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The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism is located in the Gilman Building, Tel Aviv University. Its extensive database monitors antisemitism and racism throughout the world, serving researchers, as well as community, governmental and organizational workers in Israel and abroad, and human rights organizations and groups fighting racism.

The Institute works in cooperation with the World Jewish Congress (WJC), the umbrella organization of Jewish communities in 80 countries around the world. The WJC, under President Edgar Bronfman and Secretary-General Stephen E. Herbits, is represented in Israel by Bobby Brown. The Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism, under Minister Natan Sharansky, collaborates with the Institute in data collection.

**Dedicated to the memory of
Simon Wiesenthal
(1908–2005)**

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Foreword from President, Tel Aviv University

Since autumn 2000 the world, and particularly western Europe and North America, has witnessed a dramatic escalation in antisemitic manifestations, regarded by Jewish leaders as unprecedented since World War II. This rise has been evident in violent assaults – leading to severe injury or even death – on persons identifiable as Jews, in schools and on the streets, as well as in acts of vandalism against Jewish property, communal institutions, monuments and cemeteries. Social dislocation, combined with anti-Jewish prejudice and virulently anti-Israel sentiment, appears to have motivated young Muslim immigrants and white extremists to vent their frustrations on Jewish individuals and Jewish property.

No less disturbing has been the dissemination of hate propaganda in the media and on the Internet against the Jewish people and against Israel as a Jewish state, as demonstrated in the reports of the Stephen Roth Institute. Threats, insults and calls to kill Jews and destroy Israel figure in speeches made by public figures; Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad is the most extreme example of this trend.

A prominent role in the delegitimization of Israel is being played by the radical left and right. Frequently, the attacks in their publications and speeches are a disguise for deep antisemitic feelings. Demonizing Israel as a Nazi state or labeling it an apartheid state is also a means to delegitimize the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state. The continuing onslaught on academic and cultural life in Israel, which culminated recently in a number of initiatives to boycott Israeli universities and scholars, is part of this campaign.

In the last 15 years the Stephen Roth Institute at Tel Aviv University has become a leading center for monitoring and evaluating antisemitic manifestations worldwide. Its reports and research are used by scholars and academic institutions both in Israel and abroad, as well as by national and international bodies seeking to combat bigotry, racism and antisemitism. The Institute also fosters contacts and exchanges of opinions with Jewish communities worldwide, and has developed extensive ties with scholars and universities both in Israel and abroad. This has enabled the advancement of research on antisemitism and racism, which have become issues of even greater concern than they were a decade ago.

Itamar Rabinovich
July 2006

Foreword from President, World Jewish Congress

At the end of World War II, when the enormity and the horror of the Holocaust become evident, it was widely believed that antisemitism had finally disappeared. The world had seen the terrible, murderous potential of that malaise; it would draw the appropriate conclusions and Jews would never have reason to fear again.

Sadly, that was an all too optimistic, even naïve assessment. Antisemitism did not disappear. On the contrary, it has demonstrated an extraordinary vitality and adaptability to local conditions. It flourishes in places where there are a negligible number of Jews, or even none at all. Moreover, in recent years, synagogues have again been set alight, and Jews tormented and even killed for no other reason than that they are Jews.

Meantime, Israel, the Jewish State which was born out of the ashes of the Holocaust, has become the country that it is so fashionable to hate. Not far from Jerusalem, the president of an important and powerful country questions whether the Holocaust ever happened and, chillingly, calls for Israel to be wiped out.

Who could believe that more than 60 years after one-third of the Jewish people were annihilated in a genocidal burst of hatred such a state of affairs could prevail!

Since its inception, the World Jewish Congress has been at the forefront of the struggle against worldwide antisemitism. We are proud to be a sponsor of the Roth Institute, which meticulously and independently monitors and analyzes antisemitism in countries across the globe and helps us fight this pernicious, age-old hatred. It is one of several strategic partnerships that the WJC is building to deal with a rapidly-changing world.

Paul Johnson wrote that the position of Jews in any society is a litmus test of sorts. "No intellectual society can flourish where Jews feel even slightly uneasy." As this important book demonstrates, in many parts of the world, Jews still feel, and with good reason, uneasy.

Edgar M. Bronfman
July 2006

Preface

The annual journal *Antisemitism Worldwide* presents an analysis of antisemitism and racism around the world. Every two years, in addition to the worldwide analysis, it provides a forum for academic discussion of historical aspects of antisemitism and racism in different places and periods. Our journal policy is guided by the notion that no coherent examination and understanding of contemporary trends and developments is possible without a thorough acquaintance with the history and manifestations of antisemitism throughout history.

The present volume is divided into two parts. The first part is a general analysis of trends for the year in review, with a specific focus on increasing violence and organizational and governmental responses. The second part is a country-by-country survey, divided according to region, since each part of the world has its own characteristic problems in addition to those common to all countries. The survey contains summaries of more detailed reviews which appear on our Internet site (<http://antisemitism.tau.ac.il/CR.htm>). It provides information on extremist movements, antisemitic activities, attitudes toward the Nazi period and the Holocaust, and the struggle against antisemitism and racism. Countries where there was no evidence of antisemitism in 2004, or where it was not reported, are not included. The survey describes the phenomenon of antisemitism in the various countries without delving into their history, and focuses only on the situation in 2004. A series of graphs in the appendices providing statistical data complements the picture for 2004.

Categorization of antisemitic activities sometimes varies from one source to another. Our classification scheme divides these activities into: a) all expressions and modes of propaganda, most notably Holocaust denial, b) violent acts without the use of a weapon, and c) attacks using violent means. It should be emphasized that the survey is based on reported cases only, and that the data presented in the appendices include only violent attacks intended to cause loss of life and cases of actual damage to property. In fact, many more hundreds of minor incidents, such as graffiti, slogans and swastikas painted on walls, as well as personal insults and harassment, were also registered by Jewish communities and individuals. In many cases, it is difficult to assess whether the injury or damage was motivated by antisemitism, or was an act of hooliganism, since the identity of the perpetrators is often difficult to establish.

It should be noted that the variety of data and materials coming from different areas entails a diversified approach on the part of the authors and editors, thus ruling out complete uniformity in the presentation of the contents, especially with regard to names and references.

Israeli, Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, research institutes and individuals supply the relevant data and material, useful contacts, opinions and assessments, and above all the motivation, for combating antisemitism and racism. Thus, the annual review represents an international effort in this regard. We conclude by expressing our deepest gratitude to all the organizations and individuals who have taken part in this undertaking.

GENERAL ANALYSIS

General Analysis

OVERVIEW

The year 2004 was the worst in terms of the number, frequency and nature of antisemitic expressions and events since the outbreak of the current wave of antisemitism in October 2000. Each year has degenerated further, with numbers and severity of manifestations increasing exponentially. Whereas in 2003 there were 330 major violent incidents (such as physical attacks and vandalism perpetrated against property and institutes) and 30 major attacks (such as shootings, knifings, arson and use of explosive devices), in 2004, according to the Institute's data, 482 major violent incidents and about 20 major attacks were recorded worldwide.

The decrease in the number of major attacks from 30 to 20 could be a positive sign, yet it indicates a negative development. Indeed, there were fewer large-scale acts of violence organized by groups that sought to hurt as many Jews as possible, but many more attacks on individual Jews by persons acting spontaneously. Attacks on persons identified as Jews on the streets and in schools have become the salient characteristic of antisemitic activity in recent years and especially in 2004, and outnumbered vandalistic acts against Jewish property, communal institutions, monuments and cemeteries. According to data gathered by the Institute (see detailed analysis below), while assaults on Jews are perpetrated typically by young, politically unaffiliated immigrants, mostly but not only from Muslim countries, vandalism of Jewish property and communal institutions is generally carried out by extreme rightists.

Identifying and bringing to justice the perpetrators behind the attacks has proved to be a difficult task for the police and local authorities in most countries. This exacerbates the distress experienced by Jews who find themselves or their children attacked in public places, and who know that the perpetrators will go unpunished. According to the Institute's data, more than 180 people were attacked in 2004, and 40 schools and communal centers, 140 cemeteries and monuments, 60 synagogues and 60 Jewish businesses were vandalized. Many community authorities in Europe especially claim that the numbers are, in fact, significantly higher since many victims choose not to file complaints which they feel will go answered.

The countries characterized by a significant rise in antisemitic manifestations in 2004 were: **France**, where major violent incidents rose from 64 in 2003 to 96 in 2004. According to the SPCY (Service for the Protection of the Jewish Community), the overall number of antisemitic

events increased from 503 in 2003 to 590 in 2004, half of them violent, and among those, a large percentage of physical assaults on Jewish, or mistakenly Jewish, individuals. In the **UK** the number of major violent incidents rose from 50 in 2003 to 84 in 2004. The CST (Community Security Trust) tallied a total of 532 antisemitic events, the highest number since 1984, marking an increase of 42 percent from 2003 to 2004 (compared to 15 percent from 2002 to 2003). Physical aggression was a leading category, replacing to a certain extent that of arson attacks against synagogues, which marked the years 2001–2003. In **Canada** the number of major violent incidents doubled: from 26 in 2003 to 52 in 2004 (out of an overall total of 857 incidents, according to B'nai Brith League of Human Rights). As in the UK, escalation was rapid, tripling from 2000 to 2003, and doubling from 2003 to 2004. Cases of physical aggression and harassment comprised more than half of the incidents in 2004. In **Russia** the number of major violent incidents increased from 32 to 45; however, unlike western Europe, most involved vandalism of cemeteries, monuments and property. It is noteworthy that the increase in numbers of physical acts perpetrated by local extremists in Russia included attacks against many other groups of minorities and foreigners, Muslims included. Further, Russia is perhaps the only country where officials openly express antisemitic opinions and slurs at meetings of state institutions, such as the Duma, and where anti-incitement laws exist but are not enforced. In **Germany** the number of major violent incidents increased from 34 to 50, and, as in Russia, the majority were directed against cemeteries and monuments. In **the US**, where the numbers had been steady for about a decade, an increase of 17 percent was registered by the ADL. It should be emphasized, however, that the overall number of 1,823 in the US includes mainly cases of verbal abuse and harassment (and 60 of vandalism of synagogues and community institutes), while very few Jews were physically attacked.

The data noted above bolster our claim that Jews tend to be assaulted in countries where groups of young immigrants, mainly Muslims but others too, are not well integrated and envy the perceived success of the Jews (such as in France, England and Canada), while property, communal institutions, monuments and cemeteries are vandalized in places where the extreme right is active (such as in Russia, Germany and the US).

During 2004 European governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as international organizations, demonstrated heightened awareness of the possibility that attacks on Jews were not necessarily connected to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but were European/global in origin. The number of Muslims in western

Europe today is about 15 million and rising at about half-a-million a year – a very high birth rate compared to aging Europe. Demographers predict that this number will double by the year 2015. Immigrants, both Muslim and others, come from India and Pakistan (to the UK), from northern and central Africa and the Caribbean Islands (to France and Canada), and from Turkey, mostly to Germany. Muslim immigrants tend to foster a strong group identity and remain apart from the surrounding society, either because they do not wish to integrate or because of the host country's difficulties of absorbing them and other minorities. The ideal of a multi-cultural society advanced in Europe since the 1990s, especially by human rights oriented NGOs, which had relied upon the concept of gradual assimilation, is now being replaced by a growing awareness that immediate steps should be taken, principally, in the general education and education-for-democracy systems in order to enhance integration. Legislation and law enforcement have so far proved inadequate in curbing the severity of the violence directed against Jews and other ethnic minorities and the rising rate of crime in general, and the authorities, it seems, are wary of taking further measures. Improving the socio-economic lot of millions of immigrants is clearly a mammoth task; thus, the left and NGOs feel greater guilt regarding the distress of the Muslim newcomers than they feel for that of the Jews in their midst. Moreover, the European left's view of the Muslim immigrants as the new 'working class' contributes to its sense of solidarity with them.

Since attacks on Jews constitute the spearhead of the aforementioned development, violent antisemitism was deemed to be the first matter to be addressed in order to reduce the friction. Therefore, a series of seminars and conferences dedicated to the struggle against antisemitism was initiated by governments and European organizations in 2003, and especially in 2004, accompanied by public polls and surveys, research studies and reports. Of special note is the conference held in Berlin in April 2004, initiated by the 55-member Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and sponsored by the German president and foreign minister. It was the first conference to adopt operative decisions, such as appointing overseers, establishing a database and reaching, by consensus, a clear definition of antisemitism which juridical and law enforcement authorities would be able to employ.

The progress made toward implementing those decisions will be examined at an upcoming conference initiated by Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos, president of the OSCE this year, to be held in Cordoba in early June. Expert input and opinion have been called for in order to elaborate on and perhaps even approve the definition of antisemitism discussed by OSCE organs.

Therefore, it may be stated that in parallel to the severe increase in antisemitic expressions and violence, there has been an awakening and a growing awareness on the part of governments and organizations that this problem must be dealt with, and that it originates in intensifying tensions, especially in western Europe and Canada, between immigrants and local societies. The prevailing notion that the Middle East dispute was the main root of the problem (see *ASW 2002/3* and *2003/4*), is now being re-examined: a substantial proportion of the immigrants flowing into Europe come from countries unconnected to Middle East problems; the rise and fall of antisemitic violence does not necessarily correlate with the eruption of violence between Israelis and Palestinians; and since the death of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir Arafat in early November 2004, a process of rapprochement between the two sides has been launched, bringing with it cautious hopes for an agreement in the future. Nevertheless, there has been no sign of a decrease in antisemitic violence since the end of 2004. This may be attributed to today's reality in which immigration and absorption, alongside globalization and privatization lead to unemployment and frustration; in which tensions between multiculturalism and the attempt to preserve national cultures generates stormy discussions in democracies; and in which industrialized, rich, aging societies badly need working hands from the poor countries in the southern hemisphere but are still unwilling to pay the full price of genuine integration. Rather than contradict factors noted in previous reports, such as anti-Americanism and anti-Israel feeling which inflame violence indirectly, those factors discussed above serve to augment them.

Between Increasing Violence and Organizational and Governmental Responses

The year 2004 was marked by two parallel developments. On the one hand, there was a continued intensification of antisemitic manifestations, culminating in the highest number of violent incidents recorded – mostly in Europe – since the end of the World War II. On the other hand, there were clear signs that in contrast to the first years of the current wave that began in autumn 2000, some European countries are much more determined today to combat antisemitism. There appears to be growing awareness among them of the impact of this antisemitic upsurge on the well-being and safety of the Jews and their relationship with their governments and fellow citizens, and no less importantly, on public order in the streets.

This analysis is divided into two parts. The first part examines the characteristics of the continuing wave of antisemitic manifestations. In regard to acts of violence and vandalism, there will be an attempt, albeit a cautious one, to relate to a difficult and controversial question: the identification of the perpetrators and their motives.

The second part will be devoted to national and international activities initiated to combat antisemitism. Here a comparison will be made between various reactions to antisemitism around the world. Special attention will be given to the new phenomenon of international, particularly pan-European, cooperation in the struggle against antisemitism, characterized in 2004 by international conventions.

PART I

JEWS AS VICTIMS OF INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE

Three locations – western Europe (especially the UK, France and Belgium), Canada and Russia – stand out, in particular, in 2004 in terms of their levels of violence and vandalism directed against Jewish individuals and Jewish sites and institutions.

Western Europe

On 25 June 2004 a 16-year-old yeshiva student, Noach Schmal, was stabbed in the back and seriously injured in Antwerp. This attack, which left him hospitalized with a damaged lung, represents only one of an unprecedented number of such incidents with clear intention to kill or harm the victim severely that took place in 2004 throughout the world and especially in western Europe.

The testimonies given regarding this particular attack resembled those that followed many other brutal incidents that took place in 2004, although the majority did not end in such serious injury. For the most part, the victim was a 'visible' Jew wearing a skullcap and in many cases traditional Jewish clothing. He was attacked by one or more perpetrators, without any provocation on his part. In Britain, for example, six young thugs attacked a Jewish family on their way home from synagogue in Chigwell, Essex, on 9 April.

Frequently, antisemitic slogans were shouted during the attack. On 29 June, two secondary school pupils were on their way home from school on Flandres Street in the 19th arrondissement in Paris when a car blocked their way and several people brandishing sticks with metal points got out. They caught one of the boys, pushed him against a wall and beat him unconscious. The attackers shouted "Dirty Jew" during the attack. The other child escaped.

Until recently, the phenomenon of Jews suffering physical attacks accompanied by antisemitic verbal abuse had been unthinkable in postwar Europe. Today Jews are threatened with gassing, cremation or murder near their homes and synagogues and on the streets of their hometowns. Moreover, the victims of antisemitic violence are Jews of all ages, including the elderly and the sick. In Copenhagen, Denmark, a man of Middle Eastern appearance threw shoes at an 80-year-old Jewish woman on 26 April; in Boulogne, France, an 81-year-old Jewish man was attacked in his building on 26 November; and in Paris, a handicapped Jewish woman was cursed and shaken in the street on 8 October.

The main targets, however, tended to be 'visibly Jewish', mainly religious, children and young adults. They were harassed by fellow pupils, spat on and insulted on their way to school and beaten up on their way to or from synagogue. They were also hounded during soccer games and on public transport, and received e-mails and SMS messages with threats and insults. Fear of violence and abuse has caused Jewish pupils to leave the public schools and register at Jewish schools. According to Patrick Petit-Ohayon, coordinator for Jewish schools at the Fonds Social Juif Unifié, the number of students in Jewish schools in France rose from a total of 1,500 students in 1980 to more than 30,000 in 2003.

Numerous Jewish sites were desecrated throughout Europe in 2004. Holocaust memorials and Jewish prayer houses and neighborhoods were smeared with Nazi slogans and antisemitic graffiti. Some were severely vandalized, such as a synagogue in Toulon, France, which was firebombed on the night of 22–23 March, and the offices of the

Orthodox outreach organization Esh Hatorah in London, which were destroyed by fire on 24 June 2004.

In 2003, 25 out of 34 incidents of anti-Jewish violence and vandalism perpetrated in Germany were directed against cemeteries and memorials; in 2004 there were 35 such incidents out of a total of 50. On 24 June, for example, swastikas and other Nazi symbols were smeared on more than 40 graves in the Jewish cemetery in Düsseldorf and on 10 April 2004, a Holocaust memorial in Shönberg was defaced by swastikas and SS symbols.

Canada

Since the onset of the autumn 2000 wave of antisemitism, Canada has become one of the major scenes of anti-Jewish violence and vandalism. This trend reached a peak in 2004, with an increase of 100 percent over 2003. The most serious incident took place on 5 April 2004 when an arson attack destroyed the library of the St. Laurant branch of the United Talmud Torah elementary school in Montreal. There was a three-fold increase in cases of cemetery desecration. For instance, at the oldest Jewish cemetery in Montreal, Nazi symbols, including swastikas, SS signs and “Heil Hitler,” were sprayed on tombstones on 30 April 2004. Of particular concern was the 60 percent increase from 2003 in targeting of Jewish private property. On the night of 21 March 2004, for example, thirteen Jewish homes in Vaughn, a Toronto suburb, were defaced with antisemitic graffiti. Swastikas and racist messages were painted on garage doors, cars and front doors. A week previously, houses and cars in a Jewish neighborhood were similarly damaged in the Toronto suburb of Thornhill.

Russia

Russia was another major scene of anti-Jewish violence and vandalism in 2004. The 52 serious violent incidents recorded represent an increase of 40 percent over 2003. Attempting to kill Jews and severely damaging Jewish institutions were the hallmarks of antisemitic violence in Russia. On 4 February 2004, for example, three petrol bombs were thrown at the Chelyabinsk synagogue, igniting a fire in the library, while on 5 March 2004, a bomb of about 200 kg exploded near the Institute for the Study of Judaism in the center of Moscow. The attack, which took place on the eve of the Purim holiday, caused no injuries.

As in Germany, cemeteries and memorials constitute prime targets. On 14 February 2004 vandals broke 50 gravestones at the St. Petersburg Jewish cemetery, painted swastikas on some of them and left antisemitic leaflets nearby, while on 17 December 2004 swastikas and antisemitic

slogans were daubed on 40 Jewish gravestones in the Preobrazhenskii cemetery in St. Petersburg.

THE PERPETRATORS

Since the wave of antisemitic manifestations broke out in late 2000 and its continued rise, identification of the perpetrators has become a central but controversial issue in fighting this phenomenon. Its importance is clear: the task of analyzing the reasons for the upsurge in antisemitism as well as efforts to counter it might reach a deadlock if the identity of the perpetrators is not first clarified. When facing hate crimes, especially when they occur with such frequency, the researcher needs to determine whether the offenses were carried out by organized groups or by individuals, and whether intentionally or spontaneously. In addition, it is important to examine the motive, or possibly motives, for the crime (ideological, sociological, psychological). This task has proved difficult in the UK, for example, since the perpetrators almost invariably attacked at night and from behind, and many of the victims were elderly and/or ultra-Orthodox Jews who were unable to provide many details. In France, according to Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin, the motive behind 80 percent of antisemitic incidents was unclear as the perpetrators had not been caught. In Canada, too, the report of the League of Human Rights states that "one of the hallmarks of a hate crime is that the perpetrator strikes out anonymously. Therefore, most cases of hate-motivated activity rarely result in any criminal investigation because no perpetrator can be identified."

Western Europe

The debate over the identification of the perpetrators intensified in the wake of the controversy over the findings of the Center for Research on Antisemitism at the Technische Universität Berlin (Werner Bergmann and Julianne Wetzels, "Manifestations of Antisemitism in the European Union," March 2003). The report was commissioned by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) of the European Commission, and covered only the first half of 2002. The authors came to the conclusion that while desecration of synagogues, cemeteries, swastika graffiti, and threatening and insulting mail during this period could be attributed to the far right, more extreme attacks on Jewish sites as well as physical assaults on Jews were committed mainly by young Muslims, mostly of Arab descent. Bergman and Wetzels pointed to the growing tensions between Israelis and Palestinians which had culminated in the outbreak of the second intifada, as a principal factor mobilizing the majority of antisemitic perpetrators, namely young

Muslims. In this context they emphasized that “antisemitic statements came from the pro-Palestinian left as well as politicians and citizens from the political mainstream.”

At the beginning of 2004, the EUMC published a second report on antisemitism in 15 European Union (EU) member states in the years 2002–3 (Alexander Pollak and Alexander Joskowicz, “Manifestations of Antisemitism in EU 2002-2003”). Concerning the perpetrators, the report was more equivocal, claiming that while in some countries such as France and Denmark the centrality of “young Muslim males” was more evident, this was less certain in regard to all other countries, among them the Netherlands and even the UK. According to the authors, the fact that in many cases the bulk of the evidence was from the victim’s ‘description’, which could not always be substantiated, was a principal reason for caution.

The lack of clarity concerning the identification of the perpetrators, namely the role played by youths of Arabic/Islamic origin compared to that of extreme rightists, described in the EUMC report as “young white males,” contradicted three major findings repeated in reports sent to us from various EU member states. One was that according to the testimonies of victims of violent antisemitic attacks, not only in France and Denmark but all over Europe, the perpetrators, when identified by their victims, often belonged to ethnic minorities – ‘young Muslims’, ‘young Asians’ or ‘young North Africans’. While under attack, the victim may not have been able to distinguish between North Africans, Arabs from Middle East countries or persons from other countries in Africa, it is unlikely that s/he would confuse them with ‘young white males’.

Secondly, data gathered worldwide by the Institute for over a decade about the targets of antisemitic activities and the modus operandi of the perpetrators indicate that the percentage of physical assaults against Jewish individuals has increased dramatically compared to incidents of cemetery and synagogue desecration. Although the number of cases in which the police succeeded in establishing the identification of the perpetrators of physical attacks is significantly small (in France, according to the interior minister, only 20 percent), the involvement of Arabs, Muslims or members of other ethnic minorities in those acts was much higher than that of members of the extreme right. Therefore, one can point to the central role of young people from families of immigrants in antisemitic activities, and particularly in physical violence against Jews.

Thirdly, over the last few years, and even during the 1990s, there have been clear indications of a link between tensions in the Middle East and the rise in antisemitic manifestations in western Europe. In 2003, for

example, some European countries witnessed two waves of antisemitic incidents, first in March when the war in Iraq began, and later in October–November, following the suicide bombing at a Haifa restaurant and the Israeli retaliation in Syria (see *ASW* 2003/4). The impact of events in the Middle East on the level of antisemitic manifestations in Europe was noticeable again in 2004 when the assassination of Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin resulted in a significant increase in hate crimes directed against Jews in the UK. A similar trend was noted in Canada, too (see below).

Nevertheless, the link between events in the Middle East and the rise in antisemitic incidents should be analyzed very carefully. It certainly can not serve as the sole and probably not even as the main explanation for the continuous rise of antisemitic incidents. While Middle East events may have prompted the eruption of antisemitic incidents, socio-economic and psychological disaffection of immigrants in Europe today should be examined as the wider background for antisemitic activities. In the UK, for instance, events in the Middle East may explain the increase in some cases, but in many others the motive is unclear. There was no obvious reason, for example, for the relatively high number of incidents that occurred in the UK in June 2004, including two serious attacks, or for the monthly peaks of February and May in France.

Socio-economic dislocation as the principal condition for the perpetration of hate crimes was stressed in one of the latest studies published in Europe on racism and antisemitism. Composed by Jean-Christophe Rufin, president of Action against Hunger, at the request of the French interior minister, it states that the so-called new antisemitism “appears to be more heterogeneous than believed by those who see it as a problem specifically among people of Maghreb (North African) origin and as a natural consequence of events in the Middle East.” Moreover, based on various sources, among them the French police and the gendarmerie, he concluded that only a “relatively low number of the perpetrators were of North African origin.” Many were immigrants from countries without any connection to the Arab-Israeli issue, such as African and Caribbean states. His basic thesis is that in the three “statistical categories of perpetrators of antisemitic violence [immigrants, extreme right and unspecified] the common trait seems to be found more in a sense of uprootedness, a loss of reference points and an identity crisis.”

The main reason for violence seems therefore to be mainly social frustration, and those who belong to disaffected groups appear to be more ready to adopt extreme means against those perceived as belonging to a successful group. This may be seen clearly today, in districts such as

Kreuzberg, in Berlin, where most of the population are immigrants from Muslim countries especially Turkey, but also Jewish immigrants from the former CIS countries. In the UK, a mixed Afro-Caribbean/Arab group carried out a series of attacks in Stamford Hill against ultra-Orthodox Jews in December. In this context, too, it is crucial to stress the role of extreme anti-Israel propaganda – which frequently includes antisemitic motifs, and particularly the dehumanization of Israel – not only in extreme left and extreme right publications but also in the mainstream media, in inciting those who initially were not part of the antisemitic milieu, or did not belong to any extremist religious movement, to participate in antisemitic activities.

This conclusion correlates with our observation that antisemitism in Europe is not imported from the Middle East, as claimed by many – although events in the Middle East have served as a trigger for the wave of anti-Jewish violence that began in autumn 2000. It is first and foremost a European problem: “Nothing can be gained in the fight against antisemitism without tackling the issue of social marginalization,” states Rufin.

North America

In regard to the identification of perpetrators and their impact on the level of violent antisemitic incidents, the situation in the US and Canada is quite different. In the US, overall data on antisemitic manifestations collected by the ADL show an increase of 17 percent over 2003, including a marked rise of 27 percent in the harassment category and a small increase of 3 percent in vandalism. Nevertheless, the number of assaults on Jewish individuals was quite low, no more than a handful. The majority of antisemitic events were verbal insults, including slurs and mockery. In addition, the number of extreme violent acts, such as arson against communal or private property was relatively low as well. In Canada, on the other hand, there was a 100 percent increase in violent incidents.

The difference levels of violence between the two neighbors may lie in the greater role played by young immigrants, mainly from Muslim countries, in antisemitic incidents in Canada. Although as in western Europe, the perpetrators in most cases are not identified, the ADL did not find evidence of significant involvement of Arabs/Muslims in antisemitic activities in the US and its findings point to the role of the extreme right in incidents of harassment and especially in the distribution of propaganda. In Canada, however, despite difficulties in establishing the identification of the perpetrators, the League for Human Rights stated: “In 2004, as in 2003, the single most active group in carrying out

antisemitic incidents was found to be made up of persons who identified themselves as Arab. In fact, the number in this category more than doubled from 36 in 2003 to 80 in 2004.”

As in the UK, the highest monthly total – 156 incidents – occurred in March, representing close to one-fifth of the entire year’s total, probably in response to the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

It is reasonable to assume that in Canada the significant involvement of Arabs/Muslims in antisemitic activities affected the nature of the incidents, which was much more violent than in the US. Although as shown in the past, a ‘lone wolf’ from the extreme right in the US can bring about death and destruction, extreme rightists there have been less frequently involved in physical violence against Jews than have Arabs/Muslims in Canada.

The CIS

In the CIS those responsible for xenophobic and antisemitic manifestations may be classified into two categories. The first consists of public figures and officials, such as members of parliament, ministers, election candidates and members of the security forces. During a speech in the Russian Duma in May 2004, for example, Nikolai Pavlov, a member of the nationalist Motherland Bloc blamed Jews working in national television for the violence, sadism, perversion and russophobia that he alleged were constantly being broadcast. Moreover, on 1 July, speaking at a conference in Beirut, Russian Senator Nikolai Kondratenko, (Communist Party of Russian Federation – KPRF) accused the Zionists of genocide against the Russian people. In Ukraine, during a debate on Ukrainian television Channel UT-1 screened on 20 October 2004, Vladimir Nechiporuk, an independent candidate in the 2004 presidential elections, told his opponent Piotr Simonenko (Communist Party) that “kike-masons” were culpable for the liquidation of the Ukrainian people under Soviet rule. He also said that if he won the election he would deport all “Jewish oligarchs” from Ukraine. Similarly, on 9 July 2004, while announcing his candidacy for the Ukrainian presidential elections, Bogdan Boyko, chairman of the National Movement of Ukraine for Unity (NRU), claimed that the Jews were a “fifth column” in Ukraine (see also under ‘Responses’ below). In Belarus, when the Union of Belarus Jewish Communities protested against the intention to disband the International Humanitarian Institute which included the only school of Judaism in the country, Belarus MP Sergii Kostyan remarked that Belarus was not a Zionist country.

Members of the second category are adults and youths from the ranks of those not necessarily affiliated to organized racist or skinhead

groups such as the RNE (Russian National Unity), the neo-Nazi Schultz-88 in Russia, or the National Salvation Front in Ukraine which was responsible for the circulation of leaflets accusing the Jews of murdering Jesus and called for their deportation.

Contrary to the situation in western Europe, the great majority of antisemitic acts in the CIS are not carried out by Muslims. In fact, in the non-Muslim states and in Russia in particular, Muslims and their holy places are often the target of racist harassment and attacks. For example, in May 2004, 11 tombstones were desecrated in the Muslim cemetery of Obninsk, Kaluga region (Russia).

It seems that particularly in Russia antisemitism must be examined in the wider context of xenophobia. In 2004 there was a significant increase in violence against foreigners, including murders. Most of the attacks took place in Moscow and St. Petersburg, but also in other cities around the country. Among the victims were Russian citizens of Caucasian origin and foreigners from Afghanistan, Vietnam, Jordan, China, Korea and Syria, among others. On 8 December 2004 Viktor Papsuev, section head in the criminal police department of the Ministry of Interior, reported that as of the beginning of 2004 there had been 283 crimes committed against foreign students in Russia, nearly one-third of which had occurred in the St. Petersburg area. A nine-year-old girl of Tajik origin was murdered in St. Petersburg on 9 February, and on 5 March, School no. 288 in the same city was set alight, presumably by skinheads. Most of the pupils there are of Azerbaijani origin. In 2004 an increase was also recorded in damage to cultural and holy sites of practically all religions. In early 2004 a Pravoslav chapel in Kirov was painted with swastikas and the words "We are back." On 4 June 2004 unknown persons set fire to an Armenian cultural center in Irkutsk. In August an explosive device was thrown into the Evangelical prayer house in Izhevsk. In November an Adventist prayer house in Nizhnii Novgorod was damaged by local RNE members

Latin America

In Latin America, and particularly in Venezuela, politicians and high ranking officials openly express antisemitic views. A blatant example of anti-Jewish attitudes under the populist administration of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez (see *ASW* 2003/4), occurred in November–December 2004. On 29 November the intelligence forces of the Venezuelan police raided a Jewish elementary and high school in the Hebraica Cultural and Sports Club, allegedly in search of arms. Some 1,500 children were arriving at school at that time in the morning. Judge Michel Moreno had ordered the raid in an attempt to link the Jewish

community to terrorism following the murder of Federal Prosecutor Danilo Anderson. The Jewish umbrella organization CAIV publicly repudiated the crime, but the state Venezuela Television had been reporting for days that the Mossad was behind the assassination. Another serious incident demonstrating the antisemitic atmosphere in Venezuela occurred on 7 May 2004, when Venezuelan state radio accused Venezuelan born and bred Jews of trying to influence officials of the US administration in opposing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. The broadcast claimed that Jews were disloyal to Venezuela. On 15 August 2004 the words “No to Jews and defectives” were sprayed on the Or Hatorah synagogue in Caracas.

