



CFCA

The Coordination Forum for
Countering Antisemitism

1

2013

Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism - Annual Evaluation 2013 – Present situation and tendencies



Coordination Forum
for Countering
Antisemitism

Website: www.antisemitism.org.il

E-mail: aforum@antisemitism.org.il

The report is based on data collected and published on the site of the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism.

Naturally, the number of events published in the report does not reflect the total actual events that took place, and sometimes the data is significantly different from the data published by various Jewish communities. However, in our view, the data is reflecting the tendencies.

General

- Over the past year, the level of Antisemitism and violence against Jews, especially in Europe, remained high, similarly to 2011 , although to a lesser extent than 2012, in which it increased dramatically following the effect created by the attack in Toulouse (Mar 19th 2012) and the inspiration it provided for antisemitic Muslim activity.

www.antisemitism.org.il

- Over the past year, a number of events of unusual severity was recorded, such as the violent attack of a Jewish family in Sydney, Australia (Oct 26th, 2013) , or the shooting on Chabad rabbi Ovadia Isakov in Derbent, Russia (July 25th, 13) by Muslims. It should be emphasized that these events did not constitute a change of trend in the areas where there occurred. Like previously, this year Islamic Antisemitism was more dominant in Western Europe, and antisemitic of the extreme right in Eastern Europe.

Islamic antisemitism

- Islamic Antisemitism, which long since transcended the boundaries of the Middle East and the impact of the Israeli - Palestinian conflict, is feeding, among other things, from the increased frustration among second and third generation in Europe, due to the difficulty that they encountered integrating in the European Community.
- France continues to lead as the country in which Antisemitism threshold is the highest and the most violent, and over the past year dozens of violent incidents were counted, including stabbings, beatings, and arson of facilities. The impact of Toulouse incident was diminished but not abated and still remains an inspiration to the perpetrators of Antisemitism. In this context, Otzar HaTorah school continues to be a focal point of antisemitic incidents , within a range of categories, starting from attacking a student with a knife (February 2013) to photos of Nazi salute at the front of the school.
- Meanwhile, the growing phenomenon of "reverse Nazi salute" was prominent this year. This salute is a relatively new antisemitic symbol, which became a sweeping phenomenon that is spreading outside of France, and not only among Muslims. The phenomenon, originated by French comedian Dieudonne as an expression of anti-establishment, changed its skin and became a clear neo - Nazi expression, adopted by extreme right groups. In this context, antisemitic elements are making extensive use of the reverse Nazi salute, exploiting the lack of awareness of its true meaning among the general public. These elements succeed to be photographed and to upload photos in which they are saluting the reverse Nazi salute, in places and events of symbolic meaning. For example, at the Auschwitz memorial site, at the Western Wall, along with IDF soldiers, and alongside Jews around the world, while the subjects are not aware of what is happening.

- Belgium, whose characteristics are in part similar to those of France, saw an increase of about 20 percent in the number of incidents during 2013,
- Large increase in reported incidents occurred also in Malmo, Sweden, but there, it seems, the reason is an increase in the awareness of the community on the importance of reporting on antisemitic incidents, rather than an increase in their number.
- Britain, also, remained a major center of activity in Europe in the area of Antisemitism, with emphasis on anti –Zionism. The number of incidents in the UK is approaching the number of incidents in France, but of lesser severity, and many of them are carried out by the extreme right, and not just by Islamic Antisemitism.

Extreme right

- In countries where extreme right won electoral achievements in previous years, there has been an increase in antisemitic incidents perpetrated by neo - Nazi groups during the past year.
- Thus, in Greece the number of incidents has almost doubled compared to 2012. These mainly included Holocaust denial by noticeable advocates and desecration of graves and monuments. This atmosphere drew from the rhetoric of the Golden Dawn's leaders (and continued even after the dissolution of the party and the arrest of some of its members), as well as repeated comments of some senior members of the Greek Church, who use classical antisemitic rhetoric of and instill the claim that Greece "was sold and controlled by the Jews."
- In Hungary, the number of events was also doubled from 34 events in 2012 to over 60 in the past year. These included a number of violent attacks alongside desecration of cemeteries and monuments, as well as antisemitic chants and burning of the Israeli flag.

