

Monitoring

Antisemitic reactions to October 7

Antisemitic incidents in Germany between
October 7 and November 9, 2023,
in the context of the massacres and the war
in Israel and Gaza



Bundesverband RIAS e.V.

Federal Association of Departments for
Research and Information on Antisemitism

Contents

Introduction	1
Data basis	2
Antisemitic incidents in the context of the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza	3
29 incidents per day	3
Dynamic incidents: Antisemitic incidents over time	4
Political background and antisemitic manifestations	6
New everyday life: Current confrontations with antisemitism	8
Antisemitic incidents in the residential environment	10
Antisemitic incidents in the workplace	11
Antisemitic incidents at educational institutions	12
Antisemitic incidents on public transport	13
Antisemitic confrontations online	14
Attacks on memorial events and demonstrations of solidarity	15
Antisemitic gatherings	17
Development over time	18
Content development	19
Political and ideological background	21
Conclusion	23

Introduction

Nothing has been the same since October 7, 2023. On that day, Hamas terrorists attacked Israel from the Gaza Strip and killed more than 1,200 people in several massacres of mostly civilians. More than 240 people were abducted and taken to the Gaza Strip. Thousands of rockets were fired at Israel. Since then, the rocket attacks continued uninterrupted. On October 28, the Israeli army launched a ground offensive in Gaza with the aim of destroying Hamas and its infrastructure in Gaza and freeing the hostages. Since then, media attention has shifted to the events in Gaza, with the massacres of Israeli civilians that triggered the war increasingly receding into the background.

In Germany, especially at the beginning, there were expressions of solidarity with Israel, but also direct antisemitic and terror-glorifying reactions. Shouts of "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" already were documented in Berlin on the evening of October 7. The sharp rise in the number of antisemitic incidents since October 7 has remained at a high level ever since.

October 7 also represented a turning point for Jews when it comes to negotiating between visibility and security. Since then, Jewish life in Germany has become less visible. In their everyday lives, Jews are increasingly confronted by a lack of empathy as well as overt antisemitism. They are reporting more and more antisemitic incidents from acquaintances, in their neighborhoods, at their workplaces or at universities.

Against the background of this tense situation both in Germany and worldwide, the Bundesverband RIAS is publishing this second monitoring report, which focuses on antisemitic incidents between October 7 and November 9, 2023.

A first report on antisemitic incidents between October 7 and 15 can be found here: https://report-antisemitism.de/documents/2023-10-18_en_antisemitische_reaktionen_in_deutschland_auf_die_hamas-massaker_in_israel.pdf

Data basis

The Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Antisemitism (Bundesverband RIAS) is the umbrella organization for civil society reporting offices for antisemitic incidents in Germany.

Since October 7, numerous antisemitic incidents in Germany have been reported to the reporting offices in the context of the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza. This monitoring report, the second of its kind, provides an overview of antisemitic incidents in this context between October 7 and November 9, 2023. It includes monitoring reports and incident reports from RIAS Bayern, RIAS Berlin, RIAS Hessen, the Documentation and Information Centre on Antisemitism Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (DIA. MV), RIAS Lower Saxony, RIAS North Rhine-Westphalia, RIAS Saarland, RIAS Saxony-Anhalt, the Statewide Information and Documentation Centre Schleswig-Holstein (LIDA-SH), RIAS Thuringia and the Bundesverband RIAS. Incidents that occurred in federal states without regional reporting offices are processed and documented by the Bundesverband RIAS.

The regional reporting offices have documented an increased number of reports of antisemitic incidents since October 7. This evaluation refers to all antisemitic incidents reported between that date and November 9 (and which could be verified by 6 p.m. on November 16) whose context is the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza. This also includes a large number of late reports that could not be included in the first monitoring report (for the period October 7–15, there are currently 90 incidents that were only reported and/or verified after the first monitoring report was published). Some of the reported incidents could not be conclusively verified by the editorial deadline and are therefore not included in the analysis.

Antisemitic incidents in the context of the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza

In the period between October 7 and November 9, 2023, the RIAS reporting offices have so far become aware of 994 verified antisemitic incidents in Germany that occurred in the context of the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza. The incidents are analyzed below; some are described as examples.

29 incidents per day

The RIAS reporting offices documented all types of antisemitic incidents during the period under investigation. The 994 verified antisemitic incidents include three cases of extreme violence, 29 assaults, 72 cases of targeted damage to property, 32 threats, four mass mailings and 854 cases of abusive behavior (177 of which are gatherings).

One thing is clear: Antisemitic incidents that have occurred in the context of the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza are manifold. They have taken the form of antisemitic graffiti in public spaces, antisemitic statements at universities, targeted damage to memorials, markings of Jewish homes and even cases of extreme violence. RIAS defines extreme violence as not only physical attacks or assaults that can result in the loss of human life or serious bodily injury but also the mere attempt at such acts. One such case occurred in Berlin on October 18, when two incendiary devices were thrown at a Jewish community center, which houses a synagogue, a school and a daycare center. Such incidents are not only threatening for local Jews but also have an unsettling effect on the entire Jewish community in Germany.

