



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת  
UNIVERSITY תל אביב



## July 2020 Antisemitism Highlights

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## Coronavirus Related Antisemitism

### Germany

#### **Demonstrations Against Coronavirus Restrictions Feature Neo-Nazi and Antisemitic Displays**

A rally supported by neo-Nazi groups drew more than 20,000 protesters in Berlin Saturday, August 1, 2020 to demand an end to coronavirus restrictions. The demonstration was organized by a Stuttgart-based group called Querdenken 711 (“Thinking Against the Tide”). In an apparent reference to a 1935 documentary about the Nazi army by, Leni Riefenstahl, the rally took place under the motto “Day of Freedom”. Some attendees displayed antisemitic slogans, while others compared Germany’s rules meant to stop the spread of the coronavirus to Nazi regulations. An intervention by Jewish groups led authorities to alter the planned route, which would have passed by a main city synagogue during Shabbat services. Berlin police broke up the demonstration a few hours after it started, forcibly removing some speakers from the stage they had set up. More than 100 people were arrested. The Berlin police are pursuing charges against the organizers for failing to wear face masks and maintain distancing, and they are investigating the use of symbols of organizations considered unconstitutional in Germany — including the Nazi party. Counter-protesters also demonstrated, some holding signs that said “No Place for Nazis.” Berlin’s Jewish community expressed dismay at the open antisemitism shown at a rally supported by neo-Nazi groups that drew more than 20,000 protesters in the German capital to demand an end to coronavirus restrictions a day earlier.

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/10000007268465/coronavirus-protest-germany.html>

<https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/thousands-attend-berlin-rally-against-covid-19-rules-featuring-anti-semitic-displays-1.9041939>

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-community-protests-open-anti-semitism-at-berlin-coronavirus-protest/>

<https://www.jewishexponent.com/2020/08/03/berlin-rally-against-coronavirus-rules-features-neo-nazi-supporters-anti-semitic-displays/>

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/berlin-rally-against-coronavirus-rules-features-neo-nazi-supporters-anti-semitic-displays>

## **United Kingdom**

### **Report: Neo-Nazis in UK Encourage Followers to Infect Jews and Muslims With Coronavirus**

Neo-Nazis in the UK have encouraged people to deliberately infect Jews with Coronavirus according to the Independent on July 9, 2020. The report is based on a study done by the Commission for Countering Extremism (CCE), a British government agency to fight extremism. The report, published on July 9 on the CCE website, aims to show extremists are exploiting the pandemic and mentions a spike in far-right antisemitism according to Jewish News on July 13. It includes cases where far-right activist and neo-Nazi groups encourage already infected supporters to deliberately infect certain groups and specifically mentions Jews as a target. The research also show how certain conspiracy theories have gained traction online such as the virus being fake and part of a Jewish plot or alternatively it being real but created by Jews and the idea that Jews are primary spreaders. The report emphasizes the role of social media platforms in spreading hatred as well as conspiracy theories. In a report from May about the same phenomenon, Dr. Ehsan from the Henry Jackson society stated “the association of Jews with disease [...] is by no means original [...] it draws on a long history of deep-rooted antisemitic tropes”.

#### References:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/neo-nazis-coronavirus-jews-muslims-racism-antisemitism-islamophobia-a9608851.html>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/898925/CCE\\_Briefing\\_Note\\_001.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/898925/CCE_Briefing_Note_001.pdf)

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/neo-nazi-groups-far-right-encourage-followers-to-infect-jews-and-muslims-634650?fbclid=IwAR2gpIWEOCrJBfpY1U0r5SKcARIIStIY4gWtpvYR56Fzp7TZqMsUSyLTjU>

<https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/extremism-report-highlights-spike-in-far-right-antisemitism-during-pandemic/>

## Reports and Surveys

### Switzerland

#### **Zurich University Survey: Swiss Jews Feel Increasingly Discriminated Against**

According to a survey conducted by the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), and released on July 2, 2020, discrimination and harassment of Jews in Switzerland is an increasing problem. The findings show that around half of those surveyed had stated that they had been harassed in real or online antisemitic ways in the past five years. However physical violence is rare. 487 people took part in the survey. The majority of the online surveys were carried out in cooperation with the GRA Foundation against Racism and Antisemitism. The survey's director, Prof. Dirk Baier, pointed also to a recent Swiss government survey showing that one in ten citizens held negative views of Jews. Baier highlighted the survey's conclusion that, in Switzerland, antisemitism "obviously comes from the middle of society."

#### References:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/07/02/middle-class-and-everyday-new-survey-exposes-alarming-nature-of-antisemitism-in-switzerland/>

<https://www.zhaw.ch/en/university/>

<https://www.en24news.com/en/2020/07/anti-semitism-in-switzerland-swiss-jews-increasingly-feel-discriminated-against-news.html>

## **United Kingdom**

### **Labour Party Receives Draft of EHRC Report on Antisemitism**

Labour has received the draft findings of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) report into antisemitism in the Labour Party according to the BBC on July 14, 2020. The EHRC is a UK public independent body acting as a watchdog and its inquiry began in May 2019 after criticism of the party's handling of allegations of antisemitism among members and activists. The EHRC has been looking into, among other things, if the "internal culture under Corbyn...allowed antisemitism". According to the Jewish Chronicle (JC) on July 13, the Labour Party has confirmed it has now received a draft of the report but new General Secretary Evans warned of the consequences should some of it leak ahead of its publication. In a statement of the Labour Party it was said that new party leader Starmer and deputy leader Rayner are "committed to tackling antisemitism in the Labour Party" and that it has caused "unacceptable and unimaginable levels of grief and distress for many in the Jewish community". A spokesman for the Jewish Labour Movement (JLM) expressed hope that the report will provide "impartial and independent scrutiny". According to the BBC the report is not likely to be made public before September.