- Extremism in Hungary was also reflected in the establishment of a new extreme -right party Hungarian Dawn. The party's founders are former members of Jobbik party who left it claiming that it lost its nationalist path, and now, toward the upcoming elections (May 2014), it is introducing too moderate positions. Thus, they act to position the Hungarian Dawn party right of Jobbik, at the right extreme of the political spectrum.

Combating Antisemitism

- Meanwhile, it is worth noting that in view of the high threshold posed by Antisemitism, we have witnessed in some countries an increased level of the struggle against it. For example, French courts began to impose substantial fines in respect of Antisemitism. Notable in this context are steep fines for members in a group in Alsace who called for a boycott on Israeli products at the supermarket, and a fine of 28 thousand dollars on Dieudonne, who was later also banned from appearing in several cities in France.
- In Greece, a firm action was taken against the Golden Dawn after the assassination of left- wing Hip -Hop singer by party members. The leader of the party and other MPs were arrested, the Greek Parliament voted in favor of ceasing the funding for the party, and an anti- racism act was proposed in order to restrict its activities.
- Australia has joined the London Declaration on Combating Antisemitism of 2009.

FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) Survey

2013 can't be summed up in without mentioning the comprehensive survey of FRA – the UN's Agency for Fundamental Rights - which was held among 5847 Jews from 9 EU countries (France , the United Kingdom; Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Hungary , Romania and Latvia). The survey deals with the different attitudes of the Jews of various countries on Antisemitism, and according to the authors of the survey, it represents about 90 % of the Jewish population in the European Union.

According to the survey :

- 66 percent of the Jewish population in Europe believes that Antisemitism is a big problem in their country, and 76 % feel that the situation has worsened during the last five years.
- 21 percent of respondents experienced an antisemitic incident including 37 percent of Romania's Jews, 35 percent of Hungarian Jews and 31 percent among Jews in Belgium.
- About 25 percent of European Jews are afraid to go outside with symbols identifying them as Jews (such as Kippah or any other symbol). Including about 50 percent of the Jews in Sweden; 40 percent of French Jews and 36 percent of the Jews in Belgium.
- The majority of the most violent antisemitic incidents were perpetrated by Muslims (27 %), 22 percent of them were committed by extreme left activists and 19 percent by the extreme right.
- 76 percent of survey respondents said they did not report on antisemitic incidents to the police, for various reasons. This figure emphasizes that the

Antisemitism phenomena as we aware to it, is significantly lower than its actual extent.

Hate Online

- In recent years in general and in 2013 in particular, there was a significant increase in the number of antisemitic attacks and hostility toward Jews online. This is as a result of increase in the number of users and exposure for incitement on social networks, blogs and forums, which facilitated the dissemination of radical ideologies. It should be noted that this is a global and sweeping phenomenon which offers a platform for radical elements and allows anonymous posting of outright hostile content towards Jews. At the same time, the ability of the authorities to act against it and take legal action on the matter is limited.
- Exceptional in this context is Twitter, who helped the French authorities in the fight against Antisemitism and provided the identities of antisemitic twitters.

Details of the situation and assessment across states:

France

- During the past year, the level of Antisemitism and violence against Jews in France decreased back to levels (even though still high) similar to the levels in 2011. However, during 2012, following the attack in Toulouse (March 19th, 2012), there has been a dramatic increase of 58% in the number of incidents against Jews.
- In 2013 there were probably over 200 events in various categories, which included four violent assaults (three with a knife and one with a crowbar),

with no fatal casualty. In all cases, the attackers were diagnosed as mentally not stable.