In the first 34 days since the start of the war, there were 29 antisemitic incidents per day in Germany. By comparison, in 2022 the average was just under seven incidents per day.

Antisemitic incidents by incident type

extreme violence	3	
assaults	29	
threats	32	
damages or desecrations of property	72	
mass mailings	4	
abusive behavior	854	177 of it gatherings
total	994	

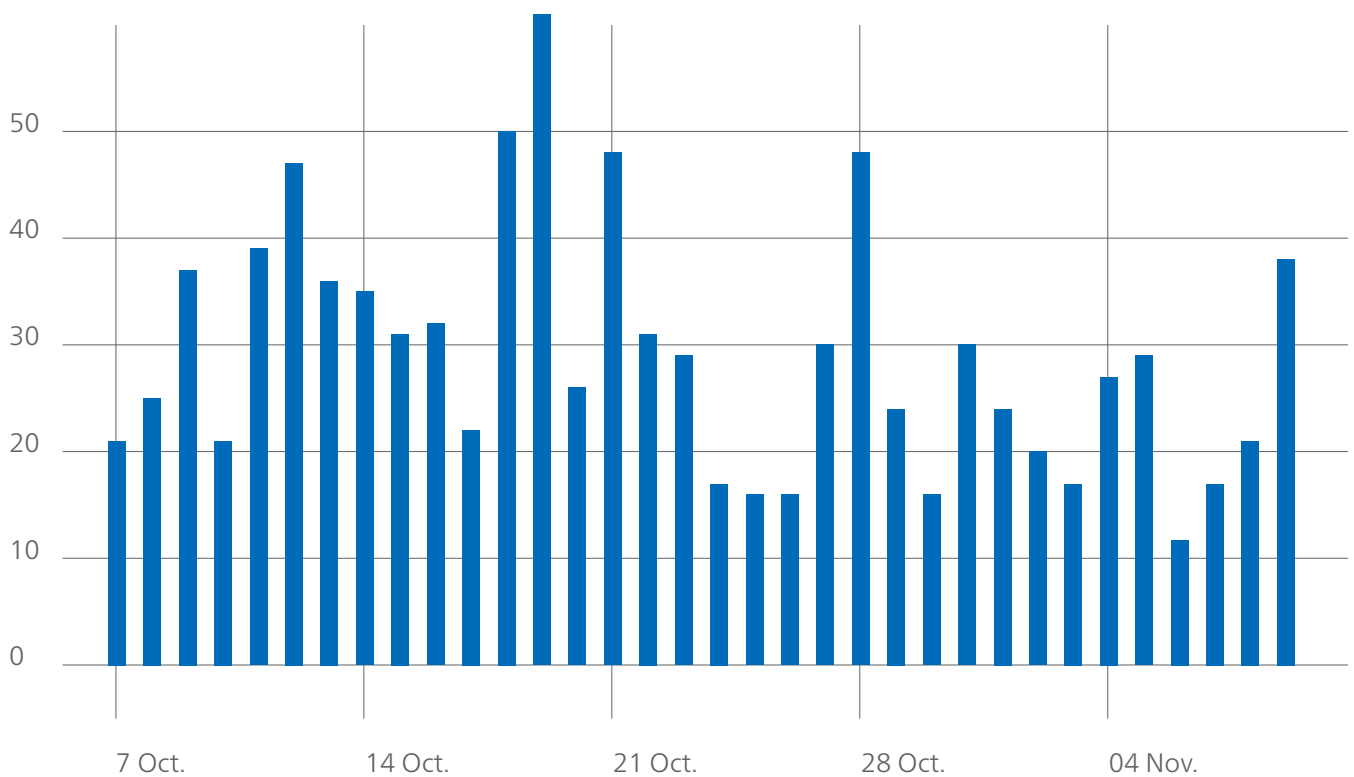
Dynamic incidents: Antisemitic incidents over time

A look at the distribution of antisemitic incidents over time indicates their highly dynamic nature and shows that certain events further increase their number.

The first antisemitic incidents in Germany related to the Hamas massacres against the Israeli civilian population occurred on October 7 itself. It also became apparent that the reporting and disinformation about the explosion outside the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza on 17 October provided an opportunity to mobilize demonstrations and make antisemitic statements (more on this in the chapter on antisemitic gatherings). There were also antisemitic incidents on November 9, the 85th day of remembrance of the November 1938 pogroms, which can be seen in the context of the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza. For example, a commemorative event on November 9 in Göttingen, during which the story of deported Jewish schoolchildren was told, was disrupted twice with loud shouts of "Free Palestine."

In general, it can be analytically stated that exogenous factors, such as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, combined with the organized mobilization of social-media campaigns and demonstrations, establish opportunity structures that motivate antisemitic perpetrators and thus promote violence. The opportunity structure that the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza represent for antisemitic incidents is a framework condition that makes antisemitic action possible or more likely. They are not the reason for antisemitic statements or actions, but merely provide a framework for them.

