



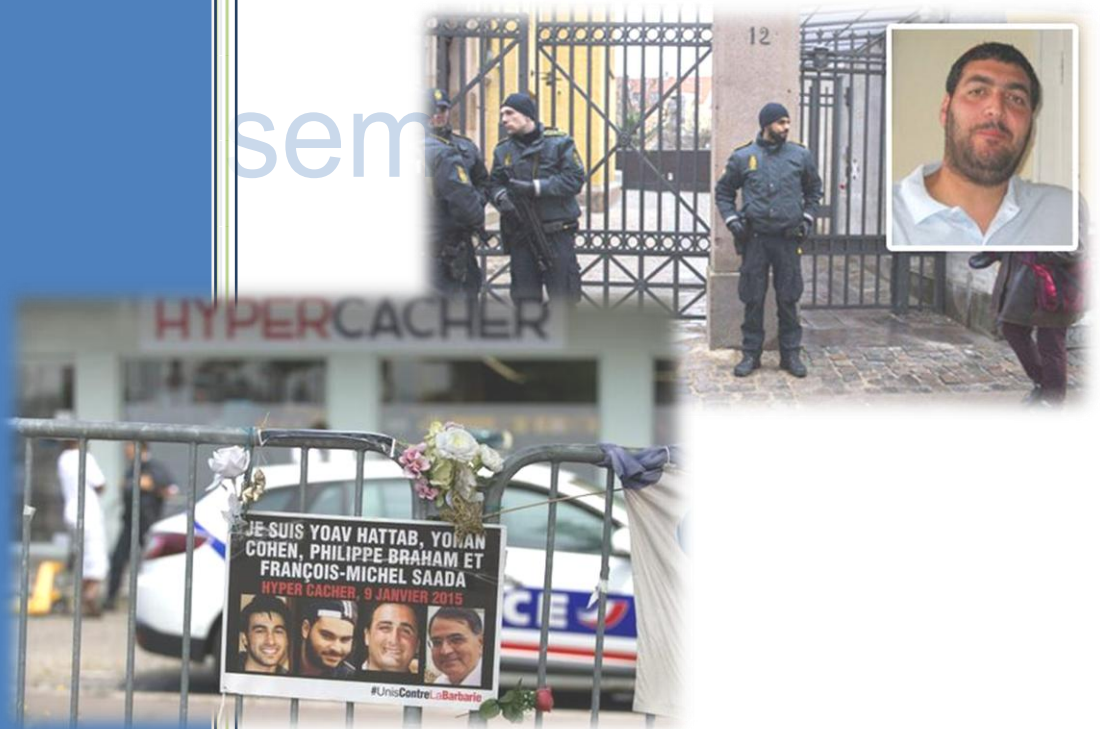
CFCA

The Coordination Forum for
Countering Antisemitism

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2015

Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism - Annual Evaluation 2015
– Present situation and tendencies



Coordination Forum
for Countering
Antisemitism

Website: www.antisemitism.org.il

E-mail: aforum@antisemitism.org.il

The report is based on data collected and published by the Coordination Forum for countering antisemitism. Naturally, the number of events published in the report does not reflect the full number of events that took place, and sometimes the figures are substantially different from the figures published by the different Jewish communities, which has the most comprehensive database. None the less, the data on which this report is based upon, reflect the trends according to our perspective.

Since data availability is largely dependent on the ability and willingness of the victims to report the incidents, it is likely to assume that the number of actual events is much higher than presented in the report. The data presented in this report represent the tip of the iceberg and is an indicator. We are always working to improve the quality of the image that we can get about this topic.

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General

- Although full data for 2015 have not yet been published, it is possible to see that in 2015 the trend of escalation of violent antisemitism activity has continued, with Muslim antisemitism leading the trend.

- The year of 2015 was characterized by escalation in the number of attacks against Jewish targets by Islamic sources, most notably the attacks of Hyper Cacher in Paris (January 2015) and the synagogue in Copenhagen (February 2015.)

- The social networks continue to be the central medium of arousal of hatred against Jews, and content of incitement and antisemitic hate speech are found in it, almost without any limits.

- The delegitimization and demonization campaign of Israel carries clear antisemitic expressions and represents the trend of blurring the lines between criticism of Israel and antisemitism. This campaign is one of the central incitement factors against Jews in general, and therefor constitute a significant threat to the Jewish community in the Diaspora.

- The phenomenon of refugees flooding Europe is not an antisemitic threat by itself. However, this phenomenon contributes indirectly to the increase of the activity of far-right groups, contaminated with xenophobia and antisemitism. Extreme right wing parties are expected to increase their power in the election in all Western countries in response to the refugees crisis. These parties have chosen in recent years to distance themselves from antisemitic perceptions, wether out of real change, or for tactical reasons, however, their racist ideology is a threat to Jewish communities worldwide.