- It should be emphasized that most of the antisemitic attacks in France were carried out by Muslim citizens.
- In this context it should be noted that the effect of the attack in Toulouse, although diminished over the past year, had not completely disappeared. Thus, schools in France in general, and "Or HaTorah " school in particular, continue to be a focus of antisemitic incidents , including violent assault with a knife against school student (February 2013), anonymous calls threatening other attacks, and Nazi salute in front of the school gate .
- At the background is the blossom of antisemitic discourse, which is no longer taboo in France, and is gaining ground in public. A prominent example is the reverse Nazi salute originated by comedian Dieudonne, who was expanded and spread through social networks even outside of France, in a short period of time. It should be noted that the issue is in the center of public discourse in France, and the French interior minister, Manuel Valls, is currently operating to prevent further shows of the Dieudonne in France, and a number of his concerts planned for the coming months has already been canceled by the local authorities.
- The concerns of the authorities in France and their operations to eradicate this phenomenon are evident in both declarative and additional steps to eradicate this phenomenon. Starting from efforts to prevent terrorism against Jews (such as dismantling terror cell responsible for throwing grenade at a kosher supermarket in Sarcelles (Sep 2012)), to the conviction of BDS activists (organizations promoting the boycott campaign against Israel) and requiring them to pay fines for boycott of Israeli products .
- At the same time, in Europe in general and France in particular, there is considerable increase in popularity of extreme right-wing parties, led by FM

party of Marine Le- Pen. It is expected that these parties will increase their power over the next year at the municipal elections (March 2014) and later at the European Parliament elections (May 2014) .

Netherlands

- Over the past year, the trend of the strengthening of the phenomenon of anti- Israelism in Netherlands was sharpened, and it is more pronounced then classical Antisemitism in this country. This is reflected both in the Muslim Antisemitism and as part of the extreme right, which is not common there.
- In general, Islamic Antisemitism is challenging the ability to openly conduct Jewish life in the country. To a large extent, it pushed aside left-wing Antisemitism, and relatively, also the radical right-wing Antisemitism.
- In this context, it worth mentioning documentary aired at Public Television, as part of a series (at March 2013), that included antisemitic and significant hateful expressions toward Jews youths from Turkish origin, and caused an uproar in the Jewish community. Following the event, a survey was conducted on Antisemitism in the Turkish community in the Netherlands, and according to its results (Jun 13), it is not an organized Antisemitism, but antisemitic expressions related to the Israeli - Palestinian conflict which have become part of the public discourse .
- Later, dozens of Moroccan youths vandalized urban youth club in Amsterdam (Nov 28th, 2013) after denying entrance to it.

Germany

- During the past year the number of antisemitic incidents in Germany remained relatively high. However, it should be emphasized that these incidents have a local and sporadic character (graffiti, desecration of memorials, mail containing hate speech, damage of Jews symbols and others). German police reports indicate that over the past year there have been 29 incidents of desecration of Jewish cemeteries in Germany, which is the lowest number since 2000. The data was published following a query raised on that subject by Vice President of the Bundestag. Most of the incidents occurred in Lower Saxony, and only one incident was recorded in Berlin.
- Meanwhile, the phenomenon of anti- Semitism on the soccer fields in Germany is getting stronger. Neo - Nazis organizations make increasing use of sports clubs to promote their ideology. Thus, in recent months, the word "Juden" (Jews) has become a common curse at soccer fields, even if there is no Jewish player on the field. It should be noted that this phenomenon can be seen all over Germany, and especially in the east of the country. The main victims of this phenomenon are "Maccabi" sports clubs which are spread out in 15 cities throughout Germany.
- Authorities in German are demonstrating, for their part, a hard attitude and lack of tolerance for Antisemitism and are acting harshly against those behind them. However, with regard to antisemitism in football, law enforcement find it difficult to cope with this phenomenon, as they say it's difficult to identify the new Neo –Nazis, since that do not wear any external signs indicating their ideological affiliation .

Hungary

- In Hungary, the number of antisemitic incidents had increased during the past year by about fifty percent (from 34 to 60). The severity level of the

incidents had also worsened, and these included violent incidents alongside desecration of cemeteries / memorials, antisemitic chants and burning the Israeli flag. The violent incidents against Jews include attacking the head of Raoul Wallenberg Institute during football game in Budapest; attacking Jews at a trolley car; attack of an Israeli for being a Jew, and an event of spitting on Jew during the national holiday in Hungary.