The unprecedented police raid on a Jewish school provoked anger among Jewish communities and organizations abroad. The American Jewish Committee expressed outrage at “this unprecedented and unwarranted raid on a Jewish institution by local police which traumatized the children and their families.” Both the Argentinean DAIA and the Jewish community of Spain conveyed their indignation and their solidarity with the Venezuelan community.

Cemetery desecration, vandalism, particularly graffiti, and threat letters to community leaders are the most common activities against Jews and Jewish property in Latin America. As elsewhere, the perpetrators are seldom caught; nevertheless, Nazi symbols and slogans such as those left at the entrance to the Ciudadela Jewish cemetery in Buenos Aires on 14 November, or a day later near the Maimonides School in that city, reveal that they are mostly right-wing extremists. The Jewish cemetery of Liniers near Buenos Aires was desecrated four times during 2004 with swastikas and other Nazi symbols, once on the night of 8–9 November, the anniversary of *Kristallnacht*. Further, at the beginning of November, three Jewish institutions received bomb threats: the Hebraica Jewish Club, Paso Temple and the Sephardic Congregation. The leading Argentinean Jewish organization DAIA reported a rise in antisemitic incidents in 2004.

In Brazil, the Beth Jacob Synagogue, Campinas, was defaced with antisemitic graffiti and swastikas on 11–12 October, and in Chile, “Jews get out” was scrawled, on 11 November, on a wall near a Jewish community building in Viña del Mar. In Uruguay, too, graffiti, consisting of a swastika saying “Happy Birthday, Adolf Hitler,” “Heil Hitler,” and “Death to all the Masonic Jews” and signed by the “Waffen SS,” was found near the Sephardi Community Synagogue in Montevideo. The extreme right is mainly responsible for hate messages against Jews on the Internet as well.

In Venezuela and Brazil, the extreme left spreads virulently anti-Zionist propaganda that verges on antisemitism. The journal *Humanus*, for example, compared Zionism to Nazism and ran a photomontage of Einstein/Hitler. In another example linking antisemitism and anti-Zionism, a poster, decorated with anti-Zionist slogans, showed a man tossing a Star of David into the garbage.

PART II

WORLDWIDE RESPONSE TO ANTISEMITISM

Europe

After some hesitation in recognizing the fact that they were facing an unprecedented wave of antisemitic incidents, the EU and its member states finally realized that antisemitism had become a threat not only to their Jewish citizens but to the democratic order. The year 2004 was marked by considerable progress in Europe in the struggle against antisemitism, both at the national and pan-European level. The decision to act against antisemitism, racism and xenophobia was accompanied by numerous governmental and non-governmental actions and educational programs in most European countries and such measures have become a basic requirement for states seeking to join the EU.

In 1993 the Council of Europe (CoE) Vienna Summit established the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), which was entrusted with the task of combating racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance from the perspective of human rights protection. The political declaration issued by the 2000 European Conference against Racism in Strasbourg called for strengthening the ECRI, and subsequently the CoE consolidated the latter's role as the primary mechanism for monitoring racism and racial discrimination.

ECRI carries out its work through regular in-depth country analyses, proposing ways of dealing with racism in individual countries and maintaining a confidential dialogue with national authorities. It has now embarked on its third round of country reports, and in 2004 covered Albania, Austria, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Poland, Sweden, Macedonia, Turkey and the United Kingdom. In 2005 it will examine Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Romania, Russian Federation and Spain.

In parallel, ECRI works on the general themes of combating racism and intolerance, which are elaborated through General Policy Recommendations addressed to member states and which provide guidelines for policy makers. To date, ECRI has adopted nine such recommendations on important trans-European themes, including

Combating Antisemitism (General Policy Recommendation no. 9, adopted on 25 June 2004) and Combating the Dissemination of Racist and Antisemitic Material on the Internet (General Policy Recommendation no. 6, adopted on 7 November 2002). The first of these reflected ECRI's concern over the increase in the dissemination of antisemitic ideas and acts of violence perpetrated against members of Jewish communities and their institutions. The text, adopted after wide consultation with Jewish NGOs, human rights NGOs and others, reflects ECRI's conviction that "while requiring actions that take account of its specificities, combating antisemitism is an integral and intrinsic component of the fight against racism." The recommendation suggests legal and policy measures that states should undertake in a variety of areas, including criminal legislation, education and awareness-raising, research and inter-religious dialogue.

Recommendation no. 6 was followed by the publication, in January 2003, of Additional Protocol to the (2001) Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalization of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems. It requires signatories to adopt legislative and other measures to establish as criminal offenses under their domestic law "the distribution of racist and xenophobic threats and insults and denial, gross minimisation, approval or justification of genocide or crimes against humanity." The protocol is clearly designed to combat, among other things, the promotion of antisemitic messages and Holocaust denial.

The EU investigated mounting antisemitism within its territory, finally publishing, in December 2003, the report by the European Union Monitoring Centre against Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) prepared by the Antisemitism Research Institute at Berlin's Technical University.

A second report on "Perceptions of Antisemitism in the European Union," which took account of the findings of Jewish community monitoring bodies and others, was published together with the main country analyses as "Manifestations of Antisemitism in the EU 2002–2003" in March 2004. The findings of these long-awaited reports were as controversial as the events surrounding their publication. The press release that accompanied them suggested that the far right remained the main promoter of antisemitism within Europe, whereas the body of the report, and particularly the general assessments within it, suggested, as noted above, a much more complicated picture. Another questionable part was the theoretical discussion on definitions. While listing old Jewish stereotypes as the defining characteristic of antisemitism, it maintained that attacks on Jews motivated by anti-Israel feeling should

not be considered antisemitic (see Ken Stern, "Defining Antisemitism," in *Antisemitism Worldwide* 2003/4, 2005).

A second initiative undertaken by the European Commission (EC), which followed a series of meetings between European Jewish Congress (EJC) leaders and elected EC leaders from 2003 onwards, resulted in a seminar held in Brussels in February 2004 under the joint auspices of the EC, the EJC and the Conference of European Rabbis. Here a succession of Jewish leaders voiced their increasing concern at the damage being done to Europe by its failure to confront rising antisemitic levels. Jewish NGOs urged the EU in December to establish an overseeing committee composed of EC and EJC officials to monitor antisemitism within the EU.

At the parliamentary level, the European Parliament passed a resolution on Holocaust, Antisemitism and Racism on 27 January 2004, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the day marked by most EU countries to commemorate the Holocaust. The resolution, passed unanimously, condemned ignorance among the young concerning "the most shameful and painful pages of the history of our continent."

The resolution combined the various strands and political decisions of recent years, including those on racism, xenophobia and antisemitism, EUMC reports, the Berlin OSCE Declaration (see below) and the January 2000 Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust, which called for improved education on the Holocaust. The text noted the heightened sense of insecurity of European Jews resulting from the rise in attacks on their communities and members and the increasing dissemination of antisemitic propaganda via the Internet, and called on member states and the EC to strengthen the fight against antisemitism and racism by various means.

However it was the OSCE that made the most progress during 2004. The Vienna Conference on Antisemitism (June 2003), a direct outcome of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in December 2002, was the first high-level conference by an international organization devoted specifically to antisemitism. The Vienna meeting gave representatives of Jewish NGOs the opportunity to define the problem for diplomatic and governmental representatives, but it was clear that a more focused conference was required to examine the specifics of countering antisemitism. This was proposed by the German delegation and was given impetus by an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolution passed in Rotterdam in July 2003.

The resulting Berlin Conference of April 2004 produced the Berlin Declaration, which was ratified by the OSCE Permanent and Ministerial Councils in December 2004. The declaration bound the 55 participating

states to strive to ensure that their legal systems provided a safe environment free of antisemitic harassment, violence and discrimination, promoted educational programs to combat antisemitism, advanced Holocaust remembrance through education, combated hate crimes, particularly those fuelled by media and Internet propaganda, and, notably, collected and maintained information and statistics on antisemitic and other hate crimes. It tasked its Warsaw-based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to work with other OSCE institutions, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, ECRI and EUMC, as well as international institutions and NGOs, in gathering relevant information, reporting its findings to the Permanent Council, and making these findings public. It also called for the systematic collection and dissemination of information on best practice for preventing and responding to antisemitism throughout the OSCE area.

The Ministerial Council welcomed the work done during 2004; it noted the Berlin and Brussels Declarations (on the fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination) and called on the OSCE to intensify efforts to implement the decisions. It mentioned the offer by the Spanish government to host a further implementation conference to be held in Cordoba in June 2005 and approved the intention of the chairman in office (Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Passy for the 2004/5 period) to appoint three personal representatives who would carry forward decisions reached. In the case of antisemitism, the personal representative is Professor Gert Weisskirchen, OSCE Parliamentary Association vice-president and foreign affairs spokesman of the Social Democrat Party in the German Parliament.

Thus, for the first time, an international body has been given some teeth in the fight against antisemitism through the institution of monitoring programs and the provision of a report-back mechanism which, in theory, can call states to account if they fail to implement the agreements. The ODIHR plan relates to three databases for collecting and publishing information on antisemitic incidents, model legislation, and educational initiatives. To implement these plans, it appointed Dr Kathrin Meyer its advisor on antisemitism issues, to work with the Intolerance and Non-Discrimination Program.

It should be noted that while the majority of EU governments – Austria, Belgium, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom – collect and publish data on antisemitism, others such as Luxembourg, Italy, Portugal and Finland do not. Denmark monitors racist crimes but does not specify antisemitically motivated offenses. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

meeting in Edinburgh in July 2004, called upon participating states to ensure that all antisemitically motivated and hate crimes were made illegal. The same concern guided European Justice Commissioner Franco Frattini, who proposed a continent-wide law against racism, xenophobia and antisemitism at an international conference on 15 December 2004 in Rome, hosted by the Italian Foreign Ministry.

A landmark in the fight against the spread of hatred in Europe was the stand taken by France against the Hizballah TV station al-Manar. In an attempt to curb the level of incitement to antisemitism through the media, the Committee for Audio and Visual Media banned, in early February 2004, the television series *al-Shatat* (The Diaspora), based on *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and screened by al-Manar. On 23 November al-Manar accused Israel of spreading AIDS to Arab countries and referred to suicide bombers as ‘martyrs’. After protests by the Jewish community, Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin described al-Manar’s programs as “incompatible with our values,” and on 13 December al-Manar transmissions were prohibited by the highest French court.

Internationally, the French government’s ban on al-Manar prompted an examination of the station’s operations in the United States. In early 2005 the US government added the station to the Terrorism Exclusion List, thus proscribing employees of the organization from entering or doing business within the United States.

Hate spread on the Internet is a central issue in combating antisemitism today. In June 2004 a special conference in the framework of the OSCE was held in Paris, on “Antisemitic Propaganda on the Internet.” Likewise, this meeting resulted in a declaration by the Permanent and Ministerial Councils in December, which asked all 55 states to take action to ensure that the Internet remained an open and public forum for freedom of opinion and expression, but also to investigate and, where applicable, prosecute violence and criminal threats of violence, motivated by racist, xenophobic, antisemitic or other related bias. It called on states to train law enforcement agents and prosecutors in addressing crimes instigated by these motives on the Internet, and to share information on successful training programs.

The initiatives taken in Europe, with the support and sometimes pressure of the US (see below), as well as the prominent involvement of Jewish organizations, had some impact. In **Latin America** the presidents and governments of Argentina and Brazil responded to the call of the World Jewish Congress and expressed their full support for the international campaign against antisemitism. The preface of the declaration of the Argentinean Senate against antisemitism mentions the OSCE resolutions, the Berlin Declaration and the support of the

American Senate for the president's decision to monitor antisemitism worldwide. Numerous national organizations and institutions in Argentina endorsed the declaration of their own Senate.

The US

The Administration: The year 2004 saw groundbreaking work by the US government in focusing on, acknowledging – and most important – pledging to deal with antisemitism and attacks against Jews throughout the world. The US government Global Antisemitism Review Act was signed into law by President George W. Bush on 16 October 2004. The State Department issued instructions to US embassies around the world to explicitly report acts of violence against Jews and Jewish property and the measures governments were taking against them. In the first report for 2004 commissioned by the US Department of State, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues Ambassador Edward B. O'Donnell declared that there had been an “increasing frequency and severity of antisemitic incidents since the start of the 21st century, particularly in Europe,” and that “in recent years, incidents have been more targeted in nature with perpetrators appearing to have the specific intent to attack Jews and Judaism.”

Moreover, the report emphasized a major aspect of antisemitism today, the linkage between antisemitism and anti-Americanism, namely, that both on the left and the right there is a confluence between antisemitic ideas and anti-Americanism, hinging specifically on America's support for and efforts to safeguard Israel, and more generally on criticism of America's war in Iraq and of overall foreign policy (see *ASW* 2003/4). The report stated that outspoken attacks by militants of the far right and the far left, as well as by representatives of the Islamic community in Europe, against the policies and leaders of Israel and the US were seen as a factor in the targeting of individual Jews or Jewish institutions.

Recognizing the significance of antisemitism and its linkage to international developments, in which the US plays a major role, the US administration has been a leading actor in organizing international conferences to discuss the increase in antisemitism and means of combating it, particularly the June 2003 OSCE meeting in Vienna, followed by the April 2004 conference in Berlin (see above). While the OSCE was the most far-reaching and effective multilateral instrument for investigating and working on the issue of antisemitism in 2004, a historic conference was held in June 2004 at the United Nations in New York, where antisemitism was discussed for the first time by the UN General Assembly. Further action by the UN included a November 2004

resolution that denounced all forms of religious intolerance, and which specifically included antisemitism.

Right-Wing Extremists and Holocaust Deniers: The response of right-wing extremists in the US to the increase of antisemitic manifestations in Europe and measures to contain it has been muted, in part because their groups are in turmoil and undergoing transition due to deaths, imprisonment and instability among the leadership. This is true for several of the major groups, such as Aryan Nations, National Alliance and the Creativity Movement, which have consequently lost members and influence. Nevertheless, some familiar themes have been expressed by extremist groups in response to America's call for formal anti-hate legislation and official steps to curb antisemitism worldwide. Far-right publications have combined criticism of what they perceive as increasing governmental interference and infringement of personal freedoms with diatribes against Jews, who are seen as the originators of the new legislation in the United States and Europe. There are classic allegations of Jewish totalitarian power and of Jews striving to manipulate and control the world for their own benefit. The term 'Zionism' is equated both with Jews and with Israel. American Free Press in December saw "the expanding influence of international Zionism" in attempts to recognize and legislate against all manifestations of antisemitism. Also in December, *The Crusader*, a Ku Klux Klan publication, wrote that "while antisemitism is viewed by many to include everything from actual violence to merely questioning the actions of the state of Israel... [c]ount yourself worthy to be hated by those who hate Jesus Christ." The entire September issue of the *David Duke Report*, a publication of former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, consisted of a long antisemitic tirade, focusing on freedom of speech: "The most powerful special interest groups in the Western world are those supporting the agendas of Jewish supremacism.... lawmakers, at the behest of Jewish supremacist groups... [are] passing legislation that increases penalties for crimes if the offending person uttered the wrong speech or even had the wrong thoughts."

The effort to quash antisemitic manifestations is seen by extremists as an ominous conspiracy to destroy Christian and non-Jewish society, and to assert Jewish hegemony. *WR Newsletter*, a publication of the neo-Nazi White Revolution, wrote in February that "international, organized, and Zionist Jewry have long had a plan and have continually engaged in efforts to essentially destroy all homogenous White societies along their way to world domination." The *CDL Report*, a Christian 'Identity' publication complained in December: "Hate laws are drafted by Jewry

for their benefit. These laws oppress American citizens and are used selectively against Christians and European Americans.”

While racist anti-Arab comments continued to dominate American extremist rhetoric, in 2004 some on the far right expressed support for Muslims and the Palestinian cause. There were discussions of possible alliances with Muslims, such as a posting in the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations website forum in November which considered the idea of “a possible liaison between Muslims and National Socialists in a common fight against the Jew.” Approval of aspects of Islam surfaced more frequently, especially with regard to issues that harmonized with conservative Christianity. The *First Freedom*, a Southern heritage publication, published an article in its August issue by Michael Hoffman II, a Holocaust revisionist, which appeared to support Muslim and Muslim rights in western countries, in general, and Muslim women covering their heads in Europe, in particular. He wrote: “Who is to blame for the demise of Europe – the healthy, fertile Muslims or the anemic, self-extinguishing denizens of the House of Usher... Now crusader George W. Bush is on a campaign to “free Muslim women” from standards of propriety and modesty not so different – at least in spirit – from what prevailed universally in the West as recently as four decades ago.”

Alongside customary invective against Judaism as a religion, particularly against the Talmud, positive statements were made about Islam vis-à-vis Christianity. In September David Duke claimed that Muslims have “easily verifiable sentiments of respect and veneration... toward Christ and those who follow him... including a shared belief in Christ as the Messiah.” In particular, however, some on the far right emphasized the convergence of Muslim and far-right extremist interests regarding the Jewish people. Writing in March about the film *The Passion*, the white supremacist WAR publication (White Aryan Resistance) stated: “It is more than likely that Gibson's film can lead towards a wide realization of the role of the Palestinian people, the new Christ, in redeeming the world from the current evil, whether this evil is the Israeli State, the Zionist identity...” A posting in the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations website forum in November read: “We applaud those of the Islamic faith who wage jihad against that global pest who terrorizes all the other races of the world under their six-pointed star. We applaud those of our race who covertly aid the jihad against Zionist occupational regimes across the globe.”

The CIS

Despite their participation in the OSCE conferences against antisemitism the major CIS states – Russia, Ukraine and Belarus – have not

demonstrated their clear determination to fight antisemitism on the domestic front. As in previous years, the response to xenophobic and antisemitic manifestations in Russia in 2004 was mixed. On the one hand, the authorities issued several declarations stating their intention to combat antisemitism and racism and uttered strong words of condemnation both within the country and at international anti-racism conferences. In March 2004, for example, then Russian Minister for Nationalities Vladimir Zorin asserted that antisemitism and xenophobia were major threats to the country. He called for stricter enforcement of the existing laws outlawing extremism and antisemitism and the promotion of tolerance education programs. On 2 February 2004 Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliev became the first high-ranking official to acknowledge the existence of right-wing extremist youth groups in the country. He promised that the struggle against extremism was one of the priority tasks of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Federal Security Service.

On the other hand, the authorities preferred to label the perpetrators terrorists or hooligans without reference to racist or antisemitic motivation. Therefore, most hate crimes remain unsolved, including assaults, synagogue bombings, arson attacks against Jewish sites and desecration of Jewish cemeteries. On 18 February 2004 the Russian Jewish Congress issued a statement accusing the government of covering up hate crimes and even collaborating with hate groups. It should be noted, too, that on 9 July 2004 the Duma rejected a proposed law that would have prohibited the public display of Nazi symbols

As a result of government disregard, the activities of NGOs have come to play an important part in combating antisemitism and racism. On 15 December 2004 an international conference on "Antisemitism in the Former Soviet Union and the Russian Federation" was held in Moscow, on the initiative of the Moscow Bureau for Human Rights. Bureau director Alexander Brod stated that antisemitism was one of the most serious problems in Russia. Further, Russian NGOs have initiated numerous educational projects, conferences, round tables and seminars in many cities. The Youth Human Rights Movement and the UNITED for Intercultural Action (a "European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees") launched an all-Russian week against antisemitism and racism in over 20 regions. During the year pupils and students took part in campaigns to erase antisemitic graffiti in many cities. However, the NGOs' scope for action against radical nationalism is limited due to lack of cooperation on the part of the authorities and the latter's refusal to recognize the seriousness of the level of xenophobia and antisemitism.

In October 2004, for example, Vladimir Kabanov, head of the Security Services of Oriol, told local law enforcement officials that there were no extremists, terrorists or inter-ethnic conflicts in the region. However, on 1 November 2004 the local human rights NGO United Europe informed the press that they had evidence of the distribution of neo-Nazi music and literature, skinhead attacks on foreigners, a threat against an NGO member and a trial, under Article 282 (prohibiting incitement of national, racist or religious hatred, or establishment of an extremist group), of neo-Nazis, members of an illegal RNE group from Oriol.

Another example demonstrating the problematic reaction of the Russian authorities to racist and antisemitic manifestations was the release of Viktor Korchagin, a well-known antisemite and head of the Rusich publishing house. On 24 November 2004 a Timiriazovskii district judge placed him on two years probation for incitement of ethnic hatred, and immediately revoked the sentence under the statute of limitations of Article 282. However, on 23 December 2004 a Moscow city court cancelled the decision of the district court and transferred the case for further investigation.

There were only a few cases in which hate mongers were arrested and tried. In December 2003, for example, Igor Kolodezenko, publisher of *Russkii Sibir* (affiliated to the National Sovereign Party of Russia), was given a two-year suspended sentence after being convicted of inciting ethnic hatred through antisemitic articles he printed in the newspaper. On 5 April 2004 a Novosibirsk court decided to close the newspaper for promoting ethnic and religious hatred.

In November 2004 the Novgorod prosecutor's office charged a 20-year-old member of RNE with incitement to ethnic, racist and religious hatred. On 2 and 26 September 2003 he had planted fake explosives at the Jewish center in Novgorod where the city synagogue is located, with "Death to the Yids," a swastika and a Celtic cross written on them. In December 2004 he was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

In **Ukraine**, too, those responsible for antisemitic statements were not necessarily tried or sentenced. On 17 July 2004, for example, during a campaign rally, Member of Parliament Oleg Tiagnibok from Our Ukraine, the main opposition bloc in parliament until the winter 2004 elections, made an antisemitic speech. While praising the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, which fought both the Soviets and the Germans during World War II, and some of whose soldiers murdered Jews, he said that the "kikes" and other "filth" wanted to take Ukraine away from the Ukrainians. In response he was expelled from his party and in early August 2004 was charged by the prosecutor's office of Ivano-Frankovsk

with incitement to ethnic hatred. However, the charges against Tiagnibok were quietly dropped in early December 2004.

Similarly, on 28 January the Shevchenskii court in Kiev ordered closure of the newspaper *Silski Vesti* on the grounds of inciting ethnic hatred, in connection with an article written in 2002 by Prof. Vasil Iaromenko, entitled “Myth about Ukrainian Antisemitism,” and a September 2003 article, “Jews in Ukraine: Reality without Myths.” In March 2004 Ivan Boky, a Socialist Party member of the Ukrainian Parliament, wrote an article in the same newspaper defending it against accusations of antisemitism. He criticized the Israeli ambassador to Ukraine, Naomi Ben-Ami, and Ukrainian Jewish leaders, referring to them as “bird-brains” for branding the newspaper a fascist publication. He also urged the ambassador to leave Ukraine. He praised Iaromenko lavishly, describing him as a “highly authoritative scientist and a pedagogue.” In November 2004 the Kiev Appeals Court cancelled the decision to close the newspaper, and publication was resumed.

In **Belarus**, there was no action against xenophobia and antisemitism in 2004. Neither the prosecutor's office nor the Committee for State Security investigated any extremist groups, which continue to be active throughout the country. These include skinhead groups, as well as the RNE (previously banned in Belarus), which operate in Minsk, Grodno, Gomel, Vitebsk, Polotsk and other cities. In fact, no perpetrators have been fined or jailed in the past 15 years. In May 2003 the prosecutor-general and the Ministry of Information decided to end distribution of the antisemitic and xenophobic newspaper *Russkii Vestnik* in Belarus. However, in February 2004 the governmental distribution agency Belsoiuzpechat' began disseminating it. Sales of similar literature continued throughout the year at government-owned institutions and in stores, as well as at events connected to the Belarusian Orthodox Church. The head of the Church, Metropolitan Filaret, promised to stop sales; however, nothing has been done.

On 5 April 2004 Leonid Stonov, head of the international bureau of the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union (UCSJ), based in the US, accused the government of Belarus of apathy toward antisemitism and called for international sanctions against the country. He noted the increase in cemetery desecration and in antisemitic publications, as well as the law limiting religious freedom and closure of the only institute for Jewish studies in the country. On 18 August the minister of foreign affairs notified the local chapter of the UCSJ that it would not be re-registered because it was late in submitting required documentation. The UCSJ is one of the primary Jewish human rights organizations in the country.

In late 1999 Pravoslavnaia Initiativa published 30,000 copies of the 500-page book *Voina po zakonam podlosti* (War under Laws of Villainy) – a collection of antisemitic material, including *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. However, in the years that have elapsed neither the president nor the Pravoslav Diocese has reacted. The Jewish community asked the prosecutor's office to open a criminal case, but instead the office recognized the book as a 'scientific publication'. Pravoslavnaia Initiativa continued to publish antisemitic works: in 2004 it published four such books. This is the only publishing house that openly issues antisemitic literature in Belarus. Other publications are imported from Russia.

In contrast to Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, the authorities in the Asian republics have taken more decisive measures against the spread of antisemitism. In **Kazakhstan**, many members of the Islamic Hizb ut-Tahrir organization were prosecuted in 2004 for distributing leaflets with antisemitic content under Articles 164 (fanning social, national, tribal, racial or religious enmity) and 337 (creating an illicit public association and participating in its activities) of the Criminal Code, after it was recognized as an illegal extremist group. In October the regional court of Chimkent sentenced Askhat Niyazov to prison after his arrest in April for distributing antisemitic and anti-Russian leaflets printed by Hizb ut-Tahrir in the local market.

In **Uzbekistan** too, antisemitic leaflets printed by the illegal Hizb ut-Tahrir were distributed throughout the country. On 31 August 2004, nine of its members were sentenced in Samarkand to 3-14 years imprisonment for inciting hatred, for distributing anti-Russian and antisemitic material. On 29 July another member was sentenced to seven years imprisonment by the regional court of Tashkent for distributing literature calling for jihad against Americans and Jews. The government has begun teaching tolerance in eleventh grade history textbooks. Moreover, the standard textbook contains material about the horrors of the Holocaust, Nazi antisemitism and figures on the number of Jews killed.

COUNTRY AND REGIONAL ABSTRACTS
(For full country reports and updates, see
<http://antisemitism/tau.ac.il/annual-report.html>)

Western Europe

AUSTRIA

Austria has a Jewish population of 10,000 out of a total population of 8 million. Most registered members of the community are affiliated to the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien (Jewish Community Vienna).

According to the Ministry of the Interior, there were 17 (2003: 9) antisemitic acts in 2004, mostly propaganda and verbal offenses (threats), as well as vandalism of property (graffiti). The Austrian Forum against Antisemitism reported 122 antisemitic incidents (2003: 134), including 110 threatening and insulting letters (2003: 158).

Three Holocaust memorials were vandalized. The concentration camp memorial in Hinterbrühl, near Vienna, was desecrated twice, in mid-January and in mid-June, when the words “*Zion verecke!*” (Zionist die miserably – *Juda verecke* was a Nazi slogan) were painted on it. Engraved glass plates on the memorial in Villach, Carinthia, were broken twice, in mid-March and in early June. A memorial for 1,000 victims of Nazism in Klagenfurt was vandalized in October.

On 19 May, the mainstream Graz daily *Kleine Zeitung* published a cartoon equating Israeli actions in the occupied territories with the Holocaust. Under the caption “Past,” there was a soldier with a swastika on his armband and a Jewish child in front of a ruin. Under the caption “Present” showing the same scene, the soldier was an Israeli and the boy a Palestinian. The Jewish Community and Action against Antisemitism protested the caricature. The editor responsible apologized.

In the January issue of the extreme right weekly *Zur Zeit*, Helmut Müller, the editor-in-chief of another extreme right publication *Eckart*, expressed his resentment against Jewish victims of National Socialist racism. “I don't see... why human beings who received deeply inhuman treatment officially should today obtain a special status which promotes antisemitism,” he said.

In *Zur Zeit* (38–39/2004), ‘EB’ deals with the Israeli businessman Haim Saban, “the new media mogul of Germany.” Since taking over the TV stations Pro7/Sat.1, Saban has become “the biggest manipulator of public opinion” in Germany. He ends his opinion piece with the Nazi call, “*Deutschland erwache!*” (Germany awake). DÖW (Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes) submitted a complaint based on the law prohibiting Nazi activities. However, it was shelved by the Vienna state attorney.

Further, in *Zur Zeit* (44–45/2004) Catholic conservative Friedrich Romig saw a Jewish world conspiracy, which supposedly starts in the US, where the ‘influence’ and ‘control’ of the Jews “not only covers government policy but high finance, heavy industry, the armaments business and all cultural- and spiritual life, including science, the media and the entertainment industry.” Moreover, the war on terror had advanced “decisively the ‘new world order’ dominated by the Israeli-American connection.”

As of late 2003 the right-wing Catholic group Human Life International was operating a ‘Babycaust Museum’, also called ‘Baby Holocaust Memorial’, on its premises. Like extreme rightists, these ‘right to lifers’ compare the Austrian abortion law to the Holocaust. Action against Antisemitism in Austria protested this abuse of the memory of Holocaust victims.

The US animal protection organization People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) ran a campaign in Austria equating animal crowding with the Holocaust. For example, it showed battery hens next to emaciated inmates of a concentration camp, with the caption: “Where it concerns animals, everyone becomes a Nazi.” Action against Antisemitism in Austria protested and asked media and advertising firms not to publicize the campaign.

The crisis within the right-wing Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ) deepened as its electoral support continued to decline. Heinz-Christian Strache, a former protégé of Jörg Haider, now governor of Carinthia, became FPÖ chairman of Vienna in 2004. His nationalist agitation against EU enlargement and “Brussels bureaucrats” threatened the FPÖ’s partnership in its governing coalition with the conservative ÖVP.

Andreas Mölzer exacerbated the FPÖ’s problems by attacking it in his weekly *Zur Zeit* and by gaining a seat in the June 2004 elections to the European Parliament, outstripping the candidates of the FPÖ, which obtained only 6.3 percent of the vote (1999: 23.4 percent). He immediately declared that he would work from the Euro-Parliament to unify European extreme right parties.

In January Mölzer gave an interview to *Deutsche Stimme*, organ of Germany’s NPD, where he claimed that the Europeans understand “that they have to assert themselves against the hegemony of the US and the lobbies which control it.” This was proved by recent polls, “which show that the majority of Europeans consider Israel a danger to world peace.”

Among lecturers who took part in the “39 Political Academy,” held by the AFP (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für demokratische Politik) in October in Feldkirchen (Carinthia) were several neo-Nazis, including Herbert Schweiger, the *eminence gris* of the Austro-German neo-Nazis, Claudiu

Mihutiu, a leader of the Romanian Noua Dreapta (one of the militant successor groups of the wartime fascist Iron Guard), and Gordon Reinholz, chairman of the Märkischen Heimatschutzes (MHS), one of the German Freie Kameradschaften. After the Austrian Press Agency (APA) published themes from the 'academy', such as: "The enemy is and will also be the Jew" and "The eternal Jew should be eliminated," the director of the Carinthian Office for Defense of the Constitution announced an investigation.

In spring 2004 the official homepage of the Palestinian Community in Austria displayed a *Stürmer*-like cartoon showing three vultures representing Orthodox Jews. At the end of 2003 the organization posted a photomontage, showing US President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as apes, apparently a reference to a line in the Qur'an stating that Allah had transformed Jews into apes. The organization's webmaster, Dr. George Nikola, revealed his conspiracy view of the world to the Vienna city weekly *Falter* (13/2004). According to Nicola the 9/11 attacks were planned by the US secret service in order to "damage Islam." He also implied his support for the conspiracy theory prevailing in the Arab world and among neo-Nazis according to which Jews/Israelis were warned of the impending attacks.

His affinity for extreme right notions is demonstrated by his presence at their events in recent years. In February 2004 Nicola spoke on "Apartheid in Israel" at SOS Heimat, an initiative founded 2001 by the extreme right Österreichischen Landsmannschaft and *Zur Zeit*. He also lectured at Club 3 and the Initiative Freiheitlicher Frauen (IFF), advertised in the extreme right *Eckart*.

The neo-Nazi website *stoertebeker* supported the protest of the Palestinian Community against naming a Vienna square after Theodor Herzl. George Nicola's complaint to then president of the republic Thomas Klestil was published in its entirety by *stoertebeker*.