- Our data shows that most antisemitic incidents in Europe are fed by the growing Muslim population in the continent, especially in France, Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany, Spain and the countries of Scandinavia. By this, the radical Islam is becoming a central generator of antisemitism in Europe. Despite the traditional antisemitism of the extreme right being still significantly present in many parts of the world.

- However, along with the growing rise of antisemitic incidents, we are also witnessing the enhancement of the struggle against this phenomenon. Awareness of the need to

combat antisemitism has grown in most Western countries and was reflected also in legislation and law enforcement.

Significant events

-On Friday, January 9th 2015, 32-year-old Amedy Coulibaly, who was born in France to a family of immigrants from Mali, broke at noon into a supermarket of the chain supermarkets 'Hyper Cacher' in the 12th district of Paris, owned by the Amsalem family, armed with two Kalashnikov assault rifles. The terrorist took hostages from among the supermarket customers and employees. After several hours of siege over the supermarket, counter-terrorism unit policemen had broken into the supermarket, shot and killed the terrorist. The attack killed four of the hostages. Yohan Cohen (20), Yoav Hataav (21), Philip Brahm (45) and Francua Michel Saada (64).

- On February 2015, 22-year-old Omar Abed Elhamid Elhusain started firing at the great synagogue of Copenhagen and killed the Danish-Israeli security guard, Dan Uzan, which secured a Bat-Mitzva celebration that took place at the synagogue at the time.

-In December, liquid poison sprayed on the electronic lock of a synagogue in Bonneuil-sur-Marn, France, causing the woundings of 14 worshipers.

- In October, a Rabbi and two additional worshipers were stabbed in the city Marseille.

-In January, an Israeli was beaten in Berlin, after requesting several locals to stop singing antisemitic songs in the subway.

- In September, Moshe First, a Jewish 17-year-old boy was severely injured while being attacked with three more youngsters at a train station in Manchester.

- In September, two ultra-orthodox Jews were injured by an air gun in two separate antisemitic incidents in New York.

-In September, an elderly couple was beaten and robbed in antisemitic attack in Amsterdam.

- In January, Israelis who stayed at a hostel in Argentina were attacked on antisemitic background.

Islamic antisemitism

Over the last two decades, Islamic elements have been prominent as the creators of central antisemitism in Western Europe. Most perpetrators of the majority of extreme cases of violence against the Jews of Europe in recent years have been Muslims, which in some cases noted their interpretation of Islam as a justification to their actions.

The new wave of antisemitism striking Europe now, is fundamentally different from previous waves. The source of the new antisemitism is not just a characteristic Neo-Nazi manifestations; A large part of the European anti-Jewish spirit comes from Europeans of Muslim origin. Islamic antisemitism replaced the leader of antisemitism in Western countries. Most of the reported antisemitic incidents were perpetrated by Muslims, especially in countries with large Muslim communities.

It is possible to characterize three types of antisemitic attitudes among Muslims:

1. The classic approach based on historical antisemitism in the west and various conspiracy theories about Jewish control over the world.
2. An Islamic approach that sees the Jews as the enemies of the 'Religion of Truth', and allies of infidels 'Crusaders'.
3. Political approach – Jews hatred, Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the identification of Israel and Zionism with Judaism.

Study of surveys conducted in different European countries shows that the level of antisemitic attitudes among Muslims is significantly higher than among non-Muslims, although many European Muslims do not share antisemitic beliefs. The level of antisemitism increases with the level of religious and fundamentalist interpretations of Islam.

Please note that there is not enough demographic and socio-economic variables- such as level of education, age, gender, social difficulties,

discrimination or legal restrictions on the practice of Islam - to explain the differences between Muslims and non-Muslims. This refutes the common assumption that antisemitism among Muslims is a response to discrimination or oppression.

Such surveys lead to the conclusion that antisemitism stems not only from Islamic fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic law, and the influence of the Jihadiya Salfia doctrine (Isis and Alkaydah), but also from the Islamic contemporary space and cultural identity.

Radical and Jihad

As noted above, one of the most significant threats to Jews come from radical Islam, and is grabbing hold among Islamic communities around the world.

The combined attack carried out by Islamic terrorist-cell against the satirical newspaper 'Charlie Habdo' and the Jewish supermarket in Paris, that caused the deaths of 17 people in January 2015, and the combined terrorist attack in Paris in November 2015, in which 130 people were killed and hundreds wounded, was the realization of one of the horror scenarios, which prevents sleep from the security services people in Europe for the last years. A series of bomb scares were reported in Germany, France and Britain. The threat of resumption of terrorist activity in Europe increased over the last year, amid concerns of the return of hundreds of European Muslims and Muslim-converts from Syria to their origin continent, while being highly motivated to continue in that territory too their struggle inspired by the call of Jihad. As part of participation in the civil war in Syria, these volunteers underwent training, gained combat experience and sustained a radical indoctrination, which defines the West as an enemy of Islam, that must be damaged. This posed to European security agencies a warning sign against present and immediate danger of terror importation from the Middle East to the cities of the continent.