- Jobbik party and its contribution to fuel the country's traditional Antisemitism: Antisemitism in Hungary is traditional- classic, when extreme right generates the bulk of antisemitic activity . The dominant factor dictating and fueling the main activity are Jobbik leaders and party supporters, including members of the New Hungarian Guard.
- During the past year, there was a sharp increase in the degree of blatant expressions of Jobbik, including the party's website and Facebook page, where there are declarations for the extinction of the Jews, swastikas and pictures of incitement. Activities of the Party stood out during the World Jewish Congress held this year in Budapest, when Jobbik held a antisemitic rally claiming that "Hungary is enslaved to Zionism "
- Meanwhile, there are indications that the popularity of the Party is not decreasing and that it is, according to a recent survey conducted in Hungary, the most popular party among students in Hungary. In contrast, a group of people who left and deposed from Jobbik, recently announced the establishing of a new far-right party "Hungarian Dawn" that position itself right from Jobbik, and claims that Jobbik lost its nationalist way since entering into parliament in 2010.
- Establishment of this party demonstrates the extremity in sections of the Hungarian public, and in our opinion may actually electorally help Jobbik, by providing to it a seemingly more moderate appearance.

Greece

- During the past year, the amount of antisemitic incidents almost doubled (from 8 to 16 incidents per year), and included mainly of desecration of cemeteries / memorials and declarations of Holocaust denials by leaders of the extreme right party Golden Dawn.
- Golden Dawn Party adopted modus operandi similar to that of the radical right parties in Europe: harsh rhetoric against immigrants and minorities, alongside exploitation of the economic crisis in Europe. It should be noted that, despite its success in the elections and entering parliament, Golden Dawn did not enter the government.
- Meanwhile, the leader of the Neo –Nazi party and a number of legislators and other activists, were arrested on charges of establishing a criminal organization, following the murder of a left wing Hip- Hop artist by party members. In addition, the Greek Parliament ruled that government funding for Golden Dawn party will be terminated forthwith.
- Greek Orthodox Church also has a considerable influence, and Greek Bishop of Kalavryta openly revealed antisemitic views in his personal web site, where he called to all the Greeks to be troubled because Greece "was sold to Jews and controlled by them".

Australia

- During the past year there has been an increase in the extents of Antisemitism in Australia. Report published by Jeremy Jones, former president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, indicates that during the period from Sept. 12 - Sept. 13, there were 657 antisemitic incidents in Australia, representing an increase of twenty percent over the previous year. These figures reflect an increase of approximately 70 % compared to

the average antisemitic incidents on the continent during the previous twenty years.

- However, it should be emphasized that the picture that emerges from the figures may be misleading. Most of the events are in the category of threats by phone, mail, graffiti, and e-mail containing hate speech, and alongside increase in incidents of vandalism, there is a decrease in the number of physical attacks.
- The pick of the antisemitic incidents was in violent attack of a Jewish family in Bondi Beach in Sydney (Oct 26, 2013), during which the family members were attacked by eight youth after they noticed the kippahs on their heads. As a result of the attack, some of the family members suffered from skull fractures, broken nose and many cuts. some of the attackers were arrested and released on bail, with emphasis in the media that the attackers has no Muslim background
- **De -legitimation** – following a continuing increase in de -legitimation activities we have seen in recent years, the past year , and especially since Australia elected new government, sympathetic to Israel, there was a determination on the part of organizations dealing with the issue (in Australia and Israel).
- In this issue, the Australian Federal Court is currently processing a lawsuit filed by Israeli attorneys organization against Professor Jake Lynch from the Hebrew University, who violates the Racial Discrimination Act in Australia.
- At the same time, it seems that the Australian Government intends to take a hard approach against organizations promoting boycott of Israel. In this context, the new Foreign Minister of Australia, Julie Bishop, has often said that government led by her party will stop the economic and governmental support of organizations that promote the boycott campaign against Israel (BDS campaign) .

- Meanwhile, Bishop declared that government led by her party will not allow the isolation of Israel in the UN and in the international arena.

Belgium

- Over the past year Belgium recorded an increased by about 20 % in the number of antisemitic incidents, during which a violent assault in Antwerp has also been recorded. It is estimated that at the background of the increase is the rise of Islamist extremism among some of the Muslims in the country, which is also expressed in the phenomenon of jihad warriors who return from Syria and spread radical ideology against the Jews.
- Belgian authorities demonstrate vigilance of the phenomenon, and already during 2012 the movement Charia 4 Belgium was outlawed and disbanded. However, the movement is still active in promoting departure of youth to Syria.

www.antisemitism.org.il

Spain

- The level of Antisemitism in Spain this year is similar to that of 2012, and is expressed mainly with the use of anti-Jewish stereotype slogans among the general public ("Jews control the economy and are to blame with the current crisis") .
- According to reports released by the Spanish organization Observatorio Antisemitismo, the use of the Internet as a platform for antisemitic attacks is growing. At the second place are verbal assaults and graffiti, while physical assault and damage to property almost never occur at all. Most of the events are with elements of classical Antisemitism, which is still deeply rooted in the mind of the Spanish public.