In June, Wilhelm Christian Anderle, 33, one of those deemed responsible for the desecration of the Jewish cemetery in Eisenstadt, Burgenland, in October 1992, was given a probationary prison sentence of four years. Anderle and his friends had painted swastikas, SS signs and slogans such as "Sieg Heil" and "Heil Haider," on 88 tombstones. A leaflet found at the site claimed that the "racist Socialist Aryan resistance movement" had carried out the act. After he was implicated in the investigation in 1996, Anderle fled to South Africa. He returned to Austria in 2003.

Full report online at
[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/austria.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/austria.htm)

BELGIUM

Some 35,000 Jewish citizens live in Belgium out of a total population of 10 million. The two main centers of Belgian Jewry are Antwerp (15,000) and Brussels (15,000). The Comité de Coordination des Organisations Juives de Belgique (Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations in Belgium – CCOJB) in Brussels is the community's roof organization.

After a notable decrease in 2003 to 29 incidents, the year 2004 witnessed a considerable rise in antisemitic manifestations (46, as recorded by the BESC – Bureau Exécutif de Surveillance Communautaire), close to the 2002 peak of 51 incidents. In 2004 there was one case of extreme violence, 7 cases of physical assault, 2 incidents of vandalism or desecration of property, 14 cases of threats (verbal insults, etc.), 14 cases of abusive behavior (including graffiti), and 8 reports of receipt of antisemitic literature (in print or via the web).

The number of violent anti-Jewish acts is still considerable compared to the pre-intifada period, particularly in Antwerp. In the most serious incident, in June 2004, four Jewish teenagers, all students at the same yeshiva in an Antwerp suburb, were attacked by a group of 15 men, described by the authorities as “youth of Arab origin.” One of the students, a 16-year-old, was stabbed in the back, and seriously injured with a punctured lung. Three days after their release from hospital, his three friends were insulted and threatened with a gun by a similar group. This was the worst antisemitic attack in the city since the 1980s.

The presence of a small but visible ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in the Antwerp region, where support for the extreme right is very strong (see above), and where several extremist Arabic organizations incite young Muslims, constitutes an explosive cocktail. For instance, in January 2004 during an Israel vs. Belgium indoor soccer match in Hasselt, several dozen demonstrators, probably connected to the anti-Zionist Arab European League, shouted “Death to the Jews” and “Hamas, Hamas, Jews to the Gas” in Flemish. Some spectators were painted in Hamas colors and carried Hamas, Jihad and Hizballah banners (see also below). On 1 April 2004, e-mail threats signed by Hamas were sent to the office of the prime minister of Belgium and to several newspapers, threatening to attack Jews, as well as shops and buses in Antwerp. Hamas said they were avenging the Palestinians. Police were investigating, but attached little importance to the threats. The daily *Gazet van Antwerpen* claimed the e-mail contained the name Abdakarim el Majjati, suspected of participation in several terrorist attacks, including the Madrid train bombing.

In Brussels, the attacks were less violent in character but quite serious. In January 2004, a father and his two sons were harassed and insulted on their way to a synagogue by three young men, who shouted “Dirty Jews,” “I am Muslim – Death to the Jews; we have to fight them.” In February 2004, Beit Hillel a reform synagogue undergoing renovation, was vandalized with antisemitic inscriptions such as “No to a synagogue”; “F... the Jews.” In October 2004, Maccabi Brussels (14–16 year olds) played a match against FC Haren. Many antisemitic incidents occurred during the game, at the end of which the Haren team chanted Nazi songs. After summoning both parties, the Belgian Football Federation suspended the Haren team for the rest of the football season and fined them 250 euro. The incident was given considerable press coverage.

There has been a revival in recent years of old stereotypes of the Jews and even of Judaism. For instance, in January 2004, the newly designated Cardinal Gustav Joos explained to a popular Flemish magazine that “a sex maniac like Bill Clinton was elected thanks to Big Capital and the Jews.” In October 2004, referring to a new invention from Israel which blocks the use of portable phones in public areas such as synagogues, a popular radio animator remarked that now no one would be disturbed by annoying business calls, implying that Jews were more interested in making deals than in religion.

Another example was the strange way that Hoover chose to promote its new product, the Octopus vacuum cleaner, which “kills acarids [mites] to the last.” A full page advertisement published in *Metro*, a newspaper distributed freely in underground stations, on 23 December, showed 194 insect necrologies with religious signs. Two-thirds of the ‘Jewish necrologies’ were accompanied by a picture of an acarid and a text, in English, such as: “S. Microbstein. We will forever remember the sharpness of his mind rather than the generosity of his heart as he won’t give us the diamond dust he had. The sucker [*sic*].” The campaign was halted following protests by the Jewish organization Dialogue et Partage, and Hoover issued an apology.

Classic revolutionary or social antisemitism in which Israel, supported by the main capitalist power the US, is perceived as one of the evils of the world, and the Arabs as the main victims of capitalism, may be found in the publications of almost all leftist ideological trends and groups, such as the neo-Christian humanitarian movements, a large proportion of neo-anti-imperialists and other anti-globalization groups, as well as among the traditional left. It explains the very strong link between some radical leftist movements such as the Marxist-Leninist PTB/PVDA (Parti du Travail de Belgique) and radical Muslim groups such as the

Antwerp-based AEL. For the traditional left, though, opposition to Israel is more tactical than ideological. For instance, the francophone Socialist Party (PS) chose to co-opt to the Senate the president of the Belgo-Palestinian association – a fanatical anti-Zionist and former head of Oxfam Belgium known for his virulent opposition to Israel – in order to appeal to the large Muslim community of Brussels. It should be noted that six out of nine municipal councilors (66 percent) of the Socialist faction of the Brussels council are of Muslim origin.

The demographic reality in Brussels explains in part various seemingly anti-Israel decisions of the government, for example, the Council of Minister's nomination, in March 2004, of Jozef de Witte as the new director of CECLR/CEOOR. Founder of Actie Platerform Palestina, de Witte was secretary general of Operation 11 11 11, an NGO calling for the boycott of Israeli products.

In Belgium, the Middle East conflict has become a domestic political issue. The majority of political parties have decided to support the Palestinian cause in order to gain the support of the large Arab-Muslim community. Nevertheless, the year 2004 could be considered a turning point. After the Hasselt incident (see above), the government, after four years of relative silence, was forced to acknowledge the reality of 'Arab'/'Muslim' antisemitism. Social Integration Minister Maria Arena called for legal action and CECLR/CEOOR issued a condemnatory press release in February, urging scientific research on judeophobia. On the other hand, this same minister proposed to the Council of Ministers the appointment of Jozef De Witte as director of the CECLR (see above).

Until the Hasselt incident, the government and NGOs were reluctant to confront antisemitism, since it emanated mostly from Muslim groups. For example, until then the Anti-Fascist Front (FAF) had systematically refused to deal with the problem, considering it exaggerated, if not suspect. According to the FAF, highlighting antisemitism only weakened the fight against fascism, reinforced communal isolation, or worse, could be construed as supporting Sharon's policy in the Middle East. Following heavy pressure, notably from the CCLJ, a leftist, secular Jewish center linked to Peace Now, the FAF finally agreed to integrate a slogan against antisemitism in its 24 April anti-racist demonstration.

Following Germany's issuance of a European warrant for his detention in July 2004 for alleged racism and xenophobia, both of which are crimes under German law, Siegfried Verbeke, a co-founder of the VB, was arrested when he arrived at Amsterdam airport on 4 August. Convicted in Belgium in 2003 for Holocaust denial and racism (see *ASW*

2003/4), he also has a criminal record in the Netherlands, where the highest court convicted him on similar charges in 1997.

On 21 April 2004, a Ghent court of appeal ruled that the Flemish Vlaams Blok, which was part of the recent far right surge in Europe, was a racist party proposing political solutions that were not in line with European and international human rights treaties. The court fined three non-profit organizations for collaborating with the VB. The verdict, which party leader Filip Dewinter denounced as “political murder,” cannot lead to an immediate ban on the VB because the Belgian constitution does not permit a party to be outlawed. The case was initiated by the Center for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (CECLR/CEOOR), a governmental body dedicated to the fight against antisemitism.

The ruling was confirmed in November 2004 by the Court of Cassation which is similar to a supreme court. Thus, the Vlaams Blok was forced to transform itself into the Vlaams Belang and to change some of its original platform so that it would comply with the law. The motto of Vlaams Blok, *Eigen volk eerst* (“Our own people first”) has been dropped. Nevertheless, the new VB succeeded in conserving both state funding and access to television. Recent opinion polls suggest the Vlaams Belang is the most popular party in the Dutch-speaking region of Belgium.

Full report online at

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/belgium.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/belgium.htm)

DENMARK

There are 7,000 Jews in Denmark, out of a total population of 5.25 million. Most of the community is concentrated in Copenhagen, but smaller communities exist in Odense and Aarhus. The central communal organization is the Mosaiske Troessamfund.

The Jewish community recorded 37 antisemitic incidents in 2004: 5 involved physical aggression, 7 vandalism of property and 5 were threats. For example, lighted firecrackers were pushed through the letter slot of the door to the apartment of a Jewish man in the provincial town of Tingbjerg in February. Earlier, a Star of David had been drawn next to his name by the intercom at the entrance to the building. In April, an 80-year-old Jewish woman was hit on the back with a pair of shoes in a department store in Copenhagen by a 60-year-old man identified as being of Arab origin. In October, a Jewish teaching assistant at the Theological Faculty of Copenhagen University was beaten and kicked in broad daylight by unknown Muslim assailants in the middle of Copenhagen. The reason given for the assault was that he had read from the Qur'an as part of his teaching duties. He was informed by the assailants that non-Muslims are forbidden to read aloud from the Qur'an.

Threatening incidents included a telephone call in February to a synagogue guard who was informed he would be "cut from the stomach to the throat," and an e-mail message to the Danish Zionist Federation office in May which stated: "You have no right to security and peace... we will kill every one of you." Seven e-mails sent during September–October to the youth coordinator of the Jewish community from Palestinians living in Denmark warned Jews in Denmark to cease all their activities "within 72 hours or else to expect warm days [*sic*] the likes of which you have never seen."

The chairman of the Danish Social Democrats in the European Parliament, Torben Lund, wrote an article in *Politiken* (3 May), which included antisemitic statements. Proposing a complete economic boycott of Israel, he stressed the responsibility of the Jews for the policies of the Israeli government and argued that if criticism of murder was antisemitism, "then call me an antisemite." Chief Rabbi Emeritus Bent Melchior responded with an article in *Politiken* (8 May), entitled "Congratulations Lund, You Are an Antisemite."

According to *Jyllands-Posten* (16 Aug.), a moderator on the local Copenhagen radio station Karen broadcast antisemitic statements. He

referred to Jews as “monkeys” and accused them of “building a wall around themselves just as they did in Warsaw.”

The annual *Kristallnacht* (9 Nov.) commemoration march in Copenhagen, in Svendborg and on the island of Fynen was hijacked by left-wing groups and political parties (Socialist Youth Front, Radical Left, Unity List and Socialist People’s Party) and turned into anti-Israel demonstrations. Instead of speaking of the Nazi oppression of Jews, speakers compared Israeli treatment of the Palestinians with that of the Nazis toward the Jews.

The Danish chapter of the transnational fundamentalist Hizb ut-Tahrir made headlines on several occasions in 2004. In May the group advocated killing Muslims who turned away from their faith. In November it encouraged young Muslims to join jihad in Iraq. In December a call for the murder of Jews “wherever you find them,” reappeared on their home page. It should be noted that in 2002 the leader of Hizb ut-Tahrir in Denmark received a suspended sentence for disseminating this slogan (see *ASW* 2003/4).

According to the annual report published by the Police Intelligence Division (PET) on 18 December, sleeper cells of Islamic terrorists in Denmark are awaiting orders to perform small terrorist acts locally or to assist foreign terrorists in larger attacks. Moroccan and Algerian cells in particular are under observation. The report also warns of a likely increase in the domestic terrorist threat since Denmark joined the war in Iraq.

The annual government grant of \$13,500 to the local neo-Nazi radio station Radio Oasis was cancelled, following a change in regulations for local radio stations. Neo-Nazis organized in the Danish National Socialist Movement (DNSB), under leader Jonni Hansen, expressed the hope of receiving alternate funding. DNSB also took advantage during the year of increasing anti-Muslim sentiment among the population to try to influence school children and recruit new members.

The right-wing anti-Muslim Danish Peoples’ Party began to collect signatures in February for a petition opposing ritual animal slaughter. The document will be handed to the minister of justice prior to the submission of a bill in Parliament that would make ritual slaughter (practised by both Jews and Muslims) unlawful.

Danish-Muslim reaction to the murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh in November 2004 sent shock waves throughout Danish society. A group of young Muslim women, among them the daughter of fundamentalist Imam Abu Laban (see *ASW* 2002/3), was shown on television laughing. The women stated that Van Gogh had gotten what he deserved since he ought to have known what sort of response his

anti-Islamist provocation would receive. Other spokespersons for Danish Muslims agreed and a debate ensued on whether freedom of speech should be limited by law so that statements offensive to Muslims would become illegal.

Full report online at
[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/denmark.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/denmark.htm)

FRANCE

The French Jewish community, numbering about 575,000 out of a total population of 58.5 million (1999 census), is the largest in Europe. The greatest concentration is in the Paris area, followed by Marseille and Lyon, and Nice and Toulouse with similar figures. Strasbourg, where 12,000 Jews live, is a major religious and cultural center. The three main organizations of French Jewry are the Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France (CRIF), the Consistoire Central and the Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU).

On 15 March 2004, a law was promulgated which forbids the wearing of religious symbols (such as a large cross, a skullcap or the Muslim *hijab* [headscarf]) in state schools and in the civil service. It came into effect in September 2004.

France was one of five countries characterized by a significant rise in antisemitic manifestations in 2004 (see *General Analysis*). Major violent incidents increased from 64 in 2003 to 96 in 2004, according to the Stephen Roth Institute; the French SPCJ (Service for the Protection of the Jewish Community) which records antisemitic acts, reported an increase in the overall number of antisemitic events from 503 in 2003 to 590 in 2004, half of them violent, and among those a large percentage of physical assaults on Jewish, or mistakenly Jewish, individuals.

According to the statistics of the French Ministry of the Interior, released in January 2005, there were 1,513 racist and antisemitic actions in 2004, an increase of 81.63 percent over 2003. The number of antisemitic incidents in 2004 was 950, of which 199 were qualified as 'violent', while 601 were threats or verbal abuse. A majority of antisemitic incidents took place in the Paris area (41.97 percent), followed by the Rhône-Alpes (Lyon) and Provence-Côte d'Azur (Marseille and Nice) areas. Anti-Muslim violence was particularly strong in the Alsace and Corsica regions. Among the 302 people taken into police custody following racist/antisemitic incidents, 182 were allegedly involved in an antisemitic offense. There was a decrease in antisemitic incidents in the second half of 2004, and figures for court convictions of perpetrators have increased. At the same time, new trends in the public expression of antisemitism were taking shape, notably, the emergence of an anti-Jewish discourse within the Afro-Caribbean community (among followers of Dieudonné M'Bala M'Bala, for example) and the growing influence of the Salafi movement among Muslims. Far right racist violence targeted mainly the Muslim community.

The victims of antisemitic violence were Jews of all ages, including the elderly and the sick. In Boulogne, an 81-year-old Jewish man was attacked on 26 December by the guard of his building and called a "dirty Jew," and in Paris, a handicapped Jewish woman was cursed and shaken in the street on 8 October. In October alone several Jewish children were attacked: *inter alia*, a Jewish girl in Sevran was beaten and choked at a bus stop by three men of North African origin; four Jewish children were beaten and robbed at the entrance to their building in Paris and cursed with the words "Go back where you belong, dirty Jews"; and a 12-year-old Jewish boy was attacked in Paris by another youth and also called a "dirty Jew." It should be noted that such assaults on children continue a trend noted in previous years (see *ASW* 2003/4, 2002/3).

Threats and curses were almost commonplace and antisemitic graffiti and swastikas appeared on the walls of large numbers of Jewish institutions, such as synagogues and community buildings, as well as on Jewish property and in Jewish neighborhoods.

Orthodox communist and sometimes Stalinist groups on the fringe of the Communist Party, such as the Pôle de Renaissance Communiste de France (publication: *Initiative Communiste*); Renaissance Communiste and Gauche Communiste, promote extreme anti-Zionism as a part of their 'anti-imperialist' and anti-American agenda. Recently, they began supporting the armed Iraqi 'resistance', which sometimes leads to cooperation with Islamist groups; such is the case of the Camp Anti-Impérialiste, a transnational ultra-leftist movement based in Italy and supported by orthodox Communists as well as by Holocaust denier Serge Thion.

The virulently anti-Zionist Trotskyite Socialisme par en bas (an offshoot of the British Socialist Workers' Party), which has taken over the Agir contre la guerre movement, holds that Islam is neither a clerical nor a reactionary movement but an anti-imperialist one which should be supported both in the Middle East against Israel and in the West. This explains the presence of women wearing the *hijab* and even the *abaya* (combined head cover, veil and shawl) at their meetings.

The anti-globalization movement, though not antisemitic, is widely known for the anti-US and pro-Palestinian stand of José Bové, former leader of the peasant union Confédération Paysanne. Following the participation of Swiss Islamist fundamentalist Tariq Ramadan, spiritual leader of Présence Musulmane and the Collectif des Musulmans de France, and some of his followers, in the European Social Forum (ESF) which took place in Paris in November 2003, a major controversy arose within the ranks of the anti-globalization movement concerning the

position it should take in the ongoing debate over secular values, such as women wearing the *hijab* and the Middle East issue.

The Organisations Islamiques de France (UOIF) is one of two factions competing for leadership of the official body representing French Islam, the Conseil Français du Culte Musulman (CFCM), elected in 2003. While it agreed to meet with CRIF for the first time in September 2004, Shaykh Qaradawi, who chairs the European Council for Fatwa and Research (based in Ireland), has condoned suicide bombings, even against civilians. The UOIF is not linked to the anti-globalization movement, preferring to establish relations with conservative parties such as the majority party UMP (Union pour un Mouvement Populaire) and the UDF (Union pour la démocratie française).

CAPJPO (Coordination des Appels pour une Paix Juste au Proche-Orient), led by Olivia Zemor, a Jew, is a secular pro-Palestinian movement, which urges the boycotting of Israeli goods and the severance of scientific cooperation between French and Israeli universities. CAPJPO was the driving force behind the short-lived attempt to create an anti-Zionist/radically pro-Palestinian political movement, Euro-Palestine, which ran in the 2004 Euro-election in the Paris district and polled 1.83 percent of the vote, with peaks at 8–10 percent in some satellite cities such as Garges les Gonesse and Trappes. Euro-Palestine ultimately collapsed because of fierce internal fighting caused by the antisemitic outbursts of comedian Dieudonné M'Bala M'Bala, who was a candidate on its slate. Dieudonné is known for his highly controversial statements in praise of Usama bin Laden and his appearance on a TV show where he compared religious Jews to Nazis. In June 2004, a Paris appeals court ruled that Dieudonné was not antisemitic under French law after he portrayed an orthodox Jew giving the Hitler salute.

The Front National (FN), led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, fared poorly in the Euro-election, receiving a mere 9.81 percent of the vote. For the first time in almost 20 years, it can be said that the continuous electoral progress of FN has been halted, and the party's public demonstrations attract fewer members than ever: the annual demonstration held in Paris on 1 May was attended by 3,000 people, whereas the turnout in the mid-1990s was 10,000.

In January 2005, the Renseignements Généraux (the state security police) released a report on the far right scene in 2004/5. Estimating that the total number of activists ranged between 2,500 and 3,500, the report stated that the far right was responsible for only 7 percent of antisemitic incidents recorded in 2004. Specific mention is made of Alsace, where 35.5 percent of far right activity purportedly took place. The report

stressed that the main target of far right activity had become the Muslim community. It identified 20 groups, split into five ideological subdivisions. Of these, the category of most concern to the Jewish community is that of neo-Nazis and skinheads, who were allegedly responsible for several desecrations of Jewish cemeteries, mostly in eastern France.

On 13 December 2004 the Council of State, the highest administrative court, banned Hizballah's al-Manar transmissions on the grounds that some of its programs were antisemitic. In February, the Committee for Audio and Visual Media had banned an al-Manar TV series, "al-Shatat" (The Diaspora), based on *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, following a complaint by CRIF. On 23 November al-Manar had accused Israel of spreading AIDS to Arab countries.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/france.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/france.htm)

GERMANY

Germany has a Jewish population of over 100,000, the third largest in Europe, out of a total population of about 83 million. The largest Jewish centers are Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich and Hamburg, but Jewish communities are active in most other large urban areas. The Zentralrat acts as the umbrella organization of German Jewry, with headquarters in Berlin.

Official sources reported a rise in antisemitic offenses, from 1,199 in 2003 to 1,316 in 2004. Thirty-seven were physical attacks on individuals. Police announced in August that over 12 assaults had been made on Jewish tourists in Berlin alone since the beginning of the year. Albert Meyer, chairman of the Jewish community in Berlin, claimed that Muslim attacks by people of Arab origin on citizens wearing skullcaps added a new dimension to antisemitism.

On 13 March, a skull-capped Jew was hospitalized after being attacked by a 'Palestinian' (the perpetrator's self-definition). On 22 July 2004 three men were arrested after shouting antisemitic abuse at Jews outside a synagogue in Hagen and waving a knife at them. On 25 August 2004 a Lithuanian Jewish tourist visiting Berlin from Vilnius was seriously hurt in Kreuzberg by a young Arab, who shouted "Jews must be killed." On 31 August 2004 an Orthodox Jew was knocked down and insulted in Frankfurt. In a village near Wismar, a 51 year old (non-Jewish) man was seriously beaten up and called a "*Judensau*."

Skinheads and neo-Nazis were responsible for most of the attacks on Jewish sites in Germany. In 2004, 100 incidents of vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, synagogues and memorials were reported, compared to 113 in 2003. Desecration of Jewish cemeteries (overturning headstones, Nazi/antisemitic slogans) continued to be the most common manifestation of antisemitic violence, with several incidents per week being reported mostly in the region of the former GDR.

A study of the University of Leipzig conducted in 2004 by Prof. Elmar Brähler revealed that extreme right wing sentiments were still widespread in Germany despite a slight decrease since 2002. However, there was an increasing tendency for persons with a higher level of education to hold extreme right sympathies, and more west Germans were inclined toward antisemitic and extreme right views than their compatriots in the east. This does not contradict the fact that extreme right and antisemitic manifestations have been reported mainly in the former GDR.

European Parliament elections, state parliamentary elections in Thuringia and communal elections in 6 of the 16 German federal states all took place on 13 June 2004. In the communal elections, right-wing extremists won seats in the parliaments of Baden-Württemberg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Rheinland-Pfalz, Saarland, Sachsen-Anhalt and in Saxonia. They were also successful in the Thuringia state election and improved their results in the European Parliament elections. As a result, for the next five years they will receive millions of euros in state money to finance election campaigns for the Bundestag in 2006, and as elected representatives of the people their parliamentary delegates will enjoy immunity before the law. General dissatisfaction with government policy and the absence in many areas of a campaign by the left were factors contributing to their gains.

Two xenophobic, antisemitic parties were successful in the September 2004 state elections: the National Democratic Party (NPD) obtained 9.2 percent of the vote in Saxony (where it will receive 120,000 euro monthly in tax money) and the German People's Union (DVU) received 6.1 percent in Brandenburg after they had signed a no-competition agreement with the NPD. After the party's electoral success, NPD chairman Udo Voigt explained in an interview with the extreme right *Junge Freiheit* (Sept. 2004) that the aim of the party was to "to dismantle the Federal Republic of Germany the way the people (*das Volk*) dismantled the GDR 15 years ago... Only after both the vassal states have disappeared can the Germans create a state where they can live freely."

Since Voigt became chairman of the NPD in 1996, it has attracted increasingly younger skinheads and neo-Nazis. Moreover, since it began propagating the notion of a *deutsche Volksfront* (German popular front), it has opened its ranks to leading neo-Nazis, such as Michael Regener, former lead singer of the banned neo-Nazi Landser band.

Party activists work closely with neo-Nazis, violent skinheads and *kameradschaften*, registering the parades of these extremists in the NPD name. Moreover, during the last decade it intensified links with right-wing extremists and neo-Nazis abroad. An unprecedented number of 7,000 young people met in Mücka, Saxonia, on 7 August 2004, at the invitation of the party organ *Deutsche Stimme*. The appearance of speakers such as Alexander Kamkin, of Russia's National Patriotic Front, and the US skinhead band Youngland, which provided entertainment, underlined the international character of the event.

In keeping with their political agenda and electoral aspirations, recruiting new members and sympathizers is the main activity of the extreme right, with the aim – particularly noticeable in the 2004 election

year – of influencing youth to become their future voters. Accordingly, right-wing extremists distributed thousands of free CDs entitled, “Conforming is Cowardice, Songs from the Underground,” in schoolyards on 18 September when Germans voted in national elections. The Justice Ministry outlawed the CDs for disseminating hate messages and thousands were confiscated. However, the distribution and dissemination of hate music has continued.

According to figures released by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), most of the 137 (2003:119) live concerts in 2004 took place in the east German states of Saxony and Thuringia. Nazi culture has become almost omnipresent here, with some young people using Adolf Hitler’s voice as their cellphone ringtone and Nazi symbols as their screen savers.

In order to avoid legal investigations and charges, CDs with aggressive antisemitic texts are produced and distributed from abroad or from foreign Internet sites. This was the case with the CD *Gebeime Reichssache*, of the skinhead band of ‘Kommando Freisler’ (president of the Nazi Volksgerichtshof – NS people’s court), who urges, in the song “Judenschwein”: “Jews are only for burning” and “Shoot them and hang them and then burn all of them / and not only here, in other countries, too. / And when the world has no more Jews, our Germany will finally be free again.”

About 900 websites with extreme right and neo-Nazi content were operating in 2004 in Germany. In order to circumvent the law prohibiting the dissemination of illegal material from German providers or to Germany, right-wing extremists exploit other options available on the Internet. For example, banned songs are spread via music-sharing services, such as the free KaZaA, eDonkey or eMule.

Demonstrations and parades are used by extreme right-wingers and neo-Nazis in order to draw attention and to mingle among legal protestors. In 2004, a total of 87 (in 2003: 84) far right demonstrations were reported. The number of participants has been increasing steadily since 2001; about 20 percent of them come from abroad. The Rudolf Hess memorial march in Wundsiedel, where the Nazi leader is buried, constituted the largest demonstration (estimates varied from 2,000 to 3,800 participants (see also below).

Most polls conducted in Germany clearly indicate that antisemitism is finding its way into bourgeois values; however, due to the *Hemmschwelle* (inhibition level) on openly admitting antisemitic feelings in Germany, mainstream Germans with anti-Jewish tendencies are thought to replace the terms ‘Jews’ and ‘world domination’ with legally acceptable codes such as ‘Israel’, ‘the ‘Palestinian problem’ or ‘the settlement question’.

In February 2004 the Information and Document Center for Antisemitism in Dusseldorf released a report on opinions held by youth on antisemitism. Replies spanned from “not interested,” to “it’s important to deal with it.” Antisemitic potential can be politically mobilized by more than 20 percent of Germany’s population, according to the study “Democracy and the Image of the Jew.” published in 2004 by Berlin political scientist Lars Rensmann.

Prof. Wolfgang Frindte of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena presented a report in March 2004 at the University in Haifa about the expansion of antisemitic sentiments from the extreme right fringe to the German anti-Israel left and center. According to his findings, some 20 percent of those polled had manifest antisemitic sentiments while slightly more had latent antisemitic views.

Hundreds of governmental as well as non-governmental groups and organizations including tens of thousands of activists from all democratic ideological backgrounds are involved in the fight against racism, xenophobia and antisemitism throughout Germany. Holocaust education is mandatory in German schools.

The success of antifascist groups and concerned individuals in countering extreme right and neo-Nazi street parades demonstrates a strong desire among large segments of the population to fight this phenomenon. On 26 June 2004, for example, 200 NPD members who held a demonstration authorized by the court in Bochum against the building of a synagogue were met by 300 counter demonstrators. On 17 August 2004 hundreds of Wundsiedel citizens, including the mayor, legislators and churchmen, tried to stop the demonstration of neo-Nazis commemorating the 17th anniversary of the death of Rudolf Hess.

On 22 January, Bavarian Minister of the Interior Gunther Beckstein outlawed the anti-democratic extreme right Frankische Aktionsfront (FAF). The 40-member group had contacts with the Kameradschaft Sud-Aktionsburo Suddeutschland, which had been planning to vandalize the construction site of the Jewish Cultural Center in Munich.

Full report online at

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/germany.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/germany.htm)

GREECE

The current Jewish population of Greece is estimated at approximately 5,000 out of a total population of 10 million, 3,000 of whom live in Athens. The Kentriko Israilitiko Symvoulío (Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece – KIS) is the governing body of the Jewish communities.

The situation regarding antisemitism in Greece has remained virtually unchanged in the past few years, and is characterized by desecration of Jewish memorial sites and sporadic acts of graffiti in public places, mostly unsigned.

In April and May 2004 antisemitic slogans were painted on the Holocaust memorial at Drama and on a tobacco warehouse in the town, where the Jews of Drama were detained before their deportation in 1943. The graffiti read: "Greece-Palestine, no Jew will be left alive." Swastikas and antisemitic graffiti also appeared in August on the newly unveiled Komotini (Thrace) Holocaust memorial.

In July, graffiti reading "Foreigners out – Jews out" and signed by Chrissi Avghi (Golden Dawn), the main neo-Nazi organization in Greece, was reported on the Athens-Corinth highway. It was erased and a month later, a slogan reading "Juden raus! Hitler was right" appeared in the same spot. Similar slogans were noted on the same artery. The graffiti was erased by the local authorities only in February 2005.

The anti-Israel line continued in the press, albeit less intensively than in the previous three years. Following Israel's assassination of Hamas leader Ahmad Yasin in March 2004, the major dailies *Eleftherotypia* and *Ta Nea* published cartoons (23, 24 and 27 March) depicting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as a butcher in Nazi garb and inferring that the Easter assassination was reminiscent of the Jews' alleged killing of Jesus. After the Central Board of Greek Jews sent a letter of protest to the Journalists Union about antisemitism in the Greek media, the former foreign editor of *Ta Nea* (the largest circulation newspaper in Greece) and member of the board of directors of the Journalists Union, Kostas Betinakis, accused Greek Jews on his personal website in May of being puppets of the Israeli government and of censoring criticism of Israeli policies, which he termed 'fascist'.

On 19 June a regular columnist in *Alpha Ena*, the weekly organ of LAOS, wondered why "Jews who are as numerous as Greeks in the world are sweeping Nobel prizes and world chess championships." The article offers various conspiracy theory explanations, including the claim that "Jews – who used to be shepherds as opposed to Greeks who were

the founders of three empires – stole ancient Greek occult manuscripts allowing them to be 100 times smarter today.”

Antisemitic statements were made by the coach of the Olympiakos football team, Nikos Alefantos concerning his counterpart in the Panathinaikos football team, the Israeli Yitzak Shum. Prior to a match between Panathinaikos and PAOK for the national championship, Alefantos urged the PAOK team coach “to unite the forces of the Christian Orthodox in the war against the Jew.” Following protests and publicity over the issue, the Greek Federation of Football Coaches suspended Alefantos from the Federation for seven months.

More than 2,000 people, including then Foreign Minister George Papandreou and representatives of all political parties, addressed Greece’s first Holocaust Memorial Day event on 27 January 2004 in the Athens Music Hall.

A seminar for teachers and educators was held in Athens on 22 October on the theme “Teaching the Holocaust in Greece.” Held under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Education and sponsored by the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, it was organized by the Jewish Museum of Greece. This was the first time that an educational event of this kind had been held in Greece.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/greece.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/greece.htm)

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

In 2002 the Jewish population of the Republic of Ireland (Eire) numbered 1,790 out of a total population of almost 4 million. Almost all are concentrated in Dublin, the capital. The official body representing Irish Jews is the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland.

Although many Jews complain of increased apprehension in the community relating primarily to events in the Middle East and Europe, there appears to be no perceptible change in attitudes among the Irish population. Incidents of antisemitism are considered to be few and at a low level, and mostly involve graffiti of an antisemitic nature at Jewish sites and in city streets, antisemitic undertones or sentiments expressed in the media (such as references to the 'huge' influence of the Jewish vote in America), and inappropriate comments in daily life (such as references to 'the rich Jews').

In November 2004, there was a rash of swastika daubings at Jewish sites. On 11 November swastikas appeared at the entrance to the Jewish Museum, the Jewish cemetery and the Jewish Reform Synagogue. At the same time a threatening message was left on the answering machine of the Jewish Community Office for the Chief Rabbi, saying: "The Romans and Hitler didn't get you, but I will." Swastikas appeared again on 25 November at the museum and on 27 November at the cemetery. The police were investigating.

