

ANTISEMITISM IN GREECE - REPORT 2017

TRENDS and GENERAL ASSESSMENT:

Anti-Semitic manifestations are mainly not violent in Greece. The same trends characterize 2017 as well. Vandal attacks are rare while most frequent cases include hate speech, graffiti (desecration of Jewish sites with graffiti), dissemination of stereotypes and conspiracy theories through press, mass media, social media and internet. The case of the attacks of the excommunicated monk, father Kleomenis, against the Holocaust Monuments of Larissa and Thessaloniki (also posted on YouTube), aroused determined reactions by Greek authorities and the Greek Jewish Community.

It is worth to mention that the strengthening of bonds and the strategic cooperation between Greece and Israel, as well as the state's reaction to the Golden Dawn phenomenon, and KIS cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, have produced a number of important initiatives to combat anti-Semitism, with positive results.

On the political field, in the first half of 2017, MP Adonis Georgiadis and MP Dimitris Kammenos publicly dispatched apologies (through social media and mass media) for their past anti-Semitic behavior.

The trend of the past years, (deriving from the economic in Greece) that has seen an increase of anti-Semitic articles related to the stereotypes of the "Jews ruling world finance and politics", continues in 2017, facilitated and enhanced by the internet.

Religious fanaticism and anti-Semitism is promoted by a few specific bishops, while we must acknowledge the reaction and the initiatives undertaken by the official leadership of the Greek Orthodox Church and a number of Metropolitan bishops to counter balance anti-Semitism and promote tolerance.

Main challenges for the Greek Jewish Community for 2018 include the enhancement and expansion of the existing educational programmes, as it has always been our firm belief that only through education and knowledge anti-Semitism can be effectively confronted.

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REPORT OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS in GREECE in 2017

GRAFFITI – VANDALISM:

- **Athens, Feb. 13, 2017:** Graffiti reading "Jewish Organization of Thieves" (in Greek) as an acronym of the "European Economic Community" with the Star of David in parallel with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) was spotted on a bus stop in Maroussi (a suburb of Athens). The slogan related the Jews to the EU and the IMF as an implication of Jewish responsibility for the economic crisis.

- **Athens, March, 2017:** A tag (street graffiti id signature) was sprayed on the Holocaust monument in Athens (there is no evidence to indicate anti-Semitic nature or intent). An open letter of the President of the Athens Jewish Community, addressed to the perpetrator, entitled "Dear tagger, We do not close down the Monument" was published on mainstream paper Kathimerini (March 4), on the purpose and character of the Monument.

- **Athens, July 2017:** The Holocaust Monument in Athens was desecrated with graffiti reading "*Hello, my name is thanatos [death].*"

<https://enantiastonantisimitismo.wordpress.com/2017/07/09/athens-holocaust-memorial-defaced-with-graffiti/>

- **Athens, December 1, vandalism:** vandals stripped off parts of the inscription (with Elie Wiesel's quote) at the Holocaust Monument of Athens. The Monument is situated close to the Athens Synagogue. Two parts of the three-fold inscription -with the message of Elie Wiesel to the passers by, in three languages (Greek, English and French)- were stripped off on Dec. 1st, 2017.

The [Athens Municipality](#) condemned the violent act and assured the Jewish community that it will provide for the reparation of the damage. The [Secretary General for Religious Affairs, George Kalantzis](#), also issued a condemning announcement pointing out that this "atrocious act is also a constant reminder of our own duty to defend justice, truth and the memory of the six million exterminated Jews...". Other political leaders also condemned this attack.

https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=738:athens-holocaust-monument-vandalized&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23

- **Arta, March 28,** graffiti on the Holocaust Monument. Some details on the Monument (the leaves of the menorah) were spray-painted in red and green, while the tag "YOLO" was sprayed in red on the back of the monument (a social media abbreviation that stands for "You only live once").

http://www.kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=703:kise-announcement-for-the-desecration-of-the-holocaust-monument-in-arta-&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23

- **Kavala, March 30,** vandalism: a large part of the marble façade of the Holocaust Monument was broken down by vandals. The Monument was restored after a few days following prompt actions of the Municipality of Kavala. Following investigation, in July, the local police arrested four suspects. The case against them was forwarded to the prosecutor.

http://www.kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=704:holocaust-monument-in-kavala-vandalized&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23

<http://www.kavalapost.gr/181661/vandalismos-evraikou-mnimiou-kavalas-episimi-anakinosi-tis-astynomias-gia-tin-exichniasi-tis-ypothesis/>

<https://enantiastonantisimitismo.wordpress.com/2017/07/13/four-men-arrested-for-vandalizing-holocaust-memorial-in-kavala/>