UK

- In 2013, United Kingdom continued to be a major activity center in Europe in the areas of Antisemitism, with emphasis on anti -Zionism and de – legitimization of the State of Israel.
- Data from the CFCA indicates that during the past year there were reports (partial data only) of more than 200 antisemitic incidents across the UK. These events include graffiti, offensive comments, antisemitic statements of politicians and media people and 25 violent attacks.
- Despite the similarity in number of incidents between France and UK, the situation at the latter is been significantly less severe, due to the difference in the severity and nature of the incidents. Another difference is the identity of the perpetrators of Antisemitism. While in France there is an overwhelming majority of Islamist Antisemitism, in the UK the majority of events are carried out by the extreme right.

Scandinavia

Over the past year anti –Israeli organizations in Nordic countries continued act for the promotion of antisemitic massages in guise of promoting human rights for the Palestinians. The phenomenon of NGO's organizations performing actions against Israel while using campaigns with messages of political advocacy and establishing de – legitimacy while calling for a boycott against Israel, is widespread in Scandinavia. It should be noted that some of the actions were even acknowledged by the government and receive government assistance. All these are fertile ground for the rise in hostility and carrying out antisemitic attacks against the Jewish communities in these countries.

Sweden

- During the past year there has been a marked increase in antisemitic incidents reported in Sweden. Thus, for the first half of 2013, the number of antisemitic incidents reported was increased by 40% over the

corresponding period in 2012. At the same time, there is growing concern in the Jewish community in the country (about 20 thousand people) from antisemitic attacks.

- It is our understanding that the increase in reports of antisemitic incidents did not originate from increase in number of incidents, but rather in the number of reports. This, following the change conducted by the leadership of the Jewish community in Sweden which encourages reporting and call the public to overcome cultural barriers rooted in the Scandinavia in general.
- At the same time, the issue of Antisemitism in Sweden has received wide attention in the past year also thanks to the findings of a report published by the FRA - European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights - in the second half of 2013. According to the report, 49 percent of the Jews in Sweden will avoid arriving to certain public places with prominent Jewish symbols, like a Kippah or Star of David pendant, while the EU average is 20 percent.
- The country's authorities, for their part, are aware of this phenomenon and express harshly against it, but without much success, and there is growing criticism directed at the government of Sweden for not doing enough on the issue and not providing sufficient protection for its Jewish citizens. For example, despite the proliferation of antisemitic incidents, the legal system in Sweden has not yet convicted anyone so far for charges of hate crimes / Antisemitism.

Latin America

- 2013 was characterized by a relatively minor antisemitic activity and no particularly unusual events can be indicated. However, there is a significant increase in the use of social networks, forums and websites for Antisemitic

attacks and the use of offensive symbols and images. Attacks are made directly to specific people and toward Jews as a group.

- In addition, increased graffiti incidents and antisemitic symbols were recorded. For example, in Buenos Aires more than twenty such incidents were reported during the first three months of 2013.

De - Legitimation

- During the past year, the call to BDS (promotion of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel) became even stronger and it is evident that active organizations were promoting a strategic operational action in this issue. Their aim is to harm the image and status of Israel, in order to reduce its scope of operation. It should be noted that although those measures are initiated and promoted by private agencies and not official ones, they receive a tailwind from a large part of European governments.

- In this issue, the organizations that promote BDS concentrated their efforts in a number of areas :

A. Transferring the ongoing effort from boycott of Israeli to boycott focuses on the settlements beyond the Green Line, which is consistent with the perceptions of the Western world. This activity led government officials in Europe to take action against companies that operate beyond the Green Line. It should be emphasized that this activity of the governments embodies criticism against the policy of Israel, but is not, in any form, under the definitions of antisemitism

B. **Cultural Boycott** – in this context is the continuation of threatening messages directed at artists arriving for performances in Israel. In this context, BDS put pressure on Alicia Keys, Rihanna, Eric Bardon, Tom Jones and French singer Julien Clark, and completely failed. However, the pressure campaign on the subject succeeded in regard of the singer from Mali (Salif Keita), who canceled his planned appearance in Jerusalem. In a letter he published he mentioned that behind the

cancellation were threats and extortion attempts from BDS organizations.