Antisemitic incidents between October 7 and November 9



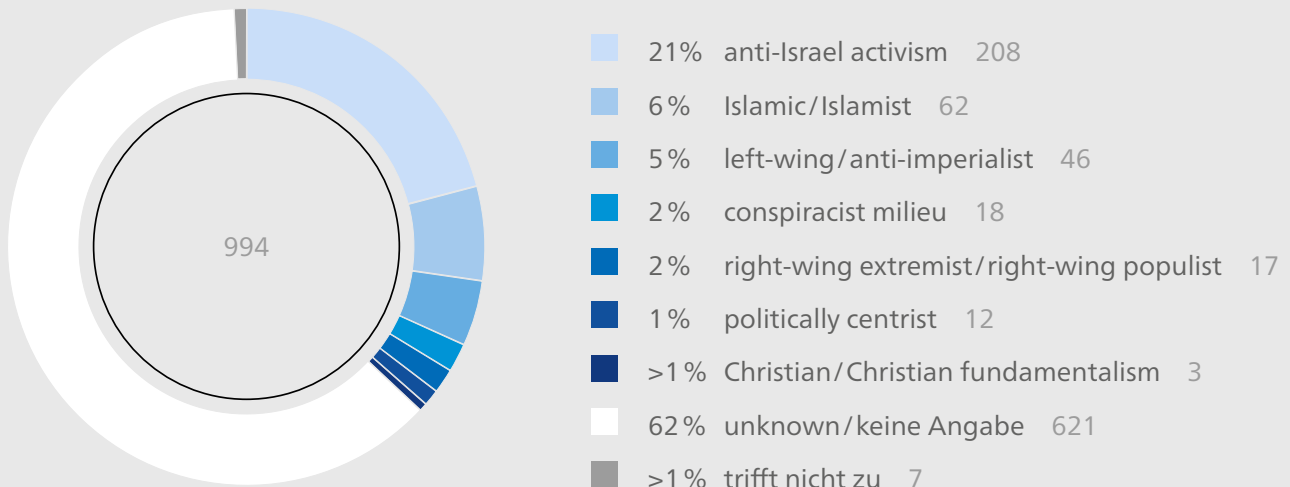
Political background and antisemitic manifestations¹

Most of the incidents that RIAS was able to attribute to a political background were related to anti-Israeli activism. This includes incidents that cannot be clearly assigned to any other political background and in which anti-Israeli motivation clearly dominates over political positioning on the Left, Right or Islamic/Islamist spectrum.

In the period analyzed, about one in five incidents (21%) was attributed to anti-Israeli activism. A further 6% were attributed to an Islamic/Islamist background, while 5% of cases were classified as left-wing/anti-imperialist. Right-wing extremism and conspiracy ideology each accounted for just under 2%. In 1% of cases, incidents could be attributed to the political center, and less than 1% to a Christian/fundamentalist background. In 63% of cases, the political background was unknown. This includes the entire spectrum of incident types, from cases of extreme violence to those in the category of hurtful behavior. The fact that antisemitic incidents do not only originate from persons with a recognizable political background reinforces the perception among Jews that they might be confronted with antisemitism anywhere.

1 RIAS distinguishes between a total of five manifestations of antisemitism. Individual incidents are regularly assigned to several manifestations if the corresponding stereotypes occur.

Political background of antisemitic incidents



Israel-related antisemitism characterized most of the incidents. At the same time, all other forms of antisemitism that RIAS distinguishes were also documented.

While Israel-related antisemitism was present in most incidents (87%), anti-semitic Othering played a role in just under 21% and post-Shoah antisemitism in 23%. Stereotypes of anti-Judaic antisemitism and those of modern antisemitism such as antisemitic conspiracy myths were each documented in 8% of the cases.

In some incidents, these manifestations were intertwined. This is the case, for example, when Israel is compared to National Socialism, i.e., when Israel-related antisemitism is combined with post-Shoah antisemitism (more on this in the chapter on antisemitic gatherings).