Since the outbreak of the second intifada and the war in Iraq, listeners have frequently called into radio talk shows with overtly antisemitic or borderline antisemitic remarks. For example, they have commented that the war in Iraq was the result of Jewish influence in the US administration – an opinion that has appeared in certain daily newspapers and in discussion with individuals in the Jewish community. Placards showing the Star of David equated with the swastika and the slogan "Zionism=fascism," references to the 'Palestinian Holocaust' and burning of the US and Israeli flags were noted at pro-Palestinian and anti-Iraq war demonstrations.

The Limerick-based white supremacist Democratic People's Party (DPP) claims to oppose a "black Ireland" and to stand for "real Irish people." Although apparently only a loose gathering of people with little support, the DPP applied to join the Dáil's Register of Political Parties, but was turned down on the grounds that it did not satisfy the requirements of the electoral acts. Since the party's website was removed by the service provider, a person claiming to be from the organization has been placing regular bulletins on the Ireland discussion page of the

white supremacist Stormfront website. Meanwhile, a file has been placed with the director of public prosecutions following a garda (police) probe into the distribution of blatantly racist leaflets in the Dublin area.

The British National Party (see *UK*) is reportedly prepared to offer financial or other assistance to support anti-immigrant groups in Ireland. This fact has been confirmed in relation to the small shadowy Dublin-based far right Irish People's Party, as well as to the Immigration Control Platform, which claims to be neither racist nor discriminatory.

Ireland Awake has a white pride website with links to Holocaust revisionist sites, the immigration resistance movement and the Irish nationalist movement, as well as to nationalist white pride music and a list of "Irish enemies and traitors."

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/ireland.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/ireland.htm)

ITALY

Some 30,000 Jews live in Italy out of a total population of 57 million. The largest communities are in Rome and Milan. The Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane (UCEI), founded in 1955, is the umbrella organization of Italian Jewry.

Most of the antisemitism in Italy in 2004 was spoken or written, in books, articles, graffiti, public speeches or comments made in private and threatening letters.

The Unione delle comunità ed organizzazioni islamiche in Italia (UCOII), representing 'organized Islamism', expresses its anti-Zionism, *inter alia*, by supporting Palestinian suicide bombers and their ideology, and rejecting Israel's right to exist – often referring to Israel as the 'Zionist entity'. A prominent member of the Union took part in the presentation, in Genoa on 28 September 2004, of a book entitled *Sul terrorismo israeliano* (On Israeli Terrorism), published by Edizioni Graphos and edited by French Holocaust denier Serge Thion. The leaflet introducing the book defined the 'Zionist state' as a "national socialist" entity waging a "racial" war aimed at the genocide of the Palestinians.

Most of Italy's Islamic websites have close ties with Islamic fundamentalists, and therefore abound in anti-imperialist rhetoric and strongly-worded anti-Zionism. *Informazione di cultura araba ed islamica in Italia* (www.arabcomint.com), *Associazione Islamica Ahl al Bait* (www.shia-islam.org), and *Arab.it* (www.arab.it), for example, publish articles, photos and satirical cartoons demonizing the Jewish state and Zionism. Comparisons between the Jewish state and Nazi Germany and South Africa under apartheid, as well as the claim of Jewish control of the media, are recurring themes. In addition, some of the negative symbolism which classic antisemitism ascribed to the Jews is transferred to Israel.

Over recent years Italy's far left has developed an increasingly anti-Zionist line on the Arab/Israeli conflict with the Jewish state viewed as the source of the world's problems (see *ASW* 2003/4). Far left publications frequently present an image of the 'likudnik' (member/supporter of Israel's Likud Party) which verges on caricature. A particular target is former United States Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, often depicted as the 'big Jew' who is carrying out a secret Likud plan to manipulate US foreign policy in a way that will further the aims of Ariel Sharon and the Mossad. For example, in the book *L'imperialismo democratico. Uomini e teorie della dottrina Bush per il dominio del mondo* (Democratic imperialism – the Bush doctrine to rule the world:

Datanews, Roma, 2003), left-wing journalist Fabio Giovannini describes Wolfowitz as the leader of a neo-conservative 'cabal': "There are men [Wolfowitz] in a blue suit, with an anonymous face, unknown to the general public, who decide about the fate of the world and about the life or death of millions of people."

Leftist demonization of Israel has resulted in representatives of the Israeli government (or anyone reputed to be a 'Zionist') being prevented from taking part in some conferences organized by Italian universities. In October 2004, Shai Cohen, counselor for political affairs at Israel's embassy in Italy, was invited by the Faculty of Political Science of Pisa University to speak on "The Republic of Israel." He was unable to deliver his lecture due to verbal attacks from representatives of the Collettivo autonomo di Scienze Politiche (Autonomous Collective of the Political Science Faculty), who shouted, "Sharon executioner and murderer," "Terrorist Israel" and "Fascists, assassins."

In line with the notion that yesterday's victims have become today's persecutors, the communist daily *il Manifesto* (28 Dec.) alleged that Israel was using a mysterious gas to poison Arabs who crossed the Allenby Bridge. *Il Manifesto* (16, 29 Dec.) also criticized the French government's decision to impose a blackout on satellite broadcasts of the Hizballah TV station al-Manar. It painted a highly positive profile of the network and extensive comments from Hizballah leaders who accused the "Zionist racist lobby" of being behind the ban.

In January 2004, the Italian *PeaceLink* website published a report from Israel entitled "Una settimana in Palestina – Avvocati e registi in Medio Oriente" (A week in Palestine – lawyers and film directors in the Middle East), which claimed that the arrogance and violence typical of Jews are fostered by "some element of the Jewish religion" (see *ASW* 2003/4). Also in January, the spokesman of the Campo Antiimperialista association, a prominent anti-globalization figure, began contributing to the online magazine *Il Resto del Siclo* (The Change from a Shekel), which minimizes the Holocaust, exalts Arab/Islamic radicalism and foments anti-Zionism. Campo Antiimperialista proposes a universal jihad against the US and Israel, through an alliance of terrorist movements, irrespective of their leanings, provided they are anti-American and anti-Zionist.

Italian footballers took part in a 'match of memory' on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, January 2004, at the Rome Olympic Stadium, where five years previously hooligans displayed a banner reading, "Auschwitz is your homeland, the ovens are your homes." The proceeds of the match were destined to help pay for a

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Holocaust Museum in Rome. Players wore T-shirts marking Holocaust Memorial Day.

In April 2004 the ADL released the findings of a survey of antisemitic attitudes in ten European countries, compared to figures for 2003. Antisemitic attitudes declined in all countries, including in Italy – from 22 percent in 2002 to 15 percent.

Full report online at

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2004/italy.htm>

NETHERLANDS

An estimated 30,000 Jews live in the Netherlands today out of some 16 million inhabitants. The majority live in Amsterdam. Dutch Jewry is represented by three councils, based on affiliation: the Nederlands Israelitisch Kerkgenootschap, the Verbond van Liberaal Religieuze Joden and the Portugees Israelitisch Kerkgenootschap.

The level of antisemitism in the Netherlands remained high, despite a slight decline from 334 incidents in 2003 to 326 in 2004. The 2003 figure followed an unprecedented 359 incidents in 2002. The trend of a decrease may be due, in part, to the ongoing struggle against antisemitism by the government and NGOs such as the National Association of Anti-Discrimination Bureaus (ADB's) and the Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet (MDI), as well as relative calm in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during the period under review. Nevertheless, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians continues to stir up emotions and disapproval of Israeli politics is projected directly onto Jews. This sentiment is exacerbated by Arab media broadcasts received in the Netherlands, which do not distinguish between Israel and Jews (see below).

While the number of acts of physical violence remained unchanged (5), threats of violence increased, from 11 in 2003 to 15 in 2004; however, a decrease was recorded in several categories, including verbal abuse (from 92 to 78 incidents), synagogue/cemetery desecration (from 3 to 1), graffiti and e-mails.

A high number of incidents was recorded in Amstelveen, which has the second largest Jewish community in the Netherlands – eight compared to only one in 2003 and two in 2002. Five of the eight took place at schools (see below).

Furthermore, the Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet reported more expressions of antisemitism on the Internet than other expressions of racism: from 514 instances in 2003 to 610 in 2004.

As to perpetrators, in cases involving direct contact with the victim (e.g., verbal abuse on the street, at school or at work) 45 percent in 2004 were of North African extraction compared to 43.5 percent in 2003 and 41 percent in 2002.

The number of incidents which took place at schools in 2004 remained unchanged from the unprecedented high (18) of the previous year. The 2004 events included four threats of violence. At one school, the text “Killing Jews is OK. Hitler did it too,” appeared on a blackboard. According to one student at a large comprehensive

secondary school in Amstelveen, many native Dutch students dally with Hitler's ideology. Moreover, the song *Kankerjoden* (Rotten bastard Jews; *kanker*=cancer) by the band Nieuwe Allochtone Generatie (NAG) was distributed at various schools.

Distribution of antisemitic videos and DVDs from the Middle East and antisemitic propaganda transmitted via satellite dish are a major cause of antisemitism and anti-western feeling in the Netherlands. For example, the overtly antisemitic Iranian movie *Zahra's ogen* (Zahra's Blue Eyes), which depicts the government of Israel as stealing organs from Palestinian children, was distributed at mosques in The Hague and Rotterdam, and screened on Hizballah's al-Manar TV. The Dutch satellite firm New Skies enabled transmission of this program, as well as others, including the television series *Diaspora* produced in Syria, which falsely depicts Jews as using the blood of Christians to prepare matzoth for Passover. However, New Skies ceased transmissions in early 2005 at the urging of the Media Commission.

According to the Dutch General Intelligence and Security Service, AIVD, local Islamist terrorist cells pose a threat to the Netherlands. Mohammed Bouyeri, the suspected assassin of movie director Theo Van Gogh in November 2004 (see also below), operated on the periphery of such a cell, the so-called Hofstad group. Several members of this group were arrested following the attack. From the documents found at the suspect's home it appeared that he harbored extremely radical ideas and a deep hatred of western society. Hofstad sees itself as the vanguard of the Islamic community and as such, as the enemy of the West in general and of the Netherlands in particular. Within the context of this perceived war, they see certain politicians and opinion leaders as legitimate targets against whom the use of violence is fully justified. The local character of the Hofstad group is underlined by a lack of specific indications of international control. Although their Syrian spiritual leader played an important role in the ideological and religious development of the group, he was not the only driving force behind their radicalization. The Internet also played an important role in this process. Many of the ideas expressed in Mohammed Bouyeri's letters, including texts about 'true' Islam, had been circulating in news groups and chat rooms for some time. Another core member of the Hofstad group, Samir Azzouz, arrested in June for a robbery, was suspected of planning several terrorist attacks.

Generally, the far right in the Netherlands is dominated by unorganized individuals (or groups of individuals) and subcultures propagating extreme right-wing or racist ideas for political or other motives. An increasing number of Dutch native youth are using extreme

right-wing symbols to emphasize their identity and to seek a confrontation with ethnic minorities, local authorities and public opinion. Incidents caused by these youths meet with great resistance in society, if only because of the display of extreme right-wing symbols. The so-called Lonsdale youth (teenagers sporting Lonsdale clothes), in particular, were the subject of much public attention in 2004. Although the vast majority of these young people have no organizational structure or political ideology, they may constitute a potential breeding ground for recruitment by extreme right-wing organizations with more political ambitions. So far, however, the AIVD sees little evidence of successful recruitment by extreme right-wing parties (such as the Nieuwe Nationale Partij, the Nieuw Rechts or the Nationale Alliantie) among these groups.

The murder of Theo van Gogh was exploited by extreme right-wing groups to draw public attention to their ideas about the failures of the government's integration policy and the collapse of the multicultural society. However, their activism attracted few new members. Most of the arson attacks against Islamic institutions in the aftermath of the murder proved to be committed mainly by young persons (including Lonsdale youth) who were motivated by solidarity with racist ideas. Only in one or two cases were the perpetrators members of extreme right-wing groups.

Following the murder of Theo van Gogh, the Dutch Council of Ministers launched the Breed Initiatief Maatschappelijke Binding (Broad Initiative toward Social Cohesion – BIMB) to promote social dialog. The aim is to improve relations and increase civic interaction in society in fields such as work, shopping, schools, sports, community centers and night life.

In April 2004 the Dutch House of Representatives expressed concern about the efforts of law and order forces in fighting racism and antisemitism. The discussion related to the findings of a study conducted by Anne Frank House that only 8 percent of racial violence cases in 2003 yielded any result. The figures for convictions are equally disturbing. The number of cases brought before the courts has more than halved, while the percentage of acquittals has never been higher – 27 percent. Here too there are marked deviations from the general pattern. In the chain of criminal justice the police are the weakest link.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/netherlands.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/netherlands.htm)

NORWAY

There are approximately 1,500 Jews in Norway, out of a population of 4.4 million, mostly in and around the capital Oslo. The main organizing body is the Jewish Community of Oslo.

There was a decline in antisemitic manifestations in 2004, especially compared to the first two years after the outbreak of the second intifada. A controversial incident occurred in August when the municipal authorities placed a sculpture entitled "The Wall: Fragments from History," by Sigurd Bjorn Engvik, in the center of Oslo. The piece consisted of yellow stars (which Jews were forced to wear under the Nazi regime), symbolizing the allegedly murderous nature of Jews, a dollar sign, representing 'Jewish greed', and the word 'Holocaust' together with the date, 29 November 1947 (the date of the UN vote for the partition of Palestine). Quotations from the Ten Commandments and the Bible supposedly signified Israel's disregard for Jewish ethics. The Jewish community of Oslo and the Norwegian Association against Antisemitism protested the display of a exhibit that used classical antisemitic symbols to attack the Jewish religion and mock the Shoah.

In February, Norwegian state TV-channel NRK 1 hosted a live debate on contemporary antisemitism. During the discussion, NRK's Middle East correspondent Lars Sigurd Sunnanå stated that reports of antisemitic activities may have been invented by European Jews in order to divert attention from Israeli policies toward the Palestinians.

During another debate, in August, between the Swedish researcher on antisemitism Henrik Bachner and the president of the Norwegian PEN club, Kjell Olaf Jensen, at the Bjørnson-festivalen (a Norwegian festival of international literature), the latter claimed that the Jews sought a monopoly on suffering and used the Holocaust to justify Israeli terrorist actions.

The third largest political party in Norway, the opposition, right-wing populist Progress Party, has twice called for a ban on circumcision of boys according to the Jewish and Muslim rituals. The National Alliance, consisting of several marginal extreme right-wing parties, models itself on the French Front National.

In September, Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, as well as several members of the government, attended the inauguration of the renovated Oslo Jewish Community Center. In his speech to the Oslo Jewish community, the prime minister lauded the successful integration of Norwegian Jews and their contribution to Norwegian society, and promised to make every effort to ensure their safety.

In early February, the extreme left-wing party Rød Valgallianse (Red Electoral Alliance – RV) demanded that one of its local politicians, the teacher Hans Olav Brendberg, withdraw from the party, partly because of numerous antisemitic statements he had made on the Norwegian Internet discussion forum *KK-forum*.

In early 2004 Inge Telhang, a non-Jewish teacher from Kristiansand, was asked by the director of the Center for Adult Education to remove a Star of David he wore, on the grounds that it might provoke Muslim students. The head of the National Association of Schools added that to Arab students a Star of David was comparable to a swastika in the eyes of Jewish students. Telhang, who said this violated his right of freedom of expression, hired an attorney to fight his case, which the minister of education supports.

In March 1999, Norway became the first country occupied by Nazi Germany in World War II to create a fund for the restitution of Jewish property confiscated by the Quisling government. A significant part of the settlement – NOK40 million – between the State of Norway and the Jewish communities of Norway finances the Center for Holocaust and Religious Minority Studies in Norway, a research and documentation institution affiliated with the University of Oslo.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/norway.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/norway.htm)

SPAIN

The Jewish population of Spain is estimated roughly at 20,000; however, the number of registered Jews does not exceed 14,000. The Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain currently consists of thirteen traditional and Orthodox communities, the largest of which are located in Madrid, Barcelona and on the Costa del Sol (Málaga).

The terrorist attack on two commuter trains in Madrid in March 2004 (192 people killed and almost 1,800 injured), known as March 11 (M-11), had a major political impact. Three days after the event, the Socialist Party, headed by Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, scored an unexpected victory in the general elections. Many political analysts considered this turnabout in public feeling as opposition to a confrontation with terrorism. Others contended that the public only wanted the return of Spanish troops from an 'illegal' war in Iraq. The slogans of peace activists who demonstrated in many Spanish cities following the Madrid attack blamed Bush and Spanish Prime Minister José Maria Aznar rather than Islamic terrorism. Their signs read "Aznar murderer," "Out with Bush" and "Stop America," and some people carried PLO flags. Thus, Islamic terrorists attained two important political goals in Madrid: for the first time they succeeded in influencing a democratic process in the western world and they caused the first crack in the American-led coalition in Iraq.

On 3 April 2004 the Spanish police discovered that the M-11 bombers had been planning imminent attacks on two Jewish targets, also in the Madrid area.

After continual election failures, several Spanish far right-wing fringe parties allied to form the Frente Español, modeled on the French Front National, for the 2004 elections; however, the Frente failed to win any seats.

Those in the spectrum of the left, from extreme to mainstream, are far from holding a monolithic opinion about Israel and the Jews, each party or group encompassing a range of views. For example, the anti-Israel/anti-Jewish influence of some members of the Esquerra Republicana, which is part of the socialist coalition in the Catalanian regional government, is counterbalanced by fellow member Pilar Rahola, who initiated a campaign against antisemitism in Barcelona (see *ASW* 2003/4). A similar situation exists in other regional governments (*comunidades autónomas*) and at the state level.

There was a considerable increase in antisemitic activity after 11 March. In fact, religious members of the Jewish community of Spain are

afraid to wear a skullcap which might make them targets for attacks. In March, the walls of two Jewish synagogues in Barcelona (Orthodox and Reform) were daubed with antisemitic graffiti. Also in March and April, some Jewish worshippers were verbally attacked as they left the Barcelona Jewish Community Center. A monument commemorating the Holocaust in Barcelona was desecrated twice, in May and June 2004. In October a group of individuals painted antisemitic slogans in German on the walls of the Reform synagogue and of the Jewish school in Barcelona. The statue in Toledo of Samuel Halevi, treasurer to King Pedro, who in 1357 built the Transito Synagogue in the city, was torched and defaced with red paint and swastikas, on 26 August.

On the African continent in August, the Spanish city of Melilla in North Africa was the scene of three attacks on members of the Jewish community by groups of local North Africans. The first victim was an old man who was beaten by the door of the main synagogue on a Saturday morning. The other two attacks were on Jewish families shopping in an Arab *suk* (open market). They were insulted and pelted with stones and the windows of one of their cars were smashed. Also in August the Shukrun Synagogue in Melilla was stoned by a group of young men, who shouted "Jews, get out!" at worshippers. It should be noted that the majority of the population in these cities consists of Moroccan Muslims, many of whom hold Spanish citizenship, and that Morocco seeks to integrate Ceuta and Mellila into its own national territory.

Reports about Israel occupy a disproportionate amount of international news space in the Spanish media. Most coverage of the conflict is superficial and sensationalist, with Israel, and by extension, the Jews, being discredited – and sometimes demonized (see *ASW* 2003/4). The large circulation, mainstream newspaper *El País*, for example, carried an anti-Israel caricature that compared Israel's security fence to the wall around the Warsaw Ghetto, with the caption, "The Israeli wall is more effective."

In November, the mayor of Oleiros (A Coruña) approved public signs that described Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as an 'animal' and members of his government 'neo-Nazis'. Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos responded by issuing a strong statement calling on the mayor to remove the signs. Following intense pressure from national and local government officials, and extensive criticism in the national press, the mayor finally agreed to remove the signs.

Jewish representatives in Barcelona approached local government officials requesting the removal of a Star of David positioned beside a swastika on a city hall web page. City officials removed the symbols without explanation and without apologizing for the incident.

Country and Regional Abstracts

Foreign Minister Moratinos attended the opening session of an international rabbinical congress in Córdoba (12–15 Oct.), honoring the Jewish Cordovan philosopher and scientist Maimónides (1134–1204). He announced that the government was considering instituting a Holocaust memorial day – 27 January, the date of the liberation of Auschwitz – in the national calendar, a decision subsequently approved in December.

At a meeting held in November, David Lévy-Bentolila, president of B'nai Brith Europe (BBE) discussed with Foreign Minister Moratinos various Jewish issues, among them inclusion of the Holocaust in history courses taught in Spanish schools, and the Spanish media's treatment of Israel and the Jews. Lévy-Bentolila accused the Spanish press of misuse of freedom of expression to an extent not found in other countries. Regarding antisemitism on TV and cable, Moratinos noted that the Spanish government had been approached but had refused to broadcast al-Manar (the Hizballah channel) programs. The foreign minister promised to support a BBE plan for the formation of a European Authority of Broadcasting Content.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/spain.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/spain.htm)

SWEDEN

Sweden has a Jewish population of about 18,000, or 0.2 percent, out of a general population of 9 million. The majority live in the larger cities – Stockholm, Göteborg and Malmö. The various communities are independent, but linked through the Council of Swedish Jewish Communities.

Many in the Jewish community feel it wise to hide their identity, although they believe only a small percentage of the 400,000 Muslim immigrants to be a threat, according to an assessment of antisemitism in Sweden published in the leading Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* (10 Feb. 2004). Lena Posner-Koeroesi, president of the Stockholm Jewish community, claimed that whenever officials want to take action on antisemitism they group it together with Islamophobia and homophobia. Researcher Mikael Tossavainen drafted a report issued by the Council Against Anti-Semitism that surveyed antisemitism among Muslim immigrants. The report aroused controversy due to Tossavainen's interviewing of school teachers, who noted Muslim pupils' objection to studying the Holocaust. He stated that Swedes were unaware of what was going on in the large Muslim communities in the suburbs. Swedish Islamic studies scholar Jan Samuelsson claimed in the mainstream *Dagens Nyheter* (20 Oct. 2004) that Arabs would hate the Jews as long as Israel occupied Arab lands, an idea that met with understanding among Swedes. Prof. Henrik Bachner of Lund University, said events in the Middle East might sharpen antisemitism but were not its origin. Bachner stressed that analogies between Israel and the Nazis and the use of terminology drawn from the Christian tradition, such as "the crucifixion of Arafat" in *Aftonbladet* before Easter 2003, reflected toleration of antisemitism.

There were 65 unofficial reports of antisemitic incidents in 2004, mostly cases of harassment (threats and verbal abuse), and 4 of physical assault. This compares with police reports for 2003 of 3 cases of minor assault, 35 cases of harassment and 9 cases of vandalism of Jewish sites. Most offenses were committed in the metropolitan areas of Stockholm, Göteborg and Malmö.

Much antisemitic crime in 2004, particularly violence and vandalism, appeared to be triggered by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On 30 March, for example, four youths of Middle East origin entered a Jewish-owned shop in Malmö and assaulted the shopkeeper and a Jewish customer. The shopkeeper was hospitalized. A Jewish boy was also attacked by youth of Middle East extraction in Göteborg, in February.

At a soccer match held on 13 June between a local Maccabi team and a team of immigrant players, spectators shouted “Death to the Jews” and “Crush Zionism.” After the game the coach of the opposing team approached one of the Jewish players and hit him in the face, starting a brawl that ended with the hospitalization of one of the Jewish players.

Since the September 11 attacks antisemitism has remained a cornerstone of neo-Nazi ideology while Islamophobia is primarily the province of the nationalist but ‘respectable’ Sweden Democrats. The National Democrats propagate both, although when discussing conspiracy theories, Jews are usually referred to indirectly as ‘Illuminati’, ‘Free Masonry’ and ‘international capitalism’. Jews are seen as ‘the threat from above’, controlling the political establishment, the media and the police, while Muslims are viewed as ‘the threat from below’, seeking an immigrant takeover. The white population is therefore perceived as being squeezed in a grip between the two.

The Nordic Association was the most dominant among ultra-conservative and xenophobic organizations in disseminating anti-Jewish propaganda in 2004. The association is greatly influenced by US extreme rightists, such as David Duke and Professor Kevin McDonald.

Holocaust denier Ahmed Rami, operator of Radio Islam, remains the chief disseminator of propaganda denying the Holocaust, although most of his activities in recent years have been limited to the Internet. In spite of his Moroccan background, Rami has gained the approval of several white power groups, including the NSF. In 2004 Rami was invited to speak at the Nordic Association where he accused Judaism of “everything that is evil.”

The Malmö city library hosted an exhibition in April 2004, which presented Israel as a state built on “expulsion and terror” and which justified suicide bombing. At its inauguration, the display was supported, *inter alia*, by a Malmö politician from the Conservative Party, who said killing Jewish children was justified, and a Social Democrat, who said bombing Jewish civilians was self-defense, Jewish terrorists had created the State of Israel and the task of his party was to represent Muslims, not Jews in Malmö’s high-immigrant density suburb of Rosengård.

The Nationalsocialistisk Front (National Socialist Front – NSF) moved its base from southern to mid-west Sweden, near the town of Vara. During 2004 the Front arranged several white power music nights with hundreds of participants.

Since the murder of 17-year-old skinhead Daniel Wretström by a youth gang of mixed Swedish and immigrant background in the town of Salem, south of Stockholm, in December 2000, the town has become a rallying point for neo-Nazis and extreme rightists in Sweden on the

anniversary of his death. The Salem Fund, set up by the Nazi prison organization Yellow Cross, together with the pro-terrorist *Info-14* and Blood & Honour for organizing the annual commemoration, is supported by the entire nationalist spectrum, except the Sweden Democrats. There was a decline in numbers of participants, from 2,000 in 2003 to 1,400 in 2004.

Begun as a publishing house in 2002, Nordiska Förbundet (Nordic Association) became an organization in 2004. It is influenced by the US National Alliance and especially by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who has interviewed leading activists from the association on his radio show. The publishing house distributes antisemitic books such as Duke's *Jewish Supremacy* and Lars Adelskog's Holocaust denying work *An Empty Sack*. The organization, in cooperation with the publishing house, circulates the magazines *Nordic Freedom* and *Peoples News*.

In May 2004 the Jewish Central Council in Sweden wrote to Archbishop K.G. Hammar, breaking off contacts with the Swedish (Lutheran) Church. Hammar had initiated the decision of the Swedish Church to boycott products originating in the territories occupied by Israel. His campaign had the backing of 12 organizations that want the EU to break its trade agreements with Israel. The Council letter protested a lack of sympathy with the Jews of Sweden and pointed out that singling out Israel for boycott, when many other states could be accused of the same infractions, was an expression of antisemitism.

In 2004 the Living History Forum published a major survey on intolerance which was distributed to 10,000 students in Sweden aged 14–18. Over 75 percent of the students completed the survey, which covered antisemitism, homophobia, Islamophobia and xenophobia. Eighty-three percent of respondents agreed with the statement that most Jews were good people and 72 percent said they would not mind living next to a Jew. Twenty-two percent, however, opposed Jews having the right to build religious buildings, while 23 percent opposed Muslims having the right to build mosques. Twelve percent agreed with the statement that there were too many Jews in Sweden. The general index of intolerance against Jews was 1.04 (1.00 marking absolute tolerance). The majority of the students felt positively toward Jews in Sweden; just under 6 percent, however, had an index higher than 2.5, indicating high intolerance. The findings indicate that the rate of antisemitism among Muslim immigrants was no higher than among other sectors of society that identified themselves as non-religious.

Full report online at

<http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/sweden.html>

SWITZERLAND

The Jewish community remained stable at about 18,000, or 0.25 percent of Switzerland's population of 7 million. The main umbrella organization of Swiss Jewry is the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (Schweizerischer Israelitischer Gemeindebund/Fédération Suisse des Communautés Israélites – SIG/FSCI). CICAD (Coordination Intercommunautaire Contre l'Antisémitisme et la Diffamation), based in Geneva, represents Switzerland's French-speaking Jewish communities. The Jewish Forum of the Swiss Media, set up in 2002 by SIG/FSCI and CICAD, was restructured in late 2004 into Media Watch, whose task is to monitor and analyze Swiss media coverage of issues related to Israel and the Jews and to counter antisemitic statements and attempts to delegitimize the State of Israel.

The situation in Switzerland regarding antisemitism remained relatively unchanged in 2004. While violent antisemitic attacks were of a sporadic nature, an underlying antisemitism, characterized by the persistence of preconceived images and ideas concerning the Jewish population, exists in Switzerland, as illustrated by an August 2004 Swiss government report on extremism which spoke of "Jewish religious extremism," a reference which provoked an antisemitic response.

In September 2004, an office for monitoring antisemitic incidents was set up in the German-speaking part of Switzerland by Aktion Kinder des Holocaust (AkdH) and SIG. Not all of the incidents recorded necessarily violate Art. 261bis of the Swiss Penal Code. In the French speaking part, the CICAD recorded 20 incidents in 2004, which it divided into 'severe acts' (harassment, aggression, break-ins – 5 acts), 'serious acts' (defamation, threatening letters, targeted graffiti – 6 acts) and 'disturbing acts' (untargeted graffiti – 9 acts). In the 'severe acts' category, an identifiably Jewish person was spat on and insulted in a Basle street in September. The perpetrator made the Hitler salute and yelled "Die, Jew!" (*Jude verreck!*). The victim got away but a witness made a report to the police which helped to identify the perpetrator. In February vandals broke into the Gan Shlomo kindergarten and the Maccabi community rooms in Geneva. They damaged property and left graffiti on the walls, saying, inter alia, "F--- les juifs."

Articles delegitimizing Israel and equating it with Nazi Germany, as well as accusing the Jews of trying to gain political power globally and to manipulate US policy, continued to appear in mainstream papers. In an article entitled "Europe Accused of Antisemitism" in the *Tribune de Genève* (Geneva's main newspaper; 22 Jan. 2004), Antoine Maurice asked

“whether this [Israeli government] policy does not in some ways recall that of Nazi Germany. This [policy] massacred the Jews, denied the existence of a people and a community, progressively but implacably destroyed their rights, [and] oppressed this people with a mixture of quibbling legalism and breathtaking arbitrariness [*sic*].”

In “‘Friendly’ Country,” Vincent Pellegrini wrote in *Le Nouvelliste* (main newspaper of Valais canton; 16 Jan. 2004): “The Bush government, at the command of its country’s Jewish lobbies for its Middle East policies and influenced by American fundamentalist Protestants who believe in the notion of a Greater Israel, supports de facto the policies of the Jewish state, as Colin Powell demonstrated last week.” The secretary general of CICAD met with Jean Bonnard, chief editor of *Le Nouvelliste*, to discuss the content of the article.

Delegitimation of Israel and its right to exist as a Jewish state were discussed during a series of conferences (beginning in April 2003), organized by the IUED (Institut Universitaire d’Etude du Développement, University of Geneva) and the human rights organization CETIM (Centre Europe Tiers Monde). The latter is a virulently anti-Israel body which, *inter alia*, demands a boycott of Israeli products. The majority of the speakers are known for their involvement in the campaign to delegitimize the State of Israel. The conference focused on religious and ideological affinities between the State of Israel and apartheid era South Africa.

Despite the 2002 court order disbanding Verité et Justice (V&J) (see *ASW* 2001/2), and confirmation of that order in July 2003, the organization, founded in 1999 by Jürgen Graf, continued to hold meetings, arrange national and international events and publish antisemitic and Holocaust denying materials. In January 2004 V&J flyers were distributed in letter boxes in Geneva and Lausanne. Next to the skull heading the paper, the text said: “L’Holocauste c’est du bidon” (The holocaust is a lie). According to a communiqué sent in May 2004, V&J secretary-general René-Louis Berclaz has taken refuge in Montenegro (former Yugoslavia) (see *ASW* 2003/4).

In October, Bernhard Hess, president of the xenophobic Swiss Democrats and their representative in the National Council, together with 50 co-signers, called for abrogating the anti-racism article of the Penal Code (StGB Art. 261bis) and for the Federal Council to draft a law guaranteeing complete freedom of speech. According to Hess, freedom of speech should not be restricted to private events. Currently, remarks made in public places (such as a restaurant or bar) that instigate hatred against a racial, ethnic or religious group are forbidden by law and liable to legal action.

The extremist right-wing scene in Switzerland consists of many small, volatile, unstructured groups. While there is no common ideology among them, at major events such as winter solstice parties of the Avalon community (“the new heathen circle”), representatives of all trends – from young skinheads to old racists – gather and celebrate. The number of right-wing extremists remained unchanged. Currently, there are about 1000–1200 militants and about 700–800 sympathizers in Switzerland.