C. **Economic boycott** - the economic boycott continued even stronger this year, and among its salient results are:

- a. Continue the campaign against the management of Ben and Jerry's in Vermont – the local BDS organizing - VTJP - launched (September 9) a petition signed by 150 organizations and movements from across the U.S. and the world, calling the company to stop the operations of its Israeli franchisee.
- b. Soda -Stream – campaign throughout the U.S, Canada, Australia and Europe (especially the UK and Italy) to boycott the company's products on the occasion of the Christmas' sales season.
- c. Ahava Cosmetics company announced that it would stop its operations in South Africa, in part due to the ongoing activity to boycott its products in the country.
- d. Veolia Company – following constant pressure (including in the context of BDS' claims concerning the activities of Veolia in Israel) American Pension Fund TIAA - CREF (one of the largest and most important in the U.S.) pulled out its investments, totaling 1.2 million \$, of Veolia shares. Additionally, Global Veolia's announcement that the conglomerate is in a process of cease its activity in transportation (including the announcement that Veolia Israel will cease to operate bus lines in Israel) was welcomed by the initiators of the BDS .
- e. Security conglomerate G4S – the decision of the Trauma Center of South Africa to cease its engagement with the conglomerate in view of its activity in Israel and beyond the green line.

- f. "Anonymous" hackers' organization launched a Twitter campaign to raise awareness for the boycott of Israel. Within this context, and in order to facilitate on those who wish to boycott Israeli products, the organization published the code 729 that appears in the barcode prefix marking Israeli export products.
- g. The largest water company in the Netherlands, Vitens, canceled engagement agreement with Mekorot (Israel's National Water Company) after consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (December 2013), which clarified to officials in the company that business in the West Bank are involved with legal risk.

D. Academic boycott, in which the following were prominent:

- a. Stephen Hawking announced his support in an academic boycott on Israel, and cancellation of his arrival to Shimon Peres' Presidential Conference (May 2013), in order to protest against Israel's treatment of Palestinians.
- b. Dutch Teachers Union voted in favor of academic boycott of Israel, calling it an apartheid state (Apr 2013) .
- c. The Association for Asian American Studies, AAAS, decided (Apr 2013) to support a boycott of Israeli academic institutions.
- d. Student organization against Israel in the U.S., SJP, conducted a conference at the campus of Stanford University (Oct 2013), with attendance of 300 participants from around the United States. The Conference discussed action plans and strategies for promoting BDS initiatives and anti-Israeli initiatives on campuses across the U.S in 2014, with an emphasis on attempt to promote, alongside the academic boycott, a prohibition on economic ties between universities and commercial companies dealing with Israel.

- e. American Studies Association, ASA, adopted a resolution calling for a boycott of Israeli academic institutions.

E. This year, there was also an increase in calls for a boycott from the church:

- f. Swedish church adopted (September 2013) initiative for a boycott of Israel and called for its followers not to invest or to collaborate with Israel, and to boycott Israeli companies and products.
- g. Methodist Church in the UK published (Nov - Dec 13) a questionnaire for the general public to examine its views on the issue of the continued adoption of the policy of BDS against Israel. The questionnaire received more than 3,000 comments. Conclusions on the subject are expected to be received in the Church Conference in summer 2014.
- h. Largest Protestant Church in Canada - United Church - launched (November 2013) its own BDS campaign against products from settlement beyond the Green Line and against companies operating there.

- At the same time, de –legitimization activities promoted by left- wing organizations in Gaza, received less attention during the past year from the international community, and had real difficulty recruiting supporters and activists to promote the activities. This especially in view of the negotiations between Israel and the PA and events in the Middle East. Within this context, there was a decline in operational activities of the organizers of the flotillas to promote protest, especially due to the lack of success in promoting flotillas or flights to break the siege on Gaza.