

# VIOLENCE AND VITRIOL

Anti-Semitism Around the World During  
Israel's Operation Protective Edge – July-August 2014



Source: CST/F. Sharpe

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## **“Jews to the gas!”**

- Chanted in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, during an anti-Israel demonstration, July 12, 2014.

## **“Molotov Cocktail Thrown at Synagogue.”**

- Headline in *Le Monde*, July 12, 2014.

Once again, “Death to Jews!” and “Jews to the gas!” are heard in Europe. Once again, Jewish communities around the world are paying for the perceived “sins” of Israel.

Following the spate of serious anti-Semitic incidents during Operation Cast Lead in December 2008 – January 2009, we reported:

As Israel defends her citizens from Hamas’ missiles, Jews around the world have also come under attack. Jews have been beaten on the street. Synagogues have been fire-bombed. “Jews to the gas” has been chanted at anti-Israel demonstrations. Newspapers in the Arab world and in Latin America have published pieces making blatant comparisons between Israel and the Nazis’ perpetration of the Holocaust.

The pattern continued and metastasized during Israel’s Operation Protective Edge in July and August 2014: Hamas fired missiles from Gaza; Israel’s military responded; Jews around the world were attacked, this time in even greater numbers. Again synagogues were fire-bombed. Again Jews were beaten on the street. Again Jews received death threats, both publicly and privately.

And once again, Israel was accused of acting like the Nazis. In one instance in Santiago, Chile, a protester carried a sign accusing Israel of being *worse* than the Nazis. Other anti-Semitic motifs were also in clear evidence, including blood libels.

The right to protest is fundamental and criticism of Israel’s actions is legitimate when anti-Semitism is absent. This report focuses on actions and speech which extend far beyond the bounds of criticism into violence and bigotry.

The Anti-Defamation League has been tracking international anti-Semitism in the forms of violence against Jews and Jewish institutions and hate speech at demonstrations and in the media. Below are selected examples, which illustrate but do not fully document, the hatred of Jews displayed thousands of miles away from Israel and Gaza.

## VIOLENCE, VANDALISM and THREATS

Violence against Jews and Jewish institutions, clearly linked to Operation Protective Edge, has occurred around the world.

### Argentina:

- July 15 – Mendoza - The Jewish Cultural Center was vandalized with the slogans “Out of Gaza,” “Eternal impunity,” and a swastika inside a Star of David.
- July 21 – Rio Cuarto - Israeli and U.S. flags with swastikas were hung in the Central Plaza.



Source: <http://www.infonews.com/2014/07/21/sociedad-154555-preocupacion-por-banderas-antisemitas-en-rio-cuarto-conflicto-judeo-palestino-israel-palestina-franja-de-gaza.php>

### Australia:

- August 6 - Sydney - Six teenagers boarded a bus transporting a group of Jewish students aged five to twelve years old and threatened “to cut their throats.” Parents of the children reported the teenagers shouting “Heil Hitler,” “Kill the Jews,” “Palestine must kill you Jews,” and “Free Palestine.”
- August 4 - Perth - A visibly Orthodox rabbi and his assistant were assaulted by a group of youths who pounded on their car while yelling “f\*\*\* off” and calling them “killers.”

### Canada:

- July 23 – Thornhill, Ontario – The slogan “F\*\*k Israel” and a swastika were spray painted on a bus shelter in a Jewish neighborhood of a Toronto suburb.



Source: B'nai B'rith Canada

### Chile:

- July 21 – Santiago – The Jewish community reported the following incidents: Community members receiving threats over the phone relating to Gaza, an Orthodox man was chased for 4 blocks and was insulted and called a Jewish assassin, Jewish businessmen received Gaza-related insults, and Jewish community leaders received insults via Twitter, Facebook and other social media outlets.

### France:

- July 26 - Toulouse - Following an anti-Israel demonstration, a protestor threw two Molotov cocktails at the security kiosk of the Jewish Community Center.
- July 22 - Gap - During an anti-Israel demonstration with 300 participants, ten hooded individuals broke an apartment window where a Star of David was visible and threatened to kill the woman inside.

- July 20 - Sarcelles - A kosher store was attacked with Molotov cocktails during an illegal anti-Israel demonstration and several other stores were damaged in the violence.



Source: <http://www.gazettevaldoise.fr/2014/07/20/des-degradations-lors-de-la-manifestation-propalestienne-interdite/>

- July 18, 2014 - Lyon - A banner with "Israel Assassin" was hung on the outside wall of a synagogue.
- July 13, 2014 - Paris - During a large anti-Israel demonstration two synagogues were attacked. Dozens of demonstrators broke off and tried to attack the Synagogue de la Roquette, while other demonstrators tried to enter the synagogue at Rue des Tournelles. Anti-Semitic slogans were reported in both incidents and chants of "Death to the Jews!" were heard during the demonstration.