The left-wing extremist scene in Switzerland consists of a large number of inter-connected groups. Revolutionary Assembly Switzerland (RAS)/Revolutionary Assembly Zurich (RAZ) is the leading, most violent far left organization. Black Bloc (BB), a heterogeneous action platform of left-wing extremist groups is considered a real threat to Swiss internal security because of its strong commitment to violence.

The main representatives of Islamist fundamentalism in Switzerland are Sunni organizations: En Nahdha, Front Islamique Tunisien (FIT), the Muslim Brotherhood, Front Islamique du Salut (FIS), Groupe Islamique Armé (GIA), Groupe Salafiste pour la Prédication et le Combat (GSPC), Groupe Islamique Combattant Libyen (GICL), Hamas, Jihad, Hizballah, Al-Takfir wal Hijra and the Swiss PRO-PLO. The latter purports to “support the Muslims during their uprising against racist-Zionist colonization” and to pursue a national rather than an Islamic solution. Patric Illi, president of PRO-PLO, had close links to Shaykh Ahmad Yasin before his assassination in March 2004. The group engages in fundraising for the Palestinians and calls for a boycott of “Zionist products.” In April 2004 the PRO-PLO held a pro-Palestinian/anti-Zionist demonstration in Zurich, with about 200 participants, at which they burned a large Israeli flag. In autumn 2004 the content of the PRO-PLO website was deleted and readers were automatically redirected to a different site, www.boycott-israel.com.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/switzerland.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/switzerland.htm)

UNITED KINGDOM

The Jewish community of the United Kingdom numbers about 350,000, out of a total population of 58 million. Two-thirds of the community is concentrated in Greater London. Other major Jewish centers are Manchester, Leeds and Glasgow. The central organization of British Jewry is the Board of Deputies of British Jews (BoD). Security and defense activity is organized through the Community Security Trust (CST). The Jewish Community Leadership Council formed in 2003 brings together leaders of major national Jewish organizations with the aim of enhancing the long-term effectiveness of communal representation and ensuring greater consultation.

Racist incidents recorded by the police in 2003/4 rose by 7 percent to 52,694, following a 10 percent fall the previous year. These included 35,022 racially or religiously aggravated crimes (31,034 in 2002/3). Over half of these were harassment offenses.

The CST recorded a total of 532 antisemitic incidents during 2004, a 42 percent increase over the previous year (375 incidents). Antisemitic incident levels have risen steadily since the outbreak of the second Palestinian intifada in October 2000: the 2004 total was more than double that of 1999. The proportion of incidents rooted in hatred for Israel and Zionism has risen disproportionately faster than acts that originate in the racial prejudice commonly associated with the far right. Of the 532 incidents, 124 showed clear anti-Zionist motivation, compared to 84 that were motivated by far right sentiment or ideology. The number of violent assaults rose by 54 percent (83 incidents) over 2003 (54 incidents). Damage and desecration of communal property decreased by 26 percent, from 72 incidents in 2003 to 53 incidents in 2004, perhaps partly as a result of improved security measures. Abusive behavior increased by 29 percent, from 211 in 2003 to 272 incidents in 2004. This category encompasses the full range of low-level, often spontaneous antisemitic abuse and is usually taken as an indicator of the level of antisemitism in society.

Antisemitic incidents fluctuate in response to events in the Middle East, as illustrated most dramatically in March 2004 when 54 incidents were recorded by the CST in the 48 hours following the assassination of Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. However, linkage with the Middle East is not always clear: there were no obvious reasons, for example, for the relatively high number of incidents that occurred in June 2004. Significantly, the focus for hatred was not Israeli institutions in the UK

but Jewish ones and Jews themselves, especially synagogues and Orthodox Jews.

In February a rap music video "Dirty Kuffar," performed by the British group Sheikh Terra and the Soul Salah Crew, was withdrawn following complaints. The video included adapted footage of, among others, Ayman al-Zawahiri, `Usama bin Laden's right hand man, and Ariel Sharon, morphed into animals: the former into a roaring lion, the latter into a pig with a Star of David on its forehead. The video was distributed in Britain by Saudi expatriate Muhammad al-Masari, who claimed that sales were high in mosques and that there was a large overseas demand.

In October the European Social Forum, attended by social movements and community groups from around Europe, met in London. The Union of Jewish Students stall was vandalized, a prayer book was stolen, posters were ripped down, and pro-Palestinian leaflets were left at the scene.

Many in the Jewish community, including the BoD as well as the prime minister called on Mayor of London Ken Livingstone to apologize for remarks made to Oliver Finegold a Jewish *Evening Standard* reporter who had attempted to question the mayor as he left a party late at night in Central London. In responding to Finegold, the mayor likened the reporter's role to that of a concentration camp guard. The outrage was echoed in the media with almost continuous TV, radio and newspaper coverage. Livingstone has a record of controversial activity relating to Jews and the Middle East (see also below).

In March the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) dismissed an appeal brought by Omar Mahmud Muhammad `Utman, aka Abu Qatada, a foreign detainee held on suspicion of aiding terrorism. The SIAC decision noted that in October 1999 Abu Qatada had made a speech at the Four Feathers Mosque in London in which he gave a blessing for the killing of Jews, adding that Americans should be attacked wherever they were and that there was no difference between English Jews and Americans. He further urged followers to fight Jews in the United Kingdom.

In 2004 the trials took place of a number of extremist Muslims, among them, Abu Hamsa al Masri, former imam at the Finsbury Park Mosque, who had been detained since May on an American extradition request in connection with terrorism charges. In October he was charged with 16 offenses, including four of soliciting the murder of Jews, six others of soliciting to murder non-Muslims, five of inciting racial hatred, and one charge of possession of information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism. These charges now

take priority over the extradition proceedings and relate to tapes and other material seized from his home and from Finsbury Park Mosque.

In February the BoD began a campaign to have transmissions of Hizballah's al-Manar satellite television programs banned in the UK. Responding to one of the BoD's complaints, the secretary of state for culture, media and sport noted that al-Manar had no broadcasting license in the UK but that the British government supported a French court's ban on UTELSAT transmitting the programs.

In August the BoD requested that Islamist preacher Yusuf al-Qaradawi be prevented entry into the UK on the grounds that he promoted antisemitism and the use of women and children in suicide attacks against Israel. The controversial visit, which was organized by the Muslim Association of Britain and partly hosted by Mayor of London Ken Livingstone, led to the formation of a coalition of Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, feminist and gay community groups to campaign against his presence and the use of public funds and premises to host him.

In April the National Union of Students passed a motion under its "No Platform for Racism" policy at its Blackpool conference banning the militant Islamist organizations al-Muhajiroun, Hizb ut-Tahrir and the Muslim Public Affairs Committee from using student union premises for their activities. In November the British National Party and other far right groups were banned from Manchester University campus after new revelations that the party was attempting yet again to recruit on campuses.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/uk.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/uk.htm)

CIS, Baltic States and Eastern Europe

CIS AND BALTIC STATES

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Some 250,000 Jews live in Russia out of a total population of about 144 million. There are over 200 Jewish community organizations, operating mostly under the Russian Jewish Congress (REK), the Federation of Jewish Communities in Russia (FEOR), Congress of Jewish Religious Communities and Organizations (KEROOR), Movement of Modern Judaism – Hineni and Movement of Progressive Judaism.

In 2004 the alarming increase in violent crime, motivated by ethnic and religious hatred continued, affecting both the Jewish population and other national minorities in Russia (see *General Analysis*). Mass brawls, beatings, murder and desecration became routine occurrences. The local banking crisis which hit Russia in spring/summer 2004 prompted xenophobic and antisemitic responses from those who suffered financial losses, as well as from politicians who sought to make political capital. The end of 2004 saw a rise in social tensions caused by the introduction of reforms, including the introduction of cash payments in place of benefits such as free electricity and free use of public transport for the sick, pensioners and war veterans, *inter alia*. There were attempts, sometimes successful, on the part of politicians, to impart a nationalistic slant to these protests. Nationalist radicals joined the demonstrations, and even initiated them in some regions.

There were several attacks against Jews, one of the most serious in Yoshkar-Ola on 25 September. Dmitrii Aron, son of the local Jewish community's chairperson Mark Aron, was attacked at the entrance to the building where he lived. He was hospitalized after the attackers beat him several times in the face with their fists and a metal object. The victim lodged a complaint to the local police. On 4 September, the daily *Mariiskaia Pravda* (Republic of Mari-El) had called for an attack on the family. On 2 September, three skinheads with baseball bats shouted antisemitic remarks and threatened to settle accounts with the head of the community and his family and set fire to the local synagogue.

Three attacks against Jews were recorded in Moscow in December. On 12 December the Azeri Muslim driver who worked for the Jewish community was beaten and insulted by policemen. A menorah was attached to the car window. On 15 December an Israeli citizen, originally from Dagestan, was approached at a train station by a person who put a knife to his throat and asked what his nationality was. When he answered

that he was Jewish, he was beaten by two other men who shouted: "There are too many Jews here." Two of the attackers were later arrested. On 23 December 2004, a religious Jew from Israel was beaten by three young people near the Marina Roshcha synagogue in Moscow. The attackers shouted antisemitic remarks.

As in previous years, desecration of Jewish graves and memorials was a common form of antisemitic violence. Such attacks, sometimes recurring at the same cemetery and in many cases accompanied by swastika daubing, took place, *inter alia*, at the ancient Victims of 9 January cemetery in the St. Petersburg memorial complex in honor of Victims and Fighters of the Revolution, as well as at Jewish cemeteries at Kaluga, Tambov, Piatigorsk, Petrozavodsk, Astrakhan, Makhachkala and Irkutsk. One of the vandals who desecrated the Piatigorsk cemetery (in April and June) was sentenced in August to two years imprisonment, and two others who were underage were sent for a year and a half to a corrective institution. In November the regional court of Kaluga handed down a two-year suspended sentence to Aleksei Lapiutin and another underage youth for desecration of the Kaluga Jewish cemetery in March.

Attacks on synagogues and other community property were also widespread throughout the year. For example, on 25 January a grenade was thrown into the yard of the synagogue in Derbent breaking almost all the windows. In early February an attempt was made to ignite the local synagogue and Jewish library in Cheliabinsk. On 23 April, a group of skinheads entered the local Jewish center in Ulianovsk, shouting, "We want to know the face of our enemy." They tore the flags of the Jewish organization and broke some windows.

There were several antisemitic utterances by public or elected officials. On 11 March in an interview with the Jewish News Agency (AEN), Communist Party (KPRF) presidential candidate Nikolai Kharitonov said Jews should be grateful to Stalin for founding the Birobidjan Autonomous Republic and the Jews should move there. He also accused Jews of atrocities against the Cossacks and of causing Russia's problems today. In September, during a debate in the parliament on banning the advertisement of abortion services, KPRF member Nikolai Kondratenko, blamed the Jews for the high rate of abortions in Russia. On 1 July Russian KPRF Senator Nikolai Kondratenko, speaking at a conference in Beirut, accused the Zionists of genocide against the Russian people. He called on Russians and Muslims to cooperate against the 'worldwide Jewish conspiracy'.

Vladimir Zhirinovskii, head of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), was among those who voted in parliament, on 9 July against a proposed law to prohibit the public display of Nazi symbols. The

proposal was rejected. Zhirinovskii also opposed the initiative of several State Duma deputies to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and refused to take part in a minute's silence to commemorate Holocaust victims.

The St. Petersburg TV 3 channel (transmitted to Moscow and several other Russian cities) broadcast nationalistic and antisemitic propaganda on a regularly scheduled program called "Our Strategy." The hosts of the program were Mikhail Shiriaev (an activist of *Za Rus' Sviatuiu – For Sacred Rus'*) and Nikolai Smirnov (former activist of *Pamiat St. Petersburg*). For example, on 1 May 2004 the hosts and participants, among whom was Sergei Baburin from the Rodina Party (known for his antisemitic and racist views), discussed the "genocide of the Russian people" which they claimed was "less known than the Jewish Holocaust." During the discussion, photos of those allegedly responsible were shown, most of whom were of Jewish origin.

While officials from the president down often condemned antisemitic acts they preferred to label the perpetrators terrorists or hooligans rather than xenophobes or antisemites. Moreover, the number of convictions in antisemitic cases is far lower than the actual number of antisemitic offenses committed, and if a legal process is launched, it is often prolonged. For example, on 5 July 2004 members of a group suspected of having placed a grenade with an antisemitic sign on it in 2002 were arrested. The prosecutor's office of Tomsk region opened a criminal investigation under Article 205 (terrorism), but the trial never began. Moreover, three people convicted in 2004 under Article 282 of the Russian criminal code specifying antisemitic offenses were discharged.

REPUBLIC OF UKRAINE

Approximately 100,000 Jews live in Ukraine out of a total population of about 47 million. There are more than 200 registered Jewish organizations, some 40 of which are based in the capital Kiev. They operate under the umbrella organizations All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress, the Association of Jewish Communities and Organizations, and the Jewish Confederation or the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Ukraine.

During recent years the community has suffered an increase in antisemitic manifestations. Some incidents in 2004 were connected to the October presidential election, which was mainly a struggle between the pro-Russian Viktor Ianukovich (prime minister at the time of the elections and the choice of the president) and the pro-western Viktor Iushchenko (Our Ukraine bloc; representing the opposition), who was prime minister in 2000–1. The 'Jewish question' had been used by the regime prior to the elections to provoke anti-Jewish feeling since some

members and supporters of the Iushchenko bloc, which came to power in 2002, were radical nationalists. Their opponents therefore tried to portray Iushchenko as an antisemite and the radicals as the 'face' of the bloc, although, in reality, the latter had little influence.

On 14 January members of the Lvov Jewish community, who were distributing food to the needy at the cafeteria of the local Polytechnic University, were attacked by a security guard. The guard insulted the Jews and beat several of them. Later, the local press blamed the Jews for the incident, claiming that they refused to give him food because he was not Jewish. The guard was fired from the university and an investigation was launched by the local prosecutor's office; however the case never came to trial.

Rabbis were also beaten and insulted in Kiev and Odessa: Rabbi Chaim Pikovskii near the Brodsky synagogue on 11 July and Rabbi Moshe Tayler, representative of Habad-Lubavitch in Ukraine, on a central Kiev street on 28 September; and Rabbi David Feldman, head of the School of Jewish Studies, and Rabbi Fishel Chichelnitski, chief rabbi of Belgorod-Dnestrovsk, on 24 August in Odessa. Only in the latter case did the police arrest one man, who had threatened the two rabbis that he would find them later and shoot them.

A yeshiva student was attacked on 28 August while he was walking with his family on Pushkin Street in Donetsk by a group of some 20 youths, who surrounded them chanting "Jew, Jew! Kike, Kike." They knocked the student to the ground and beat him.

Several synagogues were stoned and/or vandalized. Only in the case of the Brodsky synagogue, attacked on 1 December, was someone arrested. Jewish graves and Holocaust memorials were desecrated. For example, over 50 Jewish graves were broken in the Kurenevskii cemetery in Kiev and plaques at the Babi Yar Holocaust Memorial were damaged several times during the winter.

Interviewed on the Ukrainian Channel 5 on 27 March, opposition MP Vladimir Nechiporuk claimed that Ukraine was being ruled by a "kike-Mason mafia" and that the Soviet Union had actually been a "kike-Bolshevik regime." He denied, however, that he was an antisemite, "just a patriot." In announcing his candidacy for the presidential elections on 9 July, MP Bogdan Boyko, chairman of the People's Rukh of Ukraine Party, accused the Jews of being a fifth column.

Antisemitic articles frequently appeared in small publications and irregular newsletters but rarely in the national press. The monthly journal *Personnel*, whose editorial board includes several parliamentary deputies, published an antisemitic article in each edition. Although on 20 April, the State Committee for Nationalities and Migration filed a lawsuit at the

Kiev Economic Court against the journal and against the newspaper *Personnel Plus* for violation of the Law on Information and the Law on Print Mass Media, both newspapers continued to be published.

On 21 July 2004 Our Ukraine, then the main opposition bloc in Parliament, expelled Oleg Tiagnibok, who had made an antisemitic speech during a rally in Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast on 17 July. The event had taken place at Iavorina Ridge, the burial site of Klimo Savura, a commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army which had fought against both the Soviets and the Germans during World War II and took part in the murder of Jews.

REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

There are about 28,000 Jews in Belarus out of a total of some 10 million. One of the main problems of the Jewish community is lack of financing since it receives almost nothing from the government. In February the International Humanitarian Institute in Minsk was closed by order of the authorities without explanation. This was the only independent higher education institute in Belarus with a department of Jewish studies. On 18 August the Ministry of Foreign Affairs notified the local chapter of the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union (UCSJ) that it would not be re-registered, again without explanation. The US-based UCSJ, previously registered in Belarus as an American NGO, was one of the primary Jewish human rights organizations in the country, providing information about antisemitism, extremism and xenophobia and openly speaking out against them.

Swastikas and antisemitic graffiti commonly appear throughout the republic. For example, on 22 January Stars of David were painted on the Jewish community house in Novopolotsk. After the walls were repainted, phrases, such as "Death to the Kikes" reappeared. There were no arrests.

Desecration of Jewish cemeteries was reported in Bobruisk, Cherven and Rahachov. Although the Bobruisk perpetrators were caught at the scene, they were not prosecuted.

Despite a May 2003 order by the prosecutor general and the Ministry of Information to terminate distribution of the xenophobic, antisemitic newspaper *Russkii Vestnik*, its circulation resumed in February 2004 through the governmental distribution agency Belsoiuzpechat'. Sales of similar literature continued throughout the year in government-owned buildings, at stores, and at events affiliated with the Orthodox Church.

During the winter of 2004, the nationalist, antisemitic Russian National Unity (Russkoie Natsional'noie Edinstvo – RNE), founded in Russia by Aleksandr Barkashov, distributed antisemitic leaflets in Gomel,

which stated: “The Jews are trying to destroy Christianity,” “Now hostile activities against the Jews will begin,” “The Jews are the forces of evil,” and “The fighters against God must be exterminated.” In addition, the letters ‘RNE’ were sprayed on the walls of the Jewish community building in Gomel. No one was arrested.

There is a tendency by the authorities to minimize the role of the Jews in the history of Belarus in general and in World War II and the Holocaust in particular. This attitude is particularly evident in the case of commemoration of Holocaust victims and the heroes of Jewish resistance. In almost all literature published by the state on World War II, the Jewish tragedy is not touched on at all or is mentioned only in passing, while the role of the Jewish resistance movement in the occupied territories is either minimized or totally ignored. The Holocaust is absent from almost all school and university history textbooks or is referred to obscurely. Jews are also denied the right to indicate on Holocaust memorials the number of Jews murdered, on the pretext that the Jews were not the only victims.

When in 2000 the Jewish community complained about *War under the Laws of Villainy* – a collection of antisemitic materials such as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, issued by Pravoslavnaia Initsiativa – the prosecutor’s office labeled it a ‘scientific publication’ (see *ASW 2000/I*). Pravoslavnaia Initsiativa has continued to publish similar materials without interference from either the authorities or the Pravoslav diocese.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Moldova is a multiethnic country, the home of more than one hundred nationalities. According to the last census which took place in fall 2004, ethnic minorities comprise about 22 percent of the total population of 3.5 million (excluding Transnistria). Some 25,000 are Jews. The main Jewish organizations are the Moldovan Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities, and the Union of Jewish Organizations of Chisinau (SEVROK).

In recent years the political position of the extreme right, including antisemites, has weakened. Iurie Rosca’s Christian Democratic People’s Party (PPCD), has traditionally been considered the main exponent of ethno-nationalist ideas, such as unification with neighboring Romania and abolishing the independence of multicultural Moldova. Publications linked to the party favorably describe Marshal Ion Antonescu, wartime dictator of Romania, who was responsible for the death of more than 400,000 Jews and other minorities on the territory of Romania and Moldova (including Transnistria) during World War II. PPCD has

moderated its public image in recent years, presenting itself as a party of European integration.

Racist and antisemitic views are sometimes expressed in centrist political circles. One example is Nicolai Dabija, vice-chairman of the Social Liberal Party and editor of one of the most xenophobic newspapers in the country, *Literatura si Art*, financed by the state budget of Romania. The publication has promoted xenophobic, antisemitic and revisionist views for several years. In April 2004 it published an editorial in which Dabija described children of ethnically mixed couples as "at best mediocre individuals and as a rule disabled, criminals and losers."

Violent incidents motivated by antisemitism are quite rare in Moldova. However, a few antisemitic manifestations were recorded in 2004. For example, from 14 to 30 March more than 70 gravestones at the Tiraspol Jewish cemetery were damaged and desecrated with swastikas and antisemitic slogans, such as "Skins 88." The offenders also destroyed a monument to the victims of Stalin's 1937 repressions at the entrance to the cemetery. In September 2004 the extreme right newspaper *Novii Pridnestrovskii Kurier* denied that the incident had occurred, claiming it was a story fabricated by a Jewish charity Dor l'dor to raise funds. The perpetrators were not found.

Most antisemitism is expressed on the Internet, which is becoming increasingly popular among Moldovan youth. Internet discussion forums, such as *moldova.net* and *yam.ro*, have been used to spread ultra-nationalist and revisionist ideas.

Revisionist historians who deny the Holocaust in Moldova and Romania and praise Antonescu as a national hero are influential in the country. Inspired by their Romanian colleagues, pro-Romanian nationalists in Moldova have become involved in the campaign to rehabilitate Marshall Antonescu and his policy on the 'Jewish question'. The nationalist press (such as *Tara* [Fatherland]) lauded him and there was even a proposal to erect a monument to the *conducator* ('leader', in Romanian) in Chisinau.

The teaching of history in Moldova remains problematic. Pupils are taught 'the history of the Romanians', that is, not of the country or the multiethnic nation but of the dominant ethnic group, and excluding minorities such as the Jews. History books include no information about the Holocaust and the Jewish heritage in Moldova. Moreover, some of the history handbooks present Antonescu in a positive, or at best, neutral, light. Currently, the Moldovan government, with the assistance of the Council of Europe, has initiated a project aimed at preparing an integrated history of Moldova as a multi-ethnic state.

TRANSCAUCASIA

Transcaucasia consists of three republics, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The region is troubled by border disputes.

Republic of Armenia

Some 900 Jews, out of a total population of about 3 million (some 95 percent of whom are Armenian Apostolic) live in Armenia where the level of antisemitism remains low. The main accusation against the Jews is that they allegedly took part in the Turkish massacre of Armenians in 1915. In late June 2004 Amayak Ovannisian, head of the Union of Political Science of Armenia and member of the Armenian parliament, asked the prosecutor's office to investigate whether the remarks of Tigran Karapetian, head of the TV ALM channel and chairman of the National Party of the Republic of Armenia, might be classified as defamation. Karapetian referred to Ovannisian during the program 'Tsena voprosa' (The Price of a Question) as a pickpocket Jew and a liar, and accused the Jews of organizing the mass murder of Armenians by the Turks. No legal proceedings ensued.

Vandalism of Jewish property and sites was rare in 2004 compared to other countries. On 17 September and 17 October the Holocaust monument in Yerevan was desecrated. After the head of the Armenian Jewish community, Rimma Varzhapetyan-Feller, met with the advisor to Armenian President Garnik Isagulyan, on 26 October, the official promised to take steps.

Republic of Azerbaijan

Some 15,000 Jews live in Azerbaijan, out of a total population of about 8 million (some 93 percent of whom are Muslims). Judaism is officially protected as a 'traditional' religion. About 15 Jewish organizations operate in Baku, the capital.

Although the country has no laws that specifically address antisemitism, the level continued to be low. Early in April 2004 the Jewish community of Baku received a threatening letter in Russian, with spelling mistakes, signed by the 'Muslim Brotherhood' and stating that on Passover they would avenge the death of Ahmad Yasin. The authorities increased security of synagogues and sites of Jewish organizations in the republic.

In December a translation into Azeri of Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* was distributed in Baku. The Jewish community asked the authorities to stop sales of the book and to press charges against the publisher. Avaz Zeynalii, editor of the newspaper *Khural*, which published the book, was arrested. Minister of the Interior Ramil Usubov informed the Jewish

community that Zeynalli would be charged with propagating social, religious and national hatred; however, on 28 February 2005 the Azerbaijani authorities closed the case, claiming lack of evidence.

CENTRAL ASIA

About 80–90 percent of the population in the Central Asian states of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and 70 percent of Kazakhstan are Muslim, although not all are religious. The governments of these states are intensely pre-occupied by political Islam, whereby Muslim groups, and especially the banned, strongly anti-western, antisemitic transnational party Hizb ut-Tahrir, try to influence the political situation on the basis of their religious beliefs. According to Begezhan Akhmedov, an officer of the Social Security Forces of Kyrgyzstan, in December 2004, there were about 10,000 members of Hizb-ut-Tahrir in the Central Asian countries. They recruit actively, especially among students, teachers and soldiers. The authorities strengthened their control of all mosques in the region.

Republic of Kazakhstan

Some 10,000 Jews live in Kazakhstan out of a total population of about 15 million. The two leading communal organizations are Mitzvah, the Association of Jewish National Organizations of Kazakhstan, and the Jewish Congress of Kazakhstan.

The continued printing and distribution of antisemitic leaflets by the Islamic fundamentalist organization Hizb ut-Tahrir was the only reported antisemitic activity. The government considers this organization to be illegal (it was officially banned in March 2005), and many of its members have been prosecuted for distributing leaflets and for membership in an extremist organization. For example, in October 2004 the regional court of Karaganda sentenced Faruk Abdugapparov to two years imprisonment for incitement to ethnic and racist hatred and membership in Hizb ut-Tahrir.

Republic of Kyrgyzstan

Some 2,000 Jews live in Kyrgyzstan out of a total population of about 5 million. The small Kyrgyz Jewish community, concentrated in Bishkek, is served by several community facilities.

In October 2004 the press service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan reported that 66 cases of incitement, including antisemitic agitation, had been recorded since the beginning of 2004; 80 people were arrested, suspected of belonging to the banned organization Hizb ut-

Tahrir; and 507 books, over 2000 leaflets and 28 audio cassettes with extremist content were confiscated.

Republic of Uzbekistan

Some 10,000 Jews live in Uzbekistan, out of a total population of about 27 million. The Federation of Jewish Communities (FJC) of Uzbekistan acts as an umbrella group for organizations of the Ashkenazi and Bukharan communities.

In Uzbekistan, too, members of the illegal Hizb ut-Tahrir distributed antisemitic leaflets throughout the country. On 29 July a member of Hizb ut-Tahrir was sentenced to seven years imprisonment by the regional court of Tashkent, after being found guilty of distributing literature which called for a jihad against Americans and Jews. On 31 August, nine members of Hizb-ut-Tahrir were sentenced in Samarkand to 3–14 years of imprisonment for inciting hatred which appeared in the anti-Russian and antisemitic material they distributed.

Four people were killed in Tashkent on 30 July 2004 when suicide bombers blew themselves up near the Israeli embassy, the American embassy and the office of the prosecutor general. The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan took responsibility. Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan and head of a committee to investigate the attack, said he blamed Hizb-ut-Tahrir, although they denied the allegation.

No cases of verbal harassment, physical abuse, or desecration of monuments or cemeteries motivated by antisemitism were recorded in 2004. The government of Uzbekistan promotes anti-discrimination and tolerance education in eleventh grade history textbooks. The authorized textbooks contain information about the Holocaust, the Nazis' antisemitic policy, the extermination camps, and numbers of Jews killed. In addition, Jewish organizations regularly conduct seminars on raising Holocaust and antisemitism awareness.

BALTIC STATES

The three Baltic States, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia they have been members of the European Union since 2004.

All three states established historical committees in order to research the period of World War II in their countries during the Soviet and German occupations, including the Holocaust. The main questions concerning the Holocaust which these committees are researching include: Who were the initiators among the local population of the atrocities against the Jews? To what extent did the Soviet occupation (July 1940–June 1941) influence the anti-Jewish atmosphere? What was

the extent of the anti-Jewish atrocities (number of victims, numbers of collaborators among the local population)?

Republic of Lithuania

Some 6,000 Jews live in Lithuania out of a total population of about 4 million (about 80 percent of whom are Roman Catholics). The Jewish Community of Lithuania (JCL), which has its headquarters in the capital Vilnius, acts as an umbrella organization for a large number of groups.

Manifestations of ethnic hatred in the street and in the mass media are not infrequent. Moreover, in 15 years of Lithuanian independence, no trials have taken place under Article 170 Clause 1 of the Criminal Code, which stipulates imprisonment of up to two years for inciting ethnic, racist, religious or other hatred.

Antisemitism has not been a serious problem in Lithuania in the past decade, although a number of antisemitic events were recorded. The desecration of places of mass burial of Holocaust victims, as well as vandalism of graves at Jewish cemeteries, is a recurring antisemitic manifestation throughout the republic. In the vast majority of cases, the perpetrators are never found. For example, in April 2004 two Jewish sites were desecrated: a memorial near Kaisidor, where 3,000 Jews were shot during World War II, and the cemetery in Vilnius, where several graves were damaged. On 13 August paint was poured on a Holocaust memorial in the Alytus Vidzgirys forest, near the town of Alytus.

At the end of January and again on 3 February 2004, members of the Jewish community, members of parliament and Foreign Ministry officials were mailed anonymous antisemitic messages, which referred to the Jews as “vampires of humanity,” a quote from a book by the Lithuanian ambassador to Israel, Alfonsas Eidintas, *Jews, Lithuanians, and the Holocaust* (2003). (The book tries to explain the behavior of Lithuanians during the Holocaust and the phrase is used as an example of Nazi propaganda). The letters also accused the Jews of crimes against humanity committed in Lithuania during World War II and the genocide of other peoples.

On 20 February, one of the most popular national dailies *Respublika* began publishing an editorial series entitled “Who Rules the World?” with clearly antisemitic views. The final editorial provided the answer: the Jews. A cartoon accompanying the series showed grotesque caricatures of a Jew and a homosexual supporting a large globe. The Prosecutor General’s Office and the State Security Department launched an investigation of *Respublika*’s editor-in-chief for inciting ethnic and racial hatred.

In April, the parliament formed a working group to draft legislation increasing the penalties for inciting antisemitism, racism and xenophobia.

The government continued to support the International Commission for Investigating the Crimes of Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania. The commission, which includes historians, human rights activists, members of international Jewish organizations, and Lithuanian and foreign lawyers, produced several reports in 2004. It also works in cooperation with Yad Vashem Jerusalem and other organizations promoting programs of Holocaust education, including the promotion of tolerance in the country's schools. Nevertheless, the educational system allows a great deal of liberty to teachers to choose their own texts, and they are therefore able to use materials not approved by the government and which paint an unfavorable picture of Lithuania's Jewish community throughout history.

Republic of Latvia

Some 10,000 Jews live in Latvia out of a total population of about 3 million, most of whom are Lutherans. Most Latvian Jews live in the capital Riga. There are about 20 Jewish organizations offering a broad range of services. The Riga Jewish community operates under the Council of Jewish Organizations.

While several memorials to Jews murdered by the Nazis were unveiled in 2004 and the Latvian parliament voted to erect a monument to citizens who saved Jews in World War II, commemoration of Latvian Nazi collaborators continued in parallel. In September 2004 the nationalist organization Union of National Forces (NSS – *Nacionāla Spēka Savienība*) distributed envelopes bearing a picture of Herbert Tsukurs, deputy commander of the Arajs Kommando squad, who was responsible for murdering tens of thousands of Jews and other civilians during World War II. He is suspected of having been in charge of the Riga ghetto. In early July 2004 members of NSS established a political party to run in the March 2005 municipal elections. During a discussion held on 3 July 2004 near the city of Liepāja on the struggle against ethnic Russians, the chairman, V. Birze, called for opposition to Zionists and Jews who, he considered, ruled Latvia.

In October 2004 the parliamentary secretary of the Ministry of Public Integration Affairs, Alexander Brandas, asked the Prosecutor General's Office to investigate Aivar Garda, the publisher of *DDD* ('De-occupation, De-colonization, De-Bolshevization'), for publishing articles calling for the deportation of Russians and Jews from Latvia. Aivar Garda is head of the extremist Latvian National Front.

Latvia has taken many positive steps toward promoting tolerance education. A government-sponsored Holocaust curriculum is included in

the country's educational program, and Ministry of Education regulations require teaching the Holocaust in schools.

Republic of Estonia

Some 2,500 Jews live in Estonia out of a total population of *circa* 1.4 million, about 13 percent of whom are Evangelical Lutheran. Most of the small and relatively self-contained Jewish population live in the capital Tallinn; several American Jewish groups are active in the community.

