

Anti-Semitic Incidents In the Netherlands

**Report for 2005 and
1 January - 5 May 2006**

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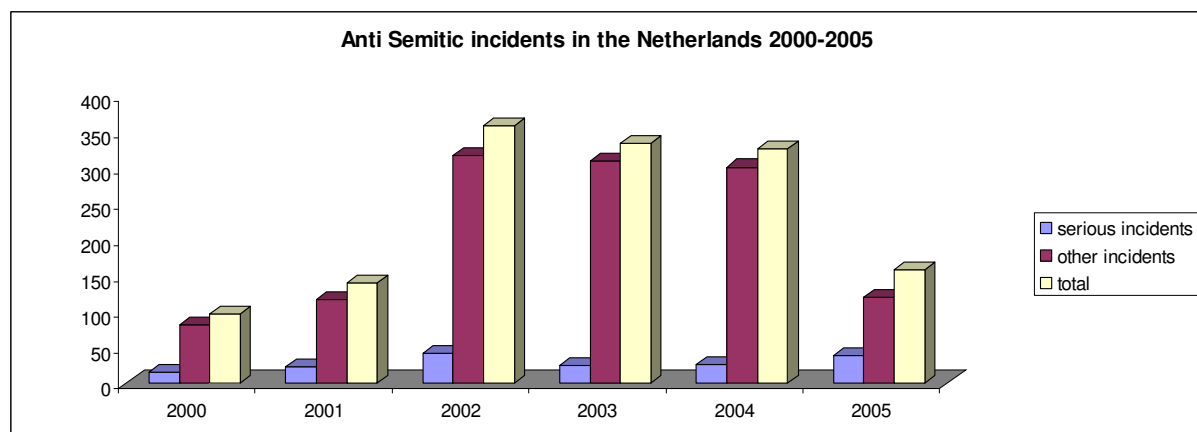
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Summary of the Anti-Semitism Report for 2005 - 5 May 2006

INTRODUCTION

At the time this list of anti-Semitic incidents went to press, the truce between the Hezbollah and Israel had just taken effect. This recent conflict has claimed many civilian casualties and refugees in both Lebanon and Israel and has caused tremendous human suffering.

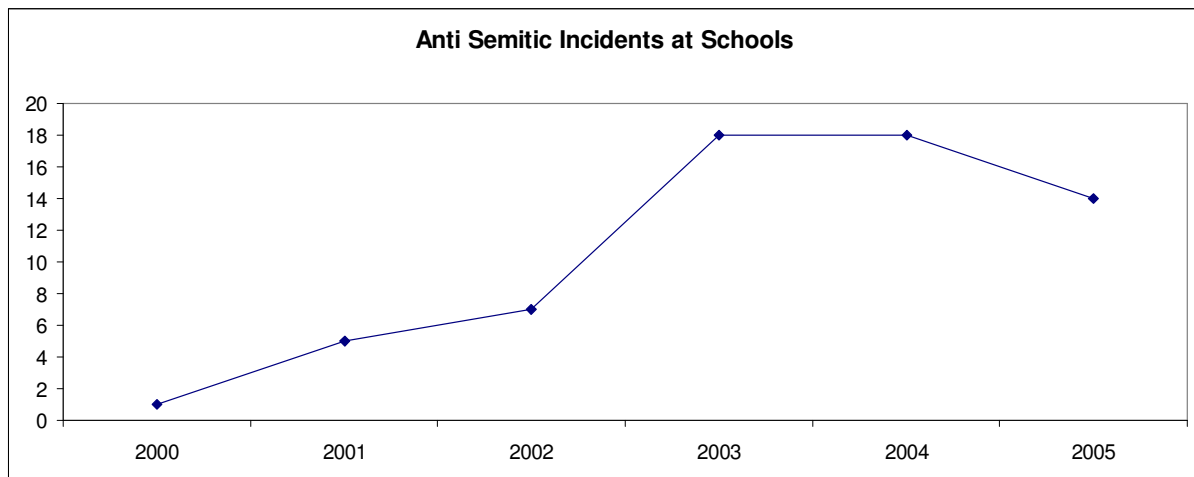
Violence between Israel and its Arab and Palestinian neighbors always leads anti-Semitic incidents outside Israel to increase. Some non-Jewish spectators of the conflict have difficulty distinguishing between Jews and Israel. They transform their displeasure with the Israeli government into anti-Semitic manifestations toward Jews and Jewish organizations in their own surroundings. The increase is perceptible once again. Accordingly, even though this report concerns 2005, CIDI deals in Chapter 4 specifically with manifestations of anti-Semitism in July and the first two weeks of August 2006. Criticism of Israel is not treated as anti-Semitism in this report. Statements that are directed exclusively against Israel, no matter how virulent they may be, do not appear in this monitor. We regard them as political statements rather than as expressions of anti-Semitism.



