



ANTISEMITISM IN EUROPE

The Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism (ICCA) brings together Parliamentarians from around the world to lead the fight against resurgent global antisemitism. Its principal purpose is to share knowledge, experience, best practice and recommendations, encouraging their dissemination in an attempt to deal more effectively with contemporary antisemitism.

The ICCA is led by a Steering Committee of Members of Parliament from around the world: John Mann (UK, Chair); Irwin Cotler (Canada); Chris Smith (USA); Yuli Edelstein (Israel); Fiamma Nirenstein (Italy); Gert Weisskirchen (Germany); Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania). This brochure aims to give a snapshot of the current state of antisemitism in the member states of the European Union. The following is only a small sample of incidents and photos from across Europe. Unfortunately there are many more, and still, the lack of accurate records and data collection remains a recurring problem. This is just one of the issues that the ICCA believes need to be addressed by the European Parliament and the other institutions of the European Union. To this end the ICCA has partnered with the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup of the European Parliament to hold the Brussels Conference on Combating Antisemitism on 21 June 2012. For more information on the Conference or the work of the ICCA, please visit www.antisem.org or contact jlande@antisem.org.

Sources:

All information courtesy of:

The Moshe Kantor Program for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism within The Kantor Center for the the Study of European Jewry, Tel Aviv University (<http://www.kantorcenter.tau.ac.il/>) and the Anti-Defamation League (www.adl.org) unless specified otherwise.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear readers,

Please accept my apologies for not being able to be with you at the conference to be organised on 21 June in the European Parliament by the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup and the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism.

The Holocaust is a singular event in the history of humanity which must not be allowed to be forgotten. It was an event without precedent that broke with civilisation and it is our duty to perpetuate its memory and to fight unstintingly against antisemitism, xenophobia and racism. As a German holding the office that I hold, one of my prime responsibilities is to defend the Jewish people.

If the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can impact on some antisemitic behaviour in Europe, the acknowledged rise of populist and extreme right-wing parties, who use Holocaust denial language and propagate xenophobic messages to political ends, is alarming. The recent study by the Fundamental Rights Agency is clear: Europe is facing an intolerable resurgence of antisemitism, which is in fact difficult to document with precision at European level. All antisemitic activity, whether it be heinous graffiti, insults, physical injury, hate campaigns, vandalised cemeteries or, worse still, assassinations or terrorist acts, must be condemned with the greatest vehemence. There are no words to describe the loss suffered by the families of the victims of the Montauban and Toulouse massacres in March of this year.

The European Parliament must ensure that Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JAI on the fight against certain forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia by making use of penal law is applied in full and even strengthened. Emphasis needs to be placed on youth education, teacher training in cultural, ethnic and religious diversity and the strengthening of interfaith dialogue.

We must continue to work together so that all European citizens, whatever their faith, are respected and able to exercise to the full the rights of all Europeans to live in security and peace.

Yours sincerely,



MARTIN SCHULZ

WESTERN EUROPE

AUSTRIA

Several hotels and apartments in the renowned holiday resort of Serfaus seem to have decided on a policy of not allowing ultra-orthodox Jews on their premises.

Furthermore, Vandals defaced the walls of the former Nazi concentration camp Mauthausen with anti-Jewish and anti-Turkish slurs.

BELGIUM

February 22, 2011 – Antwerp – A Jewish man riding a bicycle was punched in the face. When he asked the attacker why he hit him, the assailant said, “Because you’re a Jew.”

March 1, 2011 – Antwerp – When three Orthodox Jews entered a café, the barman shouted at them, “No Jews.” When they insisted that he repeat his comment, he said the café was closed, despite numerous clients being served.

FRANCE

March 19, 2012 – Toulouse – Four Jews were shot and killed at the Ozar Hatorah Jewish School by armed terrorist Mohammed Merah. Rabbi Jonathan Sandler, 30, and his two children Aryeh, 6, and Gabriel, 3, were killed as they were entering the school premises. Merah then entered the school, continuing to shoot at students and faculty, and eventually set his sights on 8-year-old Miriam Monsonogo, the daughter of the school’s principal, whom he chased down and killed. Merah is also believed to be responsible for the killing of three French soldiers the previous week. In a phone call to a French television station, Merah stated that he targeted the Jewish school to avenge the killing of children in Gaza.