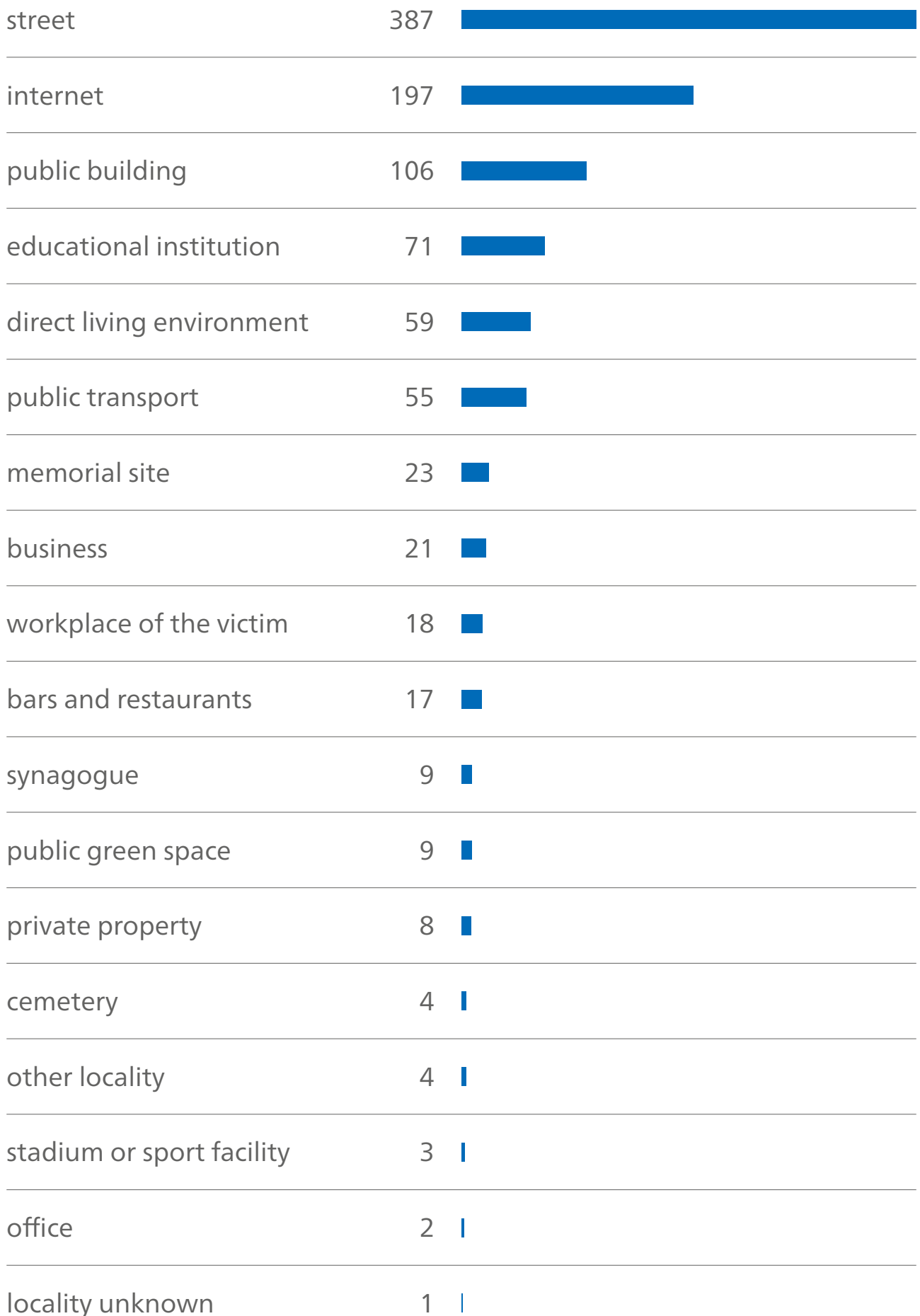
New everyday life: Current confrontations with antisemitism

Immediately after October 7, Jews in Germany took measures to ensure their safety. Many restricted their visibility – and continue to do so – for example, by refraining from wearing symbols recognizable as Jewish and no longer speaking Hebrew on the street. In the first few days after the massacres of October 7, some Israeli restaurants remained closed or restricted their visibility, and Jewish children were not sent to daycare centers and schools as a precaution.

Even though facilities have reopened and everyday tasks are being carried out again, security measures remain high, especially in Jewish locations, and (visible) Jewish life is still severely restricted. It is a return to a new “normal.”

Those affected by antisemitism, Jews in particular, are confronted by antisemitism in places they visit in their daily lives and are increasingly experiencing it from acquaintances, neighbors and work colleagues. The following section presents examples of incidents at selected locations as well as recurring forms of antisemitic expression in the context of the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza.

Antisemitic incidents by locations



Antisemitic incidents in the residential environment

Antisemitic incidents that occur in the residential environment of those affected have a particularly negative impact. They can shake the sense of security in a location that not only functions as a place of retreat but also cannot be avoided without a change of residence. In the period between October 7 and November 9, 59 incidents were reported that occurred in the living environment of those affected – their own home, the stairwell of their apartment building or the immediate neighborhood. The incidents range from antisemitic graffiti to antisemitic leaflets, damage to an Israeli flag hung out of a window and physical attacks.

October 17, Giessen (Hesse)

An Israeli man was aggressively asked by two men at his own front door to remove the Israeli flag he had hung on his balcony. When he refused, they insulted him in an antisemitic manner. As he attempted to inform the police, they snatched his cell phone and gained access to his apartment.

The men took the Israeli flag and hit the man in the face with their fists.

October 30, Potsdam (Brandenburg)

Two women, neighbors of the reporting woman, rang her doorbell to complain about the posters on the house that drew attention to the hostages taken by Hamas, making antisemitic statements. The neighbors said that Israel was a terrorist state and that the media was spreading lies. They ended up denying the Hamas massacres.