The radicalization process which runs on the Muslim communities in the West is inspired by Sunni militants organizations such as al-Qaida and Isis. The extreme ideology coming from various Salafians groups, calls for a holy war – Jihad – of infidels wherever they might be, but stresses the Jews as one of the main goals of Jihad. The hostility of radical Islam to Jews is not only due to the effect of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This is a religious hostility, that sees the Jewish people as the enemies of Islam, and as part of a western conspiracy to corrupt the Muslims.

One of the characteristics of the activity of radical Islam in the West, is operating in small groups, in cells and individually, without hierarchy and a clear organizational affiliation. Young Muslims go through a relatively fast radicalization process, while inspired by Islamic radical groups in the Middle East and Central Asia, and are mostly contacted through the internet.

Antisemitism in the Palestinian Authority

Throughout 2015, the Palestinian Authority routinely used antisemitism to indoctrinate the young and old to hate Israelis and Jews. The Palestinian Authority promotes religious hatred by demonizing Judaism and Jewish people, distributing plots showing Jews as a threat to Palestinians, Arabs and all humanity. PA presents the Jews as fundamentally bad traits. Jews are said to be treacherous, corrupt, allied with the devil, as well as descendants of apes and pigs. In 2015, said Mahmoud al-Habash, adviser of Islam to the chairman of Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, and Head of Courts of Islamic law (Sharia) of PA, said on TV that Jews throughout history represented "falsehood, evil, demons and their supporters, Satan and his followers. Accordingly, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is the conflict of Allah's project vs. the project of the devil."

Palestinian daily official published an opinion stating that the Jews are "thirsty for blood to please their Lord (against Gentiles), and crave pockets full of

money." Such Jewish "features" and traditions, which appear as immutable nature of Jews. Messages coming from top management of the Palestinian Authority.

In 2015, the official PA television channels showed children recite texts with blatant antisemitic content. Young children learned by heart that the Jews were "absolute evil in creation", "barbaric monkeys" and "a devil with a tail".

According to the authority, the evil nature and corruption of Jews have caused nations to take defensive measures. The Palestinian Authority claims that the Jews were expelled permanently from Europe in the past because of the threat from the "evil nature" of the Jews. "Characteristics" And "behaviors" of Jews are a danger, not only to all Muslims and Arabs, but for all of humanity. As taught by religion, the official television of the Palestinian Authority: "Mankind will not live comfortably as long as the Jews corruption causes destructive corruption on earth... If the fish in the sea fights with another fish, I'm sure the Jews are behind it".

In the Palestinian Authority, the Russian forgery of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" is an authentic Jewish text, in which Jewish plan to control all of humanity was revealed. Indeed, antisemitism, Jewish oppression and suffering throughout history is presented as a legitimate response of nations seeking to avenge the harm caused to them by the Jews. The establishment of Israel was a European plot, driven by the desire of Europeans to get rid of the Jews and save Europe of the evils of Jews among them.

Extreme right

2015 was the year in which the extreme right marked what he calls the Preventing of Islamization of Europe as a main goal. Conflicts and clashes took place this year between extreme right-wing activists and Muslim refugees.

The rapid growth of Islam in Europe in recent years creates a mirror image in the form of a sharp rise in power of the extreme right on the continent. Almost every European country has a working party which favors the restriction of immigration, spreads fear of Islamization, despises the European Union and seeks to return to nation states with distinct stable demographic characteristics

Throughout Europe nationalist parties can be found, with different ideologies and objectives. The most relevant distinction to the issue of antisemitism is between "old far-right" (nostalgically tending towards Nazi and Fascist), and the "new extreme right (which adherents feel threatened by Islamization of Europe, and sees Jews and Israel as allies in the struggle against Islam).

On the basis of discourse analysis of research by Ruth Wodak, populist parties and movements can be classified into four general categories:

1. "old far-right": these parties are gaining support through the ambivalent position toward fascist and Nazi past (such as in Austria, Hungary, Italy, Romania and France). Some - like Pegida movement and the German NPD party, "Golden Dawn" in Greece, and Jobbik in Hungary – are showing blatant antisemitism openly, and are denying the Holocaust and dealing with anti-Jewish and anti-Israel propaganda. Some, like the NPD, even support militant Islam. In some far-right populist political parties, such as the National Front in France, the National Alliance in Italy, and PVO in Austria, the situation is absolutely clear, because the leaders realized that in order to come to power they must change their discourse. It is very difficult to determine if a change in the narrative is backed by a real transformation of their world view.