Source: antisemitisme.be

March 26, 2012 – Paris – A 12-year-old Jewish boy was beaten outside the Ozar Hatorah Jewish School in Paris by youths reciting antisemitic slogans. The boy was hit and punched in the back of his head as he left the school.

May 7, 2011 – Marseilles – An 11-year-old Jewish girl on her way to a synagogue was accosted by a teenager who demanded to know if she was Jewish. The assailant threatened the girl with a knife and reportedly said, “You are going to dirty meeting.” Another teenager rescued the girl, who took refuge inside the synagogue.

March 17, 2011 – Pont de Heruy – A 15-year-old Jewish boy was beaten by a group of about a dozen teenagers. The attackers threw him to the ground and beat him while yelling antisemitic insults.

GERMANY

June 15, 2010 – Babenhausen – Swastikas were spray-painted on tombstones in the town’s Jewish cemetery.

March 30, 2011 – Aachen – A swastika was spray-painted on the synagogue.

January 24, 2011 – Goshen – A country house owned by an identifiably Jewish man was the target of an arson attack. A Star of David had been painted on the wall, together with the word “Out,” and police found evidence of arson.

A Bundestag report, initiated by the ICCA, found that Anti-Jewish feeling is “significantly” entrenched in German society. It also found “a wider acceptance in mainstream society of day-to-day anti-Jewish tirades and actions”.



Football game in Germany – Dynamo Dresden

Photo courtesy of Moshe Kantor Program

NETHERLANDS



Moshe Kantor Program

September 21 – 24, 2011 – A gravestone on the Jewish cemetery of Doetinchem was violently knocked from the concrete footing to which it was attached with metal bolts. The damage is probably irreparable. Since it is not known when exactly the vandalism took place, the police turned down a request to go and investigate on site: “There won’t be any clues, fingerprints etc. anymore.” This is the second time the cemetery has been vandalized. The first incident, in 2008, was dismissed by the local police as a “youthful prank”, i.e. the kind of case the police do not investigate due to lack of time.

February 2011: The unofficial fan site of Feyenoord changed a digital game in which the aim is to shoot ‘scum’ dressing the players in Ajax shirts, to shooting ‘Jews’.

Source: CIDI



May 14, 2011 – Leek – “C18,” a neo-Nazi slogan, and a swastika were spray-painted on the door of a Jewish school, which also houses a museum to the Jews of Leek who were deported and murdered during the Holocaust.

February 10, 2011 – Amsterdam – During an interfaith walk by two rabbis, two Muslim scholars, a bishop and a pastor in an area where several antisemitic incidents have occurred, a young man made a Hitler salute and yelled, “Cancerous Jews.”



Desecration of a cemetery in Amsterdam (CIDI)



A swastika was spray-painted on the door of a Jewish school in Leek, which also houses a museum to the Jews of Leek who were deported and murdered during the Holocaust.

(CIDI)

UNITED KINGDOM



In the UK, the Community Security Trust (CST) recorded 586 antisemitic incidents in 2011. Out of the total of 586 Incidents, 92 were violent antisemitic assaults, 63 were damage and desecration, 394 incidents were within the category of abusive behavior, including verbal abuse and 29 incidents were categorised as threats.

Examples:

Extreme violence:
A Jewish family was filling up their car at a petrol station in Manchester. One family member crossed the forecourt to make payment when a car containing two white women reversed sharply into her, knocking her to the ground. The occupants then got out of their car, shouted ‘dirty Jew’ and spat at the injured woman lying on the ground, before getting back into their car and driving away.

Assault:
A Jewish man was walking through a park in London when he was approached by a group of white youths who asked him if he was Jewish, before attacking him, causing severe bruising and suspected broken ribs.

Damage and Desecration:
14 Synagogues, 4 Cemeteries, 3 Schools, 12 Jewish organisations and 26 private homes were affected by damage and desecration in 2011.

Photos and information courtesy of Security Community Trust.