Since 1983, when the first of the CIDI monitors was compiled, society has become far more matter-of-fact and complacent about anti-Semitic incidents and expressions. In the 1980s and early 90s the use of Dutch idioms such as *jodenstreek* (Jew's prank) and *jodenfooi* (Jew's tip) instigated very emotional responses. Their ongoing anti-Semitic connotations are obvious, as are their origins in centuries of anti-Semitic ideology. Still, such instances appear as a single line in these annual reports.

From the 1990s onward, manifestations of anti-Semitism became more offensive. The football catchphrase ' Hamas, hamas, Jews to the gas [chambers]' elicited emotional outbursts. Little was done against these chants, though, because 'they occurred only in football stadiums and came from young people, who did not know what they were saying.' The public appeared to have become accustomed to these instances. Then from 2001 onward these slurs started to be used on the street as verbal abuse against Jews. These and other slogans about sending Jews to gas chambers abounded on the Internet and in some cases even surfaced in rap songs. At that point the public and especially the institutions concerned understood the need to prohibit these

and other discriminatory slurs during football games. While such measures have not yet eliminated these abject expressions, football authorities and communities have nonetheless imposed restrictions.



During the same period the term Jew started to become a ‘regular’ term of abuse that was applied to non-Jews as well. By 2006, non-Jewish students were calling each other ‘Jew’ as a term of abuse. The term is also directed against police officers. There is now even a verb: ‘being Jewed.’

The highest number of incidents thus far occurred in 2002 (359) and was clearly related to the violence between Israel and the Palestinians. The second intifadah had started in September 2000. During this period Jewish men started to think twice about wearing a yarmulke in public. Some men reported that they basically expected to hear abuse whenever they wore a yarmulke in public. One remarked that he always removed his yarmulke when riding public transport, because ‘you are locked in there.’

Over the years the incidents have not changed. The most important real-life category remains *Verbal abuse* and can occur anywhere: in public, with neighbors, at school by fellow students or at sports associations. Since 2000 serious incidents (*Physical violence* and *Threats of violence*) have occurred. They range from threats involving a firearm to massive vandalism at cemeteries (The Hague and Oosterhout). Incidents in this category have increased over the years and remain high.

In 2004 anti-Semitism was the largest category of discriminatory remarks on the Internet. In the study published in June 2005 on extremism and radicalization at secondary schools in Amsterdam and commissioned by the Algemene Onderwijsbond [general teachers’ union] and AT5 [Amsterdam’s local television station], anti-Semitism once again scored higher than all other categories. In 2004 anti-Semitism was also the most common ground for discrimination offences reported to the Public Prosecutor. The high number of incidents in 2004 (327) thus corresponded with the findings of other studies and monitors.

Things appear to have changed in 2005. At 159, the total number of incidents is back down to the 2001 level and is in fact somewhat lower. The main difference with respect to the previous three years, when the number of incidents was high, is attributable primarily to the low number of e-mails and the decrease in verbal abuse. In the category *Physical violence*, however, the 9 incidents are the second-highest number since 1999 (see the graph). This is

cause for concern. The incidents range from a major fight at a video rental shop to throwing a rock at a car and yelling: 'Jew whore, they forgot to finish you off during the war.' The score in the category *Threats of violence* was also high and ranked third since 1999. Fortunately, incidents reported by schools in 2005 were down to 12 that year from 18 in 2003 and 2004 (see graph). Other organizations have also experienced a general decline in the number of anti-Semitic incidents, both in the Netherlands and abroad. One of the main causes is the relative calm between Israel and the neighboring countries in 2005, which has meant that emotions have been less heated.

In 2004 the Stephen Roth Institute at the University of Tel Aviv registered the highest worldwide number of cases of anti-Semitic *violence* and vandalism in fifteen years. In 2005 the figure was down, from 501 to 406. Still, 2005 ranks second since 1989. The most striking decline was in France, where the total number of anti-Semitic incidents decreased by 48 percent. In 2006 France – like the Netherlands – has once again experienced a substantial increase, including the murder of 23-year old Ilan Halimi in February 2006. England experienced a 14 percent decrease in 2005, although the figures for vandalism of Jewish buildings remained roughly the same.

