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KANTOR CENTER

מרכז קנטור

For the Study of Contemporary European Jewry | לחקר יהדות אירופה בימינו

April 2020

Antisemitism Highlights

Antisemitic incidents continued outside the virtual world, although in times of lockdown, most incidents were recorded online. Violent incidents including arson, desecration and graffiti were reported in April from Poland, Russia, the USA, France, Finland, Germany, Canada

Violent Incidents

Russia

Arson attack on synagogue in Arkhangelsk

On April 12th, 2020 in the early morning hours, a synagogue in the Northwestern Russian city of Arkhangelsk was severely damaged in a suspected arson attack. Nobody was injured. Anatoly Obermeister, who heads the Russian Jewish Congress' Northern Region, said in a statement that the arson was the third assault on communal property, though the previous ones resulted in little damage. When the building was still in construction, in 2015 an unknown perpetrator shot an air rifle on it and in 2016 another unknown perpetrator threw a firebomb into the construction site.

References:

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<https://www.timesofisrael.com/synagogue-in-northern-russia-badly-damaged-in-suspected-arson-attack/>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/arsonists-attack-synagogue-in-russia-s-northwestern-city-of-arkhangelsk/30552610.html>

<https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Antisemitism/Synagogue-torched-in-northern-Russia-624600>

Finland

Desecration of Cemetery in Finland

On May 2nd, 2020 the Jewish cemetery in Hamina, Finland was desecrated, tombstones were vandalized with swastikas and antisemitic graffiti. These are tombstones from the beginning of the last century. Jewish soldiers who served in the Czar's army before Finland gained independence in 1917, and passed away – were buried in the cemetery. In Finland, as elsewhere, there has been an increase in antisemitic manifestations in recent months attributing the spread of the Corona epidemic to Jews. This was evident in online activity but also in the distribution of stickers across Helsinki by the Neo-Nazi Nordic Resistance Movement.

References:

<https://www.israelhayom.co.il/article/755901>

Poland

Vandalism of Jewish sites in Poland

On April 17th, 2020 a man was arrested in Poland for smashing a window of a Wrocław Jewish community building.

References:

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/man-smashes-window-of-jewish-community-building-in-poland>

<https://antisemitism.org.il/en/155428/>

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On 6th April, 2019 the police in Otwock, Poland were informed of swastikas painted on a plaque commemorating local Jews murdered by the Germans during World War Two.

References:

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/monument-in-central-poland-to-mass-graves-for-2000-jewish-holocaust-victims-vandalized>

<https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Monument-in-Poland-to-mass-graves-of-Jewish-Holocaust-victims-vandalized-586075>

<https://www.thejc.com/news/world/two-swastikas-daubed-on-stone-marking-mass-grave-near-polish-ghetto-otwock-1.482726>

United States

Attempted Arson Attack on Jewish Nursing Home

On April 15th, 2020 John Rathbun, a 36-year-old man from Massachusetts, was arrested and charged by the federal court in Springfield with attempted arson of "Ruth's House" a Jewish nursing home, in which 21 residents died of the coronavirus. FBI investigated the incident as of a possible hate crime. A large container filled with five gallons of gasoline and stuffed with a Christian church pamphlet was discovered burning outside the nursing home on April 2nd. According to authorities, Ruth's House, was being discussed on white supremacist social media sites and was referred to as "that Jew nursing home in Longmeadow Massachusetts," The social media sites also identified April 3rd as "Jew killing day". Rathbun was jailed awaiting trial and faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling said in a statement: "In times of national crisis, hatred based on religion often blossoms into violence".

References:

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<https://www.masslive.com/news/2020/04/east-longmeadow-man-accused-of-trying-to-firebomb-jewish-nursing-home-ordered-back-to-jail.html>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/massachusetts-man-charged-allegedly-trying-blow-jewish-nursing-home-n1184876>
<https://www.wvlp.com/news/local-news/hampden-county/east-longmeadow-home-searched-by-fbi-as-part-of-possible-hate-crime-investigation/>

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Synagogue and Chabad Center vandalized in Huntsville