Dear Yiddish retards, so you are going to kill a dog are you. You want people to respect you ?. ill tell you what Hitler was right, you should all be gassed like the scum you are. Long live Palestine. Ein volk Ein reich Ein fuhrer

Joseph Mengele



Photo courtesy of soerenkern.com

MEDITERRANEAN/SOUTHERN EUROPE

ITALY

In 2011, police arrested a suspected terrorist who they believe may have been planning an attack on Milan's synagogue. Police said they found evidence on the man's computer that he has conducted a thorough inspection of Milan's synagogue, with information on the security measures used and the police who guard the building.

Forty-four percent of Italians are prejudiced or hostile towards Jews, according to a new research study released by the Italian Parliament on October 17. The report titled "Final Document: Investigation on Antisemitism" was commissioned by the Committee for the Inquiry into Antisemitism of the Italian Parliament and led by ICCA Steering Committee member Hon. Fiamma Nirenstein MP.



Photos courtesy of Moshe Kantor Program



Photo courtesy of soerenkern.com



Photo courtesy of soerenkern.com



Photo courtesy of soerenkern.com

Photos courtesy of Moshe Kantor Center





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SPAIN

June 16, 2010 – Torremolinos – A swastika was spray-painted near the local synagogue.

February 1, 2010 – Madrid – A young Hasidic Jew was stopped on the street in the center of Madrid by a woman who slapped him and repeatedly hurled insults, including “Dirty Jew,” “You Jews are responsible for all the evil in the world,” and “You Jews are thieves.” Bystanders called the police.

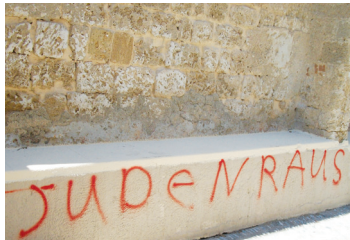
GREECE

May 2012 – The Golden Dawn neo-Nazi party got 21 MPs elected into Parliament.

May 15, 2011 – Volos – “Jews you will die” and “Jewish (expletive), the gallows are coming” were among numerous antisemitic threats scrawled on the Volos synagogue and Jewish community centre. Ultra-nationalist slogans, “Greece,” and crosses were also spray-painted on the synagogue’s exterior walls.

May 17, 2010 – Rhodes – The Holocaust monument on the island of Rhodes was vandalised. A heavy object was used to damage the granite facade in several places.

May 13, 2010 – Thessaloniki – Gasoline-soaked rags were used to set fire to a tomb in the Jewish cemetery. Swastikas and antisemitic graffiti reading “Fire to the Jews” and “Juden raus” appeared on a number of tombstones and on the wall of the cemetery. Three Greek neo-Nazi activists were arrested on suspicion of writing Nazi slogans on the cemetery walls. The Greek Government strongly condemned the vandalisms.



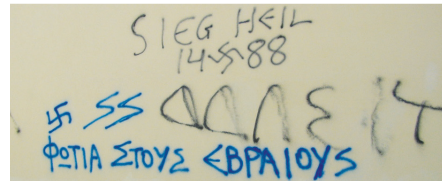
Sources: ADL and the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece



Graffiti ('Juden Raus') on the courtyard of the Synagogue of Rhodes in 2010



Thessaloniki Holocaust Monument, 2011



Graffiti ('Jews, you will die') – Synagogue of Volos in 2011

Photos courtesy of the Archive of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece

BALTICS

ESTONIA



Source: Moshe Kantor Program

LATVIA

In 2011, articles of antisemitic content appeared in the Latvian nationalist press. The main topics of these articles were the collaboration of Jews with the Communists in the Soviet period, Jews tarnishing Latvia’s good name in the West, and Jewish businessmen striving to control the Latvian economy.

December 7, 2010 – Riga – Swastikas were spray-painted on more than 100 tombstones at the New Jewish Cemetery



Source: ADLs



LITHUANIA

August 21, 2010 – Kaunas – A pig’s head, costumed with a hat and sidelocks, was placed outside a synagogue.

January 20, 2010 – Vilnius – A statue commemorating Dr. Tsemakh Shabad, a near-legendary figure in Vilna Jewish lore, was defaced with paint.

◀ **March 2012:** The modified SS skull and crossbones and the “Lithuanian swastika” (with added lines) were among the symbols featured in a neo-Nazi march in Vilnius.

