



## August 2020 Antisemitism Highlights

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## Reports and Surveys

### Germany

#### **Federal Report: Antisemitic Manifestations on the Rise**

According to the Federal Office of the Protection of the Constitution, antisemitic manifestations continued to rise in the first half of 2020 in Germany. 876 antisemitic offenses were registered by the police, a rise of 177 compared to the first six months of 2019. The offenses include 21 acts of violence in which 14 people were injured; four more than in the first half of 2019. Out of the 469 identified suspects, only four were temporarily arrested and none received an arrest warrant. This emerges from a "Situation Report Antisemitism" presented for the first time by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV) on 10 August 2020. BfV President Thomas Haldenwang called on the security authorities and society as a whole to resolutely oppose anti-Semitism. Haldenberg said that antisemitism is basically present in all extremist phenomena, especially in all right-wing extremist organizations and parties. In left-wing extremism, however, antisemitism is of "secondary importance". Various forms of antisemitism can be observed among Islamists, but "anti-Zionist antisemitism directed against the 'Jewish state of Israel' has the highest priority within this spectrum. "Antisemitism has always been latent", Haldenberg said, "recently, however, right-wing extremists have packaged their agitation more skillfully in order to address broader strata. The old hatred is becoming more socially acceptable."

References:

<https://www.dw.com/de/verfassungsschutz-antisemitismus-w%C3%A4chst/a-54517273>

<https://www.zeit.de/gesellschaft/2020-08/lagebild-antisemitismus-verfassungsschutz-neue-rechte>

<https://www.faz.net/aktuell/verfassungsschutz-mehr-antisemitische-straftaten-16898089.html>

## **United Kingdom**

### **Report on Antisemitism Among Muslims in UK**

A report has found that almost half of Muslims in the UK endorse antisemitic conspiracy theories. The report was published on August 4, 2020 by the Henry Jackson Society (HJS) a foreign policy think tank based in London, which focuses on the promotion of liberal democracy. According to the report 44% of UK Muslims agree with the statement that British Jewish people tend to be more loyal to Israel than to the UK and 34% believe Jews have too much control over the global banking system. Antisemitic sentiments seem to drop among people more culturally integrated into British society. On the other hand, some of the antisemitic views were more frequent among people with higher education than among less educated and some notions about Jews were more common among young people.

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/comment/analysis/it-s-time-to-call-out-the-antisemitism-within-britain-s-muslim-communities-1.502384>

<https://henryjacksonsociety.org/publications/britishmuslimantisemitism/>

### **ISD Findings: Facebook's Algorithm Promotes Holocaust Denial Content**

The UK-based counter-extremist organization Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) has conducted an investigation that found that Facebook's algorithm "actively promotes" Holocaust denial content on Facebook and Twitter. Their report was published on August 10, 2020. ISD claims the algorithm does this by recommending pages and links to organizations and individuals who share these ideas, and Holocaust denier David Irving's material is mentioned as an example. The ISD also discovered close to 40

Facebook groups with a combined 366,068 followers which were dedicated to Holocaust denial. Facebook announced on August 11, 2020 that it had banned conspiracy theories about Jewish people, but Holocaust denial did not fall under that definition, or under the definition of hate speech. The Jewish Community Security Trust's (CST) Head of Policy Dave Rich said in response that Holocaust denial is an antisemitic conspiracy theory and that Facebook must ban these expressions. Danny Stone, director of the Antisemitism Policy Trust, said Facebook's policy was "intellectually incoherent as it stands."

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/facebook-accused-of-having-blind-spot-on-holocaust-denial-1.505769>

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/aug/12/facebook-and-instagram-ban-antisemitic-conspiracy-theories-and-blackface>

<https://www.isdglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Hosting-the-Holohoax.pdf>

## **Coronavirus Related Antisemitism**

### **Germany**

#### **Protests against Coronavirus Restrictions and Far- Right Groups**

Around 38,000 people demonstrated on August 29, 2020 against the Coronavirus policy in Berlin, Germany. Among the anti-hygiene protesters and conspiracy believers were right-wing conspiracy theorists, ethnic preachers, citizens of the Reich, Holocaust deniers and neo-Nazis. A clash between police and demonstrators broke out in front of the Russian embassy. Later, according to the police, about 300 to 400 demonstrators had overcome barriers of the Reichstag building, stormed up the stairs and triumphantly and loudly stood up in front of the visitor entrance. The black-white-red imperial flag (Reichskriegsflagge) was seen waved by extreme