Source: <http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-news-and-politics/179381/la-roquette-haverim>

### Germany:

- July 29 - Wuppertal - Molotov cocktails were thrown at the synagogue. An 18 year-old was arrested, and the prosecutor said he “identified himself as Palestinian.”
- July 25 – Frankfurt - A rabbi received a phone call from a man who threatened to kill 30 Jews in the city if his family in Gaza was harmed.
- July 18 – Essen - Protesters broke off from an anti-Israel demonstration and headed towards a synagogue, clearly intending to attack it.

### Italy:

- August 9 – Rome – Posters headlined “Boycott Israel!” cited the “massacre of the Palestinian people” and urged “not to buy from Jews.” The poster then listed shops in Rome that are alleged to be owned by Italian Jews.



Source: [http://roma.repubblica.it/cronaca/2014/08/09/news/boicotta\\_israele\\_a\\_roma\\_spuntano\\_manifesti\\_contro\\_i\\_negozi\\_dei\\_commercianti\\_ebrei-93449976/#gallery-slider=93454229](http://roma.repubblica.it/cronaca/2014/08/09/news/boicotta_israele_a_roma_spuntano_manifesti_contro_i_negozi_dei_commercianti_ebrei-93449976/#gallery-slider=93454229)

- July 18 – Vercelli – A banner reading “Stop Bombing Gaza. Israel Assassins. Free Palestine” was hung on the synagogue.



Source: <http://www.osservatorioantisemitismo.it/episodi-di-antisemitismo-in-italia/striscione-antisionista-appeso-davanti-alla-sinagoga-di-vercelli/>

### Morocco:

- July 11 - Casablanca - The rabbi of the Jewish community was attacked by an assailant, who reportedly told the rabbi that it was in retribution for Israeli air-strikes on Gaza. The rabbi suffered a broken nose and ribs.

### The Netherlands:

- August 2 – Gorinchem – A Holocaust monument was defaced with “Free Gaza” graffiti.



Source: [http://www.destadgorinchem.nl/lokaal/joodsmonument\\_in\\_gorinchem\\_beklad\\_3153162.html#.U-OMHfldW7x](http://www.destadgorinchem.nl/lokaal/joodsmonument_in_gorinchem_beklad_3153162.html#.U-OMHfldW7x)

- July 30 – Amsterdam – A woman who had an Israeli flag on her balcony was beaten on her doorstep by two people wearing keffiyahs.
- July 29 - Amsterdam - A firebomb was thrown at an apartment belonging to a Jewish woman who was flying an Israeli flag on her balcony.

**South Africa:**

- July 19 – Johannesburg - A Palestinian flag was attached to the gate of the Emmarentia Synagogue.
- July 8 – August 8 – The South African Jewish Board of Deputies, South African Zionist Federation, Magen David Adom all received direct threats of violence by phone or on their social media sites during this period.

**Turkey:**

- July 22 - Istanbul - During an anti-Israel protest in front of the Ortaköy Synagogue, eggs were thrown at the synagogue.

**United Kingdom:**

- August 2 – Hove – “Free Gaza” was spray-painted on a synagogue.



Source: CST - CST/F. Sharpe

- July 30 – Kingston – “Child murderers” was posted on the door of a synagogue.



Source: <http://www.jewishnews.co.uk/kingston-shul-targeted-anti-semitic-incidents-surpass-130/>

- July 12 - Manchester - Following a pro-Palestinian rally, occupants in a group of cars driving through the Jewish neighborhood of Broughton Park shouted and swore at Jewish pedestrians with slogans that included “Heil Hitler”. Cans and eggs were thrown at Jewish pedestrians from at least two of the cars.

### ANTI-SEMITISM at ANTI-ISRAEL DEMONSTRATIONS

The violence cited above is often incited by hate speech at demonstrations after which individuals have sought out Jewish targets.

Comparing Israel to the Nazis is also anti-Semitic and prevalent at anti-Israel demonstrations.

A sign reading “Well Done Israel, Hitler would be Proud” was held up during a London protest.



London, UK July 19 – Source: Carl Court/AFP/Getty Images

In Brussels a woman held up “Israel=Hitler” signs.



Brussels, Belgium July 18 – Source: rtl.be

In Dublin, Prime Minister Netanyahu is depicted as Hitler on a sign, “Wanted: Zio Nazi”.



Dublin, Ireland July 12 Source: Unavailable

In Greece, a theater performance was held in front of the Thessaloniki Holocaust Monument on July 28 under a banner reading “Gaza – Holocaust 2014”. Israelis were portrayed as Nazis and Gaza as a concentration camp.