- **Kos, March and June:** The external wall of the Jewish cemetery of the island of Kos was twice desecrated with a graffiti reading PKK YA IDAM. The slogan is political (and not anti-Semitic) related to the PKK Kurdish movement. The graffiti was twice erased and reappeared on the same spot.
Alleged monk attacks and vandalizes Holocaust Monuments in Larissa and Thessaloniki

- LARISSA – THESSALONIKI:

Alleged monk attacks and vandalizes Holocaust Monuments in Larissa and Thessaloniki

'Father Kleomenis', an individual dressed as a monk -a cult figure, popular for his bigot ideas and You tube posts- attacked and vandalized the Holocaust Monument in Larissa (on July 17, 2017), situated in the central Jewish Martyrs Square of the city. In his [video posted on You Tube](#), the alleged monk curses the Jews, denies the Holocaust and calls on the local patriots of Larissa to intervene and demolish the Monument. "Father" Kleomenis spits, kicks and throws eggs at the Monument. Some of his characteristic quotes: ***"Here, we read 6 million! Fairy tails... Shit on their faces, merely 600.000 Hitler wiped out!"***. Kleomenis spits the Monument and says: ***"Satanic Jews"***. He kicks the Monument and says: ***"Curse on your dirty Monuments"*** and continues: ***"Worms, Jewish bitches, this has to fall. The stinking Jewishness has to be taken down from Larissa. Rise up! Patriotic organizations of Larissa take it down, bring the bulldozer on!"***. Local police was notified and legal procedure was enacted. Investigation is ongoing. The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS) and the Jewish Community of Larissa issued press releases. The [Holy Synod](#) of the Greek Orthodox Church issued an announcement disassociating itself from the "monk" and condemning his actions.

The [Municipality of Larissa](#) issued an Announcement condemning the attack. The General Secretary of Religious Affairs George Kalantzis, as well as the General Secretary for Transparency and Human Rights Maria Giannakaki reacted swiftly by providing the Public Prosecutor of Larissa, the Racist Crimes Department of the Police, and the Cyber Crime Police Department with the relevant evidence. The President of the Jewish Community of Larissa pressed charges against the perpetrator. The Greek Helsinki Monitor also pressed charges against the "so called 'father Kleomenis' for a series of racist crimes". KIS issued an announcement (see link below):

https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=726:holocaust-monument-in-larissa-vandalized-by-clergyman-&catid=12:2009&Itemid=41

<http://www.ekathimerini.com/220176/article/ekathimerini/news/church-denies-any-ties-with-vandal-posing-as-monk>

Regardless of the legal procedure that was enacted for the arrest and prosecution of the alleged priest, "father Kleomenis" up to this date escapes

arrest. In the aftermath of the Larissa attack, Kleomenis uploaded a video (on July 21) of him in front of the Holocaust **Monument in Thessaloniki**, entitled “I am free and I offer pain to you Jewish dogs”. On July 23, Kleomenis uploaded another video bragging about his “accomplishments” at the Monuments of Larissa and Thessaloniki and threatened that he will do the same at the Monument of Athens. The videos (though deleted from You tube) were downloaded by KIS and presented to the prosecutor.

POLITICS

GOLDEN DAWN

- MP GEORGIADIS’ APOLOGY TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

The vice president of the main Opposition “New Democracy” party, MP Adonis Georgiadis posted on his facebook account on Jan. 27, 2017, (on the occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day), an Apology statement in which he unequivocally renounced his anti-Semitic behavior and statements adopted in the past, and apologized to the Greek Jewish Community.

KIS posted Georgiadis’ statement on its website.

For this stance, Georgiadis was strongly criticized by Kostas Plevris, (in his TV show on Kontra Channel on Jan. 27, as well as by Golden Dawn weekly (issue of Feb. 1,) and by George Karatzaferis (frm. President of LAOS, a far right party with which Georgiadis made his political debut), president of the “Ethniki Enotita” party. Karatzaferis, in his TV show “Hello Greece” on ART channel on Jan.27, accused A.Geordiadis of ‘betrayal of beliefs’.

- Golden Dawn and its traditional links to Nazism (video):

An article in the daily “Efimerida ton Syntakton” (Feb. 13, 2017), entitled “**The true homeland of Golden Dawn**”, refers to the connection of GD -the party’s leader Michaloliakos and many of its leading members (Kassidiaris, Germenis, Mathaiopoulos, Panagiotaros)- with Nazism. The daily released a relevant **video** from a gathering and a concert of the party, organized in Athens in 2005, in which anti-Semitic slogans such as Juden Raus, hate songs with anti-Semitic and racist lyrics, Nazi salutes and the German anthem were of the order. German hate rock singers Annett Moeck και Michael Müller participated in the concert.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovD27q7_sY4

<https://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/i-alithini-patrida-tis-hrysis-aygis>

<https://enantiastonantisimitismo.wordpress.com/2017/02/15/footage-shows-greek-nazis-chanting-sieg-heil-juden-raus/>

AN.EL. party (Independent Greeks):

Apology of AN.EL. MP Dimitris Kammenos: AN.EL. MP Dimitris Kammenos posted an apology on his facebook account (July 5, 2017) for the anti-Semitic and racist comments he had posted in the past on social media. Those anti-Semitic references had costed Kammenos a ministerial position in 2015. After his recent apology, he was elected as one of the Vice Presidents of the Greek Parliament.