Estonia is noted for its positive attitude to both the commemoration of Estonian collaborators during World War II and commemoration of Holocaust victims. A memorial to SS Estonian officer Alfons Rebans was unveiled in May 2004 in Viitna, a village in north Estonia. In May 1941 Rebans established the Forest Brothers battalion and fought against the Soviets. He collaborated with the Nazis and received several decorations from them. Although the memorial was a private initiative, the unveiling ceremony was attended by a member of parliament.

On 6 July 2004 the 12th rally of veterans of the Union of Fighters for the Liberation of Estonia, comprising the Forest Brothers and the 20th Estonian SS division, took place in Tallinn. The rally was attended by former president of Estonia Lannart Meri and former foreign minister Trivime Velliste.

On 20 August 2004 a memorial in honor of Estonian soldiers who fought and collaborated with the Nazis was unveiled in the town of Lihula. Jews both inside and outside Estonia protested against the ceremony, which was attended by about 2,000. In early September the memorial was dismantled by government decision.

In an interview published in *Postimes* in late January 2004, Estonian Minister of Education Toivo Maimets stated that commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January, in schools should be held in conjunction with events marking the deportation of Estonians in 1941 and 1949 by the Soviets.

In early September 2004 Tiit Madisson, a prominent Soviet-era dissident, head of the extreme right Central Nation of Nationalists and mayor of Lihula, published a book, *The New World Order*, which accuses the Jews of causing both world wars and the October Revolution, of financing Hitler, and of a conspiracy to rule the world. He labeled the Holocaust "the greatest historic lie," Cyclone B "an insecticide" and *Reichkristallnacht*, a Jewish provocation.

Full report online at
<http://antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/cis.htm>

HUNGARY

The 80,000 Jews living in Hungary, out of a total population of 10.55 million constitute the largest Jewish community in eastern Europe outside the borders of the former Soviet Union. The great majority live in Budapest, but there are also communities in Miskolc and Debrecen, as well as in smaller cities. The Federation of Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) is the main body of Hungarian Jewry.

Antisemitism in Hungary appeared mainly in far right publications and demonstrations. MIEP supporters continued their tradition, in March 2004, of shouting antisemitic slogans and tearing the US flag to shreds at their annual rally in Budapest, commemorating the 1848–49 revolution. Further, during the anniversary demonstrations of both right and left marking the 1956 uprising, antisemitic and anti-Israel slogans, such as accusing Israel of war crimes, were heard from the right.

On 11 January 2004 an Israeli flag was burned at a demonstration organized by right-wing groups demanding the closure of an alternative radio station, Tilos Radio. During a debate on Christian values on the station, the talk show host had said that he would “wipe out all Christians.” This comment generated heated public discussion. It was alleged that Jews/Jewish-leftists were behind anti-Christian expressions and that antisemitism was treated much more harshly than anti-Christian hate speech. The radio station was banned temporarily by the National Radio and TV Authority.

The year 2004 marked the 60th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary, the last community to be destroyed by the Nazis, with the full cooperation of the Hungarian authorities. The number of commemorative events, in Hungary and abroad, in Israel, the US and other Jewish centers, often with the participation of leading Hungarian figures, exceeded all expectations. Reinforced by extensive media coverage, the year 2004 became a milestone in the development of Hungarian collective memory as well as memory of the Holocaust. The key message of Hungary’s leaders, reiterated on numerous occasions, was that the destruction of Hungarian Jewry, was not only the responsibility of the Hungarian people, albeit with German pressure and support, but was a crime committed by Hungarians against their fellow citizens, who for years were considered ‘members of the nation’. It was thus implied that a crime had been carried out against the Hungarian nation as well. By shifting the blame onto the Hungarian people, a process that began prior to 2004, the Hungarians have clearly indicated that they are now

facing their own past in a manner seemingly unparalleled among the former communist states.

At the opening of the Holocaust Museum Center in Budapest, attended by Israeli President Moshe Katzav on 15 April 2004, Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Medgyessi declared that the extermination of Hungarian Jews was “a heinous crime committed by Hungarian people against other Hungarian people” and that for such crimes “there is no excuse, no explanation, only reconciliation.”

A neo-Nazi organization, Group for a Hungarian Future (Magyar Jovo Csoport), which adheres openly to the legacy of the wartime fascist Arrow Cross movement and its leader Ferenc Szalasi, attracted media attention both in Hungary and abroad, serving to spotlight the re-emergence of similar groups which still draw dozens of supporters. Group for a Hungarian Future is led by 26-year-old student Diana Bacsfi, who branded the Jews “an inferior race.” In September she was arrested on a charge of incitement against a religious or ethnic community and ordered by a court to undergo psychological tests.

In October 2004 a small group of neo-Nazis tried to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the rise to power of the Arrow Cross party in Hungary. Relating to this event, as well as to the arrest of Bacsfi, the Swiss *Le Temps* wrote that while “the far right is losing ground in Hungary... the resurgence of the antisemitic, pro-fascist current is causing alarm in a country two-thirds of whose Jews died in the Holocaust.”

Full report online at

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/hungary.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/hungary.htm)

POLAND

There are some 5,000–10,000 Jews in Poland out of a total population of close to 40 million. The majority live in Warsaw, Wrocław, Kraków and Łódź. The Union of Jewish Religious Communities (Związek Kongregacji Wyznania Mojżeszowego), or Kehilla, and the secular Jewish Socio-Cultural Society (Towarzystwo Społeczno-Kulturalne Żydowskie), or Ferband, are the leading communal organizations and these, together with other Jewish groups, are linked by membership in the KKOZRP, which acts as a roof organization.

The level of antisemitic activity in Poland remained fairly stable. A few incidents were recorded, including the daubing of swastikas and a Star of David on the walls of the Tempel synagogue in the Kazimierz Jewish quarter in June. In October *Angora*, a tabloid-style weekly news digest, plastered anti-Jewish posters on its offices in central Łódź. Despite protests from the Israeli embassy in Poland, the posters were removed only after a month.

Jewish visitors to Auschwitz suffered abuse on a few occasions. In August French tourists shouted antisemitic and anti-Israel insults at a group of Israeli students, while in October three young Poles shouted “Zhid, Zhid” at a Swedish Jew.

The government-owned company Ruch sells hard-core antisemitic literature of Leszek Bubel, a veteran antisemitic publisher who has produced, among other works, pocket editions of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

The political climate in the country continued to move right in 2004. Widespread disillusionment with the Social Democratic government (in power since 2001) was exploited by extreme right and nationalistic parties. The League of Polish Families (Liga Polskich Rodzin – LPR), for example, whose members have frequently expressed antisemitic sentiments, more than doubled their share of the vote in the June 2004 European Parliament election, from 7 per cent in the 2001 national election, to 15 per cent.

The LPR, which is associated with the antisemitic radio station Radio Maryja (see below), won nine seats in the European Parliament. Expressing its wish to cooperate with moderate conservative parties, it joined the UK Independence Party (UKIP), among others, in the Democracy and Independence bloc (see *ASW 2003/4*). Among newly elected MEPs is Wojciech Wierzejski, until recently a leader of the resurrected All-Polish Youth (Młodzież Wszechpolska – MW). The MW continues the tradition of the violent antisemitic youth organization of

the same name which was active in the 1920s and 1930s. Today it is composed largely of skinheads and tends to use violence against those perceived as opponents, notably gay and feminist groups.

The radical antisemite Jędrzej Giertych, who was prominent in the interwar period, has had a profound influence on the ideology of the LPR and MW, a fact acknowledged by party leaders on numerous occasions. The LPR's presidential candidate Professor Maciej Giertych is Jędrzej Giertych's son, while the main spokesman of the LPR, Roman Giertych, is his grandson.

The LPR has already formed an alliance with the conservative Law and Justice party (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość – PiS) in the Warsaw city council. The conservative mayor, Lech Kaczyński, accepted the LPR's demand to build a monument to Roman Dmowski in the city center. Dmowski was the ideologue of the nationalist antisemitic movement Endecja in the 1920s and 1930s. In February 2004, Jan Maria Jackowski, a leader of the LPR, was elected chairman of the city council. In one of his books he warned against Poland becoming a “land reserve” for “one of the parties in the Middle East conflict,” alluding to potential Jewish settlement in Poland.

The other dynamic antisemitic party, National Rebirth of Poland (Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski – NOP), is active at the street level, among skinheads and football hooligans. It organizes annual training for neo-fascist groups from various countries and is closely linked to the Italian neo-fascist Forza Nuova. The party openly supports Holocaust denial and its publication *Szczerbiec* (distributed by the state-owned company Ruch) includes a regular column written by British Holocaust denier David Irving. Despite numerous calls in the media and by the Never Again Association to ban the NOP (on the basis of Article 13 of the country's Constitution) and to stop distribution of *Szczerbiec* at state-owned newspaper kiosks, the NOP continues its activities unhindered. It also expresses support for Islamic terrorist groups.

In August 2004, the Polish government announced it would build a memorial museum on the territory of the former death camp in Treblinka, in cooperation with Yad Vashem. Scheduled for opening in 2006, it will be followed by museums in Chelmno and Solibor.

In March 2004 the Council of Ministers approved a National Action Program against Racism. It is hoped the program will strengthen the implementation of existing legal provisions against hate speech and organized racist activity.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/poland.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/poland.htm)

ROMANIA

The Jewish community in Romania has dwindled to fewer than 6,000 out of a total population of 21.5 million. Several thousand more, mostly in mixed marriages, are thought to have chosen not to declare themselves as Jews. The major Jewish centers are Bucharest, Iasi, Cluj and Oradea, where the local communities are well organized. The Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania promotes and coordinates communal activities.

The Greater Romania Party (PRM) suffered a resounding defeat in the November/December national elections: Tudor Vadim obtained only 12.57 percent of the vote as presidential candidate and the party won 12.92 percent for the Chamber of Deputies and 13.63 percent for the Senate. The PRM had been the second largest party after the 2000 parliamentary elections.

There was much speculation in 2004 as to whether Vadim Tudor's courting of Jews and Israel was genuine or was a tactic calculated to win legitimization, especially in the Jewish world. After the elections, analysts pointed to the PRM's return to its previous line, although it was preoccupied more with internal power struggles than with Jewish issues.

In general, manifestations of the 'new antisemitism', associated in western Europe with the identification of Israel, Zionism and Jews as a single evil entity, have not been evidenced in Romania. In fact, there has been no marked change in recent years in the positions of nationalist and extreme right elements vis-à-vis the Jews/Zionism/Israel.

In January 2005 the Center for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism (MCA Romania), www.antisemitism.ro, reported "a sharp rise in antisemitism," based on several incidents of intimidation of Jewish persons by threatening messages and e-mail. MCA also reported a rise in the display of symbols supporting wartime fascist ruler Ion Antonescu, and in the distribution of neo-Nazi and pro-Iron Guard literature.

As in previous years, antisemitic propaganda accompanied the ongoing campaign to rehabilitate the Antonescu legacy and to cleanse historical memory of the fate of Romanian Jewry during the Holocaust. The material on pro-Legionnaire (successors of the wartime fascist Iron Guard movement) sites attempts to introduce the doctrines of Iron Guard founder Corneliu Codreanu to the younger generation through historical revisionism, including whitewashing the Iron Guard's murderous activities, such as the January 1941 pogrom in Iasi, which it attributes to 'Jewish behavior'. Such propaganda activities might be linked directly to official and public reactions following submission of

the Report of the International Commission of Historians on the Holocaust in Romania in October 2004.

The report of the International Commission of Historians on the Holocaust in Romania (often referred to in the media as “The Wiesel Commission”) was presented to President Ion Iliescu prior to the 2004 presidential elections. Its findings indicting Romania for the murder of between 280,000 and 380,000 Romanian and Ukrainian Jews now serves as a guide for Romania's treatment of the Holocaust.

The debate in Romanian society over the nation's role in the Holocaust intensified in late 2004, with arguments for and against the rehabilitation of Ion Antonescu. Romania's entry into NATO and negotiations over its projected membership of the EU and other structures of integration by 2007, heightened discussion concerning Romania's need to face its role in the Holocaust.

There were numerous responses in 2004 to antisemitism and a discourse on the implications of the past for the present and future of the country. The wide media coverage following publication of the Wiesel Commission Report generated much public interest and discussion of ‘the Holocaust in Romania’, a concept that has now entered Romanian terminology, after years of debate as to whether ‘there was a Holocaust in Romania’. The newspaper of the Federation of Jewish Communities, *Realitatea Evreiasca* (24 Dec. 2004) referred to “the extermination of more than 280,000 Romanian Jews during the Holocaust years” as “an undeniable fact.” Vice-President of the Wiesel Commission General (res.) Mihail E. Ionescu and commission member Lya Benjamin, prominent historian of the Jewish community in Romania, both wrote articles for *Realitatea Evreiasca* and the national media on the commission's work and conclusions.

Full report online at

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/romania.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/romania.htm)

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia has some 3,000 Jews out of a total population of 5.35 million. The largest Jewish community is in the capital Bratislava; smaller communities also exist in Kosice, Presov, Komarno and Dunajska Sreda. The Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Slovak Republic is the main communal organization.

Slovakia's new standing as a member of the European Union has hardened the position of extremist parties toward the EU as well as toward other European structures of integration. The small extreme left and the more vocal extreme right, as well as populist groups, have warned against the 'march of globalization'. The issue of the Roma came to the fore after social benefit cuts in early 2004 provoked violent clashes between them and the authorities, especially in eastern Slovakia. The country's human rights record on this and other matters was under close scrutiny of European and US monitoring bodies.

International coordination activities of the extreme right continued in 2004 with active Slovak participation. In July 2004 a "regional reunion of the Third Position partnership, the European National Front" took place in Slovakia, which was represented by Slovenska Pospolitost (Slovak Community). European extremists agreed to coordinate their activities and cooperate more closely.

The attempts to rewrite history and rehabilitate the wartime ideological line continued in a variety of forums such as 'scientific' meetings, and in numerous publications. Leading revisionists such as Milan S. Durica and Jozef M. Rydlo continued to write positive appraisals of the Tiso regime. Moreover, the apologetic Catholic line in defense of Tiso's legacy appears to have intensified. Various references to 'Christian traditions' and 'legacy' are, in fact, connected to the continuous whitewashing of the Tiso era and its deeds. Further, nationalists and revisionists claim repeatedly that Tiso's regime was not to blame for the Holocaust in Slovakia, and that the regime and its leaders were serving "God and the nation." Stanislav Majek, for example, who is widely acclaimed in Catholic circles, published a clerical-nationalist, antisemitic and pro-Tiso book defending the role of Bishop Jan Vojtassak, deputy chairman of the State Council (of the fascist Slovak state). According to Majek, neither Vojtassak nor Tiso initiated or approved anti-Jewish steps (see *ASW* 2003/4).

Under the title "Duchovny holokaust" (A Spiritual Holocaust), the editor in chief of *Kultura* (19–20/2004) complained that much is written and said about the Jews but little about the culture of the Slovak

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majority, which is neglected by Jewish intellectuals. The Slovak nation is “losing its spiritual blood... it is almost a spiritual Holocaust,” he claimed.

During 2004 the public Institute of National Remembrance gathered information on Jewish property confiscated in the Holocaust. It was intending to publish the names of companies owned by Jews that were taken over by the fascist regime in late 2005.

Full report online at

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/slovakia.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/slovakia.htm)

The Middle East

ARAB COUNTRIES

No particular event in 2004 in the Middle East or in the world in general prompted an upsurge in antisemitic manifestations in Arab countries. Arab states were preoccupied with their own internal affairs and with regional political upheavals, especially the war in Iraq, the war against terror and the process of democratization enforced by the US vision of the world. However, reactions to these events revealed a prevailing belief in conspiracy theories and in the long, unseen hand of Jews and Israelis, allegedly driven by their traditional enmity toward Islam, Muslims and Arabs and their desire to control the world.

Jews and Israelis were blamed for every disaster which befell Arabs and Muslims, as well as for terrorist attacks, such as the March 11 bombings in Madrid and the October attack in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba. The sudden deterioration and death of Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasir Arafat in November prompted charges that Israel had poisoned him.

The continued state of war in Iraq, and the accompanying bloody resistance of Islamist rebels, was a major cause of the deteriorating attitude toward the US and its identification with Israeli/Jewish interests in the Arab world. To indicate their distrust and rejection of the troops of the "Nazi American-Zionist occupation," Iraqis reportedly refer to American soldiers as 'the Jews'. Jews were blamed for the sectarian war raging between Sunnis and Shi'ites, and cartoons depicted them as gnawing at Iraqi territory or collaborating with the devil in igniting sectarianism and civil war. *Der Stürmer*-like caricatures of Sharon enjoying the Iraqi bloodbath or encouraging American President Bush to drink Iraqi blood personified the Jew in Egyptian and Jordanian mainstream papers. Reports on Jewish infiltration of Iraq as soldiers or settlers typified the Islamist discourse, which claimed that America was fighting in Iraq on behalf of Israel. The mainstream Egyptian paper *al-Akhabbar* even alleged that the Jews were orchestrating the killings and kidnappings in Iraq in order to spread anarchy and sedition.

In addition to persistent allegations in the Arab media that the Jews or the US had masterminded the 9/11 events, the terrorist attacks carried out during the year by Muslim extremists, who either belonged to al-Qa`ida or identified with its views, were attributed to Jews or to Jewish scheming. "It is the Jews and their filthy unseen hands who play their

role expertly in order to harm the Arabs and Muslims and to intensify hatred toward them,” it was said.

All these conspiracy theories were designed to explain the chaotic and inferior situation of Arab and Muslim societies which consider themselves victims of a dominant Judeo-Christian West.

The Egyptian media continued to attack Israel and its policies, often in antisemitic terms. Stressing the ‘symbiotic’ relationship between the US and Israel in regard to developments in Palestine and Iraq, as well as the Zionist/Jewish influence in shaping the negative US attitude toward Arabs and Muslims, commentators looked for ‘the unseen hand’ behind these events in *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, and in the equation of Zionism with racism or Nazism and the employment of classical Jewish stereotypes.

In addition to countless caricatures depicting PM Sharon in Nazi uniform and relishing bloodshed, crucifying peace and admired by Hitler, the equation of Zionist Jews with Nazis was repeated in numerous articles. One article enumerated the similarities between Zionist and Nazi conduct, including concentration camps, the use of internationally banned weapons and means of torture, expansionism, violation of international agreements and arrogance, the notion of supremacy, spying and terror, false propaganda, and turning their countries into “closed, racist, isolated and hated” states.

Intensified clashes between the Israeli army and militant Palestinian groups in the Gaza Strip, which culminated in IDF incursions into Rafah and in the assassination of Hamas leaders Yasin and Ranitisi, not only further inflamed anti-Israel sentiments and caused the suspension of an Egyptian delegation’s visit to Israel for the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty on 26 March 1979, but gave rise to classical antisemitic motifs. Khalid Amayreh created a link between the military operation and the celebration of Purim in the same week. “The Israeli army,” he contended, “saw to it that the Purim rituals were re-enacted more authentically and that as much ‘enemy blood’ as international public opinion would allow was shed.”

The annual Cairo Book Fair in January and the Arab publishers’ display at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October exhibited books containing antisemitic, Holocaust denial and conspiracy theory texts. Whereas the Cairo Fair drew only the attention of the ADL, which surveyed some of the books in its *Arab Media Review*, the display of a dozen books with “strong anti-Zionist themes” at the Frankfurt Book Fair and the appearance of Egyptian editor of the French *al-Abram hebdo*, Muhammad Salmawi, to present Nobel laureate Najib Mahfuz’s address,

drew strong criticism from Jewish organizations such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the International Jewish Rights Organization, *inter alia*, because Salmawi had supported Holocaust deniers Roger Garaudy and David Irving. The Wiesenthal Center representative submitted a complaint to the Frankfurt prosecutor's office concerning 13 books which reportedly contained negative depictions of the Jews according to the Qur'an or alluded to Jewish involvement in conspiracies. The complaint was rejected on the grounds of that the evidence was insufficient to determine whether the books in question violated German laws which prohibit publications denying the Holocaust or inciting hatred or crime. Representatives of the Arab delegation refuted the center's criticism, denying that they promoted anti-Jewish views and claiming that while some books contained anti-Zionist arguments, they were not racist.

The discussion of antisemitism which began in 2003 in the wake of the situation in Europe, continued to dominate Arab public discourse in early 2004 (see *ASW 2003/4*). The inclusion of anti-Zionism and denial of Israel's right to exist in the definition of the 'new antisemitism' (see article "Defining Antisemitism") drew harsh Arab criticism. Antisemitism was a term "far too widely used and abused by Israelis and Jews alike to answer any accusations of Palestinian maltreatment and charges of anti-Arab American policy," it had been claimed. The American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee contested the definition of antisemitism in the unabridged version of *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*: "... opposition to Zionism: sympathy with opponents of the State of Israel," whereas Joseph Massad, a Palestinian professor of modern Arab politics and intellectual history at Columbia University, argued that the term was "anachronistic and ahistorical." He contended that the main victims of antisemitism today were Arabs and Muslims. "It is not Jews who are being murdered by the thousands by Arab antisemitism," he wrote, "but rather Arabs and Muslims who are being murdered in the tens of thousands by Euro-American Christian antisemitism and by Israeli Jewish anti-Semitism."

While many writers did not deny the existence of hatred toward Jews or Israel in Europe or in the Arab world, they insisted that it did not derive from antisemitism but from the "war of extermination" against the Palestinians carried out by Sharon and his government and seen nightly on television screens. Zionism and the Jews whose racist beliefs about their racial supremacy guided Israel's policies of oppression and destruction antagonized the world. Hence, the accusation of antisemitism had become a "sword" threatening whosoever criticized "aggressive racist Israeli policies."

Several other issues, among them the 25th anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement, the Holocaust, the controversy over Mel Gibson's film *The Passion*, the American act against antisemitism and the European campaign to combat antisemitism triggered commentaries and discussions which revealed the extent to which traditional antisemitic prejudices and beliefs are entrenched in Arab thought. However, it should be noted that a few voices denounced extremism, terrorism and the resort to conspiracy theories, not only because they damaged the Arab cause but also because they obfuscated the Arabs' ability to tackle their own problems.

There was a growing sense of realization among Arab intellectuals, politicians and religious scholars of the harmful effects of terrorism and of the state of denial of Muslim involvement in it. Following the Madrid bombings several writers issued condemnations, emphasizing that Islam forbids random killing of innocent people. Although some linked the attacks to American policy, others recognized them for what they were – an illicit massacre of innocent passengers – detrimental first and foremost to Muslim immigrant communities in Europe. Criticism was even more blatant after the attack in October by Chechen terrorists on a school in Besalan, Russia. Egyptian President Mubarak and Jordan's King `Abdallah denounced it, and even Egyptian Shaykh al-Azhar Muhammad Tantawi, the highest religious authority in the Sunni world, emphasized that the perpetrators were criminals unconnected to Islam. "Obviously not all Muslims are terrorists," wrote liberal columnist `Abd al-Rahman al-Rashid in *al-Sharq al-Awsat*, but "the painful truth is that all terrorists are Muslims," and "Islam is discredited because of the new Muslims [extremist fundamentalists]." Acts of violence and barbarism, added another columnist, are the natural consequence of instilling in generations of Muslims hostility and hatred toward others. Qatari scholar `Abd al-Hamid al-Ansari even wondered after publication of the findings of the commission that investigated the September 11 events, whether Arabs would have the courage to review their erroneous beliefs and their religious, cultural and media discourse which pushed their youth toward a collision course with the world. Stressing that these convictions were deeply rooted in religion, in historical causes and in political circumstances, he pointed to the negative depiction of the Children of Israel in the Qur'an and in the oral tradition, nourishing the belief that the Jews are the cause of all evil in the world and that the conflict with them would last until Judgment Day.

Full report online at
<http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/arab.htm>

TURKEY

The Turkish Jewish community numbers approximately 20,000 out of a total population of 70 million. Most live in Istanbul. The community is represented by the Chief Rabbinate.

Despite newspaper reports claiming that the Islamist terrorist group Turkish Hizballah were intending to cooperate with al-Qa`ida in operations against Jewish and other minority targets, following the November 2003 double bomb attack on two adjacent synagogues killing 24 people (6 of them Jews), no violent antisemitic incident was recorded in 2004. The Turkish police are taking such threats very seriously and have stepped up security at Jewish institutions.

A wide range of subjects relating to Jews and Israel was treated with an antisemitic slant by the Islamist and ultra-nationalist media. Extremely antisemitic articles appeared in the Islamist newspapers *Vakit* and *Milli Gazete*, and in the ultra-nationalist publications *Ortadoğu* and *Yeniçağ*. These articles can be divided loosely into 1) commentaries which attacked Jews or Judaism directly, such as their alleged desecration of the Old Testament or which cited books such as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*; and 2) criticism of Israeli policies, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Zionism. *Vakit* columnist Abdürrahman Karakoç, for example, who routinely targets Jews, published an article (17 Aug.) praising Hitler, and accusing Israel of aping the Nazis and controlling the US. Following letters of protest by the Jewish community to the Turkish press, an investigation was opened in order to determine whether the law against racism had been infringed (see below).

Conspiracy theories are used by both Islamists and ultra-nationalists to demonize Jews and Israel. Turkish-Israeli arms modernization projects; agricultural projects in southeast Turkey connected to GAP (the South-East Anatolia Agricultural Irrigation Project), which employ Israeli experts; mutual visits of Turkish and Israeli officials; and the alleged role of the Mossad in northern Iraq (for example, "The Mossad is the boss in northern Iraq") have all nourished these theories.

A ubiquitous subject in the Islamist media especially was the *Donmes* (Crypto-Jews, followers of Shabtai Zvi, 1626–76), who converted to Islam. Their descendants are accused by journalists such as Mehmet Sevkett Eygi of *Milli Gazete* and by leftist Yalçın Küçük in several of his books of being undercover Jews who have attained high office in the Turkish administration, which they misuse for their own hidden agenda.

Another claim raised frequently by ultra-nationalist papers such as *Ortadoğu* and *Yeni Çağ* since the war in Iraq is that most of the Kurds,

including leaders Mustafa Barzani and Jalal Talabani, are of Jewish origin, whose alleged ultimate goal is to set up another Israel in northern Iraq under the guise of a sovereign Kurdish state. Such a state, which will serve the ultimate dream of a Greater Israel – ‘the Promised Land’ – from the Nile to the Euphrates, will include part of southeast Turkey. This would explain, so the line of reasoning continues, why Israel is supposedly buying up land in southeast Turkey, *inter alia*, through the agency of Turkish Jews. It was also reported during 2004 that Mossad agents were training Kurdish militants against Turkey, a claim which created a very negative atmosphere against Israel and Jews in Turkey. On 24 June 2004, columnist Şakir Süter wrote an article in the mainstream newspaper *Akşam*, calling on Turkish Jews to warn Sharon that if Israel did not stop training Kurdish militants in northern Iraq, friendly relations with Turkish Jews would end. A member of the Jewish community lodged a complaint about the article with the judicial authorities. However, it was rejected, under Turkey’s press laws, on the grounds that it had been submitted too late.

Islamist-oriented TV channels such as Mesaj and Kanal 7 take advantage of every news item concerning the Middle East to attack the Jews with derogatory religious statements, sometimes including quotations from the Qur’an.

Numerous books by the Turkish Islamist Adnan Oktar, aka Adnan Hodja, are on display in almost every bookstore, under the pseudonym Harun Yahya. His revisionist writings focusing on Jews and Israel are rife with false accusations and caricatures. It should be noted, however, that Adnan Oktar has undergone a change and become more tolerant toward Jews and others; he now works toward promoting inter-religious dialogue.

Two books published in 2004, *Turkey under the Threat of Israel and Zionism*, by the nationalist Cemal Anadol and *The Wooden Sword of the Jew*, by Mustafa Akgün, a columnist of *Milli Gazete*, were under judicial investigation (see below). Anadol’s tract is an attack on world Jewry, taking the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a starting point. Both books are filled with well-known conspiracy theories about the Jews in general and libelous claims about Jews living in Turkey in particular.

Translations of classic antisemitic tracts such as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, Henry Ford’s *International Jew* and Hitler’s *Mein Kampf* are sold at well-known bookstores. *Mein Kampf*, a best-seller in Turkey, printed by various publishing houses, is apparently subsidized and sold very cheaply.

The need for Holocaust education has become more urgent due to the significant increase of articles in the radical Turkish press, in

particular *Vakit*, denying the Holocaust or complaining that too few Jews were killed. Expressions such as “Hitler’s ‘gas’ is a lie, as is the ‘jazz’ of the Zionists”; “the so-called Yad Vashem Genocide Museum”; “the ‘legend’ called the liberation of Auschwitz”; and “Did Hitler do enough to the Jews?” commonly appear in such articles. Nevertheless, two events took place in 2004 which the mainstream media portrayed as demonstrating the brutality of the Holocaust and the necessity of remembering it for the sake of the future of humanity. One was the exhibition “Children in the Theresienstadt Camp,” held in the Schneider temple, an Ashkenazi synagogue built in 1900 and converted into an art exhibition center in 1999. The other was a documentary screened in cinemas and on TV channels and entitled *Desperate Hours*, concerning the rescue of hundreds of Jews who were given Turkish passports by Turkish diplomats serving in Europe during World War II. In addition, the well-known writer Engin Ardiç, whose articles appear in the mainstream newspaper *Akşam*, fights actively against Holocaust denial. He has visited Auschwitz and other camps and written frequently and in great detail about the horror and uniqueness of the Holocaust. Five court cases were in progress in Istanbul. Two dealt with Anadol’s and Akgün’s books mentioned above. Three cases concerned antisemitic statements published in the press, two of them initiated by Minister of Justice Cemil Çiçek, who for the first time ever ordered legal proceedings to be taken against antisemitic remarks made during a newspaper interview given in December 2003 by the son of the terrorist who blew up himself in the bomb attack at HSBC Bank on 20 November 2003, as well as against the abovementioned article in *Vakit*.

The trial was of the murderers of the young Jewish dentist Yasef Yahya, slain in August 2003 allegedly because he was a Jew, was still continuing.

In the trial of the alleged perpetrators of the November 2003 bomb attacks, some of those arrested were released after the court determined that the attack was not an organized criminal act.

Full report online at
[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/turkey.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/turkey.htm)

North America

CANADA

According to the 2001 census, an estimated 348,600 Jews lived in Canada out of a total population of approximately 31.1 million. The main Jewish centers are Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Calgary and Edmonton. The main advocacy organizations are B'nai Brith Canada and the Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA).

In total, 857 antisemitic incidents were reported in 2004, representing an overall increase of 46.7 percent over the previous year. This figure follows a 27 percent rise in 2003 and a 60 percent in 2002. In fact, the number of reported events increased more than three-fold between 2001 and 2004. Incidents of violence and vandalism doubled in 2004, while one-third of harassment cases involved threats of physical harm, including death threats. There were 40 incidents targeting synagogues, marking a significant increase (74 percent) over the 23 synagogue incidents recorded in 2003. There were also 25 incidents targeting Jewish communal buildings and more than a three-fold increase in cases involving cemetery desecrations – up from three in 2003 to ten in 2004.

In 2004, as in 2003, the single most active group in carrying out antisemitic incidents was found to be made up of persons who identified themselves as Arab. In fact, the number in this category more than doubled, from 36 in 2003 to 80 in 2004. In another worrying development, 66 antisemitic incidents took place in the public school system, up from 22 in 2003, suggesting a growing trend there toward acting out anti-Jewish prejudices and biases.

Jewish students – often visibly Jewish – were targeted in 47 antisemitic incidents reported on campus. The year 2004 saw a continuation of the trend of inflammatory anti-Israel campaigns, as well as rallies and events demonizing the Jewish state and delegitimizing its existence, and implicitly endorsing violence and terrorism against its citizens. The resulting poisoned atmosphere has led to desecration of Jewish symbols, antisemitic graffiti, dissemination of inflammatory literature, antisemitic canards by university faculty members, and intimidation and physical assaults on Jewish students. In one incident, a poster proclaiming that “Jesus and Hitler told the truth about the Jews” was sent to a student group active at McMaster University in Hamilton.

A furor arose over remarks made by Mohammed Elmasry, engineering professor at the University of Waterloo and president of the Canadian Islamic Congress, during a panel discussion, entitled “What Is

a Terrorist?” broadcast on public television on 19 October 2004. Elmasry claimed that since Israeli civilians served in the Israeli Defense Forces at some time in their lives, they could not be considered civilians entitled to protection from terrorist attacks. The police were investigating following complaints.