2. "new radical right": These organizations focus primarily on the perceived threat from Islam, and are rejecting the historical fascism, by embracing democracy (procedural). Political parties that focus on Islamic Resistance are prominently active mostly in the Netherlands, Britain, Denmark, Sweden, and Switzerland. One expression of their views that between the West and the Islam there is currently a global "clash of civilizations", is the fact that some of them have reduced their level of ethnic nationalism and embraced the United States and Israel. These entities do not see the few local Jews that were integrated into general society, as a threat to their civilization, and Israel is seen as a real ally in their struggle. A new type of this radical right leader, is the Dutch politician, Geert Wilders, who heads the Party for Liberty (Partij voor de vrijheid - PVV), which is now the third largest party in the Dutch Parliament, that in fact guarantees the tenure of the current Dutch government. Wilders, fiercely protective of everything "Western" and "Israeli", comes from the mainstream of Dutch politics, and always made sure to distance himself from the Dutch radical right-wing. Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence Party (UKIP), which is known as an enthusiastic supporter of Israel, also belongs to this category of the new radical right. There is even an action committee to the party, called "Friends of Israel at UKIP". To the question of the British newspaper, The Jewish Chronicle, about his position on issues that concern the Jews today, such as attacks on kosher slaughtering, explained Farage that one of the UKIP politicians recently inspected kosher slaughterhouse in the East End district of London, and stated that in fact, methods of slaughter according to Jewish law are more humane than those used in non-kosher slaughter houses. Examples of marginal politicians that are highly controversial in Britain, are Nick Griffin, the leader of the British National Party (BNP), and Tommy Robinson, leader of the anti-Muslim street protest, EDL (English Defense League), are definitely supporting Israel and Jews today, but the background of their supporters is problematic.

3. Traditionally foreign-hating parties: in European countries like Hungary, Greece, Italy and the UK, we are witnessing the rise of parties which limit their campaigns to the threat of their national identity coming from ethnic minorities. In relation to Jews, their opinions are divided. For example, the Italian Northern League (Liga Nord) has taken a tough stance in relation to illegal immigration, especially from Muslim countries, and to terrorism. Unlike other foreign-hating groups, which despise Jews. The league supports promoting immigration from non-Muslim countries in order to defend "Christian identity" of Italy and Europe, which according to party representatives should be based on "Judeo-Christian tradition".

4. Fundamentalist Christian political parties: in former communist countries such as Poland, Romania and Bulgaria, we are witnessing the rising of political parties that are adopting a conservative-reactionary Christian fundamentalist agenda. Poland illustrates the strange paradox of endemic antisemitism, non-liberal and ethnic nationalism, coinciding with clear pro-Israel stance. Poland is one of the most culturally conservative countries in the EU, and it is becoming more conservative. Young voters are the main support base of Yanush Korwin-Mika, hot-headed royalist and fanatic anti-feminist, whose Party won 7 percent of the votes in the European parliamentary elections in 2014, promising it four seats.

The shift to the right of younger voters led the leftist newspaper Gazeta Wybrocza to label them with the nickname "Curious Generation". Although feeding off Christian antisemitism and often contempt to Judaism, these parties admire the sovereign Jewish state, which is perceived more today, in the words of Slavoj Žižek, as a "front defense line against Islamic expansionism". In these countries, in which there are very small Jewish communities, the potential harm to local Jews is small. With these players it is possible to form alliances based on realpolitik, as characterizing the strong ties between the Jewish people and the great Christian fundamentalist organizations in North America.

Radical left

Compared with the populist extreme right parties (facing the grassroots for support and sympathy among its ranks, using simple and catchy messages), which the threat to national identity in their countries pursuing them and they perceive Judaism as a foreign influence they want to disable, populist parties of the extreme left link the Jews with cosmopolitan elite and world capitalism, against which they are fighting. With respect to Israel, the simplistic Marxist narrative remains popular: Israel is a colonial state that oppresses and uproots the native population, and is one of the strings pullers of the global financial system. Furthermore, based on the socialist traditions of justice and social services, these parties support the absorption of other migrants, who come mainly from countries that have high levels of anti-Jewish hostility. Officially they are careful to distance themselves from "old antisemitism" (hatred of Jews wherever they are, belief of Jewish conspiracy worldwide, belief that the Jews brought about Communism, belief that Jews are an inferior race, and so on), but because of their tight political ties to local Muslims and their predetermined Commission to Palestinians (generally perceived in Europe as the "weaker and poorest" side), they are strong advocates of radical anti-Zionism and adopting elements of Muslim antisemitism rhetoric (Jewish world conspiracy, Jewish domination of Capitalism and US foreign policy, etc.).