right-wing imperial citizens (Reichsbuerger). Politicians from all parties have sharply condemned the advance of demonstrators on the stairs of the Reichstag building in Berlin. Federal Justice Minister Christine Lambrecht called for a tough response from the state to the protests. "The unbearable image of Reich citizens and neo-Nazis in front of the Reichstag must not be repeated - not in front of parliament and never in parliament," president Frank Walter Steinmeier condemned this as "an unbearable attack on the heart of our democracy. We will never accept that." Bundestag president Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU) told the German Press Agency: "After these scenes, the last person should have understood that there are also limits to decency as to how far you can carry who walks with you. [The fact that this attack could even take place] has to be dealt with quickly and comprehensively". 33 police officers were injured. 316 people had been arrested. There were 131 reports of attacks on police officers. The protest had originally been banned but a court eventually allowed it to go ahead on condition that Coronavirus measures such as mask-wearing and social-distancing were adhered to. Later during the day, the police ordered the dispersal of the protest. The demonstration was initiated by the Stuttgart-based movement Querdenken 711 (or Lateral Thinking 711). The group has more than 16,000 followers on Facebook and communicates largely through encrypted messaging service Telegram.

References:

<https://www.zeit.de/news/2020-08/30/politiker-bestuerzt-ueber-ereignisse-am-berliner-reichstag>

<https://www.fr.de/meinung/kolumnen/verlust-an-vertrauen-90028867.html>

<https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/corona-demo-berlin-131.html>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53964147>

## **Belgium**

**Le Soir Slammed for “Corona Village” Reference to Jewish Neighborhood**

The Belgian daily "Le Soir" was slammed following a cartoon it published on August 7, 2020, which purportedly referred to the Orthodox Jewish neighborhood of Antwerp as "Coronavirus Village". The cartoon by artist Pierre Kroll, who had previously denied several allegations of antisemitism, shows a tourist bus in Antwerp and an Orthodox Jewish man cycling nearby without a face mask, while a caption above the bus driver reads: "After the zoo, we'll go tour 'Coronavirus Village'". Joel Rubinfeld, the president of the Belgian League Against Anti-Semitism, said the caricature "again shows that Kroll obsessively returns to Jews in his works when it comes to Antwerp or diamond dealers". Richard Kennigsmann, a well-known Jewish-Belgian satirist, wrote on Facebook that while he has "not called Kroll an antisemite, his painting may be considered as such".

References:

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/belgian-daily-runs-cartoon-seen-to-label-jewish-neighborhood-coronavirus-village>

<https://plus.lesoir.be/317675/article/2020-08-07/le-kroll-du-jour-sur-le-village-covid-anvers>

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/two-haredim-lightly-injured-in-hit-and-run-in-brooklyn-640574>

## Responses to Antisemitism

### France

#### Facebook and Instagram Permanently Banned Account of Dieudonné

On August 3, 2020 Facebook and Instagram social networks stated that they banned the account of controversial French comedian and convicted Holocaust denier, Dieudonné M'bala M'bala for spreading content that mocked Holocaust victims. Facebook stated that some of Dieudonné's posts used "dehumanizing terms against Jews," and that "In accordance with our policy on dangerous individuals and organizations, we have

permanently banned Dieudonne [from both networks]". The International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (LICRA) welcomed the ban as a "great victory", saying Dieudonne's posts "have done considerable and irreparable damage among young people".

[https://www.bfmtv.com/tech/dieudonne-banni-de-facebook-a-cause-d-un-contenu-se-moquant-des-victimes-de-la-shoah\\_AN-202008030060.html](https://www.bfmtv.com/tech/dieudonne-banni-de-facebook-a-cause-d-un-contenu-se-moquant-des-victimes-de-la-shoah_AN-202008030060.html)

[https://www.lemonde.fr/pixels/article/2020/08/03/facebook-interdit-a-dieudonne-toute-presence-sur-facebook-et-instagram\\_6048019\\_4408996.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/pixels/article/2020/08/03/facebook-interdit-a-dieudonne-toute-presence-sur-facebook-et-instagram_6048019_4408996.html)

## **United Kingdom**

### **Award-Winning Architect Peter Kellow Banned by the U.K. Licensing Board Due to Remarks Against Jews and Muslims on Facebook**

British award-winning architect, Peter Kellow was banned by the U.K. licensing board on August 13, 2020, due to remarks against Jews and Muslims on Facebook. In a post made on April 13, 2019 Kellow made the claim that Jews possibly were the ones "inventing" European racism by claiming to be "racially different" themselves. He also wrote that the "Judaists" (a term Kellow uses instead of "Jews") possibly have themselves to blame for persecutions throughout history. He also labeled Judaism, as well as Sunni Islam, cults and suggested that "cult clothing such as the Jewish kippah (skullcap) should not be worn in public. A professional conduct committee by the Architects Registration Board (ARB) found Kellow guilty of unacceptable professional conduct and in breach of the Architects' Code of Conduct, and he was struck off the professional register. In response Kellow said he did not regret the posting.

