



CFCA

The Coordination Forum for
Countering Antisemitism

2012

The Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism - Yearly Evaluation: 2012 Present Situation and Tendencies





DIRECTORS SUMMARY

The report is based on data that were collected and published on the site of the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism.

Naturally, the number of incidents published in the report does not reflect the total number of incidents that actually took place, and at times the data differ substantially from the data published by the various Jewish communities. However, the data as a whole reflect, in our view, the trends.

- **2012 was marked by the continuing rise in the level of physical danger to the Jewish communities, mainly in Europe, from radical Muslim groups, but also from extreme right activists. 2012 has, in fact, been one of the deadliest years, in the course of which six Jews were killed (In France, in Iran and in Yemen) and more than 170 violent incidents occurred.**
- **At the center of the violent activity are the Jewish communities in France, who have witnessed this year an increase of more than 20% in the number of incidents, including an increase of 51% in the number of violent incidents. As part of it France experienced also two terrorist attacks: the attack in Toulouse (March 19) in which 4 Jews were killed and another youngster was seriously wounded; and the attack of hand-grenade throwing in Sarcelles, in which there were no injuries, and following which an Islamic terrorist organization was exposed in five French cities.**



- **The escalation in France has clearly demonstrated that the Muslim antisemitism does not depend anymore on an outside trigger like the escalation of the Arab-Israel conflict in the Middle East in order to erupt, but has become a self-feeding phenomenon. Thus, the terrorist attack in Toulouse occurred in a period when there were no particular events in the Middle East, and moreover, not only did the horrors of the attack fail to bring about some soul searching, but they were also a source of inspiration and generated a sense of identification that was translated into a wave of violence, especially against Jewish youths in the school or synagogue areas. In the month and a half following the attack 148 incidents were recorded, 90 of which were carried out in the ten days following it.**
- **Parallel to the incidents in France, we witnessed Muslim violence in several other cities in Europe. The number of incidents in the other countries is significantly smaller; however these could possibly be signs of an expanding trend. In this context one could mention Malmö, Sweden, plans to carry out an attack in Milan as well as violent incidents in Denmark, Milan and Germany. This is in contrast to the past in which the two latter ones were marked by right-wing antisemitism only.**
- **Following the economic crisis the extreme right continues to gather political gains. A case in point is the entrance this year into the Greek Parliament of the neo-Nazi party “The Golden Dawn”, with 6.7% of the electorate vote. The party does not hesitate to use provocative antisemitic rhetoric that included the reading of a chapter from “the Protocols of the Elders of Zion” in the Parliament and Holocaust denial. At the same time, in the Ukraine, the antisemitic party “Svoboda” has succeeded in entering the Parliament with approximately 10% of the vote.**



- **In Hungary, there was a conspicuous rise in the blatancy of the antisemitic statements by the Jobbik party, whose members stressed the importance of “racial purity” and demanded to count the Jews in the country, who pose “a Security risk”.**
- **The political strengthening of the extreme right had also a direct impact on events in the field. This year there was a significant rise in the number of incidents and their severity in Hungary and the Ukraine (including violent incidents) as well as in Austria, Italy and other countries.**
- **In the Middle East the antisemitic discourse has taken hold even further. We should remark in this context, that two Jews were murdered for being Jewish, one in Yemen and the other one in Iran.**
- **The de-legitimation activity against Israel did not register success regarding boycotts or provocative activity near the Israeli borders; therefore it has not had a substantial impact on the Jewish communities. However, we must remember that the mere activity creates, to a large extent, a sense of “free rein” to antisemitic activity.**

Detailing of the situation and its assessment according to the different arenas

France

- France experienced in 2012 an increase of 21% in the total number of incidents in general and of 51% in the number of violent incidents, foremost of which was the terrorist attack (March 19) in the Jewish school in Toulouse (in which 4 Jews were killed and a youngster seriously injured), and the hand-grenade attack in a Jewish supermarket in Sarcelles (a city on the outskirts of Paris).
- In the course of 2012 one could note three waves of escalation: the attack in Toulouse, the month of Ramadan and the holidays of Tishrei.
- The incidents clearly demonstrated that the Muslim antisemitism does not depend anymore on an outside trigger like the escalation of the Arab-Israel conflict in the Middle East in order to erupt, but has become a self-feeding phenomenon. Thus, the terrorist attack in Toulouse occurred in a period when there were no particular events in the Middle East, and moreover, not only did the horrors of the attack fail to bring about some soul searching, but they were also a source of inspiration and generated a sense of identification that was translated into a wave of violence, especially against Jewish youths in the school or synagogue areas. In the month and a half following the attack 148 incidents were recorded, 90 of which were carried out in the ten days following it. The trend continued also in the months of May and June.
- During the month of August alone (the month of the Ramadan) 30 incidents were recorded (9 of them violent) - an increase of 150% compared with August 2011 (which also coincided with the month of Ramadan).