All across Europe, parties that court the many Muslim voters, tend to be hostile to Jews. As a result, there is a concern that in the shadow of populist regimes

New antisemitism

A variety of states, movements, unions and organizations are not excepting the right of the Jewish people for self definition in the state of Israel, and deny their right to establish a nation-state. These entities include, among others, Arab countries and third world countries, Islamic movements, European radical left movements and antisemitic groups, and have made the delegitimization of Israel a formative pattern of their operation. This concept refers to the process that leads bodies to cooperate with diplomatic moves and propaganda against Israel. The BDS movement (Boycotts Divestment and Sanctions), who was wearing a mantle of a fighter for human rights, and in the service of international law, was discovered essentially as antisemitic movements, whose actions are targeted in harming the State of Israel alone.

The aim of these groups is to isolate Israel in the international space and ultimately turn it into a pariah state through the demonizing of Israel, promoting a policy of boycott: divestment and economic sanctions (BDS), waging a legal struggle against the state and its citizens.

Demonization

Encouragement of hatred has led to a fairly broad demonization of Israel. Six different studies, most of which were made in Germany and include coverage of eight other European countries, show that over 40% of EU citizens agree with the claim that Israel is behaving like the Nazis.

The interpretation of these findings is that more than 150 million of the 400 million EU citizens, aged 16 and over, are holding views that are classified as antisemitic. The leadership of the European Union and its Member States systematically ignore this issue. However, the first data about this demonization of Israel has already been available for more than ten years ago. The demonization of Israel in Europe is not only due to the hate propaganda being waged against it by the delegitimization organizations and supported, but

also by a policy of "double standards" which was taken by the European Union countries. The European Union and many of its Member States tend to condemn Israel for some time, with discrimination and unbalance. Those rushing to condemn Israel following each of its actions, are ignoring similar activities carried out by other countries. According to the official definition of the US State Department to the term of antisemitism, the adoption of double standards - such as being held by most of the Europe leadership - is an antisemitic act. Boycott, Sanctions and investment diversion (BDS). The BDS movement is only a small part of a much broader phenomenon: the systematic delegitimization of Israel, usually accompanied by antisemitism. Arab and other Muslim countries, such as Iran, are playing a much more important role. In their anti-Israel propaganda, motifs related to genocide are being used, identical to those of the Nazis. In Europe, these factors are being helped by inciters and haters and various propagandists, coming mainly, but not exclusively, from different parts of the Muslim immigrant communities in Europe, and the left side of the political map. You can find these agitators in the political world, trade unions, NGOs, liberal churches, academia etc.

Antisemitism on the Internet

In recent years we have seen a steep rise of antisemitic activity in general and in social media in particular. Social networks have become a "paradise" for promoters of hatred and racism, incitement scope over the Internet has crossed borders, and often it seems that the network has become a large arsenal of hatred, accessible and efficient, spreading uncontrollably.

Terrorist groups adopted these tools in their efforts to reach a growing pool of potential supporters. As a result, the most dangerous form of antisemitism is easily accessible to a worldwide audience.

Many antisemitic groups are taking advantage of social networks to spread their hate speech against Israel. The use of social networks today in publishing hate speech, antisemitism and Holocaust denial, is extensive, and poses many problems. Websites and numerous social networks such as MySpace, Twitter and Facebook, are used as a fertile stage to the publication of hate speech online. Various social networks are facing or not dealing with the situation in different ways, but they all use their own terms of use, rather than the law, to determine whether things are a problem or not.

The recent terrorist attacks against Jewish institutions in Europe, and the sharp increase in terrorism-related arrests in the United States, not only attest the global depth these new technologies are achieving, but also on the nature of spreading antisemitic terrorist propaganda.

In order to eradicate antisemitism and Holocaust denial from social networks, a number of measures needs to be taken, such as searching, monitoring, warning and publication of any type of offensive content uploaded to the network; these contents needs to be reported, and the message of report to be spread, in order for more and more users to report. Each event of such uploaded content should be brought to public awareness, by means of public and private media, online and non-online; The issue needs to be raised, and make more and more people from all sectors to discuss it; commercial entities,

whose advertisements appear on pages with offensive content needs to be contacted, and their publications to be removed from the net.

Review by countries

France – from the data of SPCJ

The year of 2015 began with attacks: three terrorist attacks were carried out in France on 7th, 8th and 9th of January. The January 9th attack was antisemitic. 28 people were taken hostage at the supermarket Hyper-Cocher, after the terrorists thought they were Jews, 4 were murdered.

Over the first nine months of 2015, a slight decrease can be noted in the number of antisemitic incidents and threats. This is a decrease of 1.5% compared to the same period in 2014, despite the sharp increase occurred at the beginning of the year, following the attacks of January.

