

Attachment III

Contemporary Forms of Antisemitism - Main Trends and Factors 2013

Compiled by Alan Schneider

The FRA survey further found that some 23% of European Jews do not attend Jewish institutions or events due to their fear of being attacked on the way to them. 38% avoid walking in public with distinctly Jewish signs such as a yarmulke or a Star of David, and 66% see antisemitism as a problem that impacts their lives in a fundamental and constant fashion. In its totality, the FRA survey revealed widespread fear of antisemitism on the internet and of victimization, a worrying level of antisemitic discrimination, particularly in employment and education, concern about Holocaust denial and trivialization, and hate crime.

1. Antisemitism in the Palestinian Authority

With the exit of former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from the international stage and Iran's current charm offensive, the Palestinian Authority represents today the biggest state or quasi-state purveyor of antisemitic rhetoric in the world.

A study prepared by the Israel Ministry of Intelligence, Strategic and International Affairs "*Palestinian Authority Incitement Index- Status Report*" ([link](#)) documents dozens of instances over a six-month period in which official Palestinian media and educational systems communicate that 1. Israel has no right to exist, certainly not as the state of the Jewish people, which, in any case, have no link to the Holy Land; 2. The disappearance of Israel is unavoidable and is expected soon; 3. The Jews are sub-human creatures and must be dealt with accordingly; 4. In principle, all forms of struggle, including terrorism, are legitimate in order to realize the final goal, leading Minister Yuval Steinitz to tell a cabinet meeting in January that PA President Mahmoud Abbas "remained the number one leader in terms of antisemitic and anti-Israel venom".

2. Quenelle

The inverted Nazi "Sieg Heil" salute – the Quenelle – fashioned by French antisemitic entertainer Dieudonne and widely seen as an antisemitic gesture – became the rage in Europe during the last weeks of 2013 as it spread around the world with the help of social media. The immediate popularity of the Quenelle and its performance in a purposeful and defiant manner at Jewish sites such as cemeteries, synagogues and Holocaust memorials, is a chilling indication of the scope of the platform upon which antisemitism can spread. In fact Dieudonne has some half million friends and followers on social networks who regularly receive his hateful messages.

3. Attacks Against Jewish Customs

The trend to attack and challenge Jewish rituals such as ritual slaughter and circumcision, primarily in Europe, continued in 2013. While some researches are of the opinion that these demands – coming from human rights and animal rights campaigners – do not necessarily stem from anti-Jewish animus and are not directed solely at Jews – they have reinforced the message that Jews and Judaism are intrinsically primitive and cruel, contributing to the antisemitic atmosphere and to the grave feelings of European Jews reflected in the FRA report.

4. International and Social Media

As detailed in a report issued by the Israel Ministry for Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs "*Antisemitism in 2013 – Trends and Events*" ([link](#)), on-line antisemitism seems to be taking the place of antisemitic and anti-Israel demonstrations that were prevalent in recent years. "It is very difficult to fight against the ease with which material is uploaded to the Internet, and the anonymity that the material's uploader hides behind in most cases. A short video clip of just a few minutes, distributed this year on YouTube, in which a devout Muslim identified as Malik Naram, a fan of Dieudonne, unequivocally calls for the murder of all Jews wherever they may be, ran through the Internet unobstructed until enough complaints to remove it were assembled. The clip was removed, but its distributor has yet to be called to justice for incitement to murder, a fact that indicates that red lines that existed for several decades following the Second World War are today crossed without hindrance". The report also details a number of absurd antisemitic conspiracy theories that spread in the Internet and social networks during 2013.

5. Anti-Zionism BDS and Delegitimization of Israel as a Substitute for Antisemitism

Anti-Zionism and delegitimization of the State of Israel continued in 2013 to serve as a sanitized substitute for blatant antisemitism. Anti-Zionism and the disproportionate criticism of Israel by the global left and international community - that ignored actual widespread atrocities in many countries, with particular irony regarding those in conflict with Israel - remained a convenient mask to hide real antisemitism. According to the 2013 Annual Evaluation of the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism (CFCA - [link](#)) calls for boycott, divestment and sanction of Israel (BDS) intensified in 2013 and it became evident that this campaign to harm the image of Israel was organized and strategic, and enjoys a tailwind from European governments. 2013 saw efforts to impose economic, cultural and academic boycotts that emanated also from some churches. It was therefore disconcerting that the FRA removed from its website this year its own breakthrough "Working Definitions of Antisemitism" which included "anti-Zionist expressions, hostile attitudes to the existence of the State of Israel and discrimination against it" as constituting antisemitism in certain cases.