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/architect-struck-off-after-saying-jews-were-the-inventors-of-european-racism-1.505772>

<https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/architect-struck-off-for-facebook-comments-about-jews-and-muslims/5107540.article>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8636509/Award-winning-architect-struck-claimed-Judaism-cult.html>

## **Labour Whistle-blowers Thanked Jewish Community for Support**

Seven former Labour party officials who acted as whistle-blowers of antisemitism in the party have written a letter of thanks to the Jewish community on August 19, 2020 for the support shown to them. The seven officials went public about what they saw as problems of antisemitism in the Labour party in the BBC “Panorama” Investigation in July 2019. After initially facing resistance by other Labour officials, the party issued a public apology in the High Court on July 22, 2020 for making “false and defamatory” comments about seven whistleblowers. In their thank-you letter the seven praised “the practical and emotional support” from, among others, the Jewish Leadership Council (JLC) and the Community Security Trust (CST). They also stated that without the support of the JLM (Jewish Labour Movement) “it is doubtful that any of this would have been possible.” They also expressed their belief that the apology in court was sincere and not made for political reasons.

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/panorama-antisemitism-whistleblowers-write-letter-thanking-the-community-for-its-support-1.505793>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53489611>

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/police-investigate-antisemitic-email-sent-by-pro-hitler-group-1.505787>

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/police-investigate-antisemitic-email-sent-by-pro-hitler-group-1.505787>

## **Board of “Islamic Relief Worldwide” Decided to Resign Due to Director's Antisemitic Posts**

The entire board of Britain's largest Muslim charity "Islamic Relief Worldwide" (IRW) decided to resign on August 22, 2020 due to antisemitic posts on Facebook by one of its directors. The director, Almoutaz Tayara, who is also the chairman of "Islamic Relief Germany", has described leaders of the militant Palestinian group Hamas as "great men" and in 2014-2015 posted an image of former President Barack Obama wearing a tie branded with the Star of David. Tayara replaced Heshmat Khalifa who had himself resigned after it was revealed in July 2020 that he had also posted antisemitic statements on Facebook where he called Israelis the 'grandchildren of monkeys and pigs' and Egypt's president a 'pimp son of the Jews'. The IRW stated that the posts "contravened its values" and assured that Tayara would "play no further part in the governance". The Charity Commission for England and Wales said last month that it was launching a probe into the matter and has now requested an urgent meeting with the new incoming board.

References:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8653559/Entire-leadership-Britains-biggest-Muslim-charity-QUITS-antisemitic-posts.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jul/24/islamic-relief-head-appalled-by-antisemitic-posts-by-board-member>

<https://www.islamic-relief.org/statement-from-islamic-relief-worldwide/%25255d>

## **Austria**

### **Austrian Government Plan to Combat Antisemitism Following Attack on President of Jewish Community of Graz**

On August 22, 2020 an unknown assailant attacked the Graz Jewish community's president, Elie Rosen, with a wooden club on the premises of a Graz synagogue, which was twice targeted by acts of vandalism in August 2020. Rosen took shelter in his car and was unhurt. The police are investigating. Kurz said on Twitter he was shocked by the attack on Rosen and authorities would do what they could to find the perpetrator and guarantee the security of the Jewish community in the country. Following the attack, the Austrian government is developing a plan to fight antisemitism. An outline of the plan seeks to establish a new department

dealing with such instances within the Austrian Chancellery Office. A new online platform is also under development and will allow Internet users to report any "anti-Semitic and/or anti-Zionist incident" across the country.

References:

<https://www.israelhayom.com/2020/08/30/austrian-government-developing-plan-to-fight-anti-semitism/>

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/08/23/austrian-leaders-condemn-attack-against-jewish-community-in-graz/>

## **Poland**

### **Charges Brought Against Neo-Nazi Groups**

On August 24, 2020 the Polish Internal Security Agency brought charges against members of Lower Silesian neo-Nazi groups 'Obled' and 'Odwet'. The bands planned to become a branch of the German neo-Nazi Nazi 'Blut und Ehre' association. The groups operated for years, organizing neo-Nazi festivals and public actions, as well as attacks on people and property.

