

## Chile

In Chile there were two significant incidents during 2013:

- In May the TV station Chilevision dismissed humorist Elías Escobedo following a joke "uttered" by his marionette "Murdock Lizard" in the program "Make me Laugh": "What is the Jews' fault that they burn better than wood?". The National Council of Television received almost 300 complaints, including one by the Commission of Human Rights of the Chilean Senate, and it announced it would formulate charges against Chilevision and the program.
- In an interview aired on Chilean Controversia TV on October 18, 2013, Senator Eugenio Tuma (PPD senator of Palestinian descent), chairman of the Chilean Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, claimed there was an agreement between the Chilean authorities and the State of Israel and thousands of Israeli soldiers "dressed as civilians are in southern Chile mapping out the region" (see also paragraph on Argentina - Andinia Plan).

In an interview on Radio Jai which took place on December 30, 2013, Marcelo Isaacson, executive director of the Jewish community of Chile, spoke about the sale of antisemitic books openly in the center of Santiago. He denounced the fact that in Chile it is no crime to sell such material.

## Mexico

At the beginning of the year, there was a wave of anti-Semitic expressions in the social networks, including phrases like "I burn like a Jew" (the sixth most popular hashtag phrase among Mexican Twitter users, according to Twed.it, a website which measures the popularity of hashtags), jokes about gas chambers, turning Jews into soap, etc. One Tweet had attached to it a picture of dead Jews at a Nazi concentration camp juxtaposed with the game of Twister, in which participants' limbs are entangled on a large board.

During a pro-Palestinian act organized by the Human Rights postgraduate program of the Autonomous University of the City of Mexico on January 24, 2013, one of the speakers, Raquel Rodríguez, gave a virulent antisemitic speech denying the Holocaust. According to her, if six million had died, we would be lucky because there would be no Jews in the world.

During the inauguration by Shimon Peres of the Israeli pavilion in the International Book Fair which took place in Guadalajara in December, there

was an anti-Zionist manifestation by some 30 persons. According to the press the demonstrators were paid \$15 for their participation. Another manifestation took place on the last day of the fair.

## **Brazil**

On January 3, 2013 the Brazilian Caricaturist Carlos Latuff published a series of cartoons claiming antisemitism is being manipulated by the Israeli lobby for political purposes. One of the cartoons depicted a goose named "Antisemitism" laying golden eggs under the label "property of Israeli lobby".

In the same month, Luiz Vinicius Consenzo, the administrator of a community of neo-Nazis on the Brazilian social network Orku, was convicted of a racist crime and sentenced to 35 months in jail for giving Jewish students a Nazi salute and exposing his swastika tattoo. Orku, committed the act in front of a Jewish community center, the Clube Israelita Brasileiro, at a party held on December 3, 2010 by Jewish students from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

In November, the popular Brazilian actress Tata Werneck apologized for comments she made about Jews on a national talk show. Asked what she would do if a gay friend was being bullied at school, Werneck said she would divert the bully's attention to any Jewish classmate.

## **Peru**

Peru has a small Jewish community numbering approximately 3000 members. Antisemitism is not considered a serious problem and originates mainly from right wing-groups. The principal incidents recorded in 2013:

- An alleged Peruvian 'Nazi' by the name of Steve Michael Harris has become the new "meme" (a concept or idea that spreads very quickly via the Internet) of the social web. He portrays swastikas in his twitter, describes himself as a Peruvian of German blood, and declares: "I hate Chilindios and fat people. I have money". He attacks colored people, latinos, and the poor. His account has 4600 followers.
- On May 27, Luis Ramírez Flores, member of the municipal council of the district of Shilcayo, called out to Jaime Bustamante Jhonson, legal adviser to the municipality, "sit down, Jew". According to Bustamante, the incident is an act of racial and religious discrimination as typified under the Penal Code.

- In June, Eliane Karp, wife of former Peruan president Alejandro Toledo who was under investigation for corruption, claimed she was persecuted for being Jewish. According to her, she suffered from antisemitism throughout the presidency of her husband.
- On July 7<sup>th</sup>, Peruvian Renan Americo Hidalgo San Martin, who describes himself as "student and investigator of the Theory of the Conspiracy against Latin America", published in his blog "Despierta Pueblo Peruano", an extremely antisemitic article on the "200 years old conspiracy of the Jewish Masonry against Peru and South America".

## **Colombia**

According to an article by Ricardo Angoso published in the Spanish weekly Cambio 16 on September 28, 2013, Colombia has become the principal editorial base and disseminator of National-Socialist ideas in Latin America. There are two principal National-Socialist groups in the country: the National Socialist Union of Colombia (UNSC), led by Richard Stalin Weich, and "Third Force". These groups are antisemitic despite the fact that there are almost no Jews living in Colombia.