<http://www.iefimerida.gr/news/348833/o-d-kammenos-apologeitai-xana-gia-ta-antisimitika-kai-yvristika-toy-sholia-eikones>

Anti-Semitic post on fb by frm SYRIZA MP Rahil Makri.

Former SYRIZA MP Rahil Makri on her facebook account commented on a photo picturing MP Terence Quick (ANEL) while lighting Hanukkah candles: *“if one does not bow to the new order, one cannot become a minister. Tell me, Tery, have you invited them to light a candle to Jesus Christ over Christmas ? No?”*. This quote perpetuates the stereotype that “Jews rule the world and politicians bow to them”.

MAINSTREAM PRESS

* **Delegitimization of Israel – Antisemitic cartoon:** In an article published on the news site enikos.gr (May 10, 2017), entitled “In bloody ink”, journalist and cartoonist Stathis (Stavropoulos) denounces attempts to incriminate criticism against Israel that present it as anti-Semitism in order to annul such political criticism. The article is accompanied by a cartoon which pictures free opinion killed by Israel. The article and cartoon were Stathis’ response to the publication of a survey on Anti-Semitism in Greece which shows high rates of anti-Semitic feelings in Greece. The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece issued an announcement (May 11, 2017, following here under) on New Anti-Semitism.

** Stathis replied to KIS’s announcement with a comment published on his column on enikos.gr, on May 25, 2017, stating that he will continue criticizing the “genocidal policy of Israel against the Palestinians” and that those who interpret such criticism as anti-Semitism are “agents” of Israel.

KIS Announcement: Certain anti-Semitic articles and cartoons in the press and on the internet contribute to the building up of a stereotype based on drawing parallels among “Jews”, “Zionists” and “Nazis”, equalizing the first with the latter, within a context of a frenetic trend to demonize the State of Israel and its people, present them as “Nazis” and as the incarnation of absolute evil. This is the fundamental principle of the so-called “New Anti-Semitism”.

Journalists, cartoonists and media use deliberately the term “agents” of Israel, to avoid being accused of anti-Semitism, giving as a pretext that they do not aim against the Jews but against the Zionists. In this spirit, the Extreme Right coined the term “Jewish Zionist”. This new form of Anti-Semitism is in use both by the Extreme Right, as well as by many groups of the Left who wish to delegitimize the very right of existence of the State of Israel.

We were very disappointed when we read the [new anti-Semitic libel of the Greek columnist Stathis](#), which he accompanied with an outrageous cartoon. He defies Greek and international surveys which underline the rise of anti-Semitic stereotypes among the Greeks; he demonizes the State of Israel (the only democratic state in the wider sensitive area of the Middle East, and a precious ally of our country in very difficult circumstances); and he accuses and incriminates, with disgraceful, pejorative and insulting characterizations all those who disagree with his opinion and fight boldly against racism, xenophobia, and anti-Semitic stereotypes.

And it is obvious for us that even the sharpest criticism against the policy of the Israeli Government has nothing to do with Anti-Semitism. **However, when - according to a recent research, 65% of the Greeks agree with the opinion that “Israel treats the Palestinian exactly as the Nazis treated the Jews”, then all – politicians and journalists alike- need to take responsibility for reproducing the industrialized propaganda of delegitimization of the State of Israel.**

“Traditional Anti-Semitism” defies and demonizes the personal right of every Jew to live as an equal member of the society. “New anti-Semitism” defies and demonizes the collective right of the Jews to live as an equal nation in the land of Israel, among the society of Nations.

Stathis’ writing and the accompanying cartoon qualify him as a genuine representative of both traditional and new anti-Semitism. It is a pity!

http://www.kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=714:kis-condemns-new-anti-semitism&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23

KIS CONDEMNS “NEW ANTI-SEMITISM”

RELEVANT:

- [Presentation of the survey in Thessaloniki \(May 3, 2017\)](#)

- [About the survey "Antisemitism in Greece Today"](#)

<http://www.enikos.gr/stathis/517285/i-kardia-tou-skotous>

TV

Antisemitic Stereotypes related to the economic crisis on TV

* Renowned journalist Dimos Verikios speaking on nation wide ALPHA TV channel (at the transmission “Happy Day” of January 12, 2017), referred to the Jewish lobby as one the “factors that dominate the planet through the banking system”. Inter alia he stated: “The Jewish lobby is powerful, very powerful in America -and not only there. Everywhere, behind all big deals you will find a Jew or a free mason!”.