#### References:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53397173>

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/labour-confirms-it-has-received-draft-of-landmark-ehrc-report-into-antisemitism-1.501567>

### **CST Report on Antisemitism for First Half of 2020**

The British Jewish "Community Security Trust" (CST) has published its Antisemitic Incidents Report for January-June 2020. The report shows that

789 antisemitic incidents were recorded by CST across the UK during the first six months of 2020. The Coronavirus crisis has influenced the way antisemitism is manifested and examples given are reports of Jewish online events being “hijacked with antisemitic content or behavior”. CST also recorded other incidents that contained antisemitic rhetoric connected to the pandemic, including conspiracy theories. According to the report there has been a 13 per cent fall from the 911 incidents recorded in the first half of 2019, seemingly connected to the lockdown period but “is still the third-highest number of incidents CST has ever recorded in the January to June period of any year” and the number of reported online antisemitic incidents increased by four per cent from 332 to 344. Reacting to the report Home Secretary Priti Patel said: “...the Home Office announced funding of up to £14 million through the Jewish Protective Security Grant to help keep members of the Jewish community safe as they go about their daily lives. I will always stand with the Jewish community against the threat of antisemitism.”

References:

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2020/07/30/antisemitic-incidents-report-january-june-2020>

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/first-half-of-2020-saw-worrying-levels-of-antisemitism-despite-pandemic-says-cst-1.502002>

## **Poland**

### **ADL Assessment: Antisemitism and Anti-LGBTQ Rhetoric Mar Poland’s Presidential Election**

On July 17, 2020 the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) organization published an assessment on the July 2020 presidential elections in Poland. According to the ADL, both antisemitism and homophobia were prevalent during the election campaign of the current (and subsequently reelected in July 12, 2020 elections) President Andrzej Duda against his main rival Rafal Tzaskovski, the mayor of Warsaw. According to the article, State TV, supporting Duda, ran claims – both as news and as commentary – that

Trzaskowski would “sell out” Poland and take money from Polish families to pay “Jewish interests” in reparation for the Jewish property in Poland confiscated by the Nazis and never returned to the survivors or to their heirs. The article suggests two opposing interpretations. One that antisemitic and homophobic rhetoric is popular with the voters and that any party wishing to win the elections in Poland should be utilizing these. The other is that the liberal Tzarkovski’s surprisingly strong challenge to the existing president, might constitute a warning that the Polish electorate increasingly rejects such racist rhetoric.

References:

<https://www.adl.org/blog/antisemitism-and-anti-lgbtq-rhetoric-mar-polands-presidential-election>

## **Holocaust - Attitudes and Distortion**

### **United Kingdom**

#### **Over 6 Million Views on TikTok of Nazi Death Camp Song**

The social media app TikTok has deleted a collection of videos that had millions of viewers featuring a song making fun of people murdered in the Auschwitz Nazi extermination camp, according to a BBC report on July 7, 2020. The song, uploaded by a teenager from the UK, surfaced on June 5 and included the lyrics:” We’re going to a place called Auschwitz, it’s shower time”, hinting at the mass killings in the gas chambers. A number of videos then appeared using the song including images showing a robot scorpion with a swastika killing people, a computer game character looking like Hitler, people killed by green gas canisters and even real footage from the Holocaust, all videos playing the song in the background. The TikTok algorithm led to the fast spreading of the videos, which reached 6.5 million views, according to the BBC. Stephen Silverman of the Campaign Against Antisemitism called it “incredibly distressing to watch” and stressed that TikTok has an obligation to tackle this content fast because of the exposure to children and young adults. It took about eight hours to remove the

content and a TikTok spokeswoman said, “Keeping our users safe is a top priority”. In May another similar video got 600.000 views as reported by the Jewish Chronicle on May 18.

References:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53327890>

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/shoah-tattoo-hate-video-gets-over-600-000-hits-on-tiktok-1.499868>

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/07/10/report-tiktok-removes-group-of-videos-that-mocked-holocaust-victims/>

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/more-than-6-million-view-nazi-death-camp-song-on-tiktok/>

### **Norman Finkelstein Praises Holocaust Denier David Irving at Pro-Corbyn Group Meeting**

Anti-Israel activist and professor Norman Finkelstein participated in a meeting of the “Labour Against The Witch-Hunt” group, in which he expressed support for author and Holocaust denier David Irving. Finkelstein stated among other things during the online meeting: “I don’t see the reason to get excited about Holocaust deniers”...” first of all I don’t know what a Holocaust denier even is”...”people say if you deny the centrality of the six million Jews being killed and you try to bring in other groups of people you become a Holocaust denier”...”other people say if you deny the centrality of the gas chambers you become a Holocaust denier.” Also, commenting on claims that it would be antisemitic to accuse the Jews of having killed Jesus, Finkelstein said: “I don’t know if Jews killed Christ or not – those are things that should be debated and you come up with your own conclusions.” About Irving, Finkelstein said: “David Irving was a very good historian”.