## **Uruguay**

In July, the Jewish Central Committee of Uruguay held a series of meetings with leaders of Uruguay's political parties in order to warn them of what it describes as a "revival of Nazi expressions" all over the world. According to Roberto Cyjon, president of the Committee, In Uruguay there is also a revival of Nazi and antisemitic expressions, including threats and graffiti.

## Argentina

Antisemitism in Argentina consists of both the classic, traditional form, which originates mainly from the right, conservative wing, and new antisemitism, often disguised as anti-Zionism, originating from the left and pro-Islamic circles. 2013 saw a continuation of the rise in antisemitism in the web, which, together with graffiti, consists of the most common forms of antisemitism in Argentina.

During the year, antisemitic graffiti was painted on the walls of a house in San Juan whose owners had Jewish sounding names (April); in front of synagogue Beith-Iacov in Villa Clara in the province of Entre Rios (July 25), and a Jewish Temple in Libertad Street (August 9); and on several walls in the city of Maipu in the province of Mendoza (one of the signs there said: "Democracy is Jewish, only National-Socialism will save the fatherland").

One of the most serious antisemitic events in 2003 took place on November 12, when a group of Fundamentalist Christians disrupted a Jewish-Christian ceremony commemorating Kristallnacht at the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral. The fundamentalists, identified as a mix of antisemitic youth and ultra-conservative followers of the Society of St. Pius X, a breakaway Catholic group, prayed loudly and distributed brochures against "the presence of fake gods at our main Cathedral." The incident was condemned by members of the government and legislature, as well as human rights and Christian organizations.

The widespread opposition to the Argentinean-Iranian agreement to set up an international truth commission into the 1994 bombing of the Jewish community building led to accusations that Israel and Zionism were attempting to dictate Argentinean politics and laws. Accusations that Israel and/or Jewish bankers were involved in the attack were also repeated. In February, Alberto Nisman, special prosecutor in charge of the bombing investigation, received a virulent antisemitic e-mail ordering him to stop the investigation and threatening to kill him and his daughters. On June 8, Juan Gabriel Labaké, defence attorney for some of the accused in connection with the bombing, published an article on an Islamic website "explaining" the differences between Zionism and Judaism, and claiming the two organizations of Argentinean Jews, AMIA and DAIA, are totally dependent on the State of Israel and on Zionism, and serve them.

There were several reports of antisemitism in schools and among youth:

- In June 2013, the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Police disbanded a nazi group originating in the town of Moron. The group had hacked the Scouts' website in order to recruit supporters, and published an antisemitic blog.

- A 15 year old schoolboy from Rosario was suspended on August 2013 for writing on his class blackboard: "Less Jews, more soap". He was also ordered to do research on the antisemitic background of the phrase.
- On September 1 it was reported that a 13 year old boy was being abused by other children in his school in Tierra del Fuego (where there are few Jews and he was apparently the only one in the school).
- On October 7, a 13 year old Israeli born boy was attacked by two other children in the center of the town of Allen (Province of Rio Negro). The children mocked him for his accent, and when he told them he was Jewish they beat him up with a stick and threw a brick at his face breaking his nose.

#### Further events:

- There were several cases of sale of Nazi paraphernalia.
- In May, Sarita Alperovich, daughter of the Governor of Tucuman and the Provisional President of the Argentinean Senate (who have both in the past also been victims of antisemitism), received antisemitic messages through her account in Facebook.
- On March 13, an anonymous telephone call was received warning that a bomb had been planted in a Jewish pre-school. On August 5, a bomb threat was received in the Joseph Caro Institute.
- During a demonstration by a pro-Palestinian group against the appearance of the Israeli Philharmonic, which took place on August 28, antisemitic cries were uttered.
- On September 2, an act took place in the mosque of At-Tahuid in Buenos Aires, commemorating Al Quds Day, with the participation of Argentinean political leaders connected to the government. During the act Muslim leader Sheikh Abdul Karim Paz called for the destruction of the State of Israel and Social movement leader Luis D'Elia claimed the Argentinean media was led by Zionism and called for the establishment of only one state and one people in Palestine.