Our Board [in a statement](#) condemned Verykios’ antisemitic comments and demanded apology from the Greek reporter: “We expect that he will realize his big mistake and apologize to the audience for the promotion of these unsubstantiated and false accusations, which do not inform at all the public but instead lead to misinformation and encourage anti-Semitism in Greece.” Our Board also addressed a letter of protest to the president of Alpha TV.

Commenting on twitter, on Jan. 14, 2017, Dimos Verykios [denied on Twitter](#) any “antisemitic intention” and claimed that he just said the “truth: The world money is owned by the banks-Jews-Masons”.

<https://youtu.be/zlR7VkJ0otA?t=20m7s>

<https://enantiastonantisemitismo.wordpress.com/2017/01/16/antisemitic-comments-during-popular-morning-show/>

<https://mobile.twitter.com/alexantros/status/819953760088760321>

ATTITUDES:

*** Hitler's carnival costume banned:**

The Greek Ministry of Finance **banned the commercial promotion of the carnival costume of Hitler for kids** (along with a group of other representations, costumes and kid's items with sexual references which – according to the Committee for the Protection of the Children- are harmful for the children's physiological health. Feb. 2017). Referring to the ban of Hitler's costume, the reasoning of the decision stresses that the costume encourages and directly refers to hate crimes behaviors and gestures, such as the "Nazi salute".

In October 2016, following suggestion by the police, Hitler's costume was removed from the window display of a shop in Thessaloniki. [October 28 is a national holiday marking Greece's victory over Fascism, during the Greek-Italian War in 1940 – 1941].

In February 2017, as a result of strong criticism in blogs and social media, the photo of the same costume was removed from an e-shopping website of a company selling carnival costumes on-line.

*** Anti-Israeli comment on fb by "Action-Aid Hellas":**

An anti-Israeli comment (dated March 22, 2017), was posted on the FB page of the **NGO "Action-Aid Hellas**. It reads the following:

"They do spray them for real in Gaza. Occupation for half a century, Embargo for ten years, bombings. Now also chemicals falling down from the sky destroying the most basic goods: water and food.

Learn about another Israeli violation in our new blogspot :

<http://www.actionaid.gr/.../sti-gaza,-tous-psekazoun-sta-ali.../>

<https://www.facebook.com/actionaidhellas/posts/10155081864879754>

*** Burning of the effigy of Judas during Easter.**

This old-aged custom was much contested by the Greek Jewish Community as alimenting religious hatred. In the course of years, many Greek Orthodox Bishops encouraged the abolishment of this anti-Semitic custom. Nevertheless, it is still observed in some Greek villages.

* The popular folkloristic custom of the burning of the effigy of Judas during Easter was revived in **Neos Marmaras (in Chalkidiki)**. The effigy (amid fireworks and on board of a pick up truck) was driven around the village and it was mocked at, as part of the ceremony that ended with its burning after the Easter mass.

<http://halkidikinews.gr/%CF%80%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%B9%CF%84%CE%B9%CF%83%CE%BC%CF%8C%CF%82/970-%CF%84%CE%BF-%CF%87%CE%BB%CE%B5%CF%8D%CE%B1%CF%83%CE%BC%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85->

[%CE%BF%CE%B2%CF%81%CE%B9%CE%BF%CF%8D-%CF%83%CF%84%CE%BF-%CE%BD-%CE%BC%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%BC%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%AC-%CF%86%CF%89%CF%84%CE%BF](#)

* **The custom publicized on national TV:** State TV, ERT 1, in a transmission about the customs of Easter (broadcasted on April 16, 2017), referred to the burning of the effigy of Judas in the village of **Tyros (of Kynouria in the Peloponese)**, where the effigy was burnt in the sea.

<https://enantiastonantisimitismo.wordpress.com/2017/04/24/ert-kapsimo-tou-iouda/>

- **Holocaust trivialization by Greek artist Jimmy Panoussis:**

Singer Jimmy Panoussis, in an interview published in “To Vima” on June 25, 2017, (on the occasion of his participation in the theatrical comedy of Aristophanes “Peace”), referred to the “*Greeks as the new Jews of our times*”. Panoussis said: “As the Nazis chose Jews to be their victims, now the neo-nazis and Schäuble’s people have picked us, the Greeks”. This comparison of the current Greek economic crisis to the Holocaust was criticized Greek Jewish leaders. In an article by Victor Eliezer (EJP, July 4, 2017), the President of the Athens Jewish Community Minos Moissis stressed that Panoussis’ statement “affects me both as a Jew and as a Greek. As a Jew, because once again the mass murder of the Holocaust is wiped out when it is compared to unrelated modern themes. As a Greek because he isolates me as a supposedly victim and target of a Europe in which I want to live”.