Interior Minister praised the result and promised not to relax the efforts of the authorities. Since June, the number of recorded incidents of this kind is even "significantly lower than that of last year", revealed Bernard Cazeneuve. In a speech at the end of a national conference of the umbrella organization Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF), in Paris. Last January, the CRIF recorded an increase of 84% in the number of antisemitic incidents between January and May 2015.

In our opinion, the slight decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents recorded in France is an alarming figure, in view of the big rise in antisemitic incidents recorded in France in 2014, following Operation "Tzuk Eitan".

UK - Data from the London police and CST

According to the data we receive from the Security Organization Trustees To The Jewish Community In Britain (CST), antisemitic incidents in Britain are reaching a record level.

The most recent statistics published by the London Police shows that during 2015 there was a 61 percent increase in antisemitic crime.

With regard to these figures, representatives of the London Police said that "there has been a rash of hate crimes perpetrated over faith/religion, but the London Police believes that this rise is due to several factors, including the improving of crimes documentation, a growing willingness on the part of victims to report hate crimes, and greater awareness of the London Police employees to identify these offenses".

CST recorded 473 antisemitic incidents in the first six months of 2015, compared to 309 antisemitic incidents in the first half of 2014. This figure, for the year 2014, represents an increase of 38 percent, relative to the 223 antisemitic incidents recorded in the first six months of 2013.

The increase occurred mainly in January, February and March, and this year those months were worse twice than in 2014. That was when the British Jews were particularly concerned about antisemitism, in light of the terrorist attacks in Paris and Copenhagen, and in the face of global media coverage of antisemitism.

In January, 106 antisemitic incidents were reported to CST, and it was the month with the highest number of a reported antisemitic incidents since CTS began documenting antisemitic incidents.

In the first half of 2015 the following events were also reported:

44 violent antisemitic attacks, two of which were classified as "Extreme Violence", meaning they were attacks that caused serious injury or posed threat to lives.

35 cases of damage and desecration of Jewish property.

353 incidents of cursing and disturbing behavior, including verbal harassment, antisemitic graffiti, antisemitic harassment on social networks and one-off cases of hate mail.

Detailed analysis of the timing, content and origin of each of these documented antisemitic incidents show that while they may partly reflect a real increase in the quantity of events, main explanation for the rise is probably greater willingness of part of people to report incidents of antisemitism, to the CST or the police.

Germany - Data from the Internal Affairs Committee of the Senate

During 2015 there was a decrease in the number of antisemitic offenses. From January to early December the police recorded 134 offenses. Internal Affairs Committee of the Senate published the data. The full figures for December are yet to be released. Over the last two years there were 192 and 194 events of antisemitic background.

Most crimes can be associated with racial incitement, including antisemitic e-mails and statements and inciting publications. An increase in the number of attacks against Jews was also recorded, including bullying, insults and slander, propaganda offenses and property damage. Often swastikas were sprayed on houses or memorials.

Jews suffered from threats and insults in the streets. Central Council of Jews in Germany and the Embassy of Israel received many emails throughout the year with antisemitic content and many users have posted online pictures in which they are giving the Nazi salute, and text with antisemitic content.

Most offenses (117) were committed by Neo-Nazis or people from the extreme right. 14 crimes were committed by strangers - usually people with a Turkish-Arab background. 40% of the events were solved, compared to 2014 where only 33% were solved, and only 24% the year before that.

The gray number of offenses, i.e. events that have not been reported, is very high, since many victims prefer not to make a statement to the police. Most of the increase stems from a new type of crimes against refugees, that emerged in the last year, following a wave of refugees who came to Germany. 3,155 offenses were carried out in 2015 (until October) against refugees, an increase of 40% compared to 2014 as a whole. The number of subjects that were eventually placed behind bars is very low compared to the volume of activity, suggesting, perhaps, the system will of avoiding the ignition of the right fuse as much as possible, a thing that would have happened if the punishment was more severe.

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Australia - ECAJ report data (the Council of Australian Jewry)

The reviewed period was much quieter than its previous twelve months. This was not unexpected, given the fact that the war in Gaza in 2014 played a major role, in that it spurred and led to the rise in the number of antisemitic incidents and discourse. In 2015, the number of antisemitic incidents in total was about the same number as in 2013. However, the public debate in Australia about some events and issues spawned high levels of antisemitic discourse in the mainstream of society and beyond it, which - although not as serious as actual incidents - was a source of concern to the Jewish community.

The Jewish community is the only community in Australia, which its places of worship, schools, ethnic organizations and community centers are required to act, for security reasons, under the protection of high fences, armed guards, metal detectors, CCTV cameras etc. The necessity is due to the high rate of physical attacks against Jews and Jewish community buildings during the past three decades, and because of continued threats.

