbi and two yeshiva students in Cherkasy. Rabbi Yosef Rafaelov came with the students from Israel to join the local community in celebrating a holiday. On Saturday evening, they were attacked near the synagogue by a group of men who beat them and kicked them repeatedly.⁸⁸
- On September 27, 2007, four youths attacked an Israeli citizen near a synagogue in Zhytomyr. A few months earlier, in July, Rabbi Shlomo Vilgen was accosted by a mob of around twenty people shouting antisemitic slogans near the synagogue.⁸⁹ On August 6, 2007, two young skinheads attacked Nochum Tamarin, director of the local branch of the Federation of Jewish Communities, and his wife Brocha. The youths hit the victims several times in the face.⁹⁰

- In August, one of Ukraine's chief rabbis, Rabbi Ariel Chaikin, issued an open letter to Ukrainian officials decrying the fact that Jews “feel that they are in danger” in Zhytomyr. “They are constantly threatened, they are insulted on the street, and people throw things at them,” he wrote, further charging that “officials in Zhytomyr either don’t have the desire to or are incapable of preserving security and interethnic and interreligious peace in the city.” He said the police who now patrol the area near the synagogue “are unable to seriously resist antisemitic gangs” and that the state security agency refuses to investigate the incidents or the antisemitic and xenophobic gangs in Zhytomyr.⁹¹

Despite the rise in anti-Jewish violence in Ukraine, little attention was given to particular incidents by mainstream media in the country, and public officials tended to downplay the severity of the problem. In the few cases in which antisemitic incidents led to arrests and prosecutions, monitors observed the tendency to charge the defendants with “hooliganism.”⁹²

President Viktor Yushchenko on April 12, 2007 called upon top security officials to stop vandalism of Jewish cemeteries and other memorial sites, acknowledging for the first time a rise in such attacks, as well as the growth of extremist groups.⁹³ In a speech made during a visit to Israel, on November 15, 2007, however, Yushchenko said these incidents were few in number and that “we are dealing with them,” while declaring that “we must treat this unemotionally and remember that they are marginal.”⁹⁴

United Kingdom

The number of violent attacks on individuals rose, even as antisemitic incidents dropped. There were 114 personal assaults in 2007, a reported all time high, rising from 13 percent of the total incidents to 21 percent.⁹⁵

The annual survey of antisemitism, produced by the Community Security Trust (CST), found 2007 to have been the worst year on record for violent assaults since monitoring began in 1984, with a 2 percent rise over the previous record high level reported in 2006. It was the second worst year, after 2006, for incidents overall, with 547 registered, 47 fewer than the previous year. The chair of the United Kingdom's All-Party Parliamentary Group against Antisemitism, John Mann MP, commented on the overall decline, while declaring that "the base level of antisemitism in the UK is too high." The CST's annual survey reported a total of 114 assault cases, the highest on record, while noting that in a survey twenty years before it had recorded just 17. It reported on one incident from 2007 that was clearly life-threatening:

An elderly rabbi in Northeast England was walking along a pavement when a car mounted the kerb, 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 has never been identified.⁹⁶

In at least six other incidents of assault, victims required hospital treatment. Fourteen of the recorded attacks targeted schoolchildren. In May 2008, the United Kingdom published a progress report on the implementation of the thirty-five recommendations of the 2006 All Party Parliamentary Inquiry on Antisemitism. The progress report included an Action Plan to address the low number of prosecutions for antisemitic crimes; a commitment to ensure police data collection on all hate crimes, including antisemitism; and new funding provisions to ensure security for schools confronting hate crimes.⁹⁷

United States

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a longstanding monitor of antisemitism in the United States and a leader of efforts to combat all forms of hate crime, reported a decline for the third consecutive year in antisemitic incidents in the annual report for 2007. The ADL registered 1,460 incidents, a 6 percent decline from 1,554 in 2006, and down from a peak of 1,821 in 2004. There were 699 incidents of vandalism (including cemetery desecration, graffiti, and other forms of property damage), and 761 of harassment (which in the ADL typology includes "physical or verbal assaults directed at individuals or institutions").⁹⁸

Official Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) statistics showed a somewhat different trend. While hate crime statistics for 2007 were not available as of the end of August 2008, the FBI hate crime report shows a rise in anti-Jewish offenses, from 900 in 2005 to 1,027 in 2006. Anti-Jewish hate crimes in both years represent a large majority of hate crimes falling in the category of "religious bias."⁹⁹

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