<http://www.ejpress.org/article/Anti-Semitic-Greek-comedian-has-central-role-in-play-to-be-staged-in-ancient-theater-of-Epidaurus/23356>

<http://www.tovima.gr/culture/article/?aid=887616>

Holocaust Denial:

In the bimonthly magazine “Our own wings” (edited by the Association of Airline Companies Pensioners) issue no. 169 of Sept.-Oct. 2017, an Olympic airways technician, published an article entitled “Auschwitz Why?”. In his article, the author Giorgos Anastasiou, attributes the “barbarities and the crimes against humanity committed in Auschwitz to a well orchestrated plan of the Jewish masons”. Our Board addressed a letter of protest to the magazine, stressing that distortion of Holocaust history is not justified by the freedom of speech right. The association apologized in a letter addressed to our Board. KIS’s protest letter and the association’s response were published in the magazine no. 170, Nov.-Dec. 2017.

<http://www.sae.org.gr/magazine/169/mobile/index.html#p=1>

http://www.sae.org.gr/images/pdf/FTERA_169.pdf

<http://www.sae.org.gr/magazine/170/#p=20>

* **Antisemitic lyrics in Greek song:**

Popular Greek singer Anna Vissy performed (at a club) her new song entitled “Money”, which contains the following anti-Semitic verse: “Money turn the ugly

into beautiful and the German into Jewish". The lyrics are written by composer Nikos Karvelas. The song was uploaded on You tube (Nov.13, 2017).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZa7StPzql4>

*** Anti-Semitic articles related to financial crisis with allegations and slanderous attacks against Greek Jewish leader:**

Several anti-Semitic news sites, as well as the printed edition of Eleftheri Ora, (Aug. 31, 2017), reproduced an article entitled "They are selling off our homes to Jews & illegal immigrants". The article makes anti-Semitic allegations against the President of the Athens Jewish Community Minos Moissis by identifying his Jewish religion to his profession (as the president at the time of a company appointed to work out resolution plans for Greek bankrupted banks). The article implies that the "Jews" (in this case impersonated in M. Moissis) are responsible for the "looting of property of the Greek people".

In the same spirit, the on-line edition of MAKELEIO newspaper (Dec. 10,2017) published an article entitled "*Cruel Jew at the head of a company of "crows" that has been assigned to liquidate the "red loans" (past due debt) of poor Greeks. President of the Jewish Community, he pretends friendly and takes (our money) from the back door*".

Our Board issued the following announcement:

https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=742:kis-announcement-for-the-retchoric-attack-against-the-president-of-the-jewish-community-of-athens&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23

KIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE RETHORIC ATTACK AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ATHENS

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece condemns unequivocally the malicious and vulgar insults, containing fierce racist and anti-Semitic references, launched against the President of the Athens Jewish Community Mr. Minos Moissis by the web edition of the newspaper MAKELEIO.

The headline of the article reads: "*Cruel Jew at the head of a company of "crows" that has been assigned to liquidate the "red loans" (past due debt) of poor Greeks. President of the Jewish Community, he pretends friendly and takes (our money) from the back door*".

The article targets and treats with contempt Mr. Moissis -a renowned and experienced professional and a top executive manager in the banking and insurance industry for 30 years- because only of his Jewish identity and his position as the President of the Jewish Community of Athens. Apart from the insulting references, the racist and malicious intent against Mr. Moissis, is indicated by the fact that he is referred to as the "cruel Jew" who has allegedly undertaken the task of "clearing out the loans of the poor Greeks". Thus, in an unacceptable manner, the hideous and racist stereotype of the evil hard Jewish is reproduced.

Mr. Moissis will pursue the case to the Greek Justice for restoring his honor and reputation. Nevertheless, in a period that we witness an outburst of anti-Semitic violence in Europe, this unjust, unprovoked and totally unfounded

attack against a leading figure of the Greek Jewry, not only endangers his own safety but the right to live safely of all Greek Jews alike.

We are certain that the competent Greek Authorities will take all necessary measures against those who endorse hate speech as the means of promotion of their anti-Semitic campaign.

<https://enantiastonantisimitismo.wordpress.com/2017/08/31/another-antisemitic-headline-by-elftheri-ora/>

<http://www.makeleio.gr/%CE%B5%CE%BE%CF%89%CF%86%CF%85%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%BF/%CF%83%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%B7%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%83-%CE%B5%CE%B2%CF%81%CE%B1%CE%B9%CE%BF%CF%83-%CE%B5%CF%80%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%B5%CF%86%CE%B1%CE%BB%CE%B7%CF%83-%CE%B5%CF%84%CE%B1%CE%B9%CF%81%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%B1/>

INTERNET

*** On line Anti-Semitic comments by anonymous user**

Our Board protested to the web magazine “Koutipandoras” for the harsh and insulting anti-Semitic comments posted online under an article (with no Jewish subject or content) by a reader under the user name “dirty Jew”. Reader “dirty Jew” uses Hitler’s emoticon as his profile picture. The web page allowed the comments to be published, though at the end of each article there is an announcement warning readers that comments containing slur, and inappropriate language would be deleted.