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- During the Tishrei holidays (September-October) 21 incidents against the Jewish communities in France were recorded, 10 of which were violent attacks.
- Following the Attack in Sarcelles, a local independent Jihad terrorist cell was exposed.
- Along with violent organizations one can visibly sense an atmosphere that permits the antisemitic discourse in the population (expressions in praise of the Toulouse murderer, freedom of activity for boycotting and de-legitimizing Israel).

www.antisemitism.org.il



Britain

- [According to the CST report](#), in 2012 there has been an increase in the antisemitic incidents in Britain compared with 2011. A substantial increase in the number of incidents reported in London was reported in contrast to a decrease in the number of incidents in the Manchester region.
- A significant increase was noted in the number of antisemitic incidents during two time periods – during Mars, following the murder of the Jews in the “Otsar Hatorah” school in Toulouse, and during operation “Pillar of Defense” in Gaza (November).
- The antisemitic episodes included violent attacks, one of which was classified as extreme violence; desecration and damage to Jewish property; offensive behavior – verbal harassments, spraying of blasphemous inscriptions, hate mail, shouting of insults on football fields and so on.
- During this year the trial of the Khan couple was conducted: a Muslim couple, British citizens, who were arrested in 2011 on suspicion that they had planned to carry out an attack on Jewish and Israeli targets in Manchester. The two, who did not act as part of any terrorist organization were convicted and sentenced to long prison terms.
- Britain continues to be one of the central hubs of antisemitic, anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli activity in Europe. In Britain there is an extensive activity of all the extreme arenas – the Islamist, the extreme leftist and the extreme-rightist, as well as latent antisemitism deep-rooted in parts of the elite and the media. In addition, Britain continues to be a center for de-legitimizing Israel.



Belgium

- In general, there is a low level of antisemitism in Belgium; however, the number of antisemitic incidents has increased by 45%, with most incidents recorded in proximity to the attack in Toulouse and inspired by it. Among the prominent violent incidents: an attack on a bus driver who drove Jewish girls (May 11), an attack on a Jewish man (April 23) and an attempt by a skinhead to run over a crowd that was exiting a Jewish seminary (April 15).
- In Belgium there has been a noticeable Islamist radicalization also in politics. Thus, in two Brussels peripheral authorities the representative of the Islam party (extreme Islam) have been elected, who expressed, a few days following their victory, support for instituting the Shari'a Law in their jurisdictions.
- In addition, in the political domain we should note that during the campaign for the local authorities (October 14) there was a wave of unprecedented antisemitic defamations against Jewish candidates in connection with their Jewish identity.
- It should be emphasized that the increase in incidents was not caused solely by Muslim bodies, but included also skinheads. However, to the best of our understanding, France is perceived as a model for imitation in Belgium.



Austria

- According to statements by the leader of the Jewish community in Vienna, the number of anti-Semitic incidents in Austria has doubled in the past year. The majority of the incidents were carried out by organizations of the extreme right.
- In the course of the year two incidents of confrontation between the Jewish community and the extreme right headed by Strache occurred, following the publication of an antisemitic cartoon on his website and following expressions of antisemitic nature.

Germany

- According to State Secretary Krömer, in the first three months of 2012 there were 90 antisemitic incidents in Berlin, compared with 90 incidents during all of 2011.
- During the month of August there occurred in Berlin a particularly violent attack of a Rabbi by a Moslem. The majority of the incidents were desecration of Jewish graves and blasphemous and antisemitic inscriptions and offensive exclamations.
- In the course of the past year there came to light in Germany sentiments of antisemitism that is based on the de-legitimization of Israel, with an extraordinary cooperation between the extreme right and the extreme left. In parallel, antisemitic and anti-Israeli propaganda material was distributed by the neo-Nazi movement AUTONOME NATIONALISTEN NORD THURINGEN, and a branch of the NPD party in the city of Jena expressed solidarity with the propaganda which urges boycotting Israeli products and is supported by the Mayor and the leftist organization PAX CHRISTI.