Especially threatening are cases in which residential buildings are marked with stars of David and swastikas, for example, and thus labeled as Jewish. This is reminiscent of the practice under National Socialism of marking Jewish businesses in particular with Stars of David. The widespread appearance of such markings represents a new development that the RIAS reporting offices had not documented to this extent before October 7. In most cases, these are examples of antisemitic Othering, i.e., those affected are addressed as not belonging to the respective imagined “we” group due to their (assumed or actual) affiliation to Judaism.

October 31, Berlin

An antisemitic mark in the form of a Star of David was placed next to the entrance to a building.

Antisemitic marking in Berlin.

Image credit: RIAS Berlin.



Antisemitic incidents in the workplace

The RIAS reporting offices also became aware of incidents that have taken place at the workplace of those affected or been initiated by colleagues. For example, there was targeted damage to property at workplaces, or Jews were asked to justify themselves for the suffering of the Palestinian civilian population in conversations with colleagues.

October 24, Erfurt (Thuringia)

Over an after-work drink, colleagues were discussing the situation in Israel when one person said that Israel was an apartheid state and was deliberately bombing hospitals in Gaza.

November 2, Duisburg (North Rhine-Westphalia)

Notes with the Israeli flag on them were laid out on the ground in front of the studio of a Jewish artist. The notes were marked with the words: "Step on the flag, spit on it, burn the flag: Free Palestine."

Antisemitic incidents at educational institutions

In the period under review, the RIAS reporting offices were notified of 71 incidents at educational institutions in the context of the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza. Here, too, the victims have been diverse: Children, young people and adults have all been confronted by antisemitic incidents. For some, contact with work colleagues has changed; for others, the question of changing schools or taking a break from their studies has arisen. Among the incidents at educational institutions are 37 cases at universities. There has been an increase in the spread of anti-Israeli propaganda.

October 23, Frankfurt (Hesse)

The words "Free Palestine from Zionists!" were smeared on a toilet door in a university building. In addition, a Star of David and the words "Save Israel" were scratched out and defaced.

October 31, Rhineland-Palatinate

A Jewish pupil was addressed in an antisemitic manner by various classmates in three different situations on the same day. For example, one classmate said to him threateningly: "Your family in Israel will die, Israel will perish."

November 8, Oldenburg (Lower Saxony)

When a man who was handing out antisemitic flyers on the university grounds was asked to stop, he shouted "Zionists are murderers!" and said something about freedom of expression and racism. The flyer made use of the conspiracy myth that Zionists were responsible for National Socialism. Zionists were also described as "children of the devil." Antisemitic flyers already had been found at the university on October 13.

Antisemitic incidents on public transport

Part of the commonplace nature of antisemitism is that those affected encounter it unexpectedly in everyday situations. Since October 7, 55 incidents on local public transport have been reported that occurred in the context of the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza.

October 11, Göttingen (Lower Saxony)

On the train from Göttingen to Hanover, a Jewish woman overheard a group talking about Hamas's terrorist attacks on Israel and saying loudly: "You should gas the Jews."

October 19, Gransee (Brandenburg)

A group of young people walked through a regional train and repeatedly shouted "From the river to the sea," "Free Palestine" and "Allahu Akbar." One of the men raised a clenched fist.

November 2, Kiel (Schleswig-Holstein)

A poster with a bloodstained Star of David was put up at a bus stop. This pictorial depiction is mainly spread by people with a right-wing/extremist background. Similar flyers were documented in several places in Kiel and also in Lower Saxony.

Antisemitic poster in Kiel.

Image credit: Meldung an LIDA-SH.



Antisemitic confrontations online

One in five incidents occurred online. RIAS only records antisemitism on the Internet as an incident if it is directed at specific people or institutions. Antisemitism on social-media platforms, in e-mails or direct messages often has a drastic effect on those affected, similar to the impact of face-to-face antisemitic encounters.

The Internet is currently also playing a special role, as images of the massacres and attacks by Hamas are being disseminated worldwide in the digital space. Particularly on October 7 and shortly thereafter, the perpetrators shared graphic images of their actions, sometimes via social media, with the relatives of those murdered or abducted. Numerous victims were identified via this video and image material. By spreading their atrocities via social networks, the terrorists have expanded the circle of those directly affected and stirred up grief and fear among Jews both in and outside Israel.

Ten out of 11 antisemitic threats online that RIAS documented for the period between October 7 and November 9 were accompanied by fantasies of violence and extermination, including death threats. In some cases, explicit references were made to the Hamas massacres. Overall, it can be observed that those affected were attacked online when they addressed the Hamas massacres, criticized antisemitic posts or pointed to the increase of antisemitism outside Israel. The antisemitic incidents were often accompanied by a perpetrator-victim reversal in relation to the Hamas massacres, a demonization of Israel and fantasies of violence against alleged Zionists, as well as the equation of Israel with National Socialism. Jews in Germany have repeatedly been held responsible for Israel's actions.

November 5, Bavaria

A person received a WhatsApp message from an acquaintance in which antisemitic conspiracy myths about October 7 were spread. The message stated that October 7 was a "false flag of the satanic and Zionist world government".

