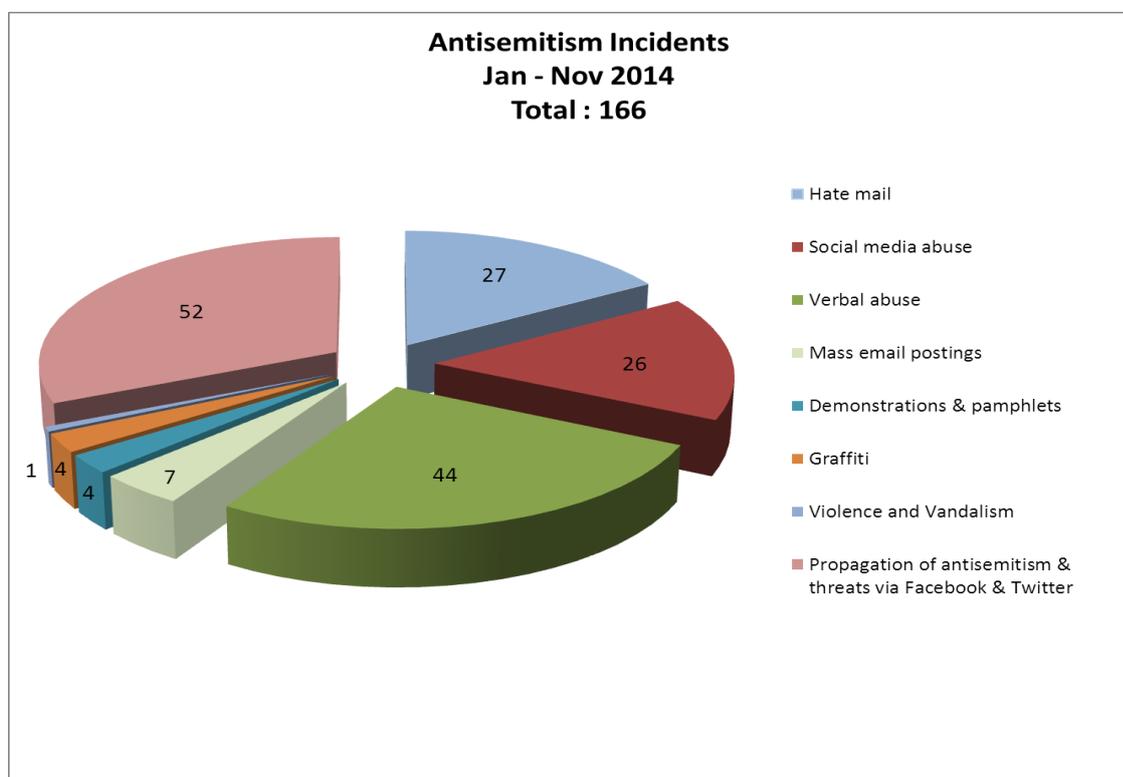


# ANTISEMITISM REPORT

## South Africa – January–November 2014

166 incidents recorded by the SAJBD and CSO and classified as antisemitic acts were logged in the period 1 January–15 November 2014.



The following are categories of Antisemitic behaviour that have been identified and under which each of the above incidents have been classified:

### 1. Hate mail

*Definition:* Unsolicited communications of an offensive nature sent directly to Jewish individuals or institutions, whether by post, email or SMS.

*Incidents recorded:* **27**

### 2. Social media abuse:

*Definition:* A secondary form of hate mail, this involves the posting of offensive and/or threatening comments on websites, Facebook and Twitter sites maintained by Jewish individuals or institutions.

*Incidents recorded:* **26**

### 3. Verbal abuse

*Definition:* Any instance of community members being subjected to verbal abuse featuring antisemitic slurs (usually unprovoked but sometimes in the course of a dispute between the parties). Examples include individuals being accosted in the public domain, phone calls and shouting abuse from passing vehicles.

*Incidents recorded:* **44**

### 4. Mass email postings

*Definition:* Unsolicited distribution of antisemitic literature to multiple recipients, including Jews and Jewish institutions. All cases recorded this year were sent by 'Snowy Smith'.

*Incidents recorded:* **7**

### 5. Demonstrations and pamphlets:

Any non-verbal action in the public domain whose aim is to insult and/or intimidate the Jewish community (examples: depositing of pig's head in a Woolworths store explicitly intended as sending a 'message' to Jews; the affixing of a Palestinian flag to gates of a synagogue in Johannesburg).

*Incidents recorded:* **4**

### 6. Graffiti

Daubings of slogans and/or images in the public domain in which clear antisemitic (as opposed to only anti-Israel) sentiments are expressed. However, even exclusively anti-Israel sentiments constitute antisemitism if it is daubed on a Jewish home or installation.

*Incidents recorded:* **4**

### 7. Violence and Vandalism

Definition: Any physical attack motivated wholly or in part by antisemitic feel against Jewish persons or property.

*Incidents recorded: 1*

## **8. Propagation of antisemitism & threats via Facebook & Twitter**

This is a far more complex area. A fundamental question it raises is whether every offensive comment published in the social media should be classified as an 'incident', or whether it should be deemed to fall into a secondary category of 'Antisemitic Discourse'. Clearly, a distinction should be made between online comments that express anti-Jewish sentiments in a general way and actions that target specific Jewish individuals or institutions.

That being said, certain statements in the social media have been of such an extreme nature as to justify their being classified as separate incidents in their own right. Examples would be posts like "Keep Calm and Kill Jews", the 'eye for an eye' Facebook comments by COSATU's Tony Ehrenreich (his holding a leadership position is relevant here) and some of the more egregious "Hitler was right..." postings.

Inevitably, a lot of subjectivity has been involved in selecting and categorising these cases. Amongst the unanswered questions it raises is how to categorise individual websites or Twitter sites that persistently propagate antisemitic material. The Twitter site @montero, for example, has issued hundreds of grossly antisemitic postings. Naturally, one cannot regard each and every one of these as an 'incident'. Realistically, therefore, it should fall under the general category of Antisemitic Discourse. All in all, it is not possible to be completely consistent when deciding upon these categories.

*Incidents recorded: 52*

## 9. Month-by-month breakdown