Replacing the Star of David on Israel’s flag with a swastika was another popular means of equating Israel with the Nazis.

In Araucania, Chile, Israeli flags with a swastika and “Zionism = Nazism” signs were visible at the protest.

Below are examples from Santiago, Mexico City, and Buenos Aires.



Santiago, Chile July 12 – Source: <http://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/members-of-the-arab-community-in-chile-and-pro-palestinian-news-photo/452069376>



Mexico City, Mexico July 11 - Source: Yuri Cortez AFP/Getty Images



Buenos Aires, Argentina July 8 – Source: Unavailable



Amsterdam, Holland August 3 – Source: <http://nieuws.nl.msn.com/binnenland/protestmars-tegen-geweld-gaza-in-amsterdam>

On July 20 in Amsterdam, one protester took demonization quite literally: “Stop Sionist [sic] Demons in Gaza.”



Source: Unavailable

### Calls for Violence

In **Belgium**, “Slaughter the Jews” was chanted at a July 12 demonstration in Antwerp and “Death to Jews!” at a July 19 demonstration in Brussels.

In Ceuta, **Spain**, a speaker made blatantly anti-Semitic comments and threats against Jews. The demonstration was held on July 25, a Friday afternoon at 7pm, just 50 yards from the Ceuta synagogue, which felt compelled to cancel Shabbat services. The speaker said, “The Jews, for decades, for thousands of years, have wanted to exterminate the prophets and everyone on the face of the Earth who is not a Hebrew. Muslim brothers, Allah-hu akbar! In the Torah of the Jews, it says that they are the chosen people, that they are the chosen people. I swear to G-d that we will put fear into you until Judgment Day. Allah-hu akbar! Allah-hu akbar! Allah-hu akbar!” Though several local politicians were in attendance, none appear to have voiced any condemnation.

## Conspiracy Theories

In Concepción, **Chile**, Juan Hazbun Readi, leader of the Palestinian Community of Concepción said at an anti-Israel rally: “The world needs to understand that the Palestinians were invaded by Israel 66 years ago, and not just being invaded but Israel brought people from all over the world to occupy their land, to destroy their places, to take charge of their destiny, destroy their schools and in the end to kill everyone. (...) International Zionism has a lobby, not just the media but money. All world trade goes through their channels and that’s why the world does nothing.”

In **France**, local media reported on an anti-Israel march on July 26 in Paris, where they heard people saying “We’re ruled by the Zionists” and others responding, “They’re the worst race.”

## Blood Libel

Blood libels take various forms, but have as a common denominator the myth of a Jewish craving for the blood of non-Jewish children. This theme was used in a poster which appeared at several demonstrations, depicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drinking the blood of a Palestinian child. Below are three examples from around the world: Berlin, Santiago, and Sydney.



Berlin, Germany – Source: <http://www.news.de/politik/855549630/judenfeindliche-hetze-in-berlin-regierung-verurteilt-antisemitische-parolen-scharf/1/>



Santiago, Chile August 2 – Source: Martin Bernetti/AFP/Getty Images

**Jews as “Chosen People”**



Sydney, Australia August 3 - Source: AFP

The sign below from a demonstration in Madrid on July 9 reads:

**“Enough Israel  
You’re not the chosen people  
No one chose you  
Long Live Free Palestine”**



Source: Adolfo Luján / DISO Press

Holding all Jews responsible for Israel's actions is anti-Semitic, as evident in this banner from a demonstration in Santiago, Chile on August 9: "Jews Stop the Genocide in Palestine."



Source: Jewish Community of Chile

### ANTI-SEMITISM in the MEDIA

Newspapers around the world have published editorial cartoons, articles and opinion pieces which demonize Jews or Israel, make Nazi comparisons, or include other recognizable anti-Semitic themes. The following are a few examples.

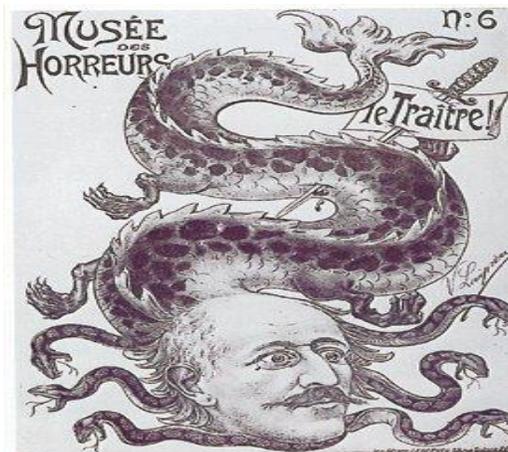
**Spain's** *El Mundo*, a mainstream paper, published an op-ed by Antonio Gala, a leading columnist for *El Mundo*, a major Spanish daily newspaper, which included blatant and blunt anti-Semitism. He wrote on July 24 that Israel's military operation in Gaza showed why Jews "have been so frequently expelled." He continued, "What is surprising is they persist. Either they are not good, or someone is poisoning them."