In early April 2020, two synagogues were vandalized in Huntsville, Alabama with antisemitic graffiti. On April 8th, the first night of Passover, the Etz Chayim Synagogue was vandalized with neo-Nazi graffiti including "F*** Kikes", "Gas Em All", "White Power", "Jew rats Satan" "Jew Scum" and "Holohoax". Several swastikas and the Nazi SS symbol were also spray-painted on the building and the property. Police are investigating and reviewing security camera footage. Mayor Tommy Battle said in a statement "the City of Huntsville condemns antisemitism in the strongest possible terms. [...] we stand side by side with our Jewish brothers and sisters and people of all faiths. On April 10 the Chabad center in Huntsville was also hit with similar antisemitic slogans spray-painted on the driveway and garage. Many in the local Christian community stood in solidarity with the Jewish community and helped remove the graffiti and repaint the garage. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is now involved as the attacks are being classified as hate crimes.

References:

<https://www.al.com/news/2020/04/huntsville-synagogue-vandalized-with-anti-semitic-slurs-swastikas-as-passover-begins.html>

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/synagogue-in-huntsville-alabama-vandalized-on-first-night-of-passover-with-neo-nazi-graffiti>

<https://www.wbrc.com/2020/04/12/second-huntsville-synagogue-vandalized-with-anti-semitic-graffiti/>

<https://abc3340.com/news/local/north-alabama-synagogue-vandalized-with-swastikas-anti-semitic-slurs-on-passover>

Italy

Juden Raus! On Cemetery Walls in Soveria Mannelli

On April 25th 2020 swastikas and antisemitic slogans including "Juden Raus" ("Jews Out" in German) were found on cemetery walls at the Italian village of Soveria Mannelli, in the province of Catanzaro. April 25 is the date marking the anniversary of the Liberation from Nazi-fascism in Italy. Mayor Leonardo Sirianni condemned the graffiti saying it was an "offense to the collective memory". Police are investigating.

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References:<http://www.lametino.it/Ultimora/due-svastiche-ed-una-scritta-in-nero-sui-muri-del-cimitero-di-soveria-mannelli-avviate-indagini.html><https://www.lanuovacalabria.it/post/soveria-mannelli-scritte-antisemite-apparse-nella-notte-del-25-aprile-il-sindaco-sirianni-offesa-alla-memoria-collettiva><https://dailyvoice.com/new-jersey/fortlee/police-fire/authorities-nyc-man-blames-jews-for-covid-19-assaults-fort-lee-dunkin-donuts-customer/787007/>

<https://shorennewsnetwork.com/2020/04/23/i-dont-want-jews-in-my-neighborhood-new-jersey-man-yells-at-dunkin-donuts-clerk/>

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/ny-man-charged-with-harassment-for-claiming-jews-responsible-for-coronavirus>

Denmark

Bible translation does not mention "Israel"

On April 20th, 2020 it became known that the Danish Bible Society, that published its first Danish translation of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament in more than 20 years, has omitted dozens of references to Israel in order, to "prevent confusion". The project in question is called "Bible 2020". Defending the deletions, the society said they tried to prevent confusing the Land of Israel with the State of Israel. It was Jan Frost, a Bible enthusiast from Denmark, who drew the media's attention to the omissions on YouTube and other social networks. In this new Danish Bible (which uses a New Testament translation from 2007), the term "Israel" only appears twice in the entire New Testament, despite appearing more than 60 times in the Greek from which the New Testament is translated. The term "Israel" has been replaced with "the Jewish people", "the Jews", "the people...", and in some cases removed altogether.

References:

<https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/danish-bible-society-s-translation-omits-dozens-of-references-to-israel-1.8785921>

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads>

<https://biblesocietyinisrael.com/our-statement-on-the-contemporary-danish-bible-2020/>

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Glorification of Nazism

Croatia

Protest against pro Ustasha slogans on t-shirts

On May 1st, 2020 Croatia's leftist president Zoran Milanovic walked out of a state ceremony in protest, since the participants wore t-shirts displaying slogans used during WWII by the pro-Nazi Ustasha regime. That regime sent to concentration camps and murdered tens of thousands of Serbs, Jews, Roma, and political opponents. Other top officials, including conservative Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, stayed.