Italy

- A significant rise (of approximately 100%) was recorded in the number of antisemitic incidents in 2012 compared with 2011; the majority of which was propaganda events, blasphemous inscriptions and desecration of cemeteries/synagogues/monuments.
- In addition, several incidents of threats and verbal attacks were recorded. For example: a verbal attack of a father and his son by neo-Nazis in Milan after they came out from prayer in the synagogue, antisemitic shouts in the football fields and a threat by a teacher in his Facebook page to butcher the Jews in the synagogue in Torino.
- This year saw also a prominent rise in the level of threats from the extreme right: the unit for combatting terrorism arrested (in March 2012) a 20-year-old youngster of Moroccan origin in whose possession were maps of the area of the main synagogue in Milan and records of the security arrangements there. The youngster is suspected to have planned a number of terrorist attacks, including one in the Milan synagogue.
- The Greek neo-Nazi party “the Golden Dawn” has launched a branch in Italy (December 21) and announced that it intends to present candidates in the coming general elections.



Hungary

- In Hungary there was a significant rise in the number and level of antisemitic incidents, that this year included also violent incidents on top of the incidents of desecration of cemeteries/monuments, antisemitic exclamations and burnings of the Israeli flag. The violent cases against Jews were the attack of the branch president of the Jewish community in Budapest when he exited the synagogue and an attack of a 70- year-old man.
- In Hungary there is a classical-traditional antisemitism, in which the extreme right generates the bulk of the antisemitic activity, and the dominant factor dictating and fueling the main activity are the Jobbik senior leaders and supporters of the party, including members of the new Hungarian militia.
- This year saw also a prominent increase of the blatancy of the Jobbik expressions. These included checks to expose the presence of Jews inside the party and a demand to count all the Jews in the country, since they pose a security risk. It should be stressed that the Hungarian government and many politicians sharply denounced the statements of the MP.

Poland

- This year, like in the previous one, a relatively high level of antisemitism was recorded in Poland (approximately 40 reported incidents). This, irrespective of the presence of a small Jewish community in the country (approximately 2000 Jews).
- The antisemitic incidents in Poland comprised mainly desecration of cemeteries and monuments commemorating the Holocaust victims, spraying of blasphemous inscriptions and antisemitic propaganda distributed over religious or nationalistic media channels. In addition, the “football antisemitism” which includes placards, slogans and antisemitic “songs” is very prominent in Poland.

Greece

- For the first time the neo-Nazi party “the Golden Dawn” has entered into the Greek Parliament (it won about 7% of the votes), as a matter of fact replacing “LAOS”, the neo-Fascist party which has not passed the election threshold. “The Golden Dawn” is more extreme than “LAOS”, both in its rhetoric and in its actions.
- “The Golden Dawn” has adopted a formula similar to that of the extreme right parties in Europe: anti immigrants and anti minorities’ rhetoric as well as exploitation of the economic crisis in Europe. Despite its success in the elections, “the Golden Dawn” has not joined the government. The party website circulates offensive antisemitic articles, including a positive attitude towards “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” which were read in the Greek parliament.
- The level of antisemitic incidents has remained the same as that of last year, and consists mainly of desecration of cemeteries/monuments and Holocaust denial by the leaders of the extreme right.



Scandinavia

- The characteristics, level of antisemitism and the number of antisemitic incidents reported in 2012 in Scandinavia (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland) is similar to those of 2011. The number of reported incidents was relatively small; however, one should take into account that a sizable number of the incidents are not reported at all.
- In Scandinavia, the extreme left organizations lead the anti-Israeli propaganda campaign. This is manifested in the calls heard every now and then, including in the mainstream media channels, for imposing an academic boycott on Israel as well as on its products. This phenomenon is noticeable mainly in Norway, where various bodies demand to impose boycott on Israel in various matters.

Sweden – the city of Malmö continues to be one of the most difficult antisemitic centers for Jews in central Europe due to antisemitic hate crimes, including violent ones, on the part of the large Muslim population in the city.

The Baltic Republics

- The main antisemitic activity in these countries originates from the extreme right and the neo-Nazis.
- As part of the rise of nationalistic moods in the post-communist era, there has been an ongoing activity in the Baltic States for commemorating and honoring nationalistic organizations that were responsible also for murdering Jews during the Second World War.
- In Lithuania and Latvia violent incidents were recorded, whereas in Estonia, the level of antisemitism is low compared with these other two countries and only a few incidents were recorded.