*Semana*, **Colombia's** premiere weekly magazine, published an op-ed by columnist Antonio Caballero on July 26, entitled "Promised Land," in which he argued that Palestinian land has been occupied, "since three thousand years ago, when Jews arrived there escaping from Egypt with Moses and Joshua, cutting heads and foreskins off of local inhabitants, Amalekites, Amorites, Canaanites, etc, to satisfy, they said, the demands of their bigoted one God who had appointed them his chosen people and had promised them all that foreign land."

**Jews as snakes** is a classic anti-Semitic theme. The cartoon below from Bahrain's *Akhbar Al-Khalij*, entitled "In Gaza," recalls an anti-Semitic French cartoon from 1894 of Alfred Dreyfus.



Source: *Akhbar Al-Khalij*, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 (Bahrain).



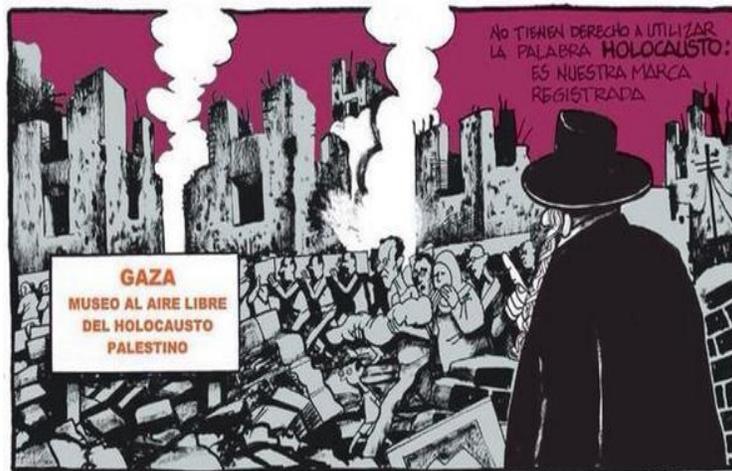
**Blood libel** is evident in this cartoon, published July 3 by the Palestinian *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, where a Jew is eating a child.



Source: *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 3, (Palestinian Authority)

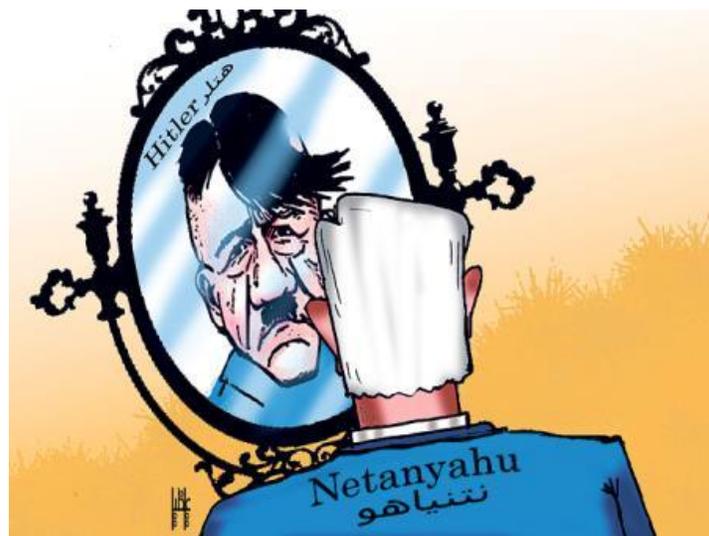
**Nazi comparisons**, including terms like “Palestinian Holocaust,” have also been published.

*El Periodico* in **Spain** published a cartoon on August 7, with the caption: “Gaza. Open air museum of the Palestinian Holocaust,” and a Jew responds, “You have no right to use the word Holocaust. That’s our registered trademark.”



Source: <http://www.elperiodico.com/es/opinion/humor/ferreres-07-08-2014/64276.shtml>

The United Arab Emirates’ *Al-Khalij* equated Prime Minister Netanyahu with Hitler.



Source: *Al-Khalij*, July 20th, 2014 (UAE).

**Venezuelan** Parliamentarian Adel El Zabayar said on Venezuelan state television on July 14 that relations between international Zionism and Nazism were established long before the creation of the State of Israel, and that a high-ranking official of Hitler’s government had visited Israel to support the creation of the future Jewish state.