The administrator of the web magazine, Kostas Vaxevanis, a known journalist, replied to our Board specifying that the site daily deletes hundreds of slanderous comments (not only anti-Semitic) but they keep coming back under different names and accounts.

<http://www.koutipandoras.gr/article/reuters-rwsoi-praktores-psareyansto-facebook-synergates-toy-makron-gia-na-ephreasoyntis-gallikes-ekloges>

On-line promotion sales of anti-Semitic books (Plevris’ book and the Protocols):

-Greek Helsinki Monitor protested the promotion of on line sales of Plevris’ books (some of which are fiercely anti-Semitic) by the renowned “Politeia” bookshop in Athens. KIS issued an announcement to criticize the promotion of such sales. In reaction, Eleftheri Ora, on its issue of November 1, 2017 accused KIS of imposing “Zionist censorship to bookshops”.

-In a relevant case, “Public” stores (one of the largest electronics and tech department stores in Greece), sells the “Protocols of the Elders of Zion” through its on-line book store.

<https://greekhelsinki.wordpress.com/2017/10/03/1-81/>

https://kis.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1794:2017-10-20-05-41-42&catid=54:2009-05-27-11-10-17&Itemid=30

<http://www.public.gr/product/books/greek-books/literature/essays/ta-protokolla-ton-sofon-tis-sion/prod247627/>

*** The Protocols in educational material of a private Greek school.**

Private educational institution “Elliniki Paideia” (Greek Education) through the school’s online platform offers educational material on the theme of “Masonry” that relates masonry, Zionism and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. The material aims at supporting the lesson of Religions at the 1st graded of the Lyceum curriculum.

<http://www.elp.gr/%CE%B5%CE%BA%CE%B4%CF%81%CF%8C%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%82-marousidmenu/item/412-%CF%84%CE%B1-%CF%80%CF%81%CF%89%CF%84%CF%8C%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%B1-%CF%84%CF%89%CE%BD-%CF%83%CE%BF%CF%86%CF%8E%CE%BD-%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%82-%CF%83%CE%B9%CF%8E%CE%BD-%CE%BC%CE%B1%CF%83%CE%BF%CE%BD%CE%AF%CE%B1-%CE%B2%CE%84.html>

*** Greek edition of Protocols offered on line through church’s website:**

The site of the church of St Panteleimon in Thebes offers a Greek edition of the “Protocols of the Elders of Zion” (published in 1932) in pdf form for free downloading.

<https://enoriakapareliou.wordpress.com/2012/07/31/%CF%84%CE%B1-%CF%80%CF%81%CF%89%CF%84%CE%BF%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%B%CE%BB%CE%B1-%CF%84%CF%89%CE%BD-%CF%83%CE%BF%CF%86%CF%89%CE%BD-%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%83-%CF%83%CE%B9%CF%89%CE%BD/>

*** “Jews do not pay taxes”:**

The reproduction of slanderous articles on the internet claiming that Jews do not pay taxes keeps evolving also in 2017, throughout extremist and anti-Semitic blogs and websites.

[http://www.maiandrosnews.gr/post/4448-aforologitoy-oi-ebraioi-\(apo-to-%E2%80%9978\)-stin-yperforologimeni-ellada](http://www.maiandrosnews.gr/post/4448-aforologitoy-oi-ebraioi-(apo-to-%E2%80%9978)-stin-yperforologimeni-ellada)

<http://www.epsilonellas.gr/2016/11/78.html>

*** ANTISEMITIC JOKES**

The website ASTEIAKIA (JOKES) <https://asteiakia.gr/> , amongst the various categories of jokes it publishes, it includes hideous and vulgar jokes about the Jews.

<https://asteiakia.gr/search.php?s=%CE%95%CE%92%CE%A1%CE%91%CE%99%CE%9F%CE%99>

Here are some characteristic examples: **“What 10 Jews on TV are? A soap opera” “How do 30 Jews enter in a Fiat? In the ashtray” “What do Jews**

search for in ashtrays? Missing persons?” “Jews and negroes play basketball in an oven. Who will win? The Jews, because they play on home ground”.

These so called “jokes” blatantly trivialize Holocaust, diminish history and offend the Jewish people. In other similar jokes published in this website Jews are identified as pigs while in other cases Jews are described through stereotypical views with regard to their noses / greed / avarice etc.

In reaction, our Board addressed a letter to the cyber crime unit (which operates within the Greek police), asking for “all necessary legal action so that those anti-Semitic jokes get deleted from this website”.