Serious incidents outside the Netherlands often mean actual attacks against Jews, as the murder of the Frenchman demonstrates. In other places Jews experienced serious threats to their person as well. In Manchester and Moscow Jews were stabbed. In Kiev (Ukraine) two Talmudic students were attacked on the metro by a group of skinheads in September 2005. One of the victims sustained such serious injuries – his skull was crushed – that he needed to be hospitalized. The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied that anti-Semitism was a motive for the attack. Still, outbursts of anti-Semitic violence have been on the rise for years in the Ukraine. The Conservative Party, which is recognized by the Ministry of Justice, wrote to President Viktor Yushchenko asking him to prohibit Jewish organizations and to prosecute several rabbis and Jewish activists. On 3 June 2005 a private university in the Ukraine organized a conference about 'Zionism: the greatest threat to modern civilization'.

The serious incidents in the Netherlands have so far been less shocking than the ones in other countries. The same holds true for July and the first two weeks of August 2006 during the outburst of violence between the Hezbollah and Israel. Once again, things were different in other countries. In England Jews were assaulted and several synagogues smeared with graffiti. In Rome disconcerting graffiti messages appeared as well. In the Netherlands the synagogue in Zutphen was vandalized. In Goes the words 'Lebanon free. *Jüden raus*' [Jews get out!] was found on a shop window.

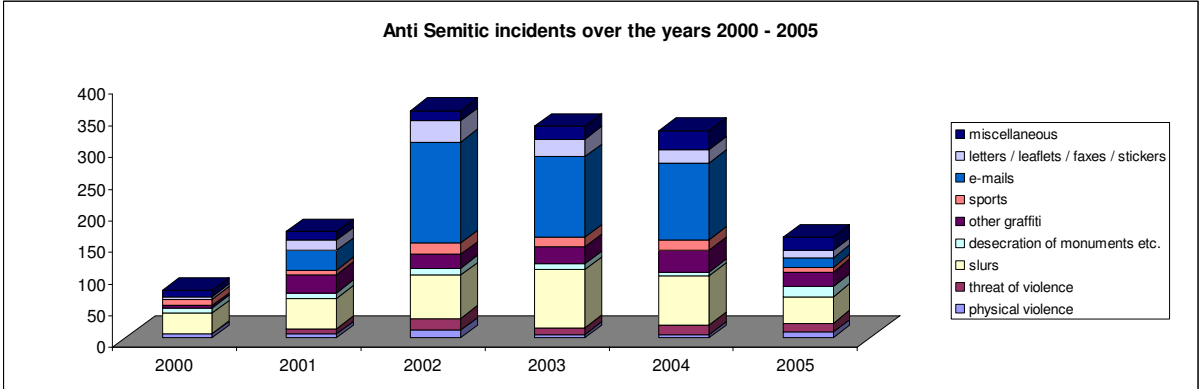
Incidents reported to CIDI between January and May 2006 reveal an increase with respect to the same period in 2005. Presumably, the rise is attributable to the victory of the Hamas in the Palestinian elections in February 2006 and the Israeli demand that Hamas recognize Israel. Finally, the substantial rise in the number of incidents in July and August 2006 (105) once again confirms the direct link between anti-Semitism and violence in the Middle East. In the conclusion we will elaborate on this connection. At this point, please note that CIDI finds expressing hatred for the Jewish people or Jewish individuals because of the political course of Israel to be reprehensible. The same holds true for hating Muslims based on political decisions in Arab circles. These practices need to be eliminated, as do other forms of racism. All too often, however, anti-Semites invoke Israel's policies as an alibi for anti-Semites to make anti-Jewish statements; they apparently believe that such conduct is socially acceptable.

As mentioned in our previous reports, registering anti-Semitism and counting the incidents remains a highly complex task. Annex I to this report reflects the principles that CIDI applies in compiling this report and counting the incidents. Please note that not all anti-Semitic incidents are known, because not all are reported, especially because the word ‘Jew’, as mentioned above, seems to have become a generally ‘accepted’ term of abuse. So the reports remain incomplete. One possible cause of the underreporting may be the feeling that reporting incidents or filing charges is useless. This is unfortunate, because failing to report them leaves us with incomplete knowledge of the issues and measures that may be taken.