Russia

- During 2012 a decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents reported in Russia was recorded compared with 2011 (20 incidents versus 38). The antisemitic sentiments surfaced in violent incidents, blasphemous inscriptions, damage and desecration of sites identified with the Jews (such as synagogues and the Jewish community facilities). In addition, antisemitism continues to form a component in the ideology of nationalistic politicians and public figures.
- Among the conspicuous incidents: throwing of a Molotov cocktail towards a synagogue in St. Petersburg (March) and an explosions near the synagogue in Derbent in the Republic of Dagestan, in North Caucasus (October).
- A substantial part of the extreme right and neo-Nazi violent activity, in the last years, has been directed against immigrants and various ethnic minorities in Russia.



Ukraine

- In 2012 as well the antisemitic violence in the street was prominent in the Ukraine. 4 Jews suffered physical injuries in the violent incidents (in Kiev, in Uman and in Beregovo). One of them was seriously wounded when he was attacked while returning from the Seder (April). The number of reported antisemitic events was similar to that of 2011 (about 31 incidents).
- The antisemitic incidents included mainly desecration of synagogues, cemeteries and monuments in memory of the Holocaust victims; spraying of blasphemous inscriptions; and many harassments of Jews who visited Uman. Significant antisemitic incidents: throwing of a Molotov cocktail towards the synagogue in Kremenchug (January); a restaurant in Lvov that distributed to the diners hats with wigs mocking Haredim Jews, while the menu does not include prices so that the customers would haggle over them with the waiters; Kiev policemen who were called to deal with a gang of drunkards who shouted offensive antisemitic exclamations, joined them in uttering the antisemitic expressions.
- The bulk of the antisemitic activity in the Ukraine, including the violent activity, originates from the extreme right and the neo-Nazi arena.
- In the last elections in the Ukraine (October 2012) the extreme rightist party Svoboda obtained more than 12% of the votes. This is the first time that a nationalistic party with a distinct antisemitic attributes has succeeded in passing the election threshold and this is a cause for great worry among Ukrainian Jews. The party heads frequently attack the Jews and its leader has declared that "Ukraine should be freed from the reign of Russians and Jews."



Australia

- According to the data available to us, there has been a significant decline in the number of antisemitic incidents during the past year compared to last year. Most of the antisemitic incidents consisted of verbal harassment and graffiti or emails with antisemitic contents, with no violent incidents.
- At the same time there is an ongoing activity of the de-legitimization organizations in the arena, with an expanding manifestation. Thus, for example, for the first time there was a demonstration (on August 25) of the BDS movement in Brisbane. In addition, there was a large demonstration (on May 18) of the BDS movement in Melbourne and a BDS demonstration at the opening of the film festival in Melbourne (August 28). Anti-Israeli and pro-Palestinian demonstrations were organized also vis-à-vis events of the Jewish community.
- According to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the umbrella organization of all the Jewish organizations in Australia, the boycotting activity against Israel, and particularly the activity in front of the Max Brenner stores, has brought about a sharp increase in the number of antisemitic expressions and incidents against Jews, not just in Australia, this via the use of the social networks and the file sharing sites.

United States

- This year too was characterized by a high level of antisemitism in the United States, both in the number of antisemitic incidents and their severity.
- The violent incidents stand out, among them physical assaults, stabbings, shooting, throwing of Molotov cocktail toward a synagogue, run over attempts and more. This, along with desecrating and vandalizing Jewish sites, vandalizing property, spraying blasphemous and hateful inscriptions.



South Africa

- This year there has been a decline in the number of antisemitic incidents compared to last year. The majority of the incidents consisted of blasphemous inscriptions and verbal harassments, with no violent incidents.
- The trend of de-legitimizing Israel by South African government bodies has continued, with the support of the Church and the union labors. Thus, the decision of the South African government to boycott products made in the settlements and the cancellation of a visit of an expedition of mayors and senior officials from the Kwazulu Natal region to Israel by the South African BDS organization (August).