References:

[https://wroclaw.wyborcza.pl/wroclaw/7,35771,26227081,polscy-neonazisci-rozpracowywani-przez-abw-miedzy-nimi-pracownik.html?\\_ga=2.205520979.1548177010.1598247059-1083599813.1581687961](https://wroclaw.wyborcza.pl/wroclaw/7,35771,26227081,polscy-neonazisci-rozpracowywani-przez-abw-miedzy-nimi-pracownik.html?_ga=2.205520979.1548177010.1598247059-1083599813.1581687961)

[https://oko.press/13-osob-z-zarzutami-promowania-nazizmu-w-tym-b-prezes-radia-gdansk-z-nadania-pis/?fbclid=IwAR2x3MM4DGHZivgrKay2JjZ5tkUtCUz3TEre6I7VBCJGZGT\\_JrGPLadZatU](https://oko.press/13-osob-z-zarzutami-promowania-nazizmu-w-tym-b-prezes-radia-gdansk-z-nadania-pis/?fbclid=IwAR2x3MM4DGHZivgrKay2JjZ5tkUtCUz3TEre6I7VBCJGZGT_JrGPLadZatU)

### **Canada: Complaint Filed Against Glos Polski**

On August 6, 2020 B'nai Brith Canada filed a criminal complaint with Toronto Police after a local Polish-language newspaper "Głos Polski" (The

voice of Poland) twice blamed the COVID-19 pandemic on a sinister Jewish plot. The newspaper published an article on March 25 and again on April 22 titled "Coronavirus, or the false pandemic". The article claimed that "ISIS / ISIL terrorists [were] brought into evil existence by the organized and completely controlled Jewish community ", and that that Soviet dictator Vladimir Lenin, Nazi fanatic Joseph Goebbels and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan were all secretly Jewish. It also described Israel as "the cause of all the world's woes" and "an emanation of the Devil himself". Michael Mostyn, CEO of B'nai Brith Canada said "The spread of the lie that Jews are responsible for COVID-19 must be the subject of criminal charges, especially when someone does so repeatedly". The newspaper is affiliated with the Polish National Union of Canada and its editor-in-chief, Wiesław Magiera, joined Andrzej Kumor as an unsuccessful candidate for the far-right Konfederacja party in Poland's October 2019 parliamentary elections. In June, Andrzej Kumor, the publisher of another Polish-language outlet based in the Greater Toronto Area, was arrested, warned and released without charge after publishing a series of antisemitic articles.

References:

[https://www.bnaibrith.ca/toronto\\_polish\\_newspaper](https://www.bnaibrith.ca/toronto_polish_newspaper)

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/polish-language-newspaper-in-toronto-blames-jews-for-the-pandemic>

<https://thej.ca/2020/08/15/news-briefs-bnai-brith-complaint-supported-by-major-polish-group/>

## **United States**

### **Speaker at Republican National Convention Removed After Antisemitic Posts**

On August 25, 2020, Mary Ann Mendoza, a mother who had been scheduled to speak at the Republican National Convention (RNC), was removed from the program after she urged her Twitter followers to read a thread from an antisemitic conspiracy theorist linked to Qanon (fringe far-right theory). Hours before the RNC, Mendoza shared a months-long

thread containing multiple antisemitic tropes, including claims that the Protocols of the Elders of Zion (classical antisemitic text), is not a fabrication. Mendoza later deleted the tweet and claimed she was not aware of its contents. In November 2018, Mendoza shared an antisemitic conspiracy theory on Twitter in which she wrote, "The Rothschilds have used their globalist media mouthpiece to declare that Donald Trump is threatening to destroy the New World!"

References:

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/angel-mom-mary-ann-mendoza-dropped-from-rnc-lineup-after-promoting-anti-semitic-conspiracy-theory>

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/rnc-speaker-boosts-qanon-conspiracy-theory-about-jewish-plot-to-enslave-the-world-1>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/08/25/politics/rnc-mary-ann-mendoza-anti-semitic-conspiracy-theory/index.html>

## **Argentina**

### **El Cuyo Argentinian University Adopts IHRA's Working Definition of Antisemitism**

In May 2019 El Cuyo University was harshly criticized by the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) due to manifestations of antisemitism on campus. On August 19, 2020 as a response to manifestations of antisemitism on campus, the El Cuyo University, Argentine, adopted IHRA's (International Holocaust Remembrance Association) working definition of antisemitism in order to combat antisemitism, intolerance and violence. This is the first university in Latin America to adopt the definition. Dr. Ariel Gelbung, director of the Shimon Wiesenthal Center for Latin America, welcomed the decision as "the university has shown to take a lead in the fight against antisemitism on the continent".

References:

<http://www.uncuyo.edu.ar/prensa/resolucion-ejemplar-la-uncuyo-adopto-la-nueva-definicion-de-antisemitismo>

## Holocaust – Attitudes and Distortion

### Lithuania

#### **Alleged Holocaust Distorter Appointed Top Adviser to Lithuania Genocide Museum**

The Jewish Community of Lithuania protested on August 27, 2020 against the appointment of the journalist Vidmantas Valušaitis as a top advisor to Lithuania Genocide Museum. The community claimed on its website that Valusaitis “has been deliberately distorting history in his publications for several years and presenting to the public untrue facts about the antisemitic actions of the Lithuanian Activists’ Front and the Provisional Government of Lithuania” during the Holocaust. The statement added that Valusaitis is unfit for the post because he is “openly defending antisemites who directly or indirectly took part in the extermination of the Jews of Lithuania.”