Internationally, 2005 was a year of two extremes. On the one hand, the world community encountered the Iranian President Mahmood Ahmadinejad, who has seized virtually every opportunity to deny the Holocaust and has even announced a conference on the subject for October 2006. On the other hand, the United Nations adopted a resolution on 1 November 2005 designating 27 January as the international memorial day for victims of the Holocaust. This day should, according to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, be devoted to commemorating the universal lessons of the Holocaust in memory of the unique evil that cannot simply be relegated to the past and forgotten.

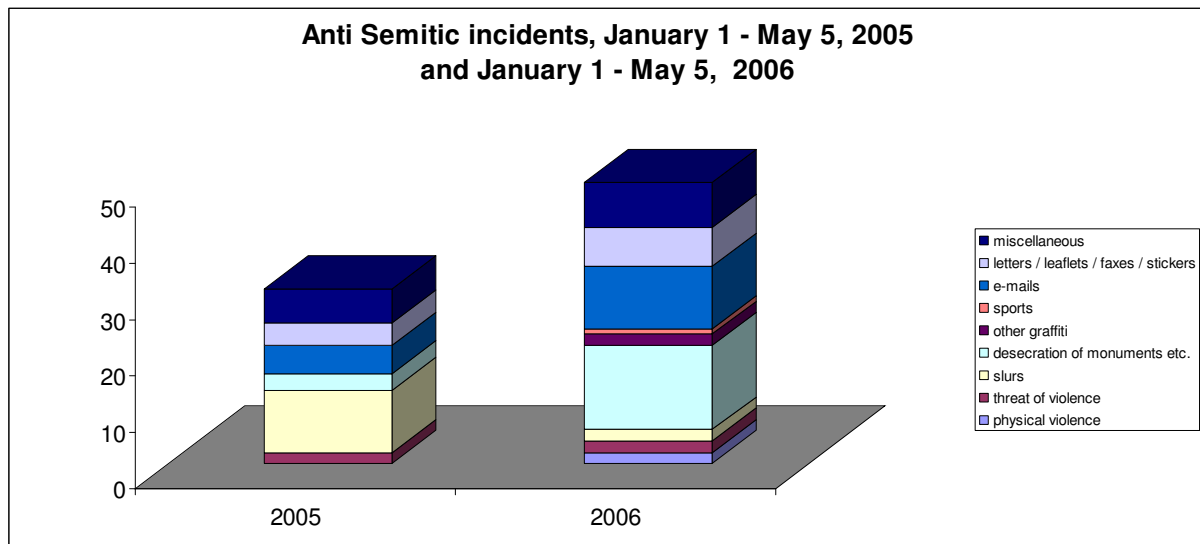
Denial of the Holocaust, once restricted to a small group of right-wing extremists, has spread so much over the years that several European countries have now enacted legislation prohibiting the practice. In February 2006 in Austria David Irving was sentenced to serve three years in prison for denying the Holocaust. Like the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, in which Jews are accused of trying to control the world, denial of the Holocaust has become firmly embedded in anti-Semitic ideology. In 2006 in the Netherlands the ChristenUnie submitted a bill to prohibit denial of the Holocaust and other genocides. Such legislation entails many benefits and drawbacks. What matters is that the significance of the Holocaust should continue to be acknowledged, as it remains the best warning to mankind of the potential consequences of extreme racial hatred. In keeping with most other European countries, the Netherlands should therefore enact legislation prohibiting denial of genocide.

In the introduction we stated that the number of anti-Semitic incidents reported in the Netherlands declined in 2005. This decrease is significant, especially compared to the minimal decreases in 2003 and 2004. The trend is observable in other reports as well. The Meldpunt Discriminatie Amsterdam [Amsterdam discrimination reporting center], for example, registered 45 complaints about anti-Semitism in 2004 compared with 24 in 2005. The Landelijk Expertise Centrum Discriminatiezaken reported that cases were down as well. On the Internet, the MDI writes in its annual report that anti-Semitism was no longer the largest category in 2005. These observations need to be qualified.