Venezuela

- In Venezuela a high level of antisemitism is maintained. In 2012, too, the Jewish community in the country experienced expressions of antisemitic incitement sponsored by the government and by the supporters of President Chavez. As part of it, many antisemitic expressions were heard during the elections propaganda against the Jews, Israel and the presidential candidate Henrique Capriles Radonski. In addition, blasphemous inscriptions and swastikas were spray-painted on Jewish facilities.
- The incident in which the central synagogue in Caracas was attacked was exceptionally severe – an enraged mob shouted slogans against Israel and burned its flag and shot fireworks into the synagogue. The mob shouted in the streets: “The Jews are murderers, damned Jews, stop killing innocent people”. At the beginning of 2009, during the “Cast Iron” operation, this synagogue was attacked with blatant violence.

Argentina

- 2012 was marked by a certain increase in the level of antisemitism compared to 2011. The majority of the incidents were spraying of blasphemous inscriptions. A noticeable antisemitic incident: the Jewish cemetery in La Matanza in Buenos Aires was brutally vandalized (in November). The cemetery's new offices were destroyed, computers were torn from their places and telephones were shattered.
- The strengthening of ties between the Shi'ite and Sunni communities continues with regard to promoting activity against the Jewish community in Argentina.

Iran

- During 2012 as well Iran continued with the line of state antisemitic propaganda, under the sponsorship and support of the regime. During the year there were reports about various blatant antisemitic manifestations, among them: screening of antisemitic series and movies with blatant contents on television, publishing antisemitic articles and antisemitic literature, distributing antisemitic caricatures, Holocaust denial, operating an internet site in the Persian language that disseminates pro-Nazi propaganda, spreading the conspiracy theory, according to which the "Zionists" were the "brain" behind the 9/11 terrorist attacks and so on. As in previous years, President Ahmadinejad leads the antisemitic propaganda with his statements (like: "Israel should be erased from the face of earth.")
- Prominent in its severity was the antisemitically-motivated murder of a Jewish woman in Isfahan (November). At the beginning of January 2013 a young Jewish man was murdered and his murderess was released from detention, probably because of the fact that she had killed a Jew. These incidents have heightened the worry for the personal safety of the Iranian Jews.



Yemen

On the 22nd of May 2012 a Jew named Aharon Zidani was stabbed to death with a knife in the market in Sana'a. The motive behind the murder is probably antisemitic. This is the second murder of a Jew in Yemen in the last few years – in December 2008, Moshe Nehari from the city of Raida was murdered. The last murder intensifies the fears for the safety of the Yemenite Jews that has risen this year in view of the unrest in the country.

Tunisia

Since the change of the regime in Tunisia, every now and then expressions against Jews surface, which in different circumstances deteriorate also to shouts "death to the Jews" (inter alia in Islamic gatherings, in a reception for Isama'il Hani'ya when he visited Tunisia).

In addition there are signs that extremist groups intended to injure Jews.



De-Legitimizing

During the past year the BDS activity increased and was evident in several aspects:

- Expanding the demonstrations throughout Europe (Germany, Switzerland, France) as well as in South Africa against the Jewish National Fund as part of the STOP THE JNF campaign.
- Focusing on action against existing businesses that are Jewish-owned, like “Mehadrin”. The organization BDS FRANCE has issued a call to participate in a boycott against the “Mehadrin” company, which markets Israeli agricultural products in Europe, as part of the Apartheid week that took place in Southern France.
- Demonstrations in front of Jewish-owned stores, like Max Brenner and Ahava, in part of which symptoms of antisemitism were also evident. The use of antisemitic rhetoric is prominent during the demonstrations, be it due to the new antisemitism (i.e., the comparison between Zionism and Nazism) or by adopting motives from the classical antisemitism.
- The labor unions are the most active organizations on the subject of De-legitimization of Israel. They call for a boycott on products from the territories and for boycotting Israel in all aspects. In addition, this year there were expressions of de-legitimization also on the part of the Church (South Africa, Sweden).
- The new antisemitism is very common on campuses and according to a survey, more than two third of the students (68%) have experienced antisemitic incidents that originated from classical anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism.
- The Left is leading on campuses, and this is manifest both by students and by lecturers. The extreme left organization cooperate even with extreme Muslim anti-Israeli organizations and are in the habit of comparing Israel to Nazi Germany.

In view of the failure of a series of international events that the de-legitimization organizations held during the year, the prominent among them the international march to Jerusalem (March 30), an aircraft flyover (April 15) and the Apartheid week (Mars) these did not bring about an increase of antisemitism since they did not have a significant impact on the public opinion.