CHURCH

Metropolitan Bishop of Piraeus Seraphim

TV interview:

Metropolitan Bishop Seraphim, in a TV Show of Epsilon Channel (Feb. 3, 2017) fiercely attacked homosexuality with accusations such as “They are criminals with psychological problems” etc. When confronted by the journalist conducting the show, who pointed out that “times change”, Seraphim stated that ***“times do change when the Zionist masters of humanity pay to build weak societies”.***

Dividing and incendiary announcement against Christian – Jewish Relations:

A dividing, discriminating, intolerant and bigot message is promoted through an announcement issued by the Office of Heresies of the Metropolitan Diocese of Piraeus (Feb. 14, 2017) to criticize academic interfaith dialogue and Christian – Jewish relations. The announcement, entitled “The criterion of our relations with Judaism. Which should it be?”, was issued as a response to a series of initiatives in Greece to promote dialogue and interreligious cooperation in combating anti-Semitism. The announcement openly criticizes KIS’s decision to award Metropolitan of Demetrias Ignatios for his antiracist initiatives, the speech of the Rabbi of Larissa Sabetai on the biblical and talmoudic verses on tolerance and the special issue of Chronika (KIS magazine) dedicated to the dialogue. The announcement concludes that whosoever encourages interreligious cooperation endangers Christianity given that the Christian religion erects a “dividing wall built on the criterion of faith to Christ, a criterion that is fundamental and determines if a human being will be saved or lost”.

<http://www.impantokratoros.gr/AE131857.el.aspx>

**** Metropolitan Seraphim attacks Israel and Zionism**

The Metropolitan Bishop of Piraeus Seraphim, repeated his fierce anti-Semitic rhetoric in his announcement of April 28, uploaded on the official website of the Archdiocese of Piraeus. This reaction was triggered after the Holy Synod overturned its initial decision to appoint Seraphim as the Greek Orthodox Church’s representative to the ceremony lighting the Holy Light of Easter (taking place every year at the [Church of the Holy Sepulcher](#) in [Jerusalem](#)

during the [Great Saturday](#)). In Seraphim's place, another Metropolitan, Athinagoras of Ilion, represented the Church in the ceremony.

As a response, in his long anti-Semitic libel announcement, Metropolitan Seraphim claimed that he was replaced because Israel declared him as persona non grata and accused Israel of interfering with the Church's issues. He also specified that his views are not anti-Semitic but anti-Zionist and that Orthodox Christians stand against Zionism and especially against the wing of Zionism that seeks world domination. Seraphim also quoted the Old Testament and the New Testament, which he interprets through his anti-Semitic and Jew-Hating views, and accused all the other Christian doctrines of being in favor of Jews. He also quoted the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and referred to masonry (and other international organizations) as the arms used by Zionism to secure infiltration and state manipulation.

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece issued the following announcement (May 2), protesting against this new attack, asking the Archbishop of Greece to isolate anti-Semitic voices in the Church, while NGO Greek Helsinki Monitor filed a lawsuit against Seraphim for anti-Semitism (April 29, 2017).

KIS ANNOUNCEMENT: "Once again we are not surprised with the new delirium of the Orthodox Metropolitan of Piraeus, Seraphim, published in the official webpage of the Archdiocese of Piraeus. Despite his earnest efforts to dismantle the accusations of anti-Semitism, in his lengthy writings he calls anti-Semitism as anti-Zionism, using well known anti-Semitic stereotypes, conspiracy theories and traditional Jew-Hating attitudes, in order to be characterized not as anti-Semite but as anti-Zionist.

We believe that his statements are not compatible with the status of an official of the Greek Orthodox Church, a Church that evokes love and solidarity, neither with the status of a state official who is obliged to remain loyal to the Constitution and the laws of the Greek State.

We are certain that His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos will agree that the hate campaign against the Jewish people is incompatible with the principles and the history of the Greek Orthodox Church.

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece kindly asks His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos and the Hierarchs of the Church of Greece to isolate the extreme racist and anti-Semitic views circulating within the Church, which empoison Greek society and undermine the harmonious coexistence of all Greek citizens, regardless of gender, skin color or religion".

http://www.kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=710:kis-announcement-for-the-statement-of-the-metropolitan-of-piraeus&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23

Old-calendarist monks use anti-Semitic slogans to protest court verdict: "Jewish Masonry fights against Greece and Orthodoxy". This was the slogan on a banner carried by monks of the Esfigmenou monastery of Mount Athos, protesting a court verdict that convicted a fellow monk (on a charge totally unrelated to racist / hate crime). The march was organized in Thessaloniki on February 2, 2017.