Qualifying remarks

The decrease in the number of incidents reported in 2005 is, as stated above, attributable primarily to the low number of anti-Semitic e-mails. In 2004 there were 121, in 2005 only 15. Everyday face-to-face anti-Semitism did not diminish as much. The categories *Physical violence* and *Threats of violence* remain cause for concern, with 9 and 14 incidents, respectively, in these categories. In 2005 *Physical violence* even increased by 4 incidents, although *Threats of violence* decreased by one incident. As in previous years, the real-life category of *Verbal abuse* remained the largest (42 incidents).



The most obvious explanation for the decline in the total number of incidents registered would be the relative calm in the conflict between Israel and its neighbors in 2005. This also explains the low number of anti-Semitic e-mails. Here and in our previous reports, we mentioned the correlation between the resurgent battles between Israel and its neighbors and the resulting negative impact on relations between Jews and non-Jews in the Netherlands. Even now – August 2006 – this correlation is being reaffirmed. Once again, criticism of Israel is not regarded here as a manifestation of anti-Semitism and therefore does not appear as such in the CIDI monitors either.

Different occurrences of anti-Semitism	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005	2006
						until 5-5	until 5-5
physical violence	6	12	5	5	9	0	2
threat of violence	8	19	11	15	14	2	2
slurs	48	68	92	78	42	11	2
desecration of synagogues / cemeteries	2	2	3	1	2	0	1
graffiti on synagogues	0	3	3	1	1	0	1
graffiti on jewish cemeteries	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
graffiti on monuments	4	5	2	3	13	3	13
other graffiti	29	22	27	35	23	1	2
sports	7	18	15	16	8	0	1
e-mails	31	159	127	121	15	5	11
letters / leaflets / faxes / stickers	16	34	28	21	11	4	7
miscellaneous (media / books / film / music / extreme right)	14	16	20	30	21	6	8
Total	168	359	334	327	159	32	50

Hezbollah-Israel conflict, summer of 2006

The war between the Hezbollah and Israel that started in July 2006 led to a substantial number of e-mails in July and the first two weeks of August: 93. CIDI also registered 6 anti-Semitic phone calls, including two threatening ones, the catchphrase 'Jews, the army of the prophet Mohammed is arriving' during the pro-Lebanon demonstration on 22 July, graffiti related to

this crisis in Goes, an anti-Semitic letter to a Jewish institution and vandalism of the synagogue in Zutphen. Finally, the Jewish Internet forum Joods.nl was besieged by chatters responding to an appeal issued on Marokko.nl to beleaguer Joods.nl. The manifestations were virulently anti-Semitic and extremely threatening. Joods.nl responded by shutting down the interactive sections of its site for a few days. Reports of anti-Semitic verbal abuse on the Internet have increased at the MDI and CIDI alike. This increase began in August.

In July and the first two weeks of August the total number of incidents equaled 105, with the Joods.nl incident counted as a single incident. Reports about the Internet are not included here. This number is close to the peak in April 2002, when CIDI recorded 118 anti-Semitic incidents around the time that the IDF raided the refugee camp in Jenin.

As stated, e-mails are the largest category. This is understandable. When emotions run high, people stop distinguishing between Israel and Jews. E-mails are easy to type in the privacy of one's own surroundings and probably make the author feel better. This does not make them any less offensive or injurious to the recipient. CIDI finds expressing hatred against the Jewish people or individuals because of the political course of Israel to be reprehensible. Like other forms of anti-Semitism (see below), this practice needs to be prevented.

The figures currently available to CIDI for 2006, even disregarding the excessive peak in July and August, are far from auspicious. The rise in the months January through May is attributable primarily to the widespread vandalism of and graffiti on monuments. In February 2006 this increase led CIDI to notify Minister Remkes of the Interior and to request that he take appropriate measures. The commemoration and liberation days on 4 and 5 May, respectively, coincided with another wave of graffiti on and vandalism of monuments. In a few cases the perpetrators were caught.

In May 2006 RADAR also reported serious concern about the rise of anti-Semitic aggression. During this period RADAR received a lot of complaints about brochures and leaflets from right-wing extremist organizations, such as the Nationale Alliantie. In Rotterdam youths were seen wearing T-shirts reading 'two hundred percent anti-Jew'.