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/norman-finkelstein-praises-holocaust-denier-david-irving-at-pro-corbyn-group-meeting-1.502134>

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2020/08/07/the-far-left-event-that-attacked-cst-and-praised-david-irving>

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/i-won-t-lie-down-and-take-the-insults-1.364542>

## **Brazil**

### **Brazilian Hospital Suspends Doctor for Comparing COVID-19 to Holocaust**

On July 5, 2020 doctor Nise Yamaguchi (oncologist and immunologist) from Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein Israelite Hospital appeared on the TV show "Impressores" where he made a comparison between COVID-19 and the Holocaust. She stated, "Fear is harmful to everything [...]. Do you think that a few Nazi soldiers would be able to control the hungry Jewish herd if they did not subject them to that daily humiliation?" The hospital suspended her after having worked there for 35 years. Sao Paulo's Jewish community condemned her remarks, while on the other hand the Brazil Israel Zionist Association defended her adding "her comments to not dishonor or belittle our suffering as Jews at all!"

References:

<https://www.jpost.com/international/brazilian-hospital-suspends-doctor-for-comparing-covid-19-to-holocaust-635256>

## **United States**

### **Kansas Newspaper Removes Cartoon Comparing Mask Requirement to the Holocaust**

On July 5, 2020 the Anderson County Review, a weekly newspaper in Kansas, had removed a political cartoon comparing Governor Laura Kelly's order requiring state residents to wear protective masks to the Nazis ordering Jews to board cattle cars taking them to death camps. The

cartoon, created by the Republican Party county chairman Dane Hicks who also owns the newspaper, depicted Democratic governor Kelly wearing a mask with a Star of David emblazoned on it, and showed Jews getting into cattle cars in the background. The cartoon posted on Facebook drew heavy criticism including an extensive report in the New York Times and a condemning tweet from the ADL's (Anti-Defamation League) CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, as well as from Gov. Kelly herself: "Mr. Hicks's decision to publish antisemitic imagery is deeply offensive and he should remove it immediately". Hicks initially defended the cartoon but had removed it following the criticism.

References:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/04/us/anderson-county-review-laura-kelly-holocaust-cartoon.html>

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/after-criticism-kansas-newspaper-removes-cartoon-likening-mask-requirement-to-the-holocaust>

## Italy

### **Italian MP Says Jews in Auschwitz Were "Fortunate Enough to Have Been Killed"**

On July 11, 2020, Piera Aiello, an Italian MP for the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (Movimento 5 Stelle) during a conference in Ottaviano, near Naples, made a comparison between her situation as an anti-mafia state witness to that of Jews deported to Auschwitz Nazi death camp and added that "The Jews in Auschwitz were at least fortunate enough to have been killed [...], while we, state witnesses, are dying every day". The National Association of Italian political deportees from Nazi concentration camps (ANED) condemned the remarks asking how could a representative speak so lightly about the "fortune" of "the atrocities inflicted by nazi-fascism upon millions of human beings [...]".

References:

<https://video.corriere.it/politica/piera-aiello-m5s-gli-ebrei-ad-auschwitz-hanno-avuto-fortuna-essere-stati-uccisi/f8817eea-c6aa-11ea-a52c-6b2a448f1d2c>

[https://milano.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/07/17/news/ebrei\\_auschwitz\\_deputata\\_5\\_stelle\\_piera\\_aiello\\_polemica-262209799/](https://milano.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/07/17/news/ebrei_auschwitz_deputata_5_stelle_piera_aiello_polemica-262209799/)

<https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2020/07/15/piera-aiello-deputata-m5s-paragona-testimoni-di-giustizia-a-deportati-ma-gli-ebrei-ad-auschwitz-avevano-la-fortuna-di-essere-uccisi-poi-si-scusa/5869387/>

<https://www.tp24.it/2020/07/15/politica/piera-aiello-che-vergogna-gli-ebrei-ad-auschwitz-per-fortuna-sono-stati-uccisi-nbsp/152001>

## Responses to Antisemitism

### Germany

#### **Germany Disbands a Unit of the Special Forces Command Following Reports of Right Wing Extremism**

As became known on July 2, 2020, Germany's defense minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, disbanded a fighting unit of the Kommando Spezialkräfte (Special Forces Command, KSK) of the German army, considered infested with right-wing extremists. In May 2020, weapons were discovered during a raid on the home of "Little Sheep", sergeant major of the Bundeswehr. Buried in his garden, the police found two kilograms of PETN plastic explosives, a detonator, a fuse, an AK-47, a silencer, two knives, a crossbow and thousands of rounds of ammunition, much of it believed to have been stolen from the German military. They also found an SS songbook, 14 editions of a magazine for former members of the Waffen SS and other Nazi memorabilia. For years, German politicians and security chiefs rejected the notion of any far-right infiltration of the security services, speaking only of "individual cases." However, cases of far-right extremists in the military and the police, some hoarding weapons and explosives and maintaining safe houses, have increased alarmingly. Thomas Haldenwang, president of Germany's domestic intelligence agency, has identified far-

right extremism and terrorism as the “biggest danger to German democracy today”, with ties to neo-Nazi networks and the New Right. Kramp-Karrenbauer talked of a “toxic leadership culture” and a “wall of silence” among its members. The president of the Military Shield Service, (MAD) Christof Gramm sees a “new dimension” in the problem of right-wing extremism in the army. “Excessive patriotism without a commitment to the state laws will not be tolerated in the Bundeswehr, said Gramm. “Such false patriots have definitely not lost anything with us.”