November 6, Lower Saxony

A Jewish woman shared a post in an Instagram story in which a travel warning was issued for Israelis and received the following message: "Your death is near, pigs" with an emoji of the Palestinian flag and an index finger.

November 6, Bavaria

A Jew received a photo via direct message on Instagram showing red handprints and the words "Your hands are bloody!" and "#ceasefireNOW."

Attacks on memorial events and demonstrations of solidarity

Across Germany, there were attacks on demonstrations of solidarity with the state of Israel, Israelis and Jews. For example, 140 incidents were reported in which Israeli flags, which had been displayed at town halls, educational institutions or in residential areas, were damaged or stolen.

October 18, Halle (Saale) (Saxony-Anhalt)

A plaque commemorating the right-wing extremist terrorist attack on Yom Kippur 2019 and a hoisted Israeli flag were damaged. The Israeli flag was torn down and ripped up.

November 7, Göttingen (Lower Saxony)

A number of antisemitic statements were made towards people at a rally in solidarity with Israel. Among other things, someone said in passing that everyone present should be gassed.

November 9, Altenkirchen (Rhineland-Palatinate)

The window of the apartment of a non-Jewish couple who had hung up an Israeli flag next to a Star of David in solidarity with Israel was damaged. Unknown persons threw an object at the window, breaking the glass. One person was in the room at the time, but was not injured.

Targeted damage to a window
in Rhineland-Palatinate.



Actions to draw attention to those murdered by Hamas and the hostages taken to Gaza were also disrupted and addressed in an antisemitic manner. In Freiburg, for example, members of the Jewish community were insulted while putting up posters with photos of the hostages. A total of 45 incidents in which such posters were willfully removed or damaged were reported to RIAS reporting offices alone. This destruction creates a feeling among Jews that there is a lack of empathy for and solidarity with them. It is seen by RIAS reporting offices as an affirmation of the antisemitic violence of October 7.

October 21, Weimar (Thuringia)

Posters on an advertising pillar with photos of people kidnapped by Hamas were captioned with the sentence "All Jews lie."

November 3, Berlin

The words “Zionist Propaganda” were written on a poster drawing attention to one of the children abducted to Gaza.

Graffiti on the poster of an Israeli hostage in Berlin.

Image credit: Nikolas Lelle.



Antisemitic gatherings

For the period between October 7 and November 9, 2023, RIAS recorded 177 gatherings as antisemitic incidents. RIAS documents gatherings as cases of antisemitic offensive behavior if antisemitic statements are made at them or if antisemitic content is disseminated on signs or flyers or in speeches.

The documented gatherings differ in terms of the political background of the organizers and participants as well as in their form, scope and dynamics. North Rhine-Westphalia (34 gatherings), Lower Saxony (24), Bavaria (24), Berlin (23), Hesse (19), and Baden-Württemberg (18) emerged as regional focal points.

Development over time

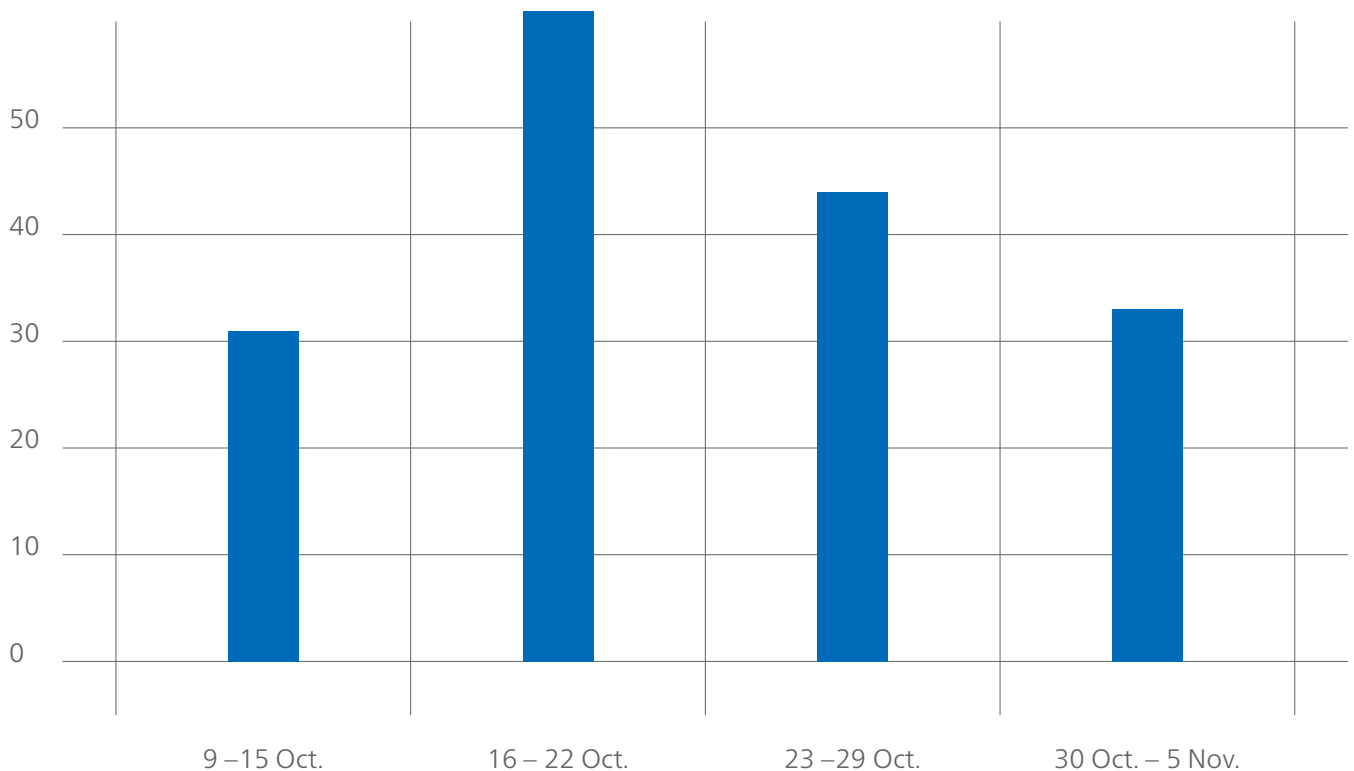
The analysis of the gatherings during this period shows a dynamic situation. Both smaller rallies and larger individual demonstrations involving more than 10,000 people took place. The number of demonstrators was subject to strong fluctuations, depending on mobilization efforts, state repression and the spread of anti-Israeli disinformation.