6. Countries of Concern

France – According to the CFCA evaluation, France continued to lead in 2013 with the highest number and the most violent antisemitic incidents, with over 200 events - including dozens of violent attacks reported - including three stabbings, one crowbar beating and arson of facilities. The impact of the Toulouse murders diminished but still remained an inspiration to perpetrators of antisemitism and the Otzar HaTorah school continued to be a focal point of antisemitic incidents, including the attack of a student with a knife (February 2013), anonymous calls threatening other attacks and Nazi salute in front of the school gate. The popularity of the "quenelle" is part of a blossoming antisemitic discourse in France, which is no longer taboo and is gaining prominence in the public arena. French courts began to impose substantial fines on members of a group in Alsace who called for a boycott of Israeli products at the supermarket and Dieudonne was fined \$28,000 and later banned from appearing in several cities in France.

Netherlands – The CFCA evaluation reported that the phenomenon of anti-Israelism strengthened in 2013 and is more pronounced than classical antisemitism. Islamic antisemitism is challenging the ability to openly conduct Jewish life in the country and has pushed aside left-wing and right-wing antisemitism.

Germany – The number of antisemitic incidents - sporadic and local for the most part – remain relatively high in Germany in 2013, including 29 cemetery desecrations (the lowest number since 2000). The phenomenon of antisemitism on the soccer fields is on the rise, with the main victims being Maccabi sports clubs that exist in 15 cities. German authorities are taking a hard-line attitude against those who perpetrate these incidents.

Hungary – According the CFCA evaluation, the number of antisemitic incidents in Hungary increased by about fifty percent (from 34 to 60) in 2013. These included a number of violent attacks alongside desecration of cemeteries and monuments, as well as antisemitic chants and burning of the Israeli flag. The severity of the incidents also worsened compared to 2012 and include an attack against the head of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute during a football match in Budapest, attacks against Jews on a trolley car, an attack on an Israeli for being a Jew and spitting on Jews on Independence Day. The radical nationalist Jobbik party increased its antisemitic expressions including calls for the extinction of the Jews, swastikas and pictures of incitement that were posted on the party's website and Facebook page.

Greece – Antisemitic incidents doubled in 2013 from 8 to 16 and included desecrations of cemeteries and memorials, and declarations of Holocaust denial by leaders of the radical nationalist Golden Dawn party. The Greek government took harsh action against the party following the murder of a left wing Hip-Hop artist by party members, jailing six Golden Dawn parliamentarians and terminating the party's funding. The Greek Orthodox Church which wields considerable influence has also been accused of harboring antisemitic attitudes, with the Bishop of Kalavryta publishing on his personal website, a call to all Greeks to be troubled because Greece "was sold to Jewish and controlled by them."

Australia – 2013 was marked by a vicious attack on a Jewish family in Sydney by eight youths after they noticed kippas on their heads. Some of the family members suffered fractured skulls, broken noses and cuts. The attackers were arrested and released on bail, with emphasis in the media that they were not Muslim. In general, Australia saw a twenty-percent increase in reported antisemitic incidents to 657 – representing a 70% increase compared to the last 20-year average, although most of the incidents were in the category of threats while the number of physical attacks was down.

Britain – The UK continues to be a major activity center for antisemitism, with emphasis on anti-Zionism and delegitimization of the State of Israel. In addition, the Community Security Trust, in its annual report "[Protecting the Jewish Community](#)" reported that 529 antisemitic incidents were recorded in 2013, down from 649 in 2012. These included 69 violent assaults (the same as in 2012 – the lowest since 2003), 53 incidents of damage and desecration, 368 of abusive behavior and 38 incidents of threats.

Poland - Twenty-three percent of Poles believe the myth that Jews used to kidnap Christian children for ritual purposes, and 22 percent believe that Jews living today are responsible for Jesus' death, according to a survey conducted in 2013 by the Center for Public Opinion Research, for the Center for the Research of Prejudice in Warsaw. The findings indicate an increase in the prevalence of anti-Semitic opinions compared to a 2009 survey, including an increase in views reflecting traditional antisemitism. The survey shows that 63 percent of those polled believe in various other conspiracy theories related to Jews: 67 percent believe that Jews want to increase their influence in the world and 44 percent

believe that Jews control the world. The survey also shows that 44 percent of Poles believe that Jews tell everyone that the Poles are antisemites.

Alan Schneider is Director of the B'nai B'rith World Center - Jerusalem

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