References:

<https://taz.de/Rechtes-Netzwerk-in-der-Bundeswehr/!5548926/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/03/world/europe/germany-military-neo-nazis-ksk.html>

<https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/bundeswehr-mad-sieht-neue-dimension-von-rechtsextremismus-a-3d607f87-6ed7-4a64-b8e1-4f36f3f33c25>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/germany-disbands-elite-military-unit-after-reports-of-right-wing-extremism/2020/07/02/01dceb8a-bc6c-11ea-97c1-6cf116ffe26c\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/germany-disbands-elite-military-unit-after-reports-of-right-wing-extremism/2020/07/02/01dceb8a-bc6c-11ea-97c1-6cf116ffe26c_story.html)

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/germany-steps-up-efforts-to-weed-out-far-right-soldiers-/1917213>

## **Netherlands**

### **Dutch Parliament votes to Combat Antisemitism, but Rejected Funding Security of Jewish Institutions**

The Dutch “Tweede Kamer”, the lower house of the Dutch parliament, voted to establish a “national coordinator” in the fight against antisemitism in the Netherlands. The lower house also adopted a number of other motions to tackle Jew-hatred according to the Dutch Center for Information and Documentation Israel (CIDI) on July 2, 2020. The Committee on Justice and Security had a meeting on how to combat antisemitism more effectively and on the same day there was a plenary debate on the same issue. On July 2 there were votes on the motions tabled. Most of the motions received wide support and the decision on setting up a coordinator

was passed almost unanimously with the exception of the Socialist Party (SP). A motion to finance the protection of Jewish institutions was rejected on the other hand according to the Times of Israel (July 3, 2020).

References:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/dutch-parliament-backs-fighting-anti-semitism-but-not-funding-jewish-security/>

<https://www.cidi.nl/tweede-kamer-stemt-voor-nationaal-coordinator-antisemitismebestrijding/>

### **CIDI Files a Complaint Against Antisemitic Hacker Twitter Account Wilders**

On July 16, 2020, Dutch politician and leader of the right-wing “Freedom Party (PVV) Geert Wilders had his Twitter account hacked by an unknown person or group. The account has more than 815,000 followers and the hacker used it to spread conspiracy theories, several of which were antisemitic. Dutch pro-Israel organization “CIDI” reported the hacker(s) for incitement. The hacker posted a link in the account to a discussion group on the messaging service Telegram and as a result, in a short time that group was “flooded with antisemitic comments and memes” according to the CIDI website. Many retweets also had antisemitic content including conspiracy theories as well as links to reports of Holocaust denier David Icke.

References:

<https://www.cidi.nl/cidi-doet-aangifte-tegen-antisemitische-hackers-twitteraccount-wilders/>

[https://www.nporadio1.nl/binnenland/25197-hacker-geert-wilders-legt-beweegredeenen-uit?fbclid=IwAR0PGLKR54qaix-ywz1rzt7CSxjIZDICjsCk6E1\\_jgLLB0udPFbliFUwp5w](https://www.nporadio1.nl/binnenland/25197-hacker-geert-wilders-legt-beweegredeenen-uit?fbclid=IwAR0PGLKR54qaix-ywz1rzt7CSxjIZDICjsCk6E1_jgLLB0udPFbliFUwp5w)

## United Kingdom

### **UK Home Secretary Urged to Ban Neo-Nazi Satanist Group That Vows to Combat 'Jewish Influence'**

A neo-Nazi Satanist group in the UK has advocated rape and murder as a tactic to overthrow "Jewish influence" according to the Jewish Chronicle (JC) on July 14, 2020. The Jewish Community Security Trust (CST), the Board of Deputies (BOD) and the advocacy group against racism "Hope Not Hate" are all calling on UK Home Secretary Patel to ban the group. The group, called Order of the Nine Angels, was founded in the UK in the 1970s according to the BBC on June 23, and combines Satanist beliefs with neo-Nazism. The short-term goal is to undermine what it believes to be a "decadent Judeo-Christian society". The group glorifies Nazism and dates its calendar from the birth of Hitler according to the BBC. Other features include a total rejection of ethics, glorification of ritual sacrifice, rape and murder. Adherents are encouraged to infiltrate organizations in order to destabilize them. Vice President of the BOD Amanda Bowman said in response that "far-right groups must not be given time or space to endanger the safety of the Jewish community...". Home Secretary Patel said in response that she was "determined to do everything...to stop the spread of extreme ideologies that encourage and glorify terrorism".

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/home-secretary-urged-to-ban-nazi-satanist-group-that-vows-to-combat-jewish-influence-1.501569>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-53141759>

### **Premier League Football Distance Themselves From BLMUK After Tweets Deemed Antisemitic**

On June 30, 2020 England's Premier League Football, had issued a statement distancing themselves from the Black Lives Matter UK (BLMUK) movement after it had published posts on its' Twitter account about Israel and the Palestinians deemed antisemitic, but stressed that it is still

reiterating their support for “the sentiment”. The statement which came after the League had previously declared official support for BLMUK, was criticized by some including Labour MP Julie Elliot who said it “opened a can of worms”. The Independent reported that for weeks the Premier League has been “besieged” by emails and letters complaining that the support of BLMUK could be seen as antisemitic, taking into account the history of accusations of antisemitism against the movement. Chief executive Richard Masters had until July claimed that the BLMUK is not about politics but values.

References:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/premier-league-black-lives-matter-racism-take-the-knee-antisemitism-a9600066.html>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8468059/Black-Lives-Matters-UK-twitter-account-sparks-outrage-Free-Palestine-message.html>

### **Labour Suspends Brighton Councillor Over Alleged Antisemitism**

Resignations in Labour due to claims of antisemitism have caused the party to lose control of Brighton Council, according to the Jewish Chronicle (JC) on July 21, 2020. Two councillors resigned from the party on the same day after being investigated for antisemitism, councillors Nichole Brennan and Kate Knight. The local newspaper The Argus published pictures on March 13 of Brennan holding up a sign calling Israel “a racist apartheid state” in April, and she had also referred to critique of antisemitism as “white supremacy”. On July 15, The Guardian reported that another Brighton councilor, Anne Pissaridou, was suspended due to accusations of spreading anti-Jewish conspiracy theories on Facebook. According to the JC all three had been supporters of Jeremy Corbyn. Local Labour MP Peter Kyle tweeted in relation to the demands for action against antisemitism: “this is action, not words”.

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/labour-loses-control-of-brighton-council-after-antisemitism-resignations-1.501775?highlight=Antisemitism>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/15/labour-suspends-brighton-councillor-over-alleged-antisemitism-anne-pissaridou>

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/18302417.brightons-labour-housing-chief-resigns-anti-semitism-row/>

## **British Labour Party Apologizes for Defaming Former Employees Who Spoke Out on Antisemitism**

On July 22, 2020, the Labour Party had issued an official apology in court to former employees who sued the Labour party for libel after being maligned by officials for talking about its antisemitism problem in the media. In a BBC “Panorama” documentary program broadcasted in summer 2019, serious claims were made against the party’s internal culture for dealing with complaints of antisemitism. Among other things, a Labour spokesman at the time called the whistleblowers “disaffected former officials” and claimed that their intentions were to undermine ex-party leader Corbyn for personal and political reasons according to the Guardian on July 15. After the BBC investigation, eight individuals sued the Labour party for defamation. According to the (Jewish Chronicle (JC) the party has agreed to pay “substantial damages” to seven whistleblowers as well to at least one more person. The settlement also included an apology read out at the High Court on July 22 in which it stated that the Labour Party is “profoundly sorry” for “untrue and defamatory” comments against the whistleblowers. According to the Guardian on July 23, Jon Lansman, founder of the left-wing organization “Momentum”, has also apologized on his Twitter for joining the attack on the whistleblowers at the time. His apology is understood to be part of the agreement. Ex-leader Corbyn and former General Secretary Formby had attempted to halt the apology. In response to the statement read in court, the Jewish Labour Movement welcomed the apology, thanked the whistleblowers and expressed hope for change under the new leadership.

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/labour-apologises-to-whistleblowers-and-ware-1.501788>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/23/momentum-founder-jon-lansman-apologises-for-joining-labour-attack-on-whistleblowers>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/15/labour-to-apologise-to-antisemitism-whistleblowers>

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/british-labour-party-apologizes-for-defaming-ex-staffers-who-spoke-out-on-anti-semitism>

## **A 48-Hour Twitter Boycott by Users in Protest of Antisemitic Posts by British Rapper Wiley**

A 48-hour boycott of Twitter was declared on July 27, 2020 by some Twitter users including well-known figures, after rap artist Wiley had shared several posts deemed antisemitic on Twitter and other social media platforms. Twitter took time to act against the tweets, a fact that was widely criticized including by Prime Minister Boris Johnson. According to the PM's official spokesman, he believes the posts "should not have been able to remain on Twitter and Instagram for so long". As a response, people around the world decided on a 48-hour "walkout", boycotting Twitter, many using the hashtag #NoSafeSpaceForJewHate. Even after the boycott started many organizations and individuals joined, including Greenpeace UK, the Royal Opera House, Television presenter Rachel Riley, comedian Robert Webb, as well as many MP's. Karen Pollock, chief executive of the UK's Holocaust Educational Trust, supported the move and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, has written to Twitter chief executive Jack Dorsey saying: "social media companies have a responsibility to act and must do so without delay". The Chief Rabbi accused Facebook and Twitter of complicity in antisemitism through inaction as he urged both platforms to do more to tackle hate speech. Twitter stated in response: "Abuse and harassment has no place on Twitter and we strongly condemn it".

References:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53553573>

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/jul/27/chief-rabbi-facebook-twitter-antisemitism-complicity-wiley>

## United States

### Viacomcbs Fired TV Host Nick Cannon Over Antisemitic Remarks

On July 14, 2020, ViacomCBS conglomerate fired actor and television host Nick Cannon over an episode of his podcast "which promoted hateful speech and spread antisemitic conspiracy theories". The corporation said in a statement: "ViacomCBS condemns bigotry of any kind and we categorically denounce all forms of antisemitism". In his June video podcast "Cannon's Class", Cannon calls Black people the "true Hebrews" and espouses antisemitic conspiracy theories about Jewish wealth and the Rothschilds. He also praised Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam leader with a long history of antisemitic comments, saying he "has been demonized". Following his dismissal from ViacomCBS, Cannon said on Facebook, "I must apologize to my Jewish Brothers and Sisters for putting them in such a painful position, which was never my intention, but I know this whole situation has hurt many people and together we will make it right".