Perpetrators

The CIDI is moderately optimistic about the minor decrease in the share of perpetrators of North African heritage in anti-Semitic incidents. When many such manifestations turned out to come from this source in 2002, CIDI tried to quantify this share. The intention was not to criminalize a specific segment of Dutch society but to draft good policy. After all, the anti-Semitism of adherents of right-wing extremist ideologies tends to derive from a different source of inspiration than that of perpetrators of North-African heritage. Different policies are needed to address the two groups. The anti-Semitism of perpetrators of North-African heritage often arises from loyalty to the Palestinians and to peoples in the Middle East and from ignorance about Jews and the Jewish community in the Netherlands. They project their aversion to Israel directly onto Jews and often convey this sentiment through anti-Semitic attitudes toward the Jewish population here.

In 2002 perpetrators of North-African heritage accounted for 41 percent of the reports. The corresponding shares for 2003 and 2004 were 43.5 and 45 percent, respectively. The increase therefore amounts to a few percent a year. The corresponding share for 2005 was 38 percent. We will need to wait and see whether this decline will continue in 2006.

Right-wing extremists

Now that the share of the aforementioned group has diminished somewhat, the pronounced anti-Semitism among right-wing extremists is becoming increasingly clear. With respect to the Internet, the Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet has reported a few hundred right-wing extremist sites, including Stormfront.org, Polinico, Nationale Alliantie and Holland Hardcore. These sites lash out against all minorities: Jews, Muslims, blacks, homosexuals. On the television show *Twee Vandaag* (30 March 2006) Nederlandse Volksunie leader Constant Kusters says that Internet is an important weapon for the NVU. In March 2006 the NVU ran in the city council elections in six communities in the Netherlands. On the same *Twee Vandaag* broadcast the Ministry of Justice described the danger of disseminating right-wing extremist ideologies as a 'creeping poison'. Internet sociologist Albert Benschop stated, also on this show, that right-wing extremism is as dangerous as Islamic extremism. In 2004 the Anne Frank Foundation observed the growth of right-wing extremism in its *Zesde Monitor racisme en extreme rechts*. In the Netherlands thousands of young adults identified with right-wing extremists (Van Donselaar, *Algemeen Dagblad*, 3 May 2006).

The considerable impact of the ideas that have roamed the Internet in recent years became clear in a *NOVA* episode on 17 May 2006, in which two youths were interviewed. One says that 'Zionists' are taking over everything, and that we live in a 'Zionist dictatorship'. He also doubts that six million Jews were in fact murdered, explaining that not enough ashes and remains were found. He believes that the gas chambers were built only after World War II, since nobody except for the prisoners ever claimed that they were built during the war. His statements reflect the ideas of people such as Faurisson, Irving, Leuchter, Rudolf, Bootz and Verbeke, who have distributed their fabrications in monographs resembling scholarly research: first via ordinary hard copies and later via the Internet.

The share of right-wing extremists in anti-Semitism is reflected primarily in the instances of graffiti on and vandalism of Jewish buildings and monuments. The graffiti regularly includes swastikas, white power symbols, 88s [denoting 'HH' or 'Heil Hitler'] and catchphrases such as '*wir sind zurück*' [we are back] and '*strafkampf=mijnkamp*' [prison camp = *Mein Kampf*]. Perpetrators of North-African heritage would obviously not produce this type of graffiti.

Justice

All these statements, especially the underlying ideologies, undermine society. The battle against anti-Semitism and racism is far from over. Besides Jews, others, such as Muslims, homosexuals and blacks are victims of racism. In a recent survey that the research agency Motivaction conducted following a commission from the GPD, 10 percent of the Dutch population confessed to being openly racist and 17 percent to being racist occasionally (source: *De Volkskrant*, 6 June 2006).

Fighting anti-Semitism and racism is primarily the responsibility of the law. In November 2005 and March 2006 CIDI delivered a presentation about anti-Semitism and problems with prevention to Public Prosecutors responsible for discrimination cases. The CIDI presentation revealed that anti-Semitism has existed throughout all eras and has undergone continuous metamorphoses, making anti-Semitic prejudices particularly difficult to eliminate. This is why proper intervention by the law and education and dialog projects are so important.