◀ **July 2011:** Graffiti at Ponár (Paneriai). The large central memorial was defaced with a drawing of a penis along with a vulgar phrase in Russian about oral sex and 128 million, the sum (in Lithuanian currency) that the parliament recently allocated to restitution of communal Jewish property over a ten year period (to start in 2013). The text featured a derogatory term for Jews, here at the very spot where Vilna Jewry met its gruesome end during the Lithuanian Holocaust, mostly at the hands of ‘patriotic rebels’ who are this season being honoured by the Lithuanian government on the 70th anniversary of Hitler’s invasion.

The Russian text on the monument translates: ‘A penis [vulgar term] for you in the mouth, and not 128 million litas, Jews [vulgar term]!’

◀ **July 2011:** Graffiti at Ponár (Paneriai), the mass murder site of 100,000 people during the Holocaust, among them 70,000 Jews of the Vilna region. (Graffiti says: ‘Hitler was Right’)

Photos and information courtesy of DefendingHistory.com

EASTERN EUROPE

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Moshe Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry recorded 2 major violent incidents in 2011.

HUNGARY

Currently there is an alarming trend of antisemitism within the Hungarian political arena. The most infamous example is the MIÉP party.

January 23, 2011 – Marcali – Three teenagers toppled 75 tombstones in a Jewish cemetery and admitted to police that they were “showing off” for one another.



Source: Moshe Kantor Program

POLAND

April 8, 2012 – Wysokie Mazowieckie – Swastikas and antisemitic slogans were spray-painted on tombstones and memorial plaques in the Jewish cemetery.

August 10, 2011 – Orla – “Jews to the gas,” “Jude raus”, “All of Poland for the Poles,” and “White power” were spray-painted on a historic synagogue.

July 15, 2010 – Warsaw – Vandals desecrated the grave of a Polish woman who saved about 2,500 Jewish children from death during World War II. The words “Jews out” were spray-painted on the Warsaw grave of Irena Sendler, who was recognized as one of the Righteous Among the Nations by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Israel.

May 8, 2010 – Rzeszow – During a soccer match fans of a local team displayed a large banner showing a caricature of a hook-nosed stereotypical Jew with a blue and white yarmulke -- the colors of the opposing team -- and the phrase, “Death to the Crooked Noses. (ADL)



Source: Moshe Kantor Program

ROMANIA

April 2010 – Miercurea Ciuc – Three young Hungarians were arrested in a Transylvanian town for placing a poster on the wall of a supermarket that said, “Be ashamed. You have bought from Jews again.” The three are members of the local Hungarian Guard that is affiliated with the radical Jobbik party in Hungary. The phrase on the poster was used in Hungary during World War II.

SLOVENIA

In 2011 there were two rhetorical antisemitic incidents in the daily newspapers. The first article was published in March 2011 and portrays the classic notion antisemitic prejudices of jobs that have been stolen by the Jews. The second incident was a letter published in October that glorified the Holocaust.

(Source: Jewish Community of Slovenia)

SCANDINAVIA

DENMARK

June 15, 2010 – Copenhagen – Tombstones were broken in the Jewish cemetery

FINLAND

May 6, 2011: A gang of some 10 skinheads smashed a window of the Jewish synagogue in central Helsinki and threw eggs against the walls of a Jewish communal buldingThe Helsinki Jewish community also faced two bomb threats in April 2011. They were directed at the Jewish school, the synagogue and the old people’s home.



SWEDEN

There were 161 reported hate crimes with antisemitic motives in 2010.

Malmö

Many Jews in Malmö feel marginalised and don't believe they have a future there. Jewish cemeteries and synagogues have repeatedly been defaced with antisemitic graffiti, and a chapel at another Jewish burial site in Malmö was firebombed in 2009. In the same year the Malmö police received reports of 79 antisemitic incidents, double the number of the previous year (2008). Fredrik Sieradzki, spokesman for the Malmö Jewish community, estimated that the already small Jewish population is shrinking by 5% a year.

In 2010 a Jewish youth camp in Höllviken, south of Malmö, was attacked. The situation in Malmö has worsened as a consequence of a number of deeply troubling and offensive statements made by the city mayor Ilmar Reepalu.