In the web, there was a revival of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, led by the so-called Andinia Plan (an alleged Jewish plan to conquer the Patagonia region on the border of Argentina and Chile in order to establish a Jewish State). On January 7, political analyst Adrian Salbuchi published an article on the website of the Russian TV Channel in Spanish claiming that the "Owners of World Power" in general, and "International Zionism", in particular, are working to create a second Jewish state in the Argentinean-Chilean Patagonia with the assistance of corrupt governments. He specifically names the Chilean Minister of Defence, Rodrigo Hinzpeter, who is Jewish, and, he claimed, "intimately connected to the State of Israel and the American Jewish Committee". According to an article published in his blog by Eladio Fernandez

on November 15, Argentinean President Cristina Kirchner sold the Patagonia to businessman Eduardo Elsztein, "president of the world Jewish community", in return for cancelation of the Argentinean debt to the World Bank.

## Venezuela

As in the past few years, antisemitism in Venezuela in 2013 was characterized mainly by antisemitic manifestations in the media, both governmental /semi-governmental, and private. In most cases it was disguised as anti-Zionism. As in the past, national and international events, in the Middle East and in other regions, served as opportunities for such manifestations.

In January 2013 the Argentinean news website Analisis 24 reported that the Venezuelan intelligence agency SEBIN was spying on the Venezuelan Jewish Community and collecting information on prominent Venezuelan Jews. The article led to accusations that the Mossad and CIA have been operating for years in Venezuela, provoking coups and simulating attacks such as the 2009 attack on a synagogue in Caracas in order to blame President Chavez (Ivana Cardinale, Aporrea, March 30).

The death of President Hugo Chavez on March 5, led to conspiracy theories blaming Israel and Zionism for his death. There were articles blaming Israel for the deaths or illnesses of many of Latin America's leaders, such as Omar Torrijos of Panama, Néstor and Cristina Kirchner of Argentina, Lula of Brazil, Fernando Lugo (Paraguay) (see for example Javier Del Valle Monagas Maita blog, March 2013). Even President Nicolás Maduro, Chavez' successor, repeated the accusation that Chavez was poisoned, "such as happened with Yasser Arafat". There were also warnings that Zionism might also make an attempt on Maduro's life in order to bring Henrique Capriles Radonsky, "a Zionist Jew who receives orders from international Zionism", to power and thus get hold of Venezuela's oil and other resources (Ensartaos, May 5).

As in the year before, there was a blatant utilization of the origins of the opposition presidential candidate, Henrique Capriles Radonski (a Catholic, member of a wealthy family of Jewish descent), as an electoral tool. The presidential campaign following Chavez' death led to a defamation campaign and there appeared new articles describing Capriles as a Zionist agent wanting to end the Bolivarian revolution. On April 3, for instance, Bernardo Hernández Muñoz claimed, in the semi-official news site Aporrea, that Capriles "has in his ascendancy multimillionaire Sephardic Jews linked to Israeli Zionism, and in his genes all the evil of Anas and Caifas, victimizers of Jesus...the millenary rapacity of his race, the same which copied the Jewish Holocaust and now applies it...to the Palestinian people". Nicolas Maduros' narrow victory over Capriles, and the violent demonstrations which took place in its wake, led to a defamation campaign comparing the opposition to Nazis. According to Maduro, the opposition is "worse than the Nazis of World War II who killed the Jews". During his inauguration speech Maduro compared the

oppositions' election campaign to the campaign justifying the Jewish Holocaust.

Referring to Latin American Jewish Congress director Claudio Epelman's declaration that the growing ties between Iran and Latin-American countries lead to a rise in antisemitism in the region, Maduro denied there was antisemitism in Venezuela. According to him, Maduro himself had Jewish roots and so did several of the country's founders. He compared the Jewish Holocaust to the indigenous holocaust carried out by the European invaders. At the same time, he maintained that to criticize the State of Israel is not antisemitism, and accused the "repressive State of Israel" of sequestering the "noble" Jewish people.

The events in Syria and Egypt served as opportunities for blaming Zionism. On August 23, 2013, for instance, Aporrea published an article by Castor Diaz allegedly exposing a conspiracy by the "Nazi-Zionist" government of Israel to attack Syria in order to bring about a third world war, and thus pave the way for a conspiracy against its rivals in the world of economy, industry and military power - China and Russia. He warned that this might bring about the end of the human race.

In August, the weekly Kikiriki published a two part, extremely racist and antisemitic article on "The History of the Arrival of the Jews to the American Continent". The article is full of classic antisemitic stereotypes, and accuses Jews, inter alia, of financing the Inquisition and Hitler. Another article full of classic anti-Semitic stereotypes was published in Aporrea on September 21 by Rubén Ramos. According to Ramos: "wars, terrorism, genocides, magnicides, destruction, hunger" are decided by the interests of the "Zionist-imperial elites of world power", and there is a "crusade of ethnic-religious cleansing to make Judaism the great universal religion" and create the Kingdom of Israel.