References:

<https://www.dw.com/en/croatian-president-milanovic-protests-wwii-ustasha-slogan/a-53305754>

<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2020/05/01/world/europe/ap-eu-croatia-president.html?searchResultPosition=5>

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/croatia-president-quits-state-ceremony-in-protest-at-nazi-era-salute/>

Lithuania

Rejection of appeal regarding Finding on Accused Nazi-Collaborator Jonas Noreika

On April 1st, 2020 the Lithuanian Supreme Administrative Court, Vilnius, rejected, on technical grounds, an appeal by Grant Gochin, an American Jew, who sued The State Center for the Study of Genocide and Resistance demanding to change its statement referring to the nature of Jonas Noreika's collaboration with the Nazis. In November 2015 the Center, claimed that Noreika, a Lithuanian officer, who, under the Nazi occupation, officially imposed policies isolating the Jews and taking over their property. Noreika's critics claim that these actions constituted part of the Holocaust. However, according to the research of the Center, Noreika did not participate in the murder of Lithuanian Jews. The notion

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behind the Center's conclusion is that there is a substantial difference between collaborating with the Nazis in promoting their antisemitic Jewish policies and actually taking part in mass murders. The Jewish Community of Lithuania protested against the court's decision. Noreika is considered a national hero, since after WWII he led the antisemitic Soviet resistance in Lithuania. His reputation was tarnished, though, due to his wartime activities. In July 2018 Silvia Foti, Noreika's granddaughter, a USA-based journalist who researched the activities of her grandfather for years, published an article in the Salon.com news website claiming that he was a fierce antisemite and a Nazi collaborator during the war.

References:

- http://remembrance.ru/2020/04/25/souchastnik-unichtozheniya-yevreyev-ostayetsya-otkryty-m-geroyem-litvy/?fbclid=IwAR04xufx8vDyzuJ3MiLxMLoIW8LxkgU9_HF-j8ir-oKUxOVWfUVic5ecaZY
- <http://defendinghistory.com/vilnius-appeals-court-rejects-challenge-to-holocaust-collaborator-j-noreikas-status-as-national-hero/102252>
- <https://www.lzb.lt/en/2020/04/03/genocide-center-wins-case-demanding-retraction-of-jonas-noreika-finding/>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/10/world/europe/nazi-general-storm-lithuania.html>
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Antisemitism and Racism in Times of Corona

Reports

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Far-Right, White Supremacists Use Virus to Foster Antisemitism Online

According to a report by the American Jewish Congress (AJC) released in April, far-right activists and white supremacists have weaponized the coronavirus pandemic to spread antisemitic rhetoric and conspiracy theories online. Some of the antisemitic slogans invented by extremist fringe groups included "If you have the bug give a hug. Spread the flu to every Jew" and "HOLOCOUGH" a reference to the Holocaust, and the word "cough," in a call to infect Jews with the virus. According to the report, "white supremacists claim that Jews either spread the disease or created the virus in order to increase their control over the population growth, profit from it financially or even politically". Israel is being accused of developing the Coronavirus and withholding the release of the vaccine in order exploit the situation. Although these theories originate in extremist fringe groups, they manage to infiltrate somewhat into mainstream platforms and social media. In the report, AJCongress called for the US government and law enforcement to monitor white-supremacist and extremist groups and called for a domestic terrorism law.

References: <https://www.jns.org/report-far-right-white-supremacists-using-virus-to-foster-anti-semitism-online/>

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/04/28/report-far-right-white-supremacists-use-virus-to-foster-antisemitism-online/?fbclid=IwAR0CUVSWTHDLsSPnpZVGBqLPkRZR7sTApvkd37CClx5LDy6JiXm0cUMcFBw>

Covid-19 has caused a major spike in anti-Chinese and antisemitic hate speech

On April 29th, 2020 Moonshot (a technology company monitoring extremism online) published research about the Covid-19 pandemic showing that it brought significant increase mostly in anti-Chinese comments online, as well as in antisemitism. More than 600 million tweets were analyzed and in more than 200,000 of them a link was found

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with hate speech or conspiracy theories. Antisemitic hash tags include #SorosVirus, #IsraelVirus and @NWOVirus, most of the times referring to old theories about Jewish leaders controlling the world and (today) using the virus to kill a big part of the world population. Around 100,000 tweets were found to share wrong information regarding 5G technologies' abuse towards users. Twitter has announced the elimination of "unverified claims" regarding the pandemic while Instagram added tools to "promote accurate information".