During 2015, Jews continued to be a destination for harassment, abuse and threats at synagogues and other Jewish institutions, including schools. Since these incidents occurred in the days and times when these institutions were in widespread use - it can not be reasonably considered as an incidental link of these specific institutions to the Jewish community. You can not, therefore, consider the incidents themselves as random or occasional.

As long as antisemitism has been limited to the margins of society all along, namely the extreme right and the extreme left of the political map, as well as narrow-minded religious extremists and fundamentalists within Christianity or Islam - the Jews' situation was controllable. Antisemitism will never disappear or will be eradicated. The best that can be achieved is that society as a whole will see antisemitism, as well as other forms of racism as unacceptable and intolerable, and as such that must be condemned. This environment gives the Jews haters a very small breathing space in order to launch hate propaganda and their hate activities. The danger occurs when antisemitism moves from the margins of society into the mainstream.

U.S.A

This year was also marked in the US by high-level of antisemitism, both in the number of antisemitic incidents and in terms of severity. US antisemitic incidents included harassment, graffiti, desecrations and violence. US documented the highest number of antisemitic violent events in the world (the

world's largest Jewish community) and in it, New York is the city in which the highest number of attacks occurred.

Anti-Israel on campus - Data from ADL

A study made at Brandeis University during the past year since operation "Tzuk Eitan", reveals that 75% of Jewish students reported encountering antisemitic incidents in the last year. Among others, verbal harassment and hostile activity against Israel on campuses were reported. About 25% said they were verbally harassed because of their religion, over 25% reported seeing hostile activity against Israel on campuses.

A report published by the Anti-Defamation League shows that there has been a sharp rise in the BDS and boycotts activity against Israel on college campuses across the US in the past academic year.

According to the document, over the last year more than 150 study programs were operated or planned, that can be defined clearly as anti-Israel, and that is an increase of no less than 30 percent in implementing such programs, compared to the same period last year, when there were about a hundred of such groups.

The data shows that the most active antisemitic group at universities across the United States is "Students for Palestine", which is supported by government agencies, under the guise of advocacy associations.

An example cited in the report is engaging a struggle that recently took place at the University of New York against raising the tuition, with the antisemitic group in question, claimed that the price increases are indirectly due to "the Zionist regime conduction", and generally set that "Israelis are responsible for the financial woes of the world". The document shows that over the last academic year, more than 520 anti-Israel events occurred at universities across America".

Jonathan Greenblatt, General Director of the Anti-Defamation League clarifies that one of the league concerns is that "many student groups designed to defame Israel, not only cause considerable strain and hostility to Jews and Israel, but also receive support from lecturers or members of the academic staff".

However, according to ADL, the phenomenon is still not too wide. "The vast majority of Jewish students feel safe on their campuses, and even if there are exceptions, they get immediate condemnation from the universities administrations", says the report.

the Former Soviet Union

Against the background of the political crisis between Russia and Ukraine in 2015, that dragged military violence in eastern Ukraine, the consistent and comprehensive use of the Jewish issue by all parties involved in this conflict continued, when all parties blame each other with antisemitism and direct harm against Jews. At the same time there is a deliberate disregard from effective treatment of antisemitic incidents.

In Ukraine there was a significant increase of antisemitism used for purposes of political slander. This, aside of going back into the discourse about the part of some of the locals in the extermination of Jews, as part of official attempts to present the struggle of Ukrainians against the Nazis and the Soviets alike as "struggle for independence".

Unlike Western Europe, in the former Soviet Union the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not a factor on the extent of antisemitism. Even the security incidents that took place in Israel during the second half of 2015 did not cause a rise in the level of hatred, except for the increased propaganda from the local pro-Palestinians. It can be expected that antisemitic motifs will continue to be used

in the former Soviet Union, for domestic political purposes. The consistent ongoing use of these motifs, alongside the fostering perception seeing Jews as “spiritual competitors” can serve as an ideological foundation for a renewed outbreak of antisemitic emotions and might be translated to violence.

Struggle

Meanwhile, it is worth noticing that given the high threshold set by antisemitism, we are witnessing, in some countries, an increase in the threshold of combating it.

In most Western countries a policy of zero tolerance for antisemitism is practiced. Most of the cases in which the perpetrators to antisemitism are exposed, are treated harshly.

Examples abound:

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- In January, the French President, Francois Hollande, addressed in his televised speech ahead of the New Year the difficult racism and antisemitism situation in his country over the past year, and shared that he intends to make the struggle against the phenomenon as his “national cause” for 2015.
- Six US states - New York, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Florida and California, have adopted resolutions condemning antisemitism and the anti-Israel BDS movement. 35 other states are considering doing so as well.
- In February, Sylvia Stolz, a lawyer known for her close ties to the extreme right in Germany, was convicted of denying the Holocaust and was sent to 20 months in prison.
- In March, Canada and Israel signed a memorandum of understanding for a joint struggle of boycott, divestment and sanctions movement (BDS).