<https://enantiastonantisemitismo.wordpress.com/2017/02/23/supporters-of-monks-display-antisemitic-banner/>

<http://www.keptalkinggreece.com/2013/07/29/mount-athos-monks-with-molotov-cocktails-against-riot-police/>

* **Metropolitan Bishop of Thessaloniki Anthimos**

On March 26, 2017, the Metropolitan Bishop of Thessaloniki Anthimos met with the leader of Golden Dawn Nikos Michaloliakos, and his wife MP Eleni Zaroulia, in his office in Thessaloniki. KIS issued an announcement stressing the Greek Jewry's resentment as that meeting was a "legitimization of the exponents of hatred and intolerance in Greece" and a disrespect to the memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

In response, Golden Dawn issued an announcement (March 29) pointing out that KIS should not criticize the meetings of the Greek Orthodox Church or of the leader of the Golden Dawn. "In case KIS wants to condemn hatred and intolerance, it should issue an announcement condemning the racist policy of the Israeli State towards the Palestinians", the announcement states.

<http://www.xryshaygh.com/enimerosi/view/enochlhthhkan-akoma-kai-oi-siwnistes-apo-thn-sunanthsh-tou-archgou-ths-chr>

http://www.kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=702:kise-announcement-for-the-meeting-of-the-thessaloniki-metropolitan-anthimos-with-the-leader-of-the-golden-dawn&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23

Priestly exorcism:

A priest performs exorcism to evict demons out of an antenna of mobile telephony which considers to be a work of Jewish Zionists. The relevant video made the news (May 4, 2017) after it was posted on facebook.

The video begins with the priest saying: "We are on a mountain. Here the Jewish Zionists have placed antennas. The antennas are the horns of the devil ... out demons !..."

<http://www.gazzetta.gr/plus/article/1079739/epos-papas-exorkizei-keraiia-tilefonias-os-organo-ton-evraion-sioniston-vid>

<https://www.facebook.com/107135506518183/videos/115532769011790/>

Anti-Semitic slogans in priests' protest:

A group of fundamentalists, priests and Greek Orthodox extremists, used anti-Semitic slogans during a protest on May 21, 2017, in front of the Greek Parliament in Athens. The protest aimed at reacting to the electronic ID and the establishment of a mosque in Athens. Among the slogans, protesters shouted: "**resist against the plans of the Jewish Zionists**" and "**Jewish Zionists want to turn you into slaves**".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKW3pTtsNPo>

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ANTISEMITIC PRESS

* **Eleftheri Ora**, an indicative collection of characteristic titles:

- Jan. 13, 2017: frontpage title: "The Turks will take two of our island with a ... Jewish Prime Minister in Greece"

-Feb. 8, frontpage: [on PM Tsipras visit to Paris] "He put a black tie on and signed our death with the Rothschilds".

-Feb. 21, frontpage: "[Greek] Ministers and MPs are the minions of Sorros, Rothschild and Rockefeller"

-March 16, frontpage: "In Greece the 'anti-Christ' David Rothschild"

-May 18, frontpage: "Rothschild to Tsipras: debt cut down in exchange to half of the Aegean sea!"

-June 20, frontpage: "Tsipras sells Greece out to the Jews and the Turks"

Aug. 8, frontpage: Rothschild takes hold of Greece's yidrites mineral"

-Dec. 13, 2017, frontpage: "Quoting Erdogan: Chase down and kill the Jews before the Judgement day".

-Dec. 13, 2017 (on line edition): Following US recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, Eleftheri Ora, wrote that "the Jews are now preparing the next impressive step: the demolition of the Omar Mosque on Temple Mount, in order to reconstruct the Temple of Solomon".

* **Makeleio**, Jan. 13, 2017: The paper criticized the presence of the Greek Education Ministry at the Athens Synagogue at the Hanoukah service (December 2016). The title of the article: "The Greek Minister attended the hate festival of the psychopath Jews against Hellenism".

Weekly "Golden Dawn":

Characteristic articles:

- Feb. 1st, 201: Under the title "*New Zionist interference against Golden Dawn: The President of the WJC urges to join forces against the movement of the Greek nationalists*", GD weekly criticized WJC President R.S. Lauder's interview in 'Kathimerini', on the occasion of Lauder's visit to Athens and his speech on Holocaust Remembrance Day Jan. 27. The article also stresses: "One Lauder does not intimidate us... Even if the whole Zionist council moves to Athens we, in observance of the nationalistic demands, will always keep on rising and people will continue to join our ranks"

<http://www.ekathimerini.com/215700/article/ekathimerini/news/world-jewish-congress-chief-hails-greek-israeli-relations>

<http://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/at-holocaust-memorial-in-greece-wjc-president-ronald-s-lauder-says-indifference-has-not-gone-away-1-1-2017>

- In the same paper of Feb.1, GD criticizes the vice president of the New Democracy party, Adonis Georgiadis, on his Apology statement posted on his facebook account on Jan. 27, 2017, (on the occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day), in which he unequivocally rejects his anti-Semitic behavior / statements in the past.

Athens, December 2017

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