References:

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/alleged-holocaust-distorter-named-top-adviser-to-lithuania-genocide-museum>

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/alleged-holocaust-distorter-named-top-adviser-to-lithuania-genocide-museum/>

<https://www.lzb.lt/en/2020/08/27/valiusaitiss-appointment-to-new-post-worries-historians-and-jewish-community/>

### Ukraine

## **Kyiv Shevchenko University Publishes Memoirs of Nazi Collaborator Kost Smovskii**

The Kyiv Shevchenko University published the memoirs of Kost Smovskii. During WWII Smovskii served under the Nazis as an organizer of the Kyiv assistance police as well as a deputy commander of the 118 Battalion. Eduard Dolinsky, the former head of the Ukrainian-Jewish Committee, claims that Smovskii took an active part in massacres in Babyi Yar in the Ukraine) (in September 1941) and in Khatyn' in Bellarussia (in March 1943). In August 2020, Dolinsky, protested on his Facebook page against the publication of Smovski's memoirs and pointed out that the publishing house should have included details of his WWII actions.

References:

<https://strana.ua/news/286000-kafedra-mirovoho-ukrainstva-universiteta-shevchenko-izdala-memuary-natsista-kostja-smovskoho.html>

<https://112.ua/obshchestvo/ubiyca-i-palach-universitet-shevchenko-izdal-memuary-nacistskogo-prestupnika-smi-547737.html>

<https://www.politnavigator.net/vedushhijj-universitet-ukrainy-proslavil-nacistskogo-palacha.html>

## **Sweden**

### **Debate About Location of Holocaust Museum**

An intense debate broke out in August 2020 in Sweden regarding the location of a new state funded Holocaust Museum. The capital city Stockholm as well as the city of Malmö both fought to have the museum located in their city. On 15 April 2020, the government's advisors submitted a proposal to build a new museum somewhere in Sweden with the aim of "promoting knowledge about the Holocaust, Sweden's relationship to the Holocaust and preserving and disseminating stories from survivors connected to Sweden". Ahead of the official proposal, the daily newspaper Expression published an opinion piece on the International Holocaust Day, 27 January, 2020, saying it would send an important signal if the city of Malmö would house the new museum. The context was Malmö as a city affected by many antisemitic incidents for years. The perpetrators most

often having their roots in the Middle East and sharp criticism had been directed against the political leadership for their alleged failure of dealing with the problems. Several local politicians in Stockholm, on the other hand, said that it would attract more visitors if the museum would be located in the capital. Strong criticism of Malmö's political leadership was expressed by the Swedish-Jewish journalist Paulina Neuding on August 27, 2020 in the daily newspaper Svenska Dagbladet. She wrote that "Malmö competes to show murdered Jews while not being able to stand up for the living". The Jewish Central Council in Sweden stated in this context that regardless of location, the important thing is that the museum receives a pronounced pedagogical assignment in addition to the academic one.

References:

<https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/skane/politisk-kamp-om-forintelsemuseet>

<https://www.svd.se/vad-hander-om-judar-gar-in-i-rosengard>

<https://www.expressen.se/ledare/ett-forintelsemuseum-i-malmo-vore-ratt-signal/>

## Debate on Antisemitism

### United Kingdom

#### Controversy About Settlement Against Antisemitism in Labour Party

Following the settlement between the Labour party and whistle-blowers against antisemitism in the party, Labour MP Claudia Webbe said on August 13, 2020 that she is "deeply concerned" about the party's decision to settle the case. Webbe is a former member of Labour's National Executive Committee disputes panel that ruled on cases of antisemitism and was given a seat under former party leader Corbyn. Webbe claimed that as many black party members don't feel safe, the settlement made by the party leadership could undermine the attempt to restore trust and confidence among minority groups. Other members of Labour's BAME (black, Asian and ethnic minorities) staff network have warned that the

settlement with the whistle-blowers could further a perception of a “hierarchy of racism” in the party, with “antisemitism seen as the most serious form of prejudice, while Islamophobia and anti-black racism were considered less important.” Labour General Secretary David Evans warned on the same day that party members could face potential “liabilities” if challenging the settlement.