#### References:

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/nick-cannon-walks-back-video-containing-anti-semitic-statements-but-does-not-apologize>

<https://variety.com/2020/tv/news/nick-cannon-dropped-viacomcbs-anti-semitic-comments-podcast-1234706748/>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/07/15/entertainment/nick-cannon-viacom-trnd/index.html>

## Israel-Related Antisemitism

### Chile

#### **Jewish Community in Chile Condemns Antisemitic Acts by Political Leaders and Local Palestinians**

During an interview on July 8, 2020 Gerardo Gorodischer, president of the Jewish community in Chile, said that there are Palestinian groups in Chile who are utilizing Israeleli Prime Minister's annexation plans of parts of the West Bank to attack the local Jewish community. He recalled events that have been happening lately, including the (Chilean) senate's request for the government to "take concrete measures" against Israel, like reviewing current treaties between the countries; a group of Chilean artists shared a video online stating that Israel "is about to make one of the biggest abuses in current times; Daniel Jadue, Mayor of Recoleta province, shared on his Twitter account and during different interviews conspiracy theories with antisemitic content. Gorodischer complained that the Palestinian community is taking this opportunity to strengthen the discrimination against the Jewish community and expressed concern over the possibility of a rise of violence between the Jewish and Palestinian communities in the country.

References:

<https://itongadol.com/antisemitismo/entrevista-comunidad-judia-de-chile-denuncia-actos-antisemitas-de-dirigentes-politicos-y-palestinos-chilenos>

### Netherlands

#### **Demonstration in Amsterdam for 'Martyrs and the Palestinian Resistance'**

Anti-Israel organizations have called for the destruction of Israel while dismissing claims about antisemitism in connection with a protest in Amsterdam on July 1, 2020. According the Dutch Centrum Informatie en

Documentatie Israel (CIDI) news site on July 1, the three organizations “Samidoun”, “PGNL” and “BDS Netherlands” in their invitation to a protest against Israel’s annexation plans on Facebook used radical images and language, and called for the “liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea”, thereby calling for Israel’s disappearance as a state. The invitation ended with the words: “long live the martyrs and the Palestinian resistance”. According to CIDI both the Samidoun and PGNL have ties to the “Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine” (PFLP) and possibly other terror organizations. Samidoun calls itself the “Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network Netherlands” and on their website on July 3 the organization praised what it called a “successful protest” and quoted some of the speakers. Serda Nehirci was quoted as having said: “...we are the troublemakers, the anti-Semites? We will not fall for that anymore!” The website then called for people to join the next protests saying “...for the Liberation of Palestine - from the river to the sea!”

References:

<https://www.cidi.nl/demonstratie-in-amsterdam-voor-martelaren-en-het-palestijnse-verzet/>

<https://samidoun.net/2020/07/successful-protest-in-amsterdam-youth-confront-the-israeli-american-colonization-of-palestine/>

## Debate on Antisemitism

### Germany

#### **Professors Attack German Antisemitism Commissioner in Letter to Chancellor Merkel**

In a letter of July 24, 2020 to German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU), more than 60 scientists, writers and artists from Germany and Israel warn of an "inflationary, factually unfounded and legally unfounded use of the term antisemitism", and warn of a "mood of branding, intimidation and fear" and criticize the work of antisemitism commissioner, Felix Klein. They accuse Klein of “distracting attention from real antisemitic sentiments and riots that actually endanger Jewish life in Germany” with “the support of

right-wing populist Israeli voices". They further expressed concern about "a threat of freedom of expression aimed at suppressing legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies". "Where critical dialogue is more necessary than ever, the misuse of the accusation of antisemitism is increasingly creating a mood of branding, intimidation and fear in Germany," it says. They also demand a German initiative for peace negotiations within the United Nations. The letter was sharply discussed and criticized. Antisemitism expert Prof. Monika Schwarz-Friesel, Head of the Department of General Linguistics, Technical University Berlin, explains inter alia, that the reason that the antisemitism commissioner is now the focus of defamation, lies in the fact that there are those who want to exert political influence on the work of the Federal Government as to Middle East politics, in a way which "only opens the door to the delegitimization of the Jewish state."

References:

<https://www.welt.de/kultur/plus212380853/Antisemitismus-Ja-es-gibt-ein-Klima-der-Angst-und-Einschuechterung.html>

<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/stimmung-der-einschuechterung-und-angst-schwere-vorwuerfe-gegen-den-antisemitismusbeauftragten-klein/26040238.html?fbclid=IwAR29FBN6RMAM2ddnzf0GThT1NCGwVVXoWaWeunc0jbzhn-ya3V4uVmyNPEY>

<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/downloads/26044046/1/offener-brief-an-angela-merkel.pdf>

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/07/28/professors-attack-german-antisemitism-commissioner-in-letter-to-chancellor-merkel/>

## Examples of Antisemitic Manifestations

### France

#### Leader of LFI Far-Left Party Accuses Jews for the Death of Jesus

On July 16, 2020 Jean-Luc Mélenchon, member of the French National assembly and head of the LFI (La France Insoumise) far-left party, accused Jews of being responsible for the death of Jesus, during an interview on the French BFM-RTL TV news channel. Asked by his interviewer whether police should “be like Jesus on the cross and not reply” when provoked by demonstrators, Mélenchon replied, “Listen, I don’t know if Jesus was on the cross. I know who put him there, it seems that it was his own compatriots” apparently referring to Jews. The Wiesenthal Center director for International Relations, Dr. Shimon Samuels, said, “the repeated accusation of deicide — throughout the Middle Ages — resulted in pogroms, torture and execution of Jewish communities. Its imagery fueled violence across Europe, culminating in the Nazi Holocaust”. The Judeo-Christian Fellowship of France similarly condemned Mélenchon’s remarks in a statement and French Jewish parliamentarian Meyer Habib reacted on Twitter, writing, “No Mr. Mélenchon! A bit of history: Jesus Christ was condemned to death by crucifixion by the Roman Ponce Pilate, not by his Jewish compatriots! The temptation was perhaps too strong to recycle the age-old antisemitic deicide trope.” In June Mélenchon was criticized for dismissing as “gossip” chants of “Dirty Jews!” that were heard at an anti-racism demonstration in Paris