After objecting to the prosecution policy of the Public Prosecution Service for years, we have noticed considerable improvement in responses to charges filed. Several cases have been closed, and charges are addressed immediately. Regarding the NAG case that dragged on for years, the Amsterdam court has ordered that the perpetrators be prosecuted, following the

notice of complaint under Article 12 in the Code of Criminal Procedure that CIDI submitted three years ago. The ‘physical violence in Utrecht’ case will be prosecuted as well. The court of appeal has dismissed the case against Weerwolf and Eite Homan. In the case against the producers of the rap song disseminated on the Internet *Wie niet springt is een Jood* [Jump unless you’re a Jew], the court of appeal has ordered the Public Prosecutor to submit a report about the (im)possibility of prosecuting users of racist songs on the Internet. The Public Prosecutor had dropped the charges from CIDI and the Haarlem ADB. The two organizations then submitted a notice of complaint under Article 12 in the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Public Prosecutor sentenced the producers of the *Housewitz* video. MDI had filed charges in this case. All cases mentioned here are described at length in the *Administration of Justice* section.

As mentioned above, graffiti statements increased between January and May 2006. Tracing the perpetrators of these statements is obviously difficult. After all, swastikas take little time to draw, and wreaths are quickly removed. Nonetheless, these individuals can be found. The desecrators of the graves in The Hague (1999) and Oosterhout (2001) have been caught. In 2006 the perpetrators of the graffiti on the Dijkssynagoge in Sliedrecht were caught, as were those who destroyed the wreaths at the war monument in Zandvoort that same year. It is very encouraging that both the mayor and the police of Sliedrecht took the desecration of the Dijkssynagoge very seriously and investigated it immediately. Also, in Amsterdam and Zandvoort thorough investigations were conducted immediately to find the perpetrators that destroyed wreaths at war monuments. CIDI has learned through a conversation with the Ministry of the Interior that these perpetrators of vandalism and graffiti can be traced. Photographs need to be included with all reports.

Internet and satellite television

Even though law and order forces are working harder on discrimination cases, several remarks are in order. As stated above and in reports from previous years, the Internet is one of the main sources for disseminating anti-Semitic and racist ideologies. Unfortunately, Minister Donner has yet to respond to parliamentary questions in June 2005 regarding the right-wing extremist website Stormfront.org. The Stormfront organization, which hosts its site in Florida, enables racists throughout the world to vent their hatred in many languages, including Dutch. In August 2005 and February 2006 the minister wrote that the Public Prosecution Service is investigating the matter, but that nothing else will be disclosed while the investigation is in progress. Back on 17 November 2004 CIDI sent the ministers of Justice, Foreign Affairs and the Interior an urgent letter.

In the previous report of anti-Semitic incidents, CIDI wrote that without a tough stand against statements on the Internet, ‘the uphill battle will continue’. A majority of MPs from the PvdA [Dutch labor party] and the CDA [Dutch Christian democrats] agree and demand that ministers Donner and Verdonk of Aliens’ Affairs and Integration take concrete measures against Internet manifestations of hatred (March 2006).

The ministries of Justice and the Interior are developing a national reporting center for cybercrimes. This reporting center will include a Notice-and-Take-Down procedure to remove or block any illegal information transmitted via Internet service providers. A cybercrime website is now online. The extent to which it is used, and whether the Notice-and-Take-Down procedure has been activated is unknown at the time this monitor is going to press.

In March 2005 the Media Commissioner ordered the Dutch satellite company New Skies to stop transmitting the Arabic satellite station Al-Manar. Al-Manar belongs to Hezbollah, which

is supported by Iran and Syria and regularly broadcasts anti-Western and anti-Semitic propaganda. In January 2006 France complied with the urgent request from Minister Donner that in addition to Al-Manar, the Iranian satellite station Sahar-tv 1 be taken off the air as well. The next day the stations were broadcast via the Internet.

The Ministry of Justice is aware of the damage that will result from such agitating satellite stations and is considering ways of dealing with them in conjunction with the NCTb and the Media Commissioner. In his letter of 3 November 2005, Minister Donner writes that they are identifying which potentially high-risk stations are on the air in the Netherlands and 'how they may be blocked through instruments that exist now or may be developed.'

Inciting hatred via the Internet and satellite television will become progressively easier in the years ahead. At this eleventh hour, we urgently need to plan and draft adequate measures and especially to implement them.

Projects

The reduced share of perpetrators of North-African heritage might be attributable to the education and dialog projects launched in cities such as Amsterdam. The tremendous need for them is especially apparent in Amsterdam's Diamant neighborhood, where residents were called 'Jew' and 'faggot' by perpetrators who were in some cases of North-African heritage. Following incidents in this neighborhood, CIDI worked with Milli Görtis and Tans to organize a meeting with the leaders of political parties in Amsterdam. CIDI is setting up several grassroots projects in the neighborhood as well.