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/labour-s-claudia-webbe-says-she-is-deeply-concerned-by-antisemitism-libel-settlements-1.505724>

## **Examples of Antisemitic Manifestations**

### **France**

#### **Jewish Man Violently Attacked in Paris Elevator**

On 6 August 2020, a Jewish man was reportedly beaten and insulted by two men who followed him into an elevator of a Paris building where his parents live, in an allegedly antisemitic assault. The victim, 29, identified only as David S, told police that on the 18th floor, one of the men told him, "Dirty Jew, dirty Jewish son of a whore, you're a dead man, dirty Jew". The attackers fled when the elevator stopped on the floor where the victim's parents live. The victim was reportedly knocked unconscious for several minutes from the blows and suffered minor injuries to the face and throat and was left traumatized. The incident was condemned by the National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism (BNVCA) and by several politicians including Paris mayor, Anne Hidalgo and Minister of Justice, Éric Dupond-Moretti. On 26 August Police arrested two black men they suspect are the perpetrators behind the incident.

References:

<https://www.leparisien.fr/paris-75/paris-une-tres-violente-agression-antisemite-11-08-2020-8366502.php>

[https://www.lepoint.fr/faits-divers/sale-juif-sale-race-indignation-apres-une-violente-agression-antisemite-a-paris-13-08-2020-2387664\\_2627.php](https://www.lepoint.fr/faits-divers/sale-juif-sale-race-indignation-apres-une-violente-agression-antisemite-a-paris-13-08-2020-2387664_2627.php)

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/un-homme-porte-plainte-pour-une-agression-antisemite-violente-a-paris-20200811>

[https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/08/11/french-jewish-man-verbally-abused-badly-beaten-up-in-paris-elevator-in-antisemitic-assault/?fbclid=IwAR3PgBgMq6QVKFnqOIpcSMg2EyYqIJOfUFUFQeH\\_6CcualcxZcbVD8Gaohc](https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/08/11/french-jewish-man-verbally-abused-badly-beaten-up-in-paris-elevator-in-antisemitic-assault/?fbclid=IwAR3PgBgMq6QVKFnqOIpcSMg2EyYqIJOfUFUFQeH_6CcualcxZcbVD8Gaohc)

### **Jewish Street Artist Attacked in Strasbourg**

On August 26, 2020 Raphael Nisand, a Jewish graffiti artist wearing a shirt reading "Israel" on it, was assaulted by a group of men in Strasbourg, France, while decorating an electricity box for the municipality near Leon Blum Street. One of the assailants aggressively told Nisand, "You are a Jew, you have no place here," before telling the artist to change his shirt, which he did. The men pushed the victim, stole his spray-paint and used it to write offensive slogans including, "no Jews or sluts allowed" on the pavement. The artist who did not suffer any serious injuries in the incident had filed a complaint to the police for "threats" and "racial insults". On August 28, police arrested one of the suspects involved in the incident.

References:

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/strasbourg-interdit-aux-juifs-le-parquet-ouvre-une-enquete-20200827>

<https://www.ouest-france.fr/grand-est/strasbourg-67000/strasbourg-un-suspect-interpelle-apres-une-agression-et-des-tags-antisemites-6951439>

[https://www.lexpress.fr/actualite/societe/strasbourg-apres-une-agression-antisemite-le-parquet-ouvre-une-enquete\\_2133680.html](https://www.lexpress.fr/actualite/societe/strasbourg-apres-une-agression-antisemite-le-parquet-ouvre-une-enquete_2133680.html)

### **Neo-Nazi Graffiti near Children's Center in Lyon**

On August 18, 2020 an antisemitic graffiti reading "Heil Hitler" and "Juden" ("Jews" in German) was found at 6 Belissen Street in the Fifth

arrondissement of Lyon, France, near the Pierre Valdo Children Center. The incident was strongly condemned by municipal leaders including Mayor of Lyon Grégory Doucet, 5th district mayor, Nadine Georgel and by the LICRA (The International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism) which had filed a legal complaint and stated that "Neo-Nazis are enemies of the Republic and its' values and we need to combat them as such with all legal means available ".

[https://www.bfmtv.com/lyon/lyon-la-licra-saisit-la-justice-apres-la-decouverte-d-un-tag-antisemite\\_AN-202008180096.html](https://www.bfmtv.com/lyon/lyon-la-licra-saisit-la-justice-apres-la-decouverte-d-un-tag-antisemite_AN-202008180096.html)

<https://www.leprogres.fr/faits-divers-justice/2020/08/18/lyon-un-tag-antisemite-decouvert-dans-le-5e-arrondissement>

[https://actu.fr/auvergne-rhone-alpes/lyon\\_69123/lyon-5e-apres-la-decouverte-d-un-nouveau-tag-antisemite-la-justice-saisie-par-la-licra\\_35578106.html](https://actu.fr/auvergne-rhone-alpes/lyon_69123/lyon-5e-apres-la-decouverte-d-un-nouveau-tag-antisemite-la-justice-saisie-par-la-licra_35578106.html)