#### References:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/07/16/french-far-left-leader-accused-of-voicing-antisemitic-jews-killed-jesus-trope/>

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/far-left-french-politician-accuses-jews-of-being-responsible-for-jesus-death>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEitFUsJ5P8>

<https://www.la-croix.com/Religion/Vives-reactions-propos-Melenchon-Jesus-crucifie-ses-propres-compatriotes-2020-07-17-1201105359>

## **Concrete Block Thrown into House of an Elderly Jewish Woman**

On June 22, 2020, a large concrete block was thrown through a living room window into the house of an 84-year-old Jewish woman in the French suburb of Gagny. No one was injured in the incident but reportedly left the victim "traumatized". The BNVCA (National Bureau for Vigilance Against Antisemitism) denounced the incident as a hate crime, claiming the woman was attacked because she has a mezuzah (religious ornament) on the doorframe of her home.

References:

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/concrete-slab-hurled-into-home-of-84-year-old-jewish-woman-near-paris>

<https://fr.timesofisrael.com/gagny-une-octogenaire-juive-agressee-avec-un-parpaing/>

## **Canada**

### **Canadian Far-Right Party Leader Calls Jews ‘Parasitic Tribe’ and Seeks Their Removal From Canada**

On July 11, 2020 Travis Patron, the leader of the fringe far-right Canadian Nationalist Party (CNP) published a flyer and a video posted on Facebook both titled “Beware The Parasitic Tribe,” which described Jews as “swindlers,” “snakes,” and “inside manipulators”. In the video Patron says Jews “infiltrate the media, they hijack the central bank, and they infect the body politic like a parasite. [...]. And what we need to do, perhaps more than anything, is remove these people once and for all from our country.” Shimon Koffler Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, (CIJA) said Patron might not only be breaking Canada’s hate laws, but inciting actual violence against Jews. The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center A complaint filed A complaint against Patron with the RCMP (The Royal Canadian Mounted Police) on July 15. The RCMP has opened an investigation.

References:

<https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/americas/canadian-politician-calls-jews-parasitic-tribe-seeks-their-removal-from-country-1.8998654>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/jewish-advocacy-group-hate-speech-complaint-1.5650871>

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/07/14/canadian-political-party-leader-calls-jews-liars-and-deceivers-tribe-of-parasites/>

<https://www.friendsofsimonwiesenthalcenter.com/news/canadian-nationalist-party-flyer-refers-to-jews-as-liars-and-deceivers-and-a-tribe-of-parasites>

## **Ukraine**

### **Unknown Man Burst Into Mariupol Synagogue With an Ax**

On July 28, 2020 an unknown perpetrator entered the Mariupol (Donetsk region) synagogue with an axe and attacked a guard who attempted to protect the congregation. The guard, Richard Golomazov, was wounded, but managed to take the axe from his attacker. While escaping, the perpetrator threw several packets with sand, feces, and other unknown substances into a synagogue. The police are investigating.

References:

<https://www.antisemitism.co.il/2020/07/unknown-man-burst-into-mariupol.html>

<https://nv.ua/ukraine/events/na-sinagogu-v-mariupole-napal-muzhchina-s-toporom-video-novosti-ukrainy-50102669.html>

<https://jewishnews.com.ua/society/neizvestnyij-vorvalsya-v-sinagogu-mariupolya-s-toporom>

## **Argentina**

### **A Group “Zoombombed” a Meeting of the Argentine Branch of the World Zionist Organization**

On June 8, 2020 a Zoom meeting of the Argentinian branch of WSO (World Zionist Organization) was interrupted by a group of young people who were masturbating and sharing images of swastikas. After about 10 minutes the intruders were blocked, but the 150 participants of the lecture (on information provided to future olim planning to live in kibbutzim) couldn't avoid looking at the images. Alejandro Mellincovksy (coordinator of WSO in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay) made a complaint to DAIA (Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas) so that they take needed further steps.

References:

<https://www.antisemitism.co.il/2020/06/a-group-zoombombed-meeting-of-argentine.html>

## **Germany**

### **Antisemitic Graffiti on High School Wall in Bonn-Ückesdorf**

On July 10, 2020, unknown people sprayed antisemitic slogans at the Carl von Ossietzky high school in Bonn-Ückesdorf. The slogans were sprayed with white paint on walls, stairs, table, tennis tables and on the pavement. The city's building management is working to remove the smearings, while the police are investigation.

References:

<https://www.radiobonn.de/artikel/bonn-ueckesdorf-antisemitische-parolen-an-gymnasium-gesprueht-649189.html>

## **Spain**

### **Mural of Jewish Author Vandalized at a School in Valencia**

On July 31 a mural at the Elementary school Max Aub in Valencia was vandalized with Nazi swastikas. Max Aub was a Jewish author who fled from Valencia during the Holocaust. The mural shows a picture of Aub with the quote "I am sorry for not being with you, but my heart is with you". It is the second time this wall is vandalized (the first time was back in 2012).

Vicent Marza, the councilor of Education, Culture and Sports condemned the event and added, “the extreme right... always attacks first teachers and schools. They don't tolerate critical thinking. They don't tolerate diversity”.