Speakers disseminating Holocaust denial, extreme anti-Israel ideas and accusations of exploitation of the Holocaust by the Jewish establishment, such as Norman Finkelstein, have been welcomed on campuses at Montreal and Toronto, among others. At the same time, Jewish students have not been able to host speakers of their choice, as was the case with a planned visit by former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak in October. This situation led to B’nai Brith Canada lodging a complaint against Concordia University, which came under deliberation before the Quebec Human Rights Commission,

The antisemitism of the far left frequently hides behind the guise of anti-racism as well as anti-globalization, as seen during the anti-Iraq war demonstrations when messaging and rhetoric erupted in several cases into anti-Jewish slurs. Openly antisemitic signs at such protests were seen on the streets and on university campuses in Ottawa, Toronto, London and Montreal, among others. For example, at an anti-war rally in Ottawa during a visit by President Bush, on 30 November, protesters brandished signs, flags and T-shirts emblazoned with swastikas, antisemitic images and antisemitic and anti-Israel slogans. In addition, flyers protesting the war often repeated the canard of Jewish control of American foreign policy. Far left-wing factions frequently joined forces with extremist anti-Israel groups which are especially active on Canadian campuses. For the most part over the course of 2004, the far left tended to marginalize the experience of the Jewish community which suffered an increasing amount of hate-related activity. Apart from instances when *pro forma* condemnations were issued in high profile cases, antisemitism simply has not reached the agenda of anti-racist groups in the country in any meaningful way.

Much far right-wing activity in Canada during 2004 was related to the re-appearance in the country of Holocaust denier Ernst Zündel. The ongoing hearings into the reasonableness of a security certificate issued against Zündel in 2003 continued throughout 2004. These proceedings became a rallying point for extreme right activities in Canada. Protests were held in a number of locations across Canada and the United States in support of Zündel and in an attempt to raise funds for his legal defense. On 9 March 2004, for instance, there was a public protest in Toronto followed by an international conference of Holocaust deniers

and neo-Nazis convened in his honor the following month in Sacramento and attended by Canadian sympathizers.

Racist organizations are not prohibited in Canada, putting Canada in violation of Article 4(b) of the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. However, since the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that immigration provisions allowing deportation based on membership in a terrorist organization are constitutional, prohibiting membership in racist groups would also appear to be constitutional.

Despite some official action, anti-racism initiatives have been hampered by unwillingness among the wider community to admit that antisemitism is a serious problem in the country. This point is illustrated by an episode that took place on 19 April 2004, during the Senate hearings on antisemitism. Professor Stephen Scheinberg, a former national chair of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights and a renowned expert on antisemitism, was prevented from presenting evidence on the grounds that antisemitic propaganda emanating from a Muslim community organization was irrelevant to the discussions.

Both the legal and the human rights systems were used during 2004 to access protection for victims of hate-related activity, with varying measures of success. Of the 857 incidents recorded in 2004, only 13 resulted in charges. The person accused of perpetrating the 5 April 2004 firebombing of the United Talmud Torah Jewish Day School was charged with arson and, on 18 January 2005, convicted and sentenced to 40 months imprisonment (the provision carries a maximum of 14 years). Hate as an aggravating factor was considered at sentencing but ultimately not recognized as such.

In the vast majority of complaints of antisemitism the perpetrator is unknown. Moreover, in over one-third of cases no criminal charge under Canada's Criminal Code would apply. The limitations of the law have been exacerbated by the apparent reluctance of the provincial attorney generals to apply the existing hate crime laws where they are applicable. This is illustrated, for example, in the case of the British Columbia-based Arab community newspaper *The Miracle*, which published an article accusing the Jews of responsibility for all the major wars and misfortunes of the world. A complaint to the police resulted in a lengthy process throughout 2004 before the decision was reached not to lay hate crime charges on the basis that 'intent' to incite hatred (*mens rea*) could not be shown on the part of the newspaper.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/canada.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/canada.htm)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Jewish community of the United States numbers 5.2 million, comprising 2.2 percent of the total population of 282.1 million. The bulk of American Jewry live in major metropolitan areas and their environs, including New York, Los Angeles, Southeast Florida, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco Bay, Philadelphia and Cleveland. Leading national Jewish organizations include the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Anti-Defamation League (ADL), B'nai Brith, Hadassah, Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), Jewish War Veterans (JWV) and many other religious, fraternal and Zionist groups. The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations acts as the domestic and foreign policy umbrella group for 52 member organizations. United Jewish Communities (UJC) represents Jewish community federations and independent Jewish communities throughout North America.

While most antisemitic activity in the US is limited to hate propaganda, members of extremist organizations and their associates sometimes engage in threats, violence and vandalism. The overall total of 1,823 antisemitic incidents in 2004 was up 17 percent over 2003 (1,557); this is the highest total in the nine-year period from 1995 to 2004. The average annual figure, 1997–2003, was 1,555.

Notable in the 2004 numbers was a major increase of 27 percent in harassment, with a total of 1,178 compared to 929 in 2003, as well as a small increase of 3 percent in vandalism, with 645 incidents compared to 628 in 2003. Ongoing security measures to protect synagogues and other Jewish property, along with effective law enforcement involvement, have kept antisemitic vandalism from rising significantly.

The major increase in harassment occurred in several of the states with the largest Jewish populations, and appears to be a long-term trend. New York showed a 45 percent increase; Florida 80 percent; California 62 percent; New Jersey 30 percent and Massachusetts 38 percent. This trend was also evident in smaller states.

Among the most serious incidents reported in 2004 were two arson attacks and five incidents involving defacing of synagogues. In Eureka, California, for example, there was a rash of vandalism at a synagogue, including antisemitic and sexually-oriented graffiti, furniture broken, and objects thrown against a door during religious services for young children. Swastikas, slogans such as “Death to the Jews” and other graffiti were written on a synagogue entrance in Houston, Texas. Chabad

House, a Hasidic synagogue in San Francisco, California, was damaged by an arson attack.

Campus incidents increased marginally, to 74, from the 2003 total of 68, still substantially less than the 106 reported in 2002. By 2003, more effective counteraction and educational efforts by pro-Israel students had helped reduce the number of virulently anti-Israel activities that had crossed the line to harassment of Jewish students and other antisemitic manifestations.

Extremists on the far right continued to be active in 2004 although hampered by death, aging and imprisonment of prominent leaders over the past few years (see *ASW 2003/4*). Various groups, including the National Alliance, Aryan Nations and White Revolution, have leadership problems or have not managed to attract a substantial following. White power music continues to be used as a recruiting tool by white power bigots. A neo-Nazi record company, Panzerfaust, launched a major, well-publicized campaign to distribute CDs of antisemitic and racist lyrics to school children across the United States, and other extremist groups volunteered to participate in this project. Racist skinhead groups held concerts around the country, which attracted substantial audiences.

The white supremacist World Church of the Creator has been stripped of the right to use its original name and now refers to itself as the Creativity Movement. Its leader, Matt Hale, was convicted in April 2004 of several serious charges, including solicitation of the murder of a judge, and faces a 20-year prison term. Since his arrest the movement has declined, with fewer followers and no clear leadership.

Since the death of veteran antisemite and white supremacist William Pierce in 2002, the neo-Nazi National Alliance has been led by Erich Gliebe, who was manager of the group's white power music company Resistance Records. Despite infighting, Gliebe and his clique have remained firmly in power and local units continue to enjoy a significant core membership. The group was active in 2004 in the area of Holocaust denial, hosting a number of lectures around the country by British Holocaust denier David Irving, and assisting in putting together a conference dedicated to Holocaust denier Ernst Zündel.

Neo-Nazi icon Richard Butler, who for three decades led the paramilitary Aryan Nations, died in September 2004. In the last years of his life he was a featured speaker at numerous white supremacist gatherings nationwide.

Following his release from a 15-month-jail sentence, former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke continued to send letters to right-wing publications and websites expressing his contempt for the US federal government, Israel, Jews and other minorities, and promoting his book

Jewish Supremacism. Duke's organization EURO (European American Unity and Rights Organization) held a major rally in New Orleans, 29–30 May 2004, with the goal of promoting unity among white supremacist groups. High-ranking racist figures attending the conference signed the so-called New Orleans Protocol, a three-point document for white 'nationalists' advocating nonviolence, collegiality and a "high tone in our arguments." While this agreement seems unlikely to maintain harmony between the myriad organizations and personalities, Duke appeared to be at the center of the white supremacist movement once again. Since the conference, Duke has been actively recruiting new EURO members, and his third book, *For Love of My People*, was due to come out in 2005.

The EURO conference was attended by Willis Carto, publisher of the Holocaust-denying *Barnes Review* magazine, and Germar Rudolf, a fugitive from German justice who has been establishing himself as the premiere publisher of Holocaust-denying books in the United States. Rudolf's involvement in the conference, which included a speaking role, is particularly noteworthy since it belies his longtime contention that he does not subscribe to racist ideology. Since the conference he has also joined the editorial board of *The Barnes Review*, which regularly publishes pieces praising Hitler and the Third Reich.

Collusion between Holocaust deniers and neo-Nazis was also evident in the April 2004 "International Revisionist Conference" held in Sacramento, California. This conference was initially organized by Walter Mueller, a local Holocaust denier who also publishes the white supremacist Sacramento newspaper *Community News*. Last-minute complications forced Mueller to call for cancellation of the conference; however, it did take place due to the combined efforts of the Holocaust-denying Institute for Historical Review (IHR) and the neo-Nazi National Alliance. Institute for Historical Review president Mark Weber's frank acknowledgement of his collaboration with a neo-Nazi group – posted on the IHR website – represents a break from his previous attempts to portray himself and his organization as dedicated to disinterested historical research. Another speaker at the conference was veteran Holocaust denial propagandist Bradley Smith. Smith's 2004 activities centered on his campaign to "Decriminalize Holocaust History" – an effort to refresh his aging program of disseminating Holocaust denial in the guise of free speech rhetoric.

In 2004 nearly every major speech of Nation of Islam (NOI) leader Minister Louis Farrakhan focused on antisemitic conspiracies relating to Jewish and Israeli control over US foreign policy, and reiteration of false and antisemitic theories the NOI has published regarding black-Jewish relations in the US. At the annual NOI Saviour's Day, Farrakhan

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declared that the Jews deserved the Spanish Inquisition, compared the “racist Jews of Hollywood” to their creation of stereotypes of black characters in TV and movies and held Israel responsible for the war in Iraq.

Increasingly, international terrorist groups with an antisemitic agenda – including Hamas, Hizballah, and al-Qa`ida-affiliated groups – which target the United States generally, and Jews specifically – have found Internet providers in the United States less willing to host their antisemitic and violence-promoting materials.

According to FBI statistics for 2004, there were 7,649 bias-motivated criminal incidents (compared to 7,489 in 2003), of which 1,374 involved religious bias; 954 of the latter were directed against Jews and Jewish institutions compared to 927 incidents motivated by religious bias in 2003.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/usa.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/usa.htm)

Latin America

ARGENTINA

The Jewish population of Argentina numbers about 180,000 out of a total population of 37 million. Some 80 percent live in the city of Buenos Aires and the Greater Buenos Aires area. The leading Jewish organization is the DAIA (Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas), which represents communities and organizations to the authorities and is responsible for safeguarding the rights of members. AMIA (Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina) is the main community organization. The Vaad ha-Kehilot is the umbrella organization of the communities in the provinces.

The level of antisemitism in 2004 remained virtually unchanged from the previous year: 174 incidents compared to 177 in 2003. Many were threats to Jewish institutions, and in particular bomb warnings, and there were numerous cases of graffiti and personal insults. Sixty-four percent of manifestations were in Buenos Aires City, 18 percent in Greater Buenos Aires and 17 percent in other provinces.

According to INADI (National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism), antisemitic events represented 5 percent of the total reports received by the Institute in 2004. It therefore might be concluded that while antisemitism is a constant element in Argentinean society it is not a primary one in the overall picture of discrimination and hate crimes.

On 22 September 2004, a gun and a note reading, "Jew, you have a bomb," appeared in front of the Club Unidad Sionista, in the province of Tucuman. In mid-November antisemitic slogans were scrawled at the Ciudadela Jewish cemetery in the city of Buenos Aires, and swastikas with pictures of Hitler's face and the word 'Jews' were found at the Liniers Jewish cemetery.

Much antisemitic graffiti was recorded in Buenos Aires, as well as in other provinces. For example, texts equating Jews with abortionist physicians and with child prostitution appeared on 25 October 2004 at the General Roca railway station of Banfield.

Several serious cases of antisemitic outbursts against Jewish public officials were recorded in the public arena. In late May 2004, Buenos Aires city legislator for Partido de la Ciudad Mirta Gloria Onega was accused by her own party colleagues of racial discrimination. They also demanded that she be expelled from the House, after she was video-recorded in the office of a legislator from the same party as referring to

her employee Norberto Cohenca as a “f...ing Jew.” A complaint was filed with INADI, which recommended that the legislators and the injured party bring criminal action. DAIA also lodged a complaint with the federal courts based on the anti-discrimination law.

On 30 September the legislators convened at a special session to address the report prepared by the committee, which recommended a 180-day suspension for Representative Onega, a 30-day suspension for Representative Giorno, leader of her party, and a warning to Representative Carlos Ameijeiras, who provided his office for the hidden camera recording. The punishments, however, were rejected by the House.

On 3 November 2004, following a panel debate at the National University of the province of Entre Rios, organized by Red de Participación Popular (Popular Involvement Network), on reproductive health in the city of Paraná, a student from the School of Communications attacked Rabbi Daniel Dolynski with the words: “If you’re a Jew you must leave the country because this is a Catholic nation.” His friends applauded and made the Nazi salute. The other panelists, who included the dean of the School of Education and provincial congresswoman Lucy Grimalt, who has authored a bill that would authorize the performance of vasectomies and tubal ligations in the province’s public hospitals, expressed their solidarity with the rabbi, as did Paraná’s mayor Julio Solanas and other leading officials. DAIA lodged a complaint to the federal courts on the grounds of violation of the anti-discrimination law. Although the culprits were not identified, it is thought that they belonged to a Nazi group called Unidad linked to the Catholic Church.

In June 2004 the antisemitic, Catholic fundamentalist *Patria Argentina* published an article stating that: “modern culture reflects the final revelation of a diabolic conspiracy rejecting God’s plan in human development... a conspiracy planned for the long term by the international financial elite with the aim of enslaving humanity.” According to this conspiracy theory, “Jewish Messianism and Masonry have contributed to the destruction of Christian monarchies and to the decline of the Christian Church... the Masons’ goal is to unify the world under Jewish law.” Moreover, the methods and goals, which are now in the final stages, allegedly appear in *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

Concerning the AMIA/DAIA bomb trial (see also below), the publication states: “We Argentines are paying with our own lives for the political conspiracies and plots that other states sought to resolve in our territory.” In addition, the Jewish community “is by far the most powerful community in our country; this may be seen in the numerous

lobbies they have developed in the most significant areas in the country... banking, politics, universities, television, entertainment, newspapers, radio, agriculture, etc.” As regards antisemitism, *Patria Argentina* holds that its source lies in “a strategy to deviate attention from the Rothschilds’ Satanic plan to impose a world tyranny, the real cause of communism, death and man’s moral paralysis.”

Another religious publication, *Cabildo*, recommends books with a markedly revisionist view of the Holocaust, and its ‘cultural department’ offers to teach seminars free-of-charge in all Jewish schools on themes such as “the sin of deicide”, ‘Jewish ritual crimes’, ‘Catholic martyrs in Jewish persecution’ and ‘Jewish responsibility for the communist genocide of 100 million Catholics in the 20th century’.

The year 2004 was marked by two major events: the tenth anniversary of the AMIA bomb attack and the end of the oral trial against those accused of being involved in the so-called local connection. No progress was made in 2004, and it looked as if all the evidence would have to be reassessed since the chief presiding judge Juan Jose Galeano was to stand trial (see *ASW 2003/4*) and four jailed policemen were released. (For a detailed history and analysis of the trial, see Adrian Jmelnizky and Marysa Braylan, *Report on Antisemitism in Argentina, 2004* (Buenos Aires: CES, 2004)).

DAIA representatives met with then Minister of Justice, Security and Human Rights Gustavo Beliz to discuss the investigation into the AMIA-DAIA terrorist attack. The parties agreed to cooperate in drafting a bill to classify antisemitism as a crime. Progress was also achieved on the creation of a human rights and anti-discrimination program to be developed by DAIA and implemented in police institutions and crime prevention areas.

Full report online at
<http://antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/argentina.htm>

BRAZIL

Brazil, the largest country in Latin America, has a Jewish population of about 110,000, out of a total population of over 160 million inhabitants. Most Jews live in Brazil's major cities – Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Porto Alegre – but some live in small communities on the shores of the Amazon River and in other remote locations, such as Bahia, Belém and Manaus. The central body representing all the Jewish federations and communities in Brazil is the Confederação Israelita do Brasil (CONIB), founded in 1951.

An increase in antisemitic activity was observed in 2004 compared to previous years. A skull-capped member of the religious Zionist youth movement was assaulted by a bicycle rider as he was entering the Herzliya/Bar-Ilan College in the Tijuca section of Rio de Janeiro, in May. The rider shouted "Racist Jew!" In addition, stones were thrown at the synagogue in Santos (city of the coast of São Paulo) in March, smashing windows.

There were several reports of threats, harassment and insults. Following her election, on 18 October, to the city council of Rio de Janeiro, Professor Teresa Bergher (Partido da Frente Liberal – PFL), a member of the Jewish community, received a letter at her office filled with swastikas and antisemitic inscriptions.

A phone message received by Rabbi Henry Sobel of São Paulo on 19 November included curses and insults and a threat to bomb the Congregação Israelita Paulista over which he presides.

On 15 December, one of the bathrooms of the Catholic Pontifícia Universidade Católica, Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), was covered with antisemitic graffiti, praising Nazism and calling for the slaughter of the Jews. The local Jewish community, Federação Israelita do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (FIERJ), requested that PUC-Rio investigate the incident. FIERJ and PUC-Rio agreed to hold seminars on antisemitism and the Holocaust as part of an educational campaign to curb such acts.

Anti-Zionist, anti-American and antisemitic motifs appeared in criticism of the Israeli government by representatives of extreme left-wing parties. For example, the Committee for Solidarity with the Palestinian People of the radical leftist Partido Socialista dos Trabalhadores Unificado (PSTU) distributed leaflets in front of the Legislative Assembly of Rio de Janeiro, on 18 June, and ran a stand showing 'atrocities' in Palestine. The leaflets invited people to a rally to be held on 30 June in front of the US consulate under the banner "Zionists out of Palestine, Americans out of Iraq." The PSTU, the main

organizer of the rally, claims that an end to the State of Israel is the only possible solution to the “oppression of Palestine,” and justifies suicide attacks against Israelis.

As in recent years, articles with antisemitic references appeared in the daily mainstream press. Many revealed antisemitic views under cover of anti-Israel statements. Others tried to minimize the extent of antisemitism and other Jewish concerns. For example, the liberal *Gazeta de Vitoria* (21 May), the main newspaper in the state of Espírito Santo, printed an article by journalist Jose Augusto de Carvalho entitled “Judeus Nazistas” (Nazi Jews), which said, *inter alia*: “Ariel Sharon has managed to transform Israel into a replica of Nazi Germany, without any substantial difference between them.” A gross caricature of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, with a skull cap and a Star of David, appeared in the newspaper liberal *Jornal do Comercio* (15 July; the city of Recife). It was accompanied by a caption characterizing the State of Israel, its government and its people as murderers.

Following the murder of a large number of homeless in the streets of São Paulo during the first half of the year, the well known Brazilian caricaturist Carlos Latuff (see *ASW* 2003/4), published a cartoon on 27 July, on the site of the Independent Media Center (www.midiaindependente.org/es/red) accusing the Jews of their murder, despite suspicions of the São Paulo police that the perpetrators were neo-Nazis. Latuff’s cartoon, which shows the bottom half of an Israeli soldier with a baton dripping with blood, a distorted Star of David and two homeless dying on the ground, reads: “The end of the hungry in São Paulo. Nazism has passed. The swastika now has a different form.” Later, Latuff denied authorship of the cartoon, claiming it was a forgery,

After his books were banned, Holocaust denier Siegfried Ellwanger Castan began using the Internet in May 2004 (see *ASW* 2003/4). When his site (www.revision.com.br) was closed by a court order on the grounds that it was racist, he opened another one under the name *Revisao5* to enable distribution of works from his publishing house Revisão Editora. He also used this site to claim that Revisão Editora was being persecuted by “Judaic-Zionist agents in collaboration with the crazy Brazilian courts of justice” Siegfried Ellwanger Castan was convicted on 1 September in a Porto Alegre court for selling books from a stand from his publishing house, which had been declared racist and banned in 1996. His sentence of one year and nine months imprisonment was ultimately commuted to community service.

Two separatist racist groups emerged in 2004, both in southern Brazil. O Sul é o Meu País (The South Is My Country), located in Santa Catarina, aspires to build a separate homeland in the south of Brazil

from which all *Nordestinos* (poor migrants from the north east) and Jews would be expelled. Republica do Pampa Gaúcho, located in Rio Grande do Sul, call for the creation of a republic of the 'Gaúcho Pampa' in the states of southern Brazil. They have adopted a flag that reproduces the symbol of the Third Reich together with the *Cruzeiro do Sul* (constellation of stars in the Brazilian flag). In his book *Vai Nascer um Novo País: a República do Pampa Gaúcho* (A New Land Will Be Born: The Republic of the Gaúcho Pampa), Irton Marx, leader of the group, described, in 1990, the creation of "a land in the south of Brazil without blacks and Jews."

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/brazil.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/brazil.htm)

CHILE

The Jewish community of Chile, numbering approximately 15,000 out of a total population of 14.5 million, is concentrated mostly in the city of Santiago de Chile. The Representative Committee of Jewish Organizations in Chile (CREJ) encompasses all the Jewish communities and organizations in the country.

Radical Islamic groups are perceived as the greatest threat to the Jewish community. The extension of Islamist activity from the Triple Frontier to the rest of the continent, as well as the growth of Islamic communities in the cities, is of constant concern to the community (see *ASW 2003/4*).

Another perceived threat comes from the radical Chilean right, especially Patria Nueva Sociedad (New Society Homeland – PNS). The PNS has been growing during the last few years and has opened new branches throughout the country.

Antisemitic activity began to rise in March 2004 following a slight decline at the beginning of the year. In addition to one violent incident – a bottle thrown at the Círculo Israelita organization in Santiago de Chile which broke one of the windows of the front door – there were numerous reports throughout the year of insults shouted from passing cars, suspicious activity near Jewish institutions and graffiti daubed on or near Jewish facilities. For example, on 21 March three persons in a car passing the Jewish cemetery of Conchali, near Santiago de Chile, shouted abuse against the Jews, and on 4 June and 10 October, the occupants of a car which drove through one of the largest Jewish neighborhoods in Santiago yelled “Jews are thieves” and “Jews are murderers.”

Jewish institutions were also the recipients of insulting phone calls and web messages. For example, during the month of May the Chilean-Israeli Cultural Institute received four anonymous calls from a man who shouted insults against the Jews and against Israel.

A matter of deep concern to the Jewish community since the 1994 bombing of the AMLA building in Argentina has been the large number of suspicious looking individuals observing or photographing Jewish institutions and the people entering or leaving them. Such activity was noted in April in Santiago near the Instituto Hebreo and El Círculo Israelita, and in August near the Aish Hatora synagogue and the Estadio Israelita (Jewish stadium). It intensified during the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur in Santiago in September near the synagogues of San Jose de la Sierra and Mazse, and again at the Círculo Israelita and the Estadio Israelita.

Swastikas, neo-Nazi graffiti and slogans such as “Sharon=murderer” appeared on several occasions on or near community facilities in Santiago and Viña del Mar.

Commenting on the Middle East conflict on Channel 13 of Chilean Television on 5 May, Fernando Montes, a Catholic priest and rector of the Catholic University Alberto Hurtado, blamed Israel and the Jewish people. Montes said: “It hurts us that the Jewish people, forgetting their own history, are inflicting on the Palestinian people the same cruelties that they suffered.” He claimed he opposed violence but could justify the Palestinians “because it is their way of responding to the despair of a people that was thrown from their lands without any exchange.”

Full report online at
[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/chile.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/chile.htm)

MEXICO

The Jewish community numbers about 40,000 out of a total population of 104 million. Most Jews live in the capital Mexico City and its suburbs, while the rest are located in the cities of Guadalajara, Monterrey, Tijuana and Cancun. The various communities, together with the Jewish Sports Center, are represented in the Jewish Central Committee of Mexico (JCCM). Tribuna Israelita is the community's public opinion and analysis agency.

The trend of a decline in antisemitism continued during 2004. Most antisemitism was expressed in messages received through the web by Jewish institutions. However, a Jewish school bus was attacked with various objects and anti-Jewish graffiti, mainly swastikas, were found in the environs of a Jewish school and in a Jewish neighborhood. The Jewish Sports Club received a threatening phone call and a prominent Jewish journalist received an offensive letter referring to "Jewish power" in the media.

Although anti-Zionist events (conferences and rallies) decreased during this period, the Mexican chapter of Not in Our Name (organization established in March 2002 in New York to stop America's war against terrorism) and pro-Palestinian groups such as the Coordination of Palestinian-Mexican Solidarity, the Mexican-Palestinian Friendship Committee and SOS for Humanity, were active. During the first half of 2004, for example, they urged the Mexican government to sever diplomatic relations with Israel.

While there are no overtly antisemitic radio stations, newspapers or television channels, some mainstream publications in 2004 printed articles containing antisemitic motifs. These included: references to Jewish control of show business: "Mel Gibson's movie [*Passion of the Christ*] didn't receive an award because Hollywood is controlled by the Jewish community" (*Unomasuno*, March 2004); a portrayal of Jews as exploiters: "The only terrorists in the world are Jews who take advantage of the poor and deliberately rob... That is terrorism" (*Sol de Mediodia*, 25 June 2004); and comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany: "What the Israelis are doing is worse than what Hitler's troops did in the Warsaw Ghetto, Poland..." (*Unomasuno*, 20 May 2004). Coverage of the killings of Hamas leaders Ahmad Yassin and 'Abd al-Aziz al-Rantisi and of the construction of the security fence in the mainstream media (press, radio, and TV programs) was markedly anti-Israel/anti-Zionist ("What would [Portuguese Nobel laureate] José Saramago say about the

ignominious genocide wall constructed on land stolen from the Palestinians in the West Bank” – *Unomasuno*, Jan. 2004).

At the opening of an Anne Frank exhibition at Anahuac University in Mexico City in October, Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda declared that the Mexican Constitution considered antisemitism a form of racism and that there was no room for racism in the 21st century.

Full report online at

<http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/mexico.htm>

URUGUAY

The Jewish community of Uruguay is estimated at about 25,000 out of a population of 3.2 million. The majority of Jews live in the capital Montevideo, with a smaller community in the city of Paysandú. The Comité Central Israelita del Uruguay (CCIU), embracing some 60 communities and organizations, functions as the national Jewish representative body.

A few incidents of vandalism were recorded in 2004, and the community detected a rise in swastikas and antisemitic graffiti appearing on the walls of main streets and neighborhoods of the capital Montevideo. There was no increase of antisemitism in the press or in the propaganda of extremist groups.

Desecration of synagogues is unusual in Uruguay, but on the night of 22 September the synagogue in the Goes neighborhood of Montevideo was broken into, and some of its contents were stolen, defiled or burned.

Following the burning of one of the security pillars at the entrance of a Jewish school on 20 January, four under-age youngsters under the influence of alcohol were detained briefly by the police but released. Police suspect they were sent by an adult.

Graffiti was a common means of expressing antisemitic sentiment. Extreme right-wing groups appear to have been responsible for several daubings, while symbols of anarchist groups were left near others. Graffiti under the signature 'BAC' (Aria Canaria Brigada), accompanied by slogans such as "Heil Hitler!" "Death to all Mason Jews," and "Waffen SS," with their symbol and swastikas, were painted on walls at the Jewish cemetery of La Paz, the main cemetery of the Jewish community in Uruguay, on 20 April, the anniversary of Hitler's birthday. The BAC is active in the city of Las Piedras located near the cemetery.

The phrase "Sharon is a murderer" appeared on the wall of the synagogue of the Ciudad Vieja neighborhood, Montevideo, on 26 October. Similar graffiti, accompanied by swastikas, appeared in several areas of Montevideo: for example on 20–21 May, and again on 9 August, in the neighborhood of Pocitos, where many Jews live ("Sharon is a murderer" "We say No to Yankee-Zionist Imperialism", "Criminal Zionism"), as well as in central Montevideo on 14 June.

Several threats were received by members and officials of the Jewish community during 2004. For example, on 4 January the secretary of B'nai Brith Uruguay received an e-mail claiming that a bomb had been placed there.

Some 15–20 young people rallied in front of the Israeli embassy on 23 October to mark International Palestine Day. The group held placards with anti-Zionist slogans such as “Zionism will pass” (*El sionismo es pasajero*).

While there is no antisemitic press in Uruguay, some journalists and commentators are very critical of Zionism and Israel and its policies. For example, columnist of the left-wing weekly *Caras y Caretas*, Rafael Bayce, stated on 10 February 2004 about the film *The Passion of the Christ*: “... if Mel Gibson and many other people did not like what the Jews did to Jesus, and even if in a way he dramatizes Jewish cruelty excessively, you have to remember that this is nothing compared with what Jews used to do in those times, and it is nothing in comparison to their religious marketing, and of course it is nothing compared with what they do today in Palestine.”

The national elections held in November 2004 resulted in a historical upset. A coalition of parties from the left, including Socialists, Communists, and the former guerilla movement Tupamaros, as well as Christian Democrats and several politicians, from the two traditional parties campaigned as a united front. They won the elections in the first round, defeating the two traditional parties which had ruled Uruguay since the 19th century.

Full report online at

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/uruguay.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/uruguay.htm)

VENEZUELA

The Jewish population continues to decline as a result of severe instability in the country. There are probably no more than 15,000 Jews remaining out of a total population of close to 22 million. Most of the Jews live in the capital Caracas, while the second largest community is in Maracaibo. The Confederación de Asociaciones Israelitas de Venezuela (CAIV) represents the main Jewish organizations. International criticism of official/semi-official antisemitism in Venezuela continued in 2004, including ambiguous negative references to Jews in some of President Hugo Chavez's speeches (see below).

An armed raid on the Jewish elementary and high school (1,500 pupils) at the Hebraica Cultural and Sports Club in Caracas was one of the most serious incidents ever to have taken place in the history of the Jewish community. The action, carried out on 29 November 2004 by the criminal investigation corps (Cuerpo de Investigaciones científicas, penales y Criminalísticas – CICPC) following a court order, began at 6.30 am when school buses and parents were bringing the children to school. The order stated that elements of a criminal nature, such as electronic equipment, arms, explosive devices, communications equipment and documents that might lead to a resolution of the case of Prosecutor Danilo Anderson who was assassinated on 18 November, were suspected of being concealed in the building. After a three-hour search, the police left, declaring that their action had been "unfruitful." The Jewish community was informed, unofficially, that the raid was the result of an anonymous call to the police which claimed there had been "a movement of arms to the Hebraica club."

The Jewish community received many expressions of solidarity from various sectors of Venezuelan society, as well as international support. In a personal communication to the president of CAIV, Daniel Slimak, and to Chief Rabbi Pynchas Brenner, Vice President of the Republic José Vicente Rangel dissociated the executive power from the order, claiming there was a separation of powers in Venezuela. There was no other public clarification despite requests by the Jewish community.

At a press conference held on 30 November dealing with various national issues, Interior Minister Jesse Chacón confirmed that nothing had been found in the raid and that it had not been directed against the Venezuelan Jewish community, a claim repeated by Information and Communications Minister Andres Izarra on 7 December.

Despite editorials and articles by groups and individuals supporting the community, some commentators in the semi-official pro-Chavez

press asserted that Jews were not “untouchable” and justified the raid, implying that since there may have been arms in the Hebraica Club the police were obliged to investigate. The suggestion of the Simon Wiesenthal Center that Venezuela should not be accepted into MERCOSUR (economic organization of the southern Latin American countries) aroused further antisemitic reactions to the raid. On Venezolana de Televisión (Venezuelan state TV), 6 December, Mario Silva García, moderator of the program “La Hojilla” (The Razor), stated that the government had the right to do what it did because Jews were not an independent entity within the country.

Later, Silva also criticized Chief Rabbi Pynchas Brener, who was interviewed in one of the leading national newspapers, *El Nacional* on 5 December. Silva claimed, *inter alia*, that the rabbi had no right to speak because he was not Venezuelan. Similarly, on the local Radio Tropical, a broadcaster criticized both Rabbi Brener and CAIV president Daniel Slimak, asserting that the Jewish community should not think they were above the law.