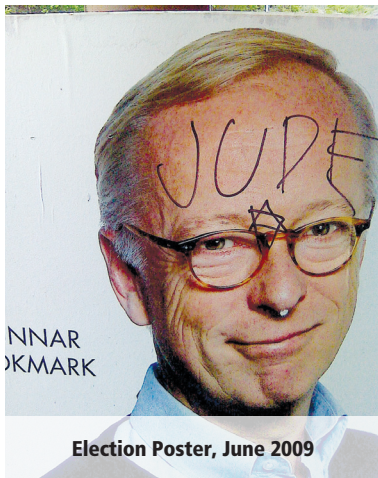
October 10, 2010 – Malmö – About 10 teenagers threw eggs and trash cans at building where a weekend retreat for Jewish children was taking place. The teenagers also reportedly shouted, "Heil Hitler" and "Jewish pigs" during the attack.

July 23, 2010 – Malmö – A small explosion early in the morning blackened the entrance to the synagogue and broke three windows. A note with a bomb threat had been put on the synagogue door the day before.

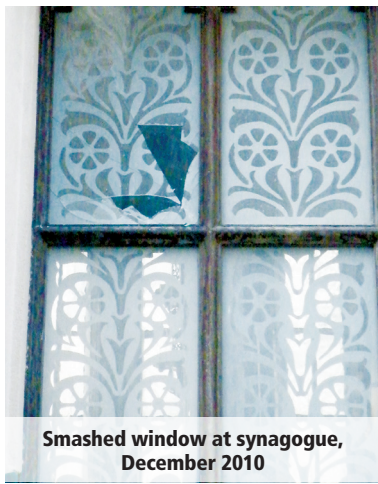




Malmö cemetery, July 2009

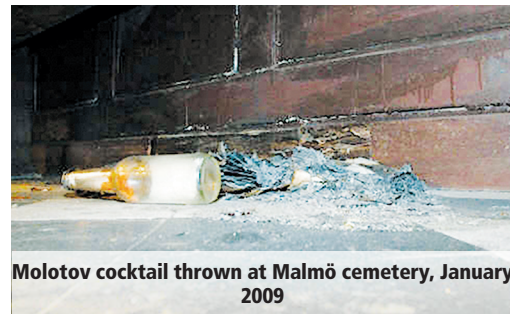


Election Poster, June 2009



Smashed window at synagogue,
December 2010

Photos courtesy of Jewish Community of Sweden



Molotov cocktail thrown at Malmö cemetery, January 2009



Stockholm, July 2009



Goteborg cemetery

RECENT EU INITIATIVES

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY (FRA) survey of Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of antisemitism

The European institutions and EU Member States need more data to draw a more comprehensive picture of the situation in order to formulate informed policy and legal responses to combat antisemitism.

To address this need, in 2012 the FRA will carry out a survey among Jewish populations in nine EU Member States. The survey will focus on Jewish peoples' experiences and perceptions of antisemitism.

The survey aims to provide:

Robust, reliable and comparable data on the experiences and perceptions of antisemitism by Jewish people in selected EU Member States.

Evidence-based advice to EU and national level policy makers in order to assist them when they develop policies and measures to combat antisemitism, to improve rights awareness and to address the under-reporting of incidents.

FACING FACTS!

Facing Facts! is a two year project financed by the European Commission, aiming to improve monitoring and recording of hate crimes and incidents throughout the European Union. Following a precise working plan this project will standardise criteria for comparable hate crime data collection; train civil society organizations representing victims to gather, analyse and report hate crime in order to advocate on prevention and intervention measures; improve cooperation between authorities and NGOs and increase relationships between different social groups.

Facing Facts! is coordinated by CEJI – a Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe (Belgium), in partnership with the CST - Community Security Trust (UK), the CIDI - Dutch Centre for Documentation and Information Israel (Netherlands) and the COC -Federation of Dutch Associations for the Integration of Homosexuality (Netherlands). ILGA-Europe (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association) is an associate partner to the project.

More information is available at <http://www.ceji.org/facingfacts/>.

ICCA PARTNERS



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