References:

[newstatesman.com/science-tech/social-media/2020/04/covid-19-coronavirus-anti-chinese-antisemitic-hate-speech-5g-conspiracy-theory](https://www.newstatesman.com/science-tech/social-media/2020/04/covid-19-coronavirus-anti-chinese-antisemitic-hate-speech-5g-conspiracy-theory)

<http://moonshotcve.com/covid-19-the-5gcoronavirus-conspiracy-on-instagram-and-twitter/>

Germany

Zoombombing and online antisemitism reported by RIAS Center in Germany

According to the findings of the Federal Association of Research and Information Centers Antisemitism (RIAS) in Berlin, online antisemitism through zoombombing, especially during webinars and video conferences at commemorative events, has been increasing. Pia Lamberty, education officer at RIAS said.

Disrupting Holocaust commemorative events is not a new phenomenon: "People who disrupted offline commemorative events before the Corona crisis are now doing it online."

Since the beginning of the corona crisis, zoom bombings happened during Holocaust ceremonies and related issues inter alia in Duesseldorf, Frankfurt, and Berlin., as for example when virtual vandals disrupted an online Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony organized by Israel's embassy in Germany by shouting antisemitic Jewish slogans, displaying photos of Adolf Hitler and pornographic images. The incident triggered angry responses from officials in both countries and Israel said it may ask police to investigate.

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https://www.facebook.com/AntisemitismusRechercheBerlin/?_tn=%kCH-R&eid=ARACS_ES_x7MSWnpEQYrjAy4NwgBokotSJLwpar5xGFXfQvEHPnR9Osi37gHf57LQbi2FigBQVDcgzZ3&hc_ref=ARSg7qTLVTSy1Kz7ZIUWNpzNaFBD33wqFWqWoKxxh4U5ZqgmwVP-snnHUbTOSB9xMd4&fref=nf

Canada

On April 13th 2020 B'nai Brith Canada issued a statement saying they were "deeply concerned by a spate of antisemitic graffiti in a downtown Toronto area over the Passover holiday". On April 8th a graffiti reading "blame the Jews" was discovered on a garage of a private home on Crawford Street, near College Street, seemingly blaming the Jews for the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 9th a graffiti reading "Zionists are not welcome" had been spray-painted on an Aroma Espresso Bar location at College Street and Bathurst Street. The same Aroma shop had been vandalized with a similar graffiti about a week earlier. On 1 April the Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School in Toronto was defaced with swastikas and vulgar images. Police are investigating the incidents. Michael Mostyn, Chief Executive Officer of B'nai Brith Canada condemned the incidents as "despicable".

References:

<https://www.toronto.com/news-story/9936623-toronto-police-s-hate-crime-unit-probing-lewd-anti-semitic-graffiti-at-north-york-school/>

https://www.bnaibrith.ca/b_nai_brith_condemns_antisemitic_graffiti_in_downtown_toronto?fbclid=IwAR1Jfm7Ytd1LvDM4F-MfEmZBCZ2E_whiXLu5Ep5oxEHOAtxZ_sWxKerbes

Argentina

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Antisemitism in times of the pandemic in Argentina.

On April 1st, 2020, the DAIA (Delegation of Israeli-Argentinian Associations) published a report on antisemitic manifestations related to the Coronavirus pandemic. One of the most noticeable incidents happened on March 23rd, 2020 when a young Jewish man on board of a ship returning from Uruguay was tested positive for the virus. It didn't take long for Argentinian users of social media to share comments such as "He had to be Jew", "What would happen if 440 people die or are infected because of him? Would that be considered or the Mossad and DAIA will show up to his rescue?", "A Jew does it and everybody has to shut up".

References:

<http://www.daia.org.ar/2020/04/01/pandemia/>

Brazil

Concern in the Jewish community in Brazil regarding the advancement of the pandemic and antisemitic demonstrations.