<https://www.lyonmag.com/article/109726/lyon-5e-un-tag-antisemite-decouvert-sur-la-palissade-d-une-maison>

## **United Kingdom**

### **Neo-Nazi Group Sends Antisemitic Email to Several Organizations**

An e-mail with antisemitic content was sent to several UK local councils and organizations including media companies, among them the “Jewish Chronicle”. The email was sent twice, on August 10 and 15, 2020. The group claiming to be behind the e-mail calls itself “Keep Britain Pure League” (KBPL) and claims among other things that Jews are “in charge of the money” and calls for all Jews as well as other “non-whites” to be expelled from the UK. The e-mail also stated that Hitler made a mistake in not killing enough Jews. The Thames Valley Police started an investigation about the incidents. The e-mail contains information about the organization’s address as well as about two individuals who are said to be the leaders of the group. The people mentioned denied any connection to the e-mails and claimed their identities had been hacked.

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/police-investigate-antisemitic-email-sent-by-pro-hitler-group-1.505787>

<https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/news/people/hoax-say-couple-named-sick-nazi-email-circulated-hundreds-people-milton-keynes-2938230>

## **Sweden**

### **Protests Against Burning of the Koran and Threats Against Jews**

During violent riots in protest against the burning of the Koran in the city of Malmö on August 28, 2020, the crowd shouted slogans against Jews. Danish politician Rasmus Paludan, the leader of the extreme right-wing party "Stram Kurs" ("Hard Line") in Denmark, had requested permission of the Malmö authorities to burn a Koran in the Swedish city as a manifestation of "freedom of expression". After being denied permission by the police, members of the Danish Stram Kurs nevertheless proceeded to burn a Koran book in "Rosengård", an area in Malmö with a large Muslim population. This led to large protests and violent riots among Muslims in the city. Video clips showed people raising their fists, shouting "Oh Jews, remember "Khaybar", Mohammad's army returns" several times, referring to the battle with Jews in Khaybar by Muhammad and his followers in 628. The "Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities" (OCSJC) while condemning the burning of the Koran, strongly condemned the calling for the murder of Jews." They also emphasized the importance of the police having the knowledge and means to intervene against individuals who are "guilty of incitement even if it is performed in a language other than Swedish." Rabbi of Malmö, Rabbi Moshe-David Hacohen has worked for years with local Imam Barakat to improve the situation in the city and according to the spokesman for the Jewish Community in Malmö the incident shows "we still have a long way to go in Malmö". The police stated they were conducting a criminal investigation.

References:

<https://www.expressen.se/kvallsposten/demonstranterna-skrek-ut-sitt-judehat/>

<https://www.judiskacentralradet.se/single-post/2020/08/30/Centralr%C3%A5det-f%C3%B6rd%C3%B6mer-gravt-antisemitiska-uttalanden>

<https://www.expressen.se/kvallsposten/inte-min-manifestation-nu-vill-de-doda-judar/>

## Italy

### Attack on Chief Rabbi of Livorno

On August 13, 2020, an Italian man in his thirties verbally assaulted the Chief Rabbi and Head of the Jewish Community of Livorno, Avraham Dayan, in Felice Cavallotti Square. The man wearing a T-shirt reading "Germany" on it, reportedly yelled towards Dayan: "Germany, Germany! Free Palestine! [...] I am German and the Nazis had done well by what they did to the Jews." The rabbi filed a complaint and police arrested the alleged perpetrator following an investigation and thanks to the filmed footage and the victim's testimony. Francesco Gazzetti from the local Democratic Party (PD) condemned the incident and expressed solidarity with the Jewish community. The Jewish community in Livorno thanked all organizations, parties and police forces for their solidarity.

References:

<https://iltirreno.gelocal.it/livorno/cronaca/2020/08/14/news/giovane-denunciato-per-le-offese-al-rabbino-il-religioso-grazie-per-la-solidarieta-1.39195044>

<https://www.mosaico-cem.it/attualita-e-news/italia/livorno-denunciato-un-attacco-verbale-di-stampo-antisemita-trovato-laggressore>

<https://losservatore.com/index/2020/08/16/il-rabbino/>

<https://www.italiaisraeletoday.it/viiva-la-germania-e-la-palestina-laggressione-al-rabbino-di-livorno/>

<https://www.livornotoday.it/cronaca/offese-rabbino-livorno-denuncia-comunita-ebraica.html>

## United States

### Car Rams Down Orthodox Jews in Brooklyn

On August 30, 2020, a Black Chevy Camaro vehicle hit two Orthodox Jews standing on the sidewalk in Williamsburg, Brooklyn on Lee Ave and Taylor St. and immediately fled the scene. The victims suffered minor injuries and reportedly refused medical attention on scene. Yaakov Hagoel, vice chairman of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) condemned the incident and said "This attempted murder in Williamsburg is a warning sign to authorities around the world. The next murder motivated by antisemitism is around the corner, [...] I call on governments around the world to increase the protection of Jewish institutions and the punishment for hate crimes." NYPD are investigating the incident.

References:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/08/31/nypd-investigating-brooklyn-hit%E2%80%90and%E2%80%90run-in-which-two-jewish-men-were-struck-by-speeding-car/>

<https://www.wzo.org.il/antisemitism/antisemitism/index.php?dir=site&page=articles&op=item&cs=5554>

### **Bomb Threat Left on Voice Mail of Virginia Synagogue**

On August 21, 2020, a bomb threat was left on a voicemail of Ner Shalom synagogue on Spriggs Road in Woodbridge, Virginia. Prince William County Police launched an investigation and searched the area for any bombs, but none were located.

References:

[https://www.insidenova.com/headlines/police-investigate-bomb-threat-at-prince-william-jewish-temple/article\\_6c5912ea-e68d-11ea-832b-bffdd5dcb085.html](https://www.insidenova.com/headlines/police-investigate-bomb-threat-at-prince-william-jewish-temple/article_6c5912ea-e68d-11ea-832b-bffdd5dcb085.html)

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/bomb-threat-left-on-voicemail-of-virginia-synagogue>

[https://www.princewilliamtimes.com/news/police-investigate-bomb-threat-at-local-jewish-temple/article\\_c5d3bd80-e650-11ea-8dd7-2338b18e7bb3.html](https://www.princewilliamtimes.com/news/police-investigate-bomb-threat-at-local-jewish-temple/article_c5d3bd80-e650-11ea-8dd7-2338b18e7bb3.html)

## **Jewish Man Attacked in Lobby of Building in Brooklyn**

On August 21, 2020 a 70-year old Jewish man was reportedly attacked in the lobby of a building on 626 Wythe Place in Williamsburg, Brooklyn with a broomstick and punched in his face. The Jewish community watch Shomrim responded and began a search for the attacker. The victim suffered injuries and was transported to the hospital. According to Hamodia Haredi newspaper, the incident appears to be an antisemitic hate crime.

References:

<https://hamodia.com/2020/08/24/70-male-injured-possible-bias-attack-williamsburg/>

<https://www.antisemitism.co.il/2020/08/jewish-man-attacked-in-williamsburg.html>

## **Arson Attack on Chabad Center at University of Delaware**

On August 25, 2020, an arson attack occurred at the Chabad center at the University of Delaware. According to State Fire Marshal's office, investigators have found "no indication of a hate crime" but are "exploring all avenues". It required 45 firefighters to put out the fire and the damage it caused was estimated at up to \$200,000. A criminal investigation has been opened. Newark Mayor Jerry Clifton condemned the incident in a statement saying: "This is a sickening act of hostility that threatens the safety and security of our inclusive, welcoming neighborhoods. Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden also denounced the incident as "deeply disturbing" and said, "With antisemitism on the rise across the country, we all have a moral obligation to speak out and give hate no safe harbor".

<https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/.premium-fire-at-university-of-delaware-chabad-ruled-arson-1.9109240>

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/joe-biden-calls-delaware-chabad-torching-deeply-disturbing>

[https://www.newarkpostonline.com/news/investigator-fire-at-ud-s-chabad-center-for-jewish-life-was-intentionally-set/article\\_f3802a5a-a865-5233-8de0-2a4f331d9c37.html](https://www.newarkpostonline.com/news/investigator-fire-at-ud-s-chabad-center-for-jewish-life-was-intentionally-set/article_f3802a5a-a865-5233-8de0-2a4f331d9c37.html)

## Argentina

### Antisemitic Posters Found in Neuquen Province

Juan Manzur, governor of the Neuquen province (located in the Argentinian Patagonia) sharply condemned antisemitic caricatures found on August 22, 2020 in the streets of the town of Villa Farrel. The antisemitic messages included conspiracy theories claiming that COVID-19 pandemic is a “maneuver to install a Jewish global dictatorship” and blaming president Alberto Fernandez for colluding with the Jews. Carlos Maravankin, president of the DAIA said that a complaint would be sent to the Federal Prosecution Office.

References:

<https://itongadol.com/antisemitismo/el-gobernador-de-tucuman-repudio-mensajes-antisemitas-en-la-provincia-de-neuquen>

<https://www.perfil.com/noticias/actualidad/centro-wiesenthal-denuncio-amenazas-a-judios-en-neuquen-por-coronavirus.phtml>