A sharp increase in gatherings at which antisemitic content was articulated was observed after a Hamas message was disseminated, unchecked by public media, on October 17. According to this message, an Israeli missile had hit the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City, killing 500 people. This report was flanked by disinformation on national and international anti-Israeli social-media accounts.

While RIAS reporting offices documented 31 antisemitic gatherings in the week from October 9 to October 15, this number jumped to 61 antisemitic gatherings in the week from October 16 to October 22, after the false report about the hospital was spread on October 17. In the following week, October 23 to October 29, the number dropped slightly to 44 antisemitic gatherings, only to return to a level similar to the first week, with 33 antisemitic gatherings between October 30 and November 5. With the start of the Israeli ground offensive on October 28, there was again a selective increase in antisemitic gatherings, but in quantitative terms this was significantly lower than the increase after October 17.

This shows that the spread of anti-Israeli disinformation in the media intensifies antisemitic gatherings and thus has a direct negative impact on the safety of Jews in public spaces. In fact, it has a much stronger effect on the mobilization of antisemitic gatherings than the actual actions of the Israeli army.

Antisemitic gatherings by week



Content development

After the unverified dissemination of Hamas’s report about the Al-Ahli hospital on October 17, there were also noticeable changes in the content articulated at anti-Israeli gatherings. Before October 17, this varied between glorifying the Hamas massacres as “resistance” and denying them altogether.

After October 17, the depiction of Israeli military operations as “genocide” became dominant, and the calls for “peace” or “ceasefire now” became louder. At the same time, content glorifying violence and terror could still be observed at the relevant gatherings, openly contradicting the call for “peace.” However, such content often could not or was not prevented by the assembly leaders.

The simultaneity of demands for peace on the one hand and slogans propagating violence or denying Israel’s right to exist on the other is still visible at a large number of assemblies.

The depiction of Israeli military operations as “genocide” was also often accompanied by revisionist historical analogies between the current situation in Israel and National Socialism. Thus, Israel-related antisemitism was often intertwined with post-Shoah antisemitism.

A case of post-Shoah-antisemitism at a rally in Frankfurt am Main on 21 October 2023.

Image credit: RIAS Hessen.



Accordingly, post-Shoah antisemitism was the second most common form of antisemitism that RIAS observed at gatherings after October 7 (71 out of 177). Unsurprisingly, Israel-related antisemitism was the most frequently documented form, showing up in 174 out of 177 incidents. In addition, there was anti-Judaic antisemitism (40 incidents), modern antisemitism (25) and antisemitic Othering (9).

Even after the false report about the hospital had been partially corrected in the media, hardly any changes could be observed in the content articulated at gatherings. However, resentment against the media was increasingly evident from this point onwards. Examples include the slogan “German media lie, don’t let them deceive you!” and shouts about the “lying press.” At times, references to the “Jewish press” or “Zionist press” openly served stereotypes of modern antisemitism, according to which “the Jews” control the media. In particularly blatant cases, the hostility towards the press outlined here was reflected in attacks on journalists covering the rallies.

Political and ideological background

Participants from different political backgrounds gathered at the various events.

Most antisemitic gatherings were classified as anti-Israeli activism (120). In addition to organizations primarily dedicated to spreading anti-Israeli content, groups and actors of other political or ideological persuasions also took part in such gatherings. Thus, despite all other differences, actors from left-wing/anti-imperialist and Islamic/Islamist backgrounds, and in some cases also people with conspiracy-ideology beliefs, appeared together at anti-Israeli gatherings.