On April 4th 2020, Fernando Lottenberg, president of the Israelite Confederation of Brazil (CONIB), shared his concern on the growing presence of antisemitism online, due to the Coronaviurs crisis. Some examples include a post on March 14th by a Facebook page (interested in the work of Sigmund Freud) denying the Holocaust and blaming the Jews for plagues (post by page manager, Olimpio Ferraz Melo). Leaders of the CONIB started a protest against Melo for his antisemitic comments. On April 8th, Marcos de Moraes, host of a news show on SBT (Sistema Brasileño de Televisión), commented that people infected with the virus "should be taken to concentration camps of health care". The anchorman was suspended from work for 15 days due to his trivialization of the Holocaust. On April 8th, Allan dos Santos, a well-known blogger, posted on Twitter "To omit the use of chloroquine is the same as leaving Jews in doubt between a shower and a gas chamber". The Jewish community condemned this post and declared it will be taken to court.

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References:

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Brazilian foreign minister compares social distancing to concentration camps

On April 22th, 2020 Ernesto Araujo, foreign minister of Brazil, compared the current social isolation to Nazi concentration camps. Araujo tweeted an analysis on Slavoj Zizek's book arguing that this time, in contrast to the time of the Holocaust, people will be convinced to "be trapped in this concentration camp" as global solidarity should be achieved in order to fight the pandemic. Ariel Krok, Brazilian member of the World Jewish Diplomatic Corps, assured that this comparison is a trivialization of concentration camps and the lives lost during the Holocaust, he then added "it is in bad taste, dangerous, and demonstrates a complete ignorance of the subject". Various Jewish groups from Brazil also condemned Araujo's comments.

References:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/brazilian-foreign-minister-compares-social-distancing-to-concentration-camps/>

<https://www.montevideo.com.uy/Noticias/Rechazo-a-canciller-brasileno-que-comparo-cuarentena-con-campos-de-concentracion-nazis-uc751542>

Colombia

The Simon Wiesenthal Center addressed Colombian digital platform ECTVPLAY: "Eliminate conspiracy theories about Coronaviruses and their disseminators".

On April 17th 2020, the Wiesenthal Center sent a letter to ECTVPLAY (Colombian TV channel on Youtube) condemning the screening of a

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video on Youtube (originally in English) where David Icke (English man known for sharing conspiracy theories about global politics) explains why the Coronavirus was created by a “cult” of “those who control the world” in order to become even more powerful and more oppressive. Dr. Shimon Samuels president of Public Relations at the Wiesenthal Center, expressed concern regarding these antisemitic conspiracies and asked for their removal.

References:

<https://www.enlacejudio.com/2020/04/18/el-centro-wiesenthal-se-dirige-a-la-plataforma-digital-en-espanol-ectvplay-elimin-en-teorias-de-conspiracion-sobre-el-coronavirus-y-sus-perpetradores/>

Antisemitic audios: the controversial Nazi recordings of a representative in Boyacá

Carlos Fajardo, named as an executive of the Democratic Center in Boyaca (a centrally located state in Colombia) and current representative of Coper (a municipality of Boyaca) has been condemned for xenophobic and antisemitic comments. On April 28th 2020, La W (Colombian radio station) shared voice notes sent from Fajardo to an anonymous person in which he calls “those Jewish dogs” and makes references of wearing Nazi clothes as a way of resistance by finally adding that he owns guns that are worth the lives of many “pirobos” (derogatory term used in Colombia to talk about people in prostitution) because it used to belong to the SS. After being confronted Fajardo denied all charges against him and assured the lies are being used to sabotage his public image.

References:

<https://www.wradio.com.co/noticias/regionales/audios-antisemitas-las-polemicas-grabaciones-nazis-de-un-personero-en-boyaca/20200428/nota/4034223.aspx>

Mexico

The political party “Movimiento Ciudadano” was accused for alluding Nazi propaganda.

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On April 9th, 2020 Movimiento Ciudadano (one of the youngest political parties in Mexico, defined as Social Democratic) a social media campaign encouraging people to stay at home because of the Coronavirus caused controversy due to the images chosen that reminded those of the Nazi party. Many people in social media condemned this publication, including the Jewish Central Committee (even after the party apologized and promised to take the images down). The director of communications responsible for this post was fired shortly after the publication. The image has a red background while the soldier is projected in black, wearing clothes similar to clothes worn by the Nazi army (with an eagle belt), a helmet and an armband while holding up an iron (for clothes), quoting “Stay home, we fight against Corona together, but not mixed together”.

