

Summary of Contemporary Forms of Anti-Semitism

2012 was characterized by a worrisome rise in terrorism and attempted attacks against Jewish institutions and individuals in Western Europe and North America, especially by Islamists and right-wing extremists. As reported by the security service of the Jewish community in France (SDCJ), the Toulouse murders served as a springboard for a rise in anti-Semitic events throughout France, which increased 45% compared to the same period last year. Street violence – physical and verbal – against Jews was also on the rise in Western Europe, especially near Jewish schools and synagogues. Rabbis and Jewish students were attacked in Berlin, New York, Milan and Toronto, while synagogues and Jewish community centers were targeted in Milan, Berlin and Manchester.

Synagogues, Jewish cemeteries, Holocaust memorials and Jewish communal and private property continued to be targeted for attack in 2012. These included synagogues in St. Petersburg, Kremenchuk (Ukraine), Caracas, Brussels, Genoa, Vienna, Lvov, Lodz, Victoria (Canada), Nice, Rhodes, Montevideo and Budapest.

In addition, anti-Semitic fascist political movements such as Jobbik in Hungary, Golden Dawn in Greece and the March of Independence in Poland – all EU member states – and Svoboda in the Ukraine, gained traction both in and out of Parliament. Anti-Israel propaganda – alongside traditional anti-Semitic tropes (i.e. Jewish world domination, dual loyalty, Holocaust denial, Protocols of the Elders of Zion etc.) - feature in the propaganda and statements of these political movements. A major motif in Jobbik's hateful message is support for Iran and for the Palestinian struggle against Israel, while Jobbik MP Martin Gyongyosi said that it was time "to compile a list of Hungary's Jews". Recognizing the severity of this phenomenon, EU Home Affairs Minister Cecilia Malmstrom noted that far-Right political discourse is feeding hatred and anti-Semitism throughout the EU and could even harm the European project itself, while Italian President Giorgio Napolitano warned against "new and persistent perils" of Holocaust denial and revisionism, adding that "anti-Semitism as a dimension of Islamic fundamentalism" risked being "undervalued."

State-sanctioned anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric, which has been common in Venezuela under President Hugo Chavez, spiked in 2012 around the candidacy of Henrique Capriles Radonski – an affirmed Catholic – to replace Chavez, in relation to Radonski's Jewish heritage.

Also, in Chile, anti-Semitic diatribes were used by the extreme Left to attack the country's Jewish Minister of Defense, Rodrigo Hinzpeter.

In Eastern Europe particularly in the Baltic states, the war-time regimes that collaborated with the Nazis in murdering Jews and their leaders continue to enjoy varying degrees of rehabilitation.

Deep-seated religiously-motivated anti-Jewish and anti-Israel prejudice spiked in the Arab world in connection with the "Pillar of Defense" operation in Gaza, particularly by Islamist and Moslem Brotherhood spokesmen. This included calls for Jihad against Jews in numerous statements and articles that repeated the anti-Semitic description of Jews as "the offspring of monkeys and pigs" and

"heretics", along with the doomsday Hadidth that calls on every Moslem to kill Jews - imageries used by Islamist Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi in a recently revisited 2010 television interview. On International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2013, a senior Egyptian official close to Morsi and responsible for appointing the editors of all state-run newspapers said that the Holocaust was a U.S. intelligence hoax and that the Six Million were not murdered by the Nazis but moved to the United States. The "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" continued to be a major motif in popular Arab and Iranian conspiracy theories and to appear prominently at book fairs. Iran and its president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad continued their anti-Israel and anti-Jewish diatribes in which Judaism is portrayed as a inferior religious group epitomized by the State of Israel that serves as part of the West's imperialist conspiracy. On August 16, Ahmadinejad repeated his vision of the Middle East without Israel - "cancerous and an affront to humanity" - or Americans.

As presented in another Israel government report, anti-Jewish incitement continues to be prevalent in Palestinian Authority and Hamas media. In January 2012 an Imam, preaching on PA television, accused the Jews of "causing all bad and tragedies in Palestine and the entire world". Anti-Semitism and anti-Israel agitation is not only the purview of religious figures in the PA. For example, the Director General of the PA Ministry of Health stated in December 2012 that Israel is responsible for the increase in the appearance of AIDS in the PA and the EU-funded Palestinian Ma'an News Agency recently published an article that describes Jews as "the root of conflict in the world", cursed by Allah and "outcasts in every corner of the earth."

###