Serious anti-Semitic incidents also occurred a few years ago in Amsterdam's de Baarsjes neighborhood. The commemoration and liberation ceremonies for 4 and 5 May were disrupted; Jews approaching the synagogue in that neighborhood were regularly pelted with stones or called names. Thanks in part to various dialog activities, in which CIDI participated (e.g. the Majo football matches), far fewer incidents are now reported in this neighborhood. In September the Classroom of Difference course will be introduced here (see below).

The Interculturele Alliantie is a similarly successful project. Following an initiative from CIDI, two Islamic organizations (ISBO and SPIOR), the COC and RADAR established this foundation in 2005 to offer the *Classroom of Difference* program at schools. This program is a course about diversity and is aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination, exclusion and prejudice. The course is unique in that everybody associated with the school is involved: students, teachers, staff and parents. In September seven projects will be launched. In addition to the projects in the de Baarsjes neighborhood, the Amsterdam ROC will be launching a pilot project.

Diversion's World War II in Perspective curriculum is also very popular. In this program, Jewish and Muslim youths team up to teach students at general secondary schools and at occupational training programs about World War II and the Israeli-Palestinian-Arabic conflict. CIDI youths (CiJO) participate as well.

In May 2007 the seminar *Lesgeven over de Holocaust* [Teaching about the Holocaust] will be held at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. Twenty-five Dutch teachers may participate. The seminar has been initiated by CIDI in conjunction with the Anne Frank Foundation and the Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The seminar demonstrates the evil that extreme forms of racial hatred can do, and how the Holocaust may serve as an instrument in fighting discrimination and racism. Educational instruments will be presented

for dealing with students that deny the Holocaust or – considering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – are not receptive to hearing about it.

The Jewish-Moroccan Network formed in 2003 at the initiative of the city of Amsterdam is another activity that demonstrates how Jews and Moroccans can work together fruitfully, even if they have different views of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. In May 2006 the network traveled to Morocco as a group. Various joint activities are scheduled for 2006 and 2007.

The projects described above reveal that relations between Muslims and Jews in the Netherlands have received substantial consideration in recent years. The role of right-wing extremists is cause for us to focus our efforts on that group in the years ahead.

Education from society

Education should target increasing respect for one another's political views. The automatic tendency of some to hold the Jewish people collectively responsible for whatever happens in the Middle East and thus to assume that they have *carte blanche* to vent anti-Semitism will culminate in a hatred toward the Jewish community that will be impossible to eradicate. Educators need to teach students to discuss Israeli politics – however disapproving their perspective may be – without hating Jews in the process. They need to make clear that Jews are a population group with their own religion and their own culture, and that Jews are individuals with personal opinions and may disapprove of or support Israel. Good education should demonstrate that the conflict in the Middle East is a political one and – like any other conflict – may be discussed without resorting to mutual hatred. Good education should also reveal the distinction between Jews with individual views and Israeli politics and should show that criticism must never deteriorate to mutual hatred. Likewise, we need to distinguish between Arab politics in the Middle East and Muslims residing in the Netherlands.

In a democracy, the objective is to achieve social harmony and mutual acceptance, without people hating and abusing each other over different political points of view.

In a democratic society, people should be entitled to different points of view and should be able to discuss these differences. Threatening to kill each other because of an ongoing conflict elsewhere in the world is conduct that should not be tolerated in Dutch society.

The responsibility for creating a society where groups from different cultures and backgrounds tolerate one another is not the exclusive purview of ministries such as Justice, Education or the Interior or of concerned NGOs. This responsibility rests with all citizens.

CIDI would be unable to compile the anti-Semitism monitor without data from the other organizations that have shared their data again this year. The present review is based on data from the Landelijke Vereniging Antidiscriminatie Bureau's LVADB [national association of anti-discrimination agencies], the Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet MDI [Complaints Bureau for Discrimination on the Internet], the Antifascistische onderzoeksgroep Kafka [Kafka anti-fascist research group], Amsterdam-Amstelland regional police, the Centraal Informatiepunt Voetbalvandalisme CIV [football hooliganism information center] and the Landelijk Expertise Centrum Discriminatiezaken LECD [the National Expertise Center on Discrimination for the Public Prosecutor], the Anne Frank House and Leiden University. Since 2001, CIDI has obtained information from several persons identifiable as Jews to verify general impressions about the level of anti-Semitism. These persons are the same each year.