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Peru

Peruvian Member of Parliament makes antisemitic joke on Twitter

On April 4th, 2020 Jose Barba Caballero (member of the Peruvian parliament for more than 20 years) made an antisemitic joke on his Twitter account reacting to the restrictions caused by the Coronavirus global pandemic. “In Israel, the quarantine has been a great success. The police went around with moneyboxes and no Jew was left on the streets”. Sport journalist Eddie Fleischman as well as the Israeli ambassador in Peru, accuse him of spreading antisemitic opinions.

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Spain

Diaz Ayuso praised the ultra-Right group Frente Atletico for offering their help during the Coronavirus Crisis.

On March 18th 2020, Diaz Ayuso, president of Madrid's Jewish community, expressed her support through Twitter to the ultra-Right and Nazi linked party Frente Atletico after they posted a tweet assuring their commitment to helping the Spanish community during the Coronavirus outbreak. Many members of the Jewish community as well as other citizens of Madrid harshly criticized her after replying "Grandes" ("you are great") to the party's original post. On social media she was accused of supporting "murderers" and Nazis.

References:

https://www.huffingtonpost.es/entry/diaz-ayuso-frente-atletico_es_5e733beac5b6f5b7c53e96c7

Responses

New Labour chief apologizes to the Jewish community and launched investigation

"Antisemitism has been a stain on our party. I have seen the grief that it's brought to so many Jewish communities. On behalf of the Labour Party, I am sorry," declared Keir Starmer, the new Labour Party leader, elected on April 4nd 2020. Following meeting with representatives of the Jewish community on April 7th, Starmer promised that "It was very important to me to seek to address the disgrace of antisemitism in our party as soon as possible. Over the last few years, we have failed the Jewish community on antisemitism. Labour is a proudly anti-racist party and, going forward, it will not be enough to 'pass the test' on antisemitism. We need to set new standards for best practice," he said.

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<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/starmer-addressed-labour-antisemitism-more-in-days-than-corbyn-in-years-623889>

<https://www.israelhayom.com/2020/04/05/news-uk-labour-leader-vows-to-tear-out-anti-semitism-in-party/>

On April 13th, 2020 the new leader of the United Kingdom's Labour Party, Keir Starmer has launched an "urgent investigation" into a leaked report documenting deficiencies in how the party dealt with complaints about antisemitism. The investigation will focus on why the report was commissioned, its findings and also how the document was released into the public domain.

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<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/asa-winstanley/keir-starmer-tilts-labour-sharply-towards-israel>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/uk-labour-party-orders-probe-leaked-anti-semitism-report-200413195941724.html>

Germany and Corona - Warnings by Antisemitism Commissioners

On April 6th, 2020 Uwe Becker, the commissioner for antisemitism of Hesse, Germany, warned of a dangerous spread of antisemitic hate messages and conspiracy theories, related to the corona crisis, pointing to social networks, where Jews and the state of Israel are increasingly being held responsible for the spread of the corona virus, thus creating a climate of hatred.

The federal government's antisemitism commissioner, Felix Klein, warns of mass-circulating antisemitic Jewish conspiracy theories in connection with the spreading corona virus. The pandemic creates a climate of general uncertainty, which provides ideal breeding ground for accusations of individual groups of people, Klein told the

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Tagesspiegel. "Unfortunately, it is not surprising that Jews and Israel are the main targets.

Lower Saxony's antisemitism officer, Franz Rainer Enste, has warned of antisemitic conspiracy theories in the Corona crisis. In an interview with the German Press Agency, Enste described theories currently circulating on the Internet as "completely unspeakable".

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NYC Mayor de Blasio Accused of "Scapegoating" Jewish Community

On April 28th and 29th, 2020 New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio faced fierce criticism from Jewish and non-Jewish leaders for singling out "the Jewish community" in his Twitter announcements, in which he said he had instructed his police department to fine or even arrest social distancing violators. De Blasio was responding to a large Hasidic funeral held in Brooklyn for Rabbi Haim Mertz, (who had just died of the coronavirus), in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 29th over a hundred Jewish organizations and Jewish leaders published an open letter to de Blasio accusing him of "scapegoating" the Jewish community: "In the midst of an historic wave of antisemitic hate violence in New York City, our community - like the Asian community - has been feeling the pain of being singled out and blamed for the spread of this deadly disease. [...]. This [...] aligns with longstanding antisemitic tropes that have [...] blamed Jews for societal ills" [and] fuels the antisemitic hatreds [...]" . Mayor de Blasio apologized for the tone of his tweets but stood by his warnings of police action against social distancing violators.