References:

<https://elpais.com/cultura/2020-08-01/una-esvastica-nazi-en-el-mural-dedicado-al-escritor-republicano-y-socialista-max-aub-de-un-colegio-en-valencia.html>

## **Russia**

### **Desecration Jewish Cemetery in St. Petersburg**

On July 28, 2020, 30 headstones and monuments of the Jewish cemetery in the Nevskij-district of St. Petersburg were vandalized. A complaint was filed with the police.

References:

[https://www.spb.kp.ru/online/news/3959254/?fbclid=IwAR1J89fq3xnOVbv2M3t\\_Yi0omQyHGT5z5y4Wz-p3AX6Qrv6gT3DKHHv1R6Q](https://www.spb.kp.ru/online/news/3959254/?fbclid=IwAR1J89fq3xnOVbv2M3t_Yi0omQyHGT5z5y4Wz-p3AX6Qrv6gT3DKHHv1R6Q)

<https://www.antisemitism.co.il/2020/07/vandals-smashed-30-gravestones-at.html>

[https://www.newsru.co.il/world/29jul2020/cemetery\\_507.html](https://www.newsru.co.il/world/29jul2020/cemetery_507.html)

### **"Death to Jews" Graffiti at Gruissan Cemetery**

On July 12, 2020 inscriptions reading "Death to the French" and "Death to the Jews", accompanied by swastikas, were discovered on twenty tombs in the cemetery of Gruissan in Aude region of Southern France. The cemetery had been closed to the public and police are investigating the incident.

References:

<https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/occitanie/aude/cimetiere-gruissan-vandalise-vingtaine-tombes-taquee-croix-gammees-1853112.html>

## **United States**

### **Orthodox Jew Violently Attacked in Brooklyn**

On July 11, 2020 a 51-year-old Orthodox Jewish man was violently attacked by three men in Brooklyn, New York in front of 2525 Kings Highway, near East 27th Street. The victim was walking home when three unidentified men in a car stopped beside him and started shouting antisemitic slurs at him, then pushed him to the ground and punched him repeatedly. The victim was able to walk to Community Hospital, where he received stitches on his face and was treated for a broken finger. The NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force is investigating.

References:

<https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2020/07/12/police-looking-for-3-men-suspected-of-yelling-anti-semitic-slurs-beating-orthodox-jewish-man-in-brooklyn/>

<https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/featured/1881319/flatbush-jewish-man-assaulted-in-possible-hate-crime-attack-on-shabbos.html>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/new-york-man-arrested-hate-crime>

<https://www.thehour.com/policereports/article/Feds-N-Y-man-made-anti-Semitic-death-threats-to-15377456.php>

### **Jewish City Council Candidate Assaulted in Brooklyn**

On July 16, 2020, Boris Noble, a 35-year-old visibly Jewish man in Brooklyn was attacked while walking on East 12th Street, near Avenue K, in Midwood, by a man who came up from behind him and struck him across the face with a bat. Noble's tooth was consequently chipped and his jaw injured. Noble, who is a Brooklyn City Council candidate, said following the incident: "Security is a major concern in the Jewish community. Crime, security, antisemitism — if people don't feel safe, then what do you have?" NYPD released a video of the suspect said he is believed to be Black,

about six feet tall and that they were investigating the attack as a hate crime.

References:

<https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/ny-brooklyn-jewish-hate-crime-attack-20200731-6vo4nsqtnvgrhelmlsjhztbq3y-story.html>

<https://bklyner.com/jewish-man-attacked-in-midwood/>

<https://shorefrontnews.com/2020/07/17/another-local-candidate-assaulted-this-time-with-a-bat/>

### **Holocaust and Intolerance Museum in Albuquerque Vandalized**

On July 30, 2020 the front window of the Holocaust and Intolerance Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico was shattered by vandals. The museum's window featured a poster of a large photo of an early 1960s civil rights march. The incident took place during the televised funeral of Georgia Rep. John Lewis who was a leader in the civil rights movement. The museum's Executive Director Leon Natker said, "It can't be a coincidence that it happened just as the funeral of John Lewis was being broadcast on television. [...] It was a hit-and-run, and it was done by a coward." The museum's logo says it is "Eliminating Hate and Intolerance One Mind At A Time".

References:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/08/06/vandals-damage-window-of-holocaust-museum-in-albuquerque/>

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

<https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/New-Mexico-Holocaust-Museum-hit-by-vandalism-15459502.php>

### **Holocaust Memorial in Charleston Vandalized**

On July 22, 2020, antisemitic graffiti was discovered at the Holocaust Memorial in Marion Square, Charleston, South Carolina. The graffiti on the memorial plaque read: "Wake UP Israel (Negroes)!!!" "Ashkenazi Jews", "FAKE JEWS", "The so called 'Negroes' are the REAL JEWS of the Bible!!!". The Charleston Jewish Federation condemned the incident on Facebook saying, "Hate and antisemitism has no place in our city or our society. [...] Our Holocaust memorial was erected [...] to remember the 6 million Jews, along with 5 million others, killed in the Holocaust. [...]. For many of us Charlestonians, those Jews included our family members, friends, and ancestors". Charleston police are investigating the incident.

References:

<https://abcnews4.com/news/local/holocaust-memorial-in-marion-square-vandalized-says-charleston-jewish-federation>

<https://www.live5news.com/2020/07/31/charleston-police-arent-investigating-holocaust-memorial-vandalism-hate-crime/>