RIAS also registered 22 gatherings with an Islamic/Islamist background, 14 with a left-wing/anti-imperialist background and eight with a conspiracy-ideology background as antisemitic incidents. RIAS was unable to attribute 13 antisemitic gatherings to any political milieu.

The following are examples of some of the antisemitic gatherings documented between October 7 and November 9, 2023:

October 9, Stuttgart (Baden-Württemberg)

At an anti-Israeli rally, in addition to the slogan “From the river to the sea - Palestine will be free,” the Islamist slogan “Khaibar, Khaibar, ya yahud” (in full: “Khaibar, Khaibar, oh Jews, remember Khaibar, the army of Muhammad is returning”) is briefly shouted.

October 14, Braunschweig (Lower Saxony)

At an anti-Israeli gathering, a representative of the left-wing anti-imperialist group “Young Struggle” legitimized the Hamas massacre on October 7 and said, among other things, about those murdered: “They live in good conscience a few meters from an open-air prison with over two million prisoners called Gaza. These are not just civilians – these are colonial settlers who have to face the truth now that the oppressed are tearing down the wall and going to war against their oppressors. The liberation struggles against colonialism have never looked any different.”

October 21, Berlin

From an anti-Israeli gathering that marched through Kreuzberg and Neukölln, journalists were repeatedly insulted and labeled as “Jewish press” and “Zionists.”

October 31, Chemnitz (Saxony)

At a conspiracy-ideology gathering, a speaker from the stage commented on the German government’s expressions of solidarity with Israel: “And if anyone comes to me saying that the Germans have some debt to pay to the Jews, the debt has long been paid, how much longer! Enough is enough! Enough is enough!” In between, she asked the audience suggestive anti-semitic questions: “Who rules the world, the money, and who has the money?” and “Who is not allowed to be criticized?”

Later in her speech, she continued: “We, I hope the Germans too and migrants like me, will never again tolerate a people who see themselves as the chosen people. And that’s what they call themselves, and that’s why they imagine they can do anything in the world. Always being the victim – that’s over now. We will criticize because we are all equal and we are all chosen. And if you see it differently, pack your bags and get out of Germany!”

November 4, Düsseldorf (North Rhine-Westphalia)

At an anti-Israeli rally, posters and banners repeatedly equated the war measures in Gaza with the Shoah:

- “!! Save Anne Frank!!! - The children in Palestine have no pen and no book but a right to a childhood in safety and peace – We are all human beings”
- “One Holocaust does not justify another one”
- “Ethnic cleansing, massacre, genocide, child murder, holocaust, apartheid = self-defense”
- “Dear Zionists, stop doing what happened to them in the Second World War!” [sic]

- One poster drew an analogy between murder practices in Nazi extermination camps (illustration of a shower head with the year 1933) and the current situation in Gaza (illustration of a bomb with the year 2023), accompanied by the statement “Stop the crime” and “What’s the difference?”

An antisemitic banner at a rally in Düsseldorf on 4 November 2023. The poster equates the war in Gaza with the Shoah.

Image credit: Antifa Infoportal Düsseldorf.



Conclusion

October 7 and the subsequent antisemitic reactions have created a new reality for many Jews.

While normal everyday life has continued for parts of mainstream society after the initial sympathy with Israel was expressed, the new everyday life of Jews in Germany is characterized by increased security measures, antisemitic incidents and continued great concern about further developments in Israel and Gaza.

Uncertainty and fear for the safety of relatives in Israel remains high in view of the dynamic war situation. The certainty of finding a safe haven in Israel in an emergency was shaken like never before on October 7, 2023. Against this backdrop, statements glorifying and legitimizing Hamas terror are currently having a particularly negative impact on Jewish people’s attitude towards life in Germany.

Antisemitic incidents occurred in Germany on the very first day of the terrorist attacks on Israel and have continued ever since. These originate from different parts of the political spectrum, although anti-Israeli activism dominates the incidents. Antisemitism manifests itself in many different ways.

For example, Israel is blamed for the attacks, a perpetrator-victim reversal is pursued and the state as a whole is demonized and delegitimized. Jews in Germany are held responsible for Israel's policies. And those who take a stand against Hamas terror and show solidarity with Israel and the Israeli civilian population are also targeted in an antisemitic manner.

At the same time, the dissemination of disinformation in the media has an impact, for example, on the mobilization for antisemitic gatherings, and thus has a direct negative effect on the safety of Jews in public spaces.

Many of the 994 antisemitic incidents documented between October 7 and November 9 occurred in the home environment, on social-media platforms, at educational institutions and in the workplace. Those affected are often unable to avoid these potentially threatening situations without hiding their Jewish identity. Reports, for example, of Jews staying away from universities illustrate the extent to which the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza has shaped the everyday lives of Jews in Germany.

If you witness antisemitic incidents or are affected by them yourself, report them at report-antisemitism.de!

Lecal Notice

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