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Corona-Related Antisemitic caricatures



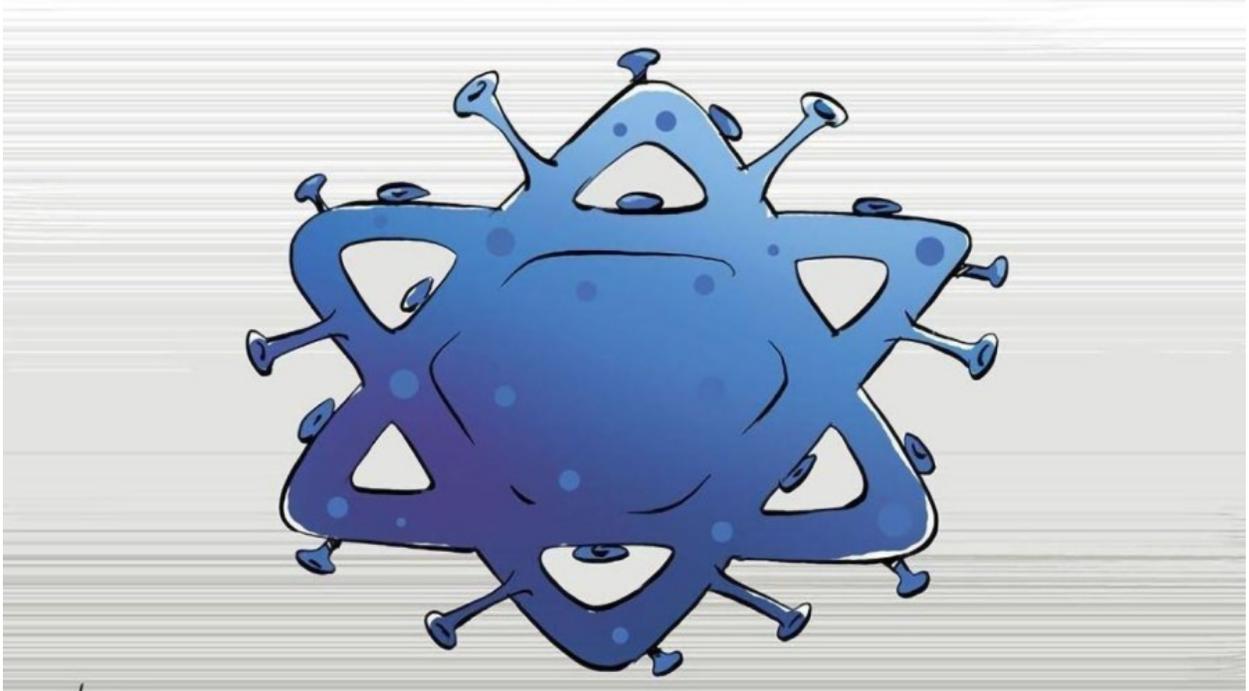
COVIS-19 viewed under a microscope.

Interesting.

👁 2774 3:51 PM

<https://jcpa.org/has-the-coronavirus-infected-israelophobes/>

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The most dangerous virus to humanity (Palestinian newspaper in Gaza)
<https://jcpa.org/stopping-the-viral-epidemic-of-anti-semitism-in-the-united-states/>



Text on cartoon: "The Palestinian prisoners" [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 23, 2020] <https://palwatch.org/page/17677>

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(March 2020) the virulently anti-Zionist publication *Mondoweiss*, edited in the US, printed a cartoon by the well-known and prolific political artist Carlos Latuff showing multiple coronaviruses weaponised by Israel to attack Palestinians.

<https://fathomjournal.org/a-pandemic-of-anti-zionist-signification-exploiting-gaza-for-ideological-gain/>



former French health minister Agnès Buzyn, who is Jewish, pouring poison into a well. On twitter. <https://www.franceinter.fr/caricatures-complot-liste-de-noms-le-coronavirus-engendre-des-attaques-antisemites-sur-le-web>

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