- In April, the Brussels court forbade the emergence of Dieudonne on the stage of national forest.
- In May, the Mayor of Amsterdam, Eberhard van der Laan, Sent a bus full of of Cambuur fans back home to Leeuwarden, due to antisemitic slogans.
- In June, the Paris Criminal Court sentenced six months probation and a fine of 10,000 euros to Robert Faurisson, a well known figure of the French Holocaust denial.
- In July, the President of Romania signed a law banning Holocaust denial and fascist symbols.
- In August, the French nationalist, Jean-Marie Le Pen, was ousted finally from the "National Front" party, following his remarks on the Holocaust.
- In September, the death penalty was sentenced on Frazier Glenn Cross, the Kansas killer.
- In October, the Catholic Church in Poland has published an open letter to its members, saying that antisemitism is a "sin".
- In November, for the first time, the French comedian Dieudonne was sentenced to imprisonment following antisemitic statements in Belgium
- In December, the Vatican issued a historical document: the end of the mission against Jews.

Conclusion

The wave of antisemitism now blowing Europe, is fundamentally different from previous waves. The source of the new antisemitism is not just in typical Neo-Nazis manifestations; The truth is that much of Europe's anti-Jewish spirit, is originated down in Europeans of Muslim origins.

Antisemitism was not born among the Muslims of Europe, and they are not the only ones promoting it today. Traditional antisemitism of the extreme right in Europe, is alive and well. As well as that of the extreme left, a negative side effect of the support in Palestinians in the conflict with Israel. There is also an

antisemitism of the center, that is a sub category of anti-American and anti-capitalist movements, which many moderate Europeans support.

However, the rise of Muslim antisemitism is responsible for the fresh change in the tone of hatred worldwide. Until recently, antisemitism was largely half hidden and anonymous. Today, antisemitism is not hiding and not anonymous. Today, antisemitics can lift their heads openly, selling their wares in the streets under the guise of "legitimate criticism" against Israel.

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Definition of Antisemitism

The traditional definition of antisemitism as "hostility towards or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic or social groups", match the classic religious antisemitism of Christianity in the Middle Ages and the nationalist antisemitism of the Nazis, but this definition does not fit the new contemporary antisemitism.

Former Canadian justice Minister, Irwin Cotler, said: "The traditional antisemitism denies Jews of the right to live as equal members of society, how the new anti-Jewishness denies the Jewish people's right to live as an equal member in the family of nations". Therefore, the definition of antisemitism should be based on Natan Sharansky's Three-D test, by which the Demonization, Double standards and Delegitimization Israel faces is a form of antisemitism.

Definition of Antisemitism according to the EU / State Department / Ottawa Document
(three settings for different documents, but the base is the same)

Working definition: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jew. Physical and non-verbal expressions of antisemitism are directed toward individuals, Jews or non-Jews, and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious sites".

In addition, such manifestations could also be targeted against the state of Israel, when seen as a Jewish collectivity. Often, antisemitism charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and is often used to place the blame over Jews for everything that goes wrong. Antisemitism is expressed in speech, writing, visual ways and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

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Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, workplaces and religious spaces can include the following - though not exclusively the following:

- Reading, helping or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or in the name of a radical religious vision.
- Attitudes that deny Jews of their humanity, dehumanizing them or attach them with stereotypes as individuals or as related to the power of Jews as a group – such as, although not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy to control the media, economy, government and other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as nation, of being responsible for negative actions, real or imagined, committed by a single Jewish person or a group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denial of the existence, purpose and mechanisms (eg. gas-chambers) of the extermination of the Jewish people by Nazi Germany, its supporters and allies during the Second World War.

- Accusing the Jews as a nation, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust's dimensions.
- Accusing Jewish citizens who do not live in Israel, of being more loyal to Israel, or favoring Jewish interests worldwide over the interests of the state in which they live.

Examples of the ways in which antisemitism can be expressed in relation to the State of Israel may include:

- Denying the Jewish people's right to self-determination, inter alia, by claiming that the existence of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards towards Israel, demanding that it acts in a manner that is not expected or required of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (eg. the claim that the Jews killed Jesus, or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Comparison of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Collective vision of the Jews as responsible for Israel's actions.

However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country can not be regarded as antisemitic.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are defined as such by law (for example, as defined in some countries: Holocaust denial or antisemitic propaganda). Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether people or property, such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries, are chosen by the attackers because they are, or are perceived as Jewish or linked to Jews. Antisemitic discrimination is preventing equal opportunity for Jews.