On 25 August, a few days after his questionable victory in the referendum aimed at recalling him from office, President Hugo Chavez attacked the opposition leadership, stating: “Don’t let yourselves be poisoned by those errant Jews. Don’t let them lead you to the place they want you to be led. There are some people saying that those 40 percent [who supported his recall] are all enemies of Chavez.” According to the Jewish community, the phrase ‘errant Jews’, which is commonly used in the Catholic world, was directed metaphorically at the leaders of the opposition parties, which Chavez claims have nothing to offer the country’s citizens.

The following day, after his ratification as president in the National Electoral Council, he declared on state TV that the majority of the 4 million Venezuelans who had opposed him in the referendum now accepted him as president: “There are some – every day there are fewer – ‘small leaders’ [*dirigencillos*] who don’t lead anyone, they are more isolated every day, and wander around like the errant Jew.” Vice President of the Republic Jose Vicente Rangel phoned CAIV president Daniel Slimak to explain the meaning of the term and to assure him that it had been used inappropriately.

The Sephardic Tiferet Israel Synagogue suffered repeated attacks in the wake of several pro-Chavez demonstrations (see also *ASW* 2003/4). Following a rally organized by the government on 16 May under the banner “Against terrorism and foreign involvement, for respect of sovereignty, the homeland and the Constitution,” a group of persons scrawled slogans in the name of the ‘Simon Bolivar Coordination’

(Coordinadora Simón Bolívar – CSB) and of the ‘Revolutionary Left Youth’ (Juventud de Izquierda Revolucionaria – JIR) on the synagogue walls and in the car park. It should be noted that Chavez’s revolution – the ‘Bolivarian revolution’ – is named after the 19th century general Simón Bolívar (*El Libertador*). The slogans read, *inter alia*: “Don’t allow Colombia to be the Israel of Latin America [an allusion to US attempts to bring Colombia under its wing in order to fight left-wing guerilla groups]”; “Sharon is a murderer of the Palestinian People”; “Viva the armed Palestinian people”; and “Free Palestine.”

Similar graffiti, as well as the slogan “Jews go home,” appeared on the wall of synagogue after a pro-government rally on 6 June. It was signed by the pro-Chavez Communist Youth and the Communist Party of Venezuela. On 8 August a group of supporters from a pro-Chavez rally held at the close of his anti-referendum campaign daubed slogans such as: “Sharon is a murder. No to Israel,” with the letter ‘S’ shaped like a swastika. They also wrote, *inter alia*: “Viva Chavez and Arafat”; and “NO to Zionism.”

Virulently anti-Israel posters appeared on the streets of Caracas in December during the Second Bolivarian Congress of the People (II Congreso Bolivariano de los Pueblos). Signed by pro-government organizations such as MVR (Movimiento Bolivariano Revolucionario/Movimiento Quinta Republica [Quinta=5 in Roman numbers], the Chavez Party), the Communist Party in Venezuela (Partido Comunista de Venezuela) and Coordinadora Simón Bolívar, they read, *inter alia*: “Neither Orlando Urdaneta [Venezuelan anti-Chavez actor] nor the super-terrorist Israelis will succeed with our people”; “No to the Israeli commandos in Caracas”; “No to the involvement of Israelis in our nation”; “No to the Mossad and no to the CIA”; and “Bush+Sharon = murderers.”

In an article entitled “Why and Against Whom Are the People of Palestine, Iraq, Venezuela and the World Struggling?” published in the pro-government newspaper *Diario VEA* (03 Aug.), columnist Basem Tajeldine accused Jews of seeking to dominate the world. Tajeldine identifies Zionism with the right-wing of Israeli politics, which forced the White House to go to war in Iraq in order to appropriate its wealth. He also alleges that Israel was behind the abortive coup in Venezuela of 11 April 2002, and that several Jews participated in it, among them US Ambassador Charles Shapiro, an ‘opponent’ of the Chavez government. For Tajeldine these are examples of “the racist, separatist and segregationist policies that Jews are applying in Venezuela,” in order to overthrow Chavez and maintain their privileges.

In the interview program “Siempre Lilia Vera” broadcast on Venezuelan State Radio on 1 August, the singer Evio Di Marzo, a convert to Islam, claimed that Judaism incited violence against anybody who was not a Jew because its was an elitist religion; that it permitted killing ‘goyim’ who were like pigs; and that Jewish laws, which originated in the last years of the 19th century, encouraged racism, hatred and intolerance.

Allegations of subversive Israeli activity in Venezuela continued to abound. José Manuel Pinto, a leader of the pro-Chavez, leftist Movimiento Revolucionario Tupamaro, asked the government, in an interview published in the independent *Tal Cual* (11 Nov.), “to investigate counterintelligence groups” which he claimed were working for Israeli intelligence in Venezuela, in particular, a group named Golán, which supposedly was linked through financial institutions to the 2002 abortive coup against Chavez. According to Globovisión (22 Nov.), José Pinto argued that since Venezuelans were demanding an investigation into the CIA presence, it was also necessary to investigate what an *israelita* (= Jewish) group was doing helping a financial enterprise.

Following the assassination of State Prosecutor Danilo Anderson, *Diario VEA* (20 Nov.), saw similarities to the killing by special Israeli forces of leading Palestinian figures, namely, “powerful explosives placed in the car of the victim and operated via a cellular phone.” The next day *Diario VEA* repeated its claims of “Mossad techniques.”

Full report online at

<http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/venezuela.htm>

Australia and South Africa

AUSTRALIA

The 115–120,000 Jews in Australia out of a total population of over 20 million constitute the largest Jewish community in the East Asia Pacific Region. The great majority of Australian Jews live in Melbourne and Sydney, but there are also significant communities in Perth, Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Adelaide. The elected representative organization of the Jewish Community is the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ).

The total of 425 reports of anti-Jewish violence, vandalism, harassment and intimidation, although down from 2002 and 2003 (625 and 500 incidents, respectively), was still close to twice the average for the previous 15 years.

Although many of the incidents were threats rather than physical attacks on persons or property, hundreds of Jewish individuals and organizations were targeted, some many times over, by persons seeking to frighten or harass them. Most of the attacks were anonymous. The virulence of some public criticism of Israeli actions, as well as continued misrepresentation of those actions and of Israel's history and politics served to encourage and rationalize anti-Jewish bigotry.

Some commentary and letters in mainstream publications in 2004 contained antisemitic references. They included a direct comparison between “what the Nazis did and what Israel is doing” (a letter in the *Melbourne Age*, 15 Feb. 2004); the claim that Jews persecuted early Christians and “if post-Holocaust history has taught us anything, it is that the persecuted can very easily become the persecutors themselves” (in a review of Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ*, in Brisbane's *Courier-Mail*, 26 Feb. 2004); and the statement, “while some of the Jews are manipulating world opinion by harping on about the past others are busy building walls and taking pot shots at Palestinian children” (letter in *The Bulletin*, 9 March 2004).

There were also concerns about Internet bulletin boards associated with mainstream media. Examples included “This is Israeli democracy, where all Jews are created equal, and Palestinians are animals without rights (*The Age* online, 3 May 2004); a web columnist writing that “the fundamentalist Zionist lobby controls politics and the media in the US and Australia” (*Sydney Morning Herald* online, 26 July 2004), and the insult “primitive Talmudic pig like Sharon” in a letter (*Canberra Times* online, 30 Sept. 2004). The SBS television website provided a link to the racist Australian Nationalist Database (12 Sept. 2004).

Salam, the magazine of the Federation of Australian Muslim Students and Youth, included articles on the “false delusions” of the Jews who allegedly used all “efforts to obstruct the message of Islam,” as well as on “the inevitability of the Islamic Solution”; the latter article concluded: “the Quran said ‘never will the Jews nor the Christians be pleased with you till you follow their religion’.” It also publicized the sale of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* in an Islamic bookshop in Sydney and an antisemitic campaign run by extremist Muslims in Sydney and Melbourne as part of attempts to raise funds for a new mosque.

In both 2003 and 2004, e-mail accounted for more than half the number of incidents of anti-Jewish harassment and intimidation. It was also revealed in 2004 that the most popular search engine in Australia produced antisemitic links for the search term ‘Jew’. After a complaint from the ECAJ, the results were changed.

Most far left groups invoke the Nazi Holocaust in their attacks on Jews and Israel. For example, the Socialist Alternative, openly opposes Israel’s existence and promotes the myth that ‘Zionists’ worked ‘hand in hand’ with the rulers of Nazi Germany (*Socialist Alternative*, 2 June 2004) and *The Guardian*, published by the Communist Party of Australia, includes direct analogies between Israel and Nazi Germany (see, for example, 15 Sept. 2004). Some far left groups such as the Socialist Alliance have made common cause with extreme anti-Israel Islamist groups, which promote social and economic agendas which supposedly would be repugnant to social progressives.

The One Nation party, which enjoyed a brief period of electoral success in the late 1990s but has been in decline ever since, still had representatives in the Federal Senate and in the parliaments of Western Australia and Queensland, as well as a small number of active members. In 2004, both the Western Australian and Queensland branches were criticized publicly for promoting antisemitism, the former via its web page and the latter through a blatantly antisemitic article and an accompanying cartoon in their party newspaper *The Nation*.

Despite a series of findings by the Human Rights Commission and the Federal Court against the website of the antisemitic and Holocaust denying Adelaide Institute, its leader Fredrick Toben continued to publish antisemitic material and sought to maintain an international profile, with support from state-sponsored Iranian media.

In the first half of 2004, the Federal House of Representatives, the Federal Senate, the NSW Parliament and the Victorian Parliament, all formulated strongly worded resolutions condemning antisemitism, with the federal houses of parliament instructing the diplomatic service to take up the matter at multilateral and bilateral international forums.

Country and Regional Abstracts

While no new matters relating to antisemitism were determined under Australia's anti-racism legislation, two new complaints were lodged with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in 2004, namely, concerning the publication of overtly antisemitic material on the website of the Bible Believers organization and in the Queensland newspaper of the One Nation Party.

Full report online at:

<http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/australia.htm>

SOUTH AFRICA

An estimated 80,000 Jews live in South Africa, out of a total population of some 45 million. The community is located mainly in Johannesburg and Cape Town, with other important communities being Durban and Pretoria. The recognized Jewish civil rights organization is the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD), whose primary task is to monitor and where necessary respond to antisemitism. In partnership with the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), the SAJBD has also become increasingly involved in Israel advocacy initiatives, a move necessitated by the sharp rise in anti-Israel sentiment in the country following the collapse of the Middle East peace process after September 2000.

The relatively low level of antisemitism in South Africa can in part be attributed to the strong non-racist ethos that has prevailed in the country since the demise of white minority rule. Antisemitism, when it occurs, is largely carried out by radical groupings within the country's 800,000-strong Muslim community.

Annual totals of recorded antisemitic incidents in South Africa have consistently averaged below 40 over the past two decades, and this was again the case in 2004. A total of 37 antisemitic incidents were recorded in 2004, slightly up from the previous year. However, whereas in 2003 there were several cases of assault on Jews, none of the incidents in 2004 involved actual violence. Developments in the Middle East, in particular the furor over Israel's killing of Hamas leaders Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and 'Abd al-Rantisi, were again the primary motivation for antisemitic outbursts. A number of Jewish individuals reported receiving threats during this period.

Virulently antisemitic statements were made at a protest rally in Cape Town following the Yasin killing. Shaykh Ebrahim Gabriels, president of the Muslim Judicial Council, which supports Hizballah and Hamas, stated, *inter alia*: "You need to understand that... the USA, the UN and most of the governments are controlled by the Zionists," and "we must stop looking at the films that was designed by the Israeli Zionists [*sic*] ... it is written in the Protocols of the Zionists that they will establish cinemas around the world to corrupt the gentiles... we are not human beings, we are animals in their eyes, they want to corrupt the people." Shaykh Ebrahim Abrahams said: "Do not go into any agreements with the Jews; they are a filthy people; they have forever stood against Allah; they have killed so many; they even plotted and planned to kill your Prophet Mohammed."

Another rally to protest the assassination, held in Pretoria, featured a six-year-old Muslim child dressed up as a suicide bomber. This took place with the blessing of the boy's father, Dr Mohammed Dockrat, who also took part in the rally. Ironically, Dockrat serves both on the National Religious Leaders' Forum and on the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, both of which are designed to promote inter-group understanding and reconciliation.

There were fourteen cases of verbal abuse, mostly shouted from passing cars at Jews walking to and from synagogue. Also fairly common over the years have been instances of pro-Nazi remarks and gestures, including the display of swastikas, during sports matches between Jewish day schools and their non-Jewish counterparts. These incidents are generally satisfactorily dealt with by the principals of the schools concerned.

A virulently antisemitic broadcast took place on Voice of the Cape, a Muslim radio station, in September. The show featured an interview with Shaykh Mogamat Colby, a local Muslim studying at a *madrasa* in Egypt. Colby, encouraged by the host, made various extremely denigrating remarks about Jews and Judaism, referring frequently to *The Protocols of The Elders of Zion* (a banned publication in South Africa). Amongst other things, he stated: "They [the Jews] believe that they have been created to enslave and subjugate humanity and take full control of all matters of life"; "the Yehud are controlling all our land, all the means of the radio stations, the newspapers, the televisions – and this is how they have full control over the whole world"; and "This is their protocols. They say: we will carry out any form of destruction and killing and slaughtering and murdering and raping without any mercy whether it is children, mothers, babies... this is what governs them, this what they believe in."

None of the political parties in Parliament has an antisemitic agenda, but excessively anti-Israel sentiments within such groupings as the ANC Youth League occasionally, or almost, cross the line to outright antisemitism. The July posting of the ruling party's online *ANC Today* included an ANC Youth League diatribe against Israel featuring the following statement: "The collusion about finding Jews a 'national home' was motivated by the political influence the Jews wielded within these superpowers and the wealth they had amassed."

The main target in the struggle against antisemitism in South Africa has been radio broadcasting. The Broadcasting Code of Conduct expressly prohibits the dissemination of hate speech. Muslim community radio stations are the principal purveyors of antisemitism on the air waves. The SAJBD has been conducting a seven-year-long battle against

Radio 786, a Muslim community radio station based in Cape Town and run by the Islamic Unity Confention. It also lodged a complaint against the Voice of the Cape for the above-mentioned Colby broadcast.

At the end of June 2004, South Africa hosted the annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinians, in Cape Town. This was the third major UN meeting in four years to be held in South Africa, the others being the World Conference Against Racism (Durban, 2001) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002). Thorough preparation by the government and the security establishment, working in close consultation with the SAJBD, ensured that the conference took place in an orderly atmosphere, with no repetition of the antisemitic and radical anti-Israel incidents that marred the Durban, and to a lesser extent the Johannesburg conferences.

Full report online at:

[http:// www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/sth-africa.htm](http://www.antisemitism.tau.ac.il/asw2004/sth-africa.htm)

Appendices

The tables in this section refer to violent acts perpetrated against Jewish targets worldwide during 2004. The figures are based on the database of the Stephen Roth Institute and reports of the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism.

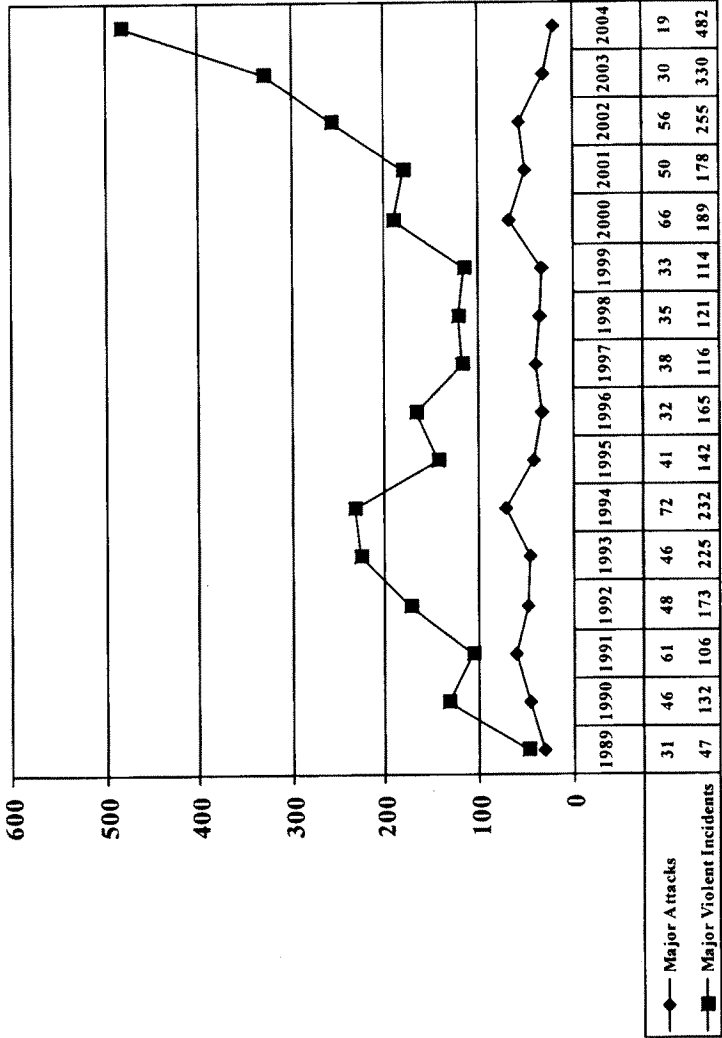
The data in the tables are classified into two categories:

(1) Major attacks. Includes attacks and attempted attacks by violent means, such as arson, firebombs, shootings, etc.

(2) Major violent incidents. Includes harassment and vandalism of Jewish property and sites, such as damage to community buildings, desecration of synagogues and street violence not involving the use of a weapon.

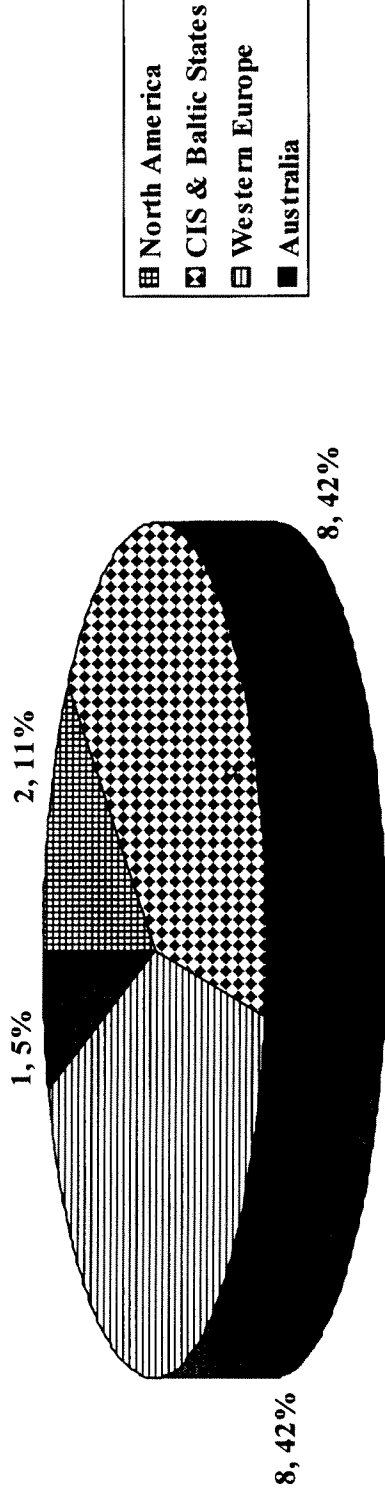
It should be stressed that the numbers of incidents presented in the various tables reflect only serious acts of antisemitic violence.

Violent Antisemitic Activities 2004



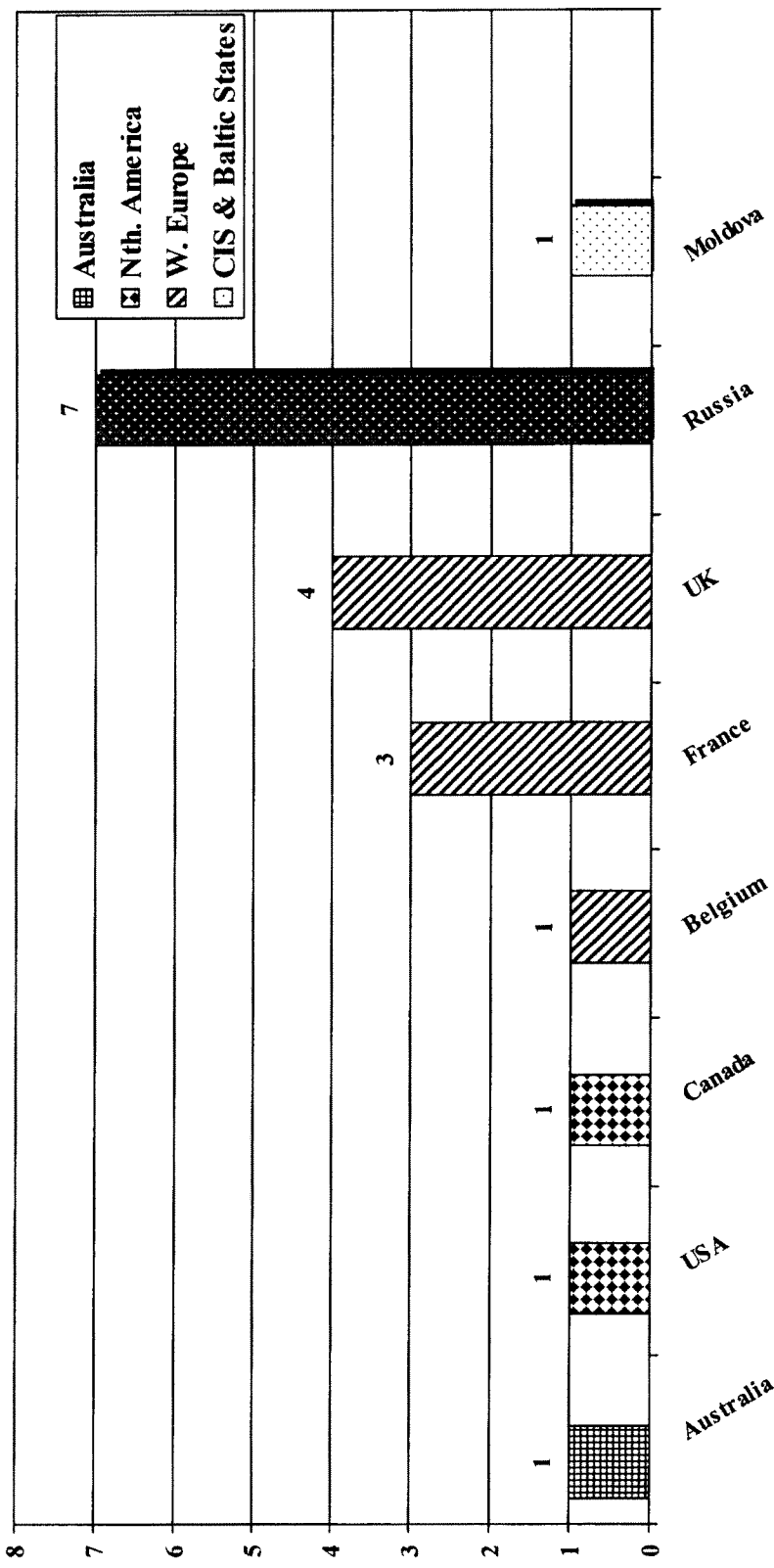
Major Attacks in 2004

Breakdown by Continent



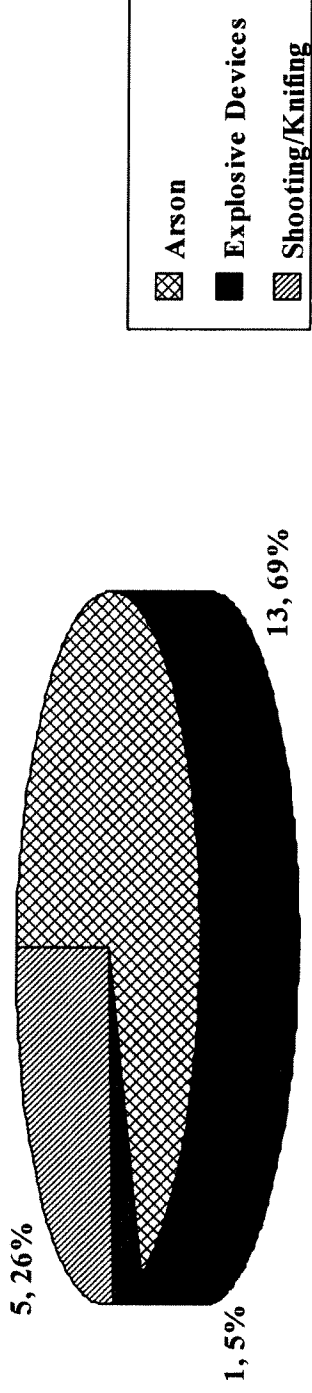
Major Attacks in 2004

Breakdown by Country



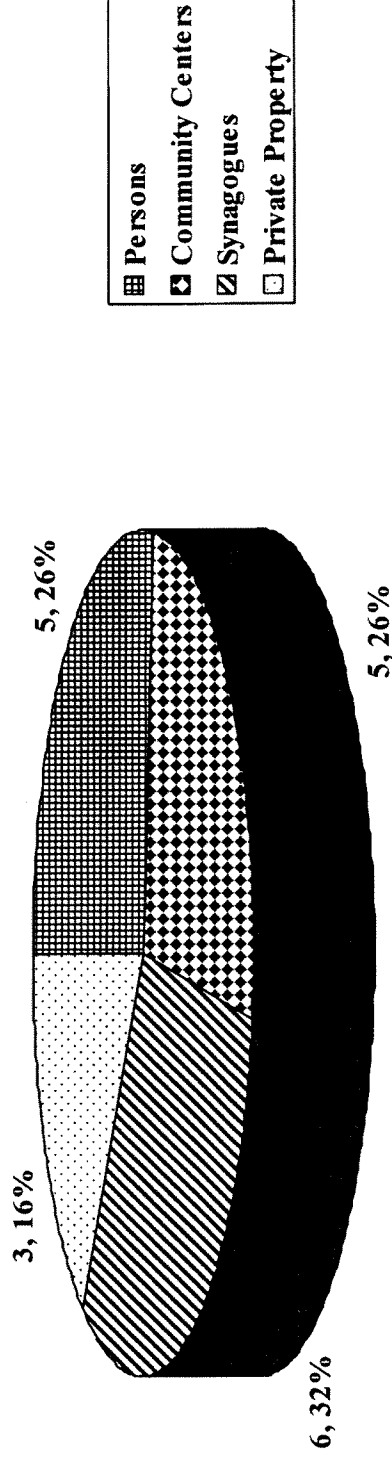
Major Attacks in 2004

Breakdown by Modus Operandi



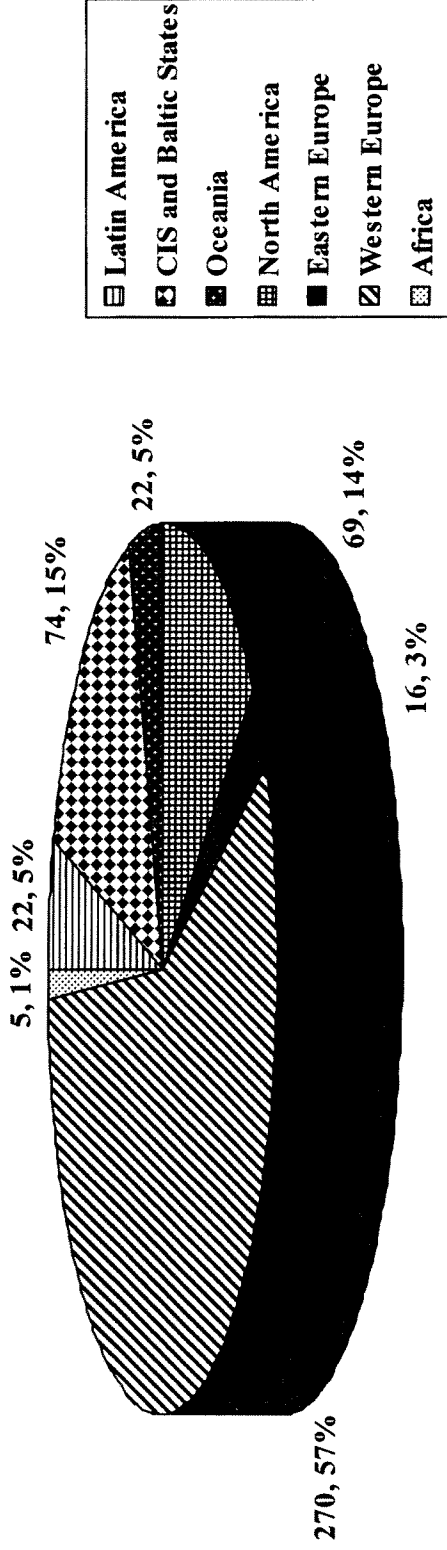
Major Attacks in 2004

Breakdown by Target



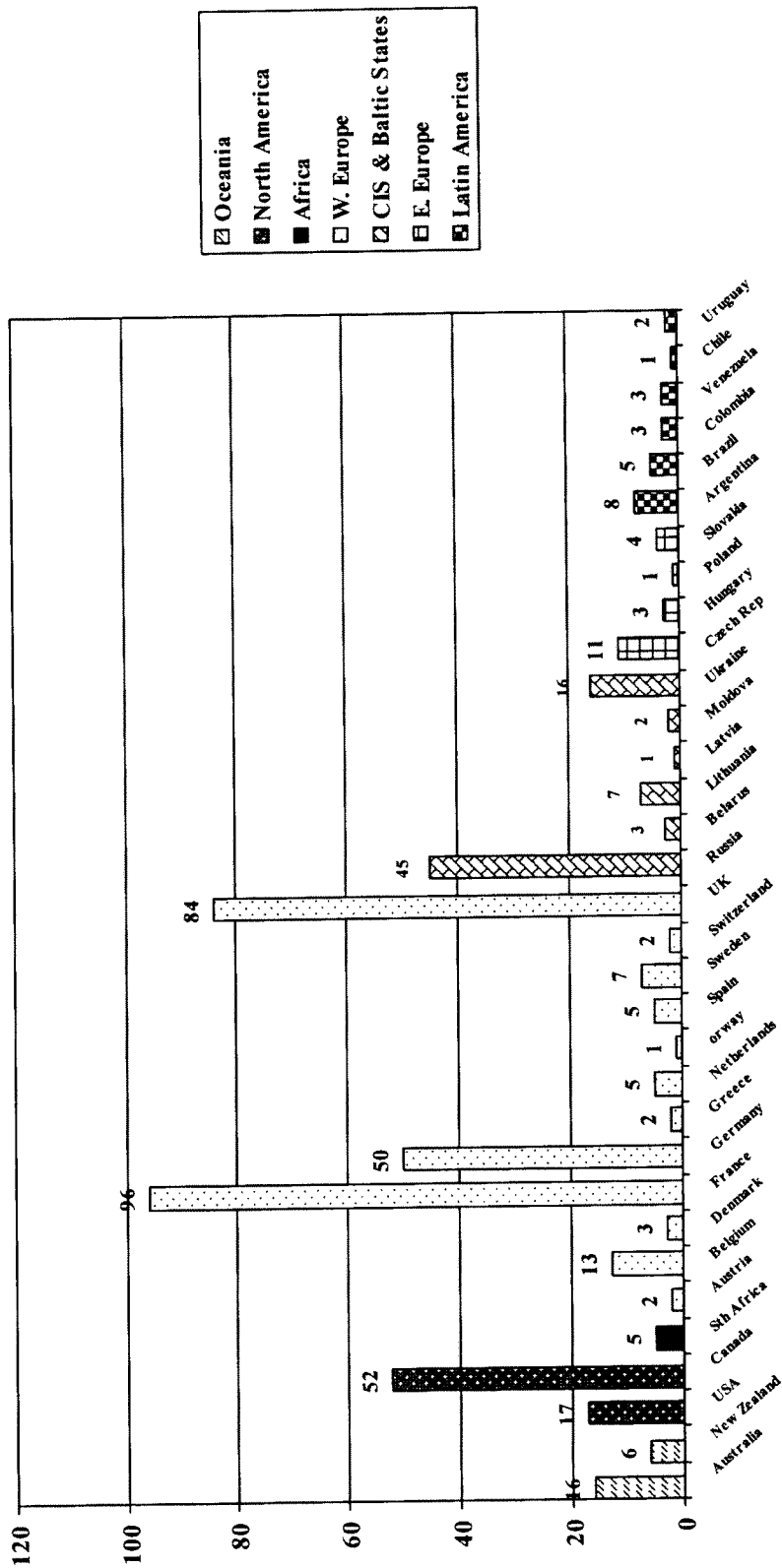
Major Violent Incidents in 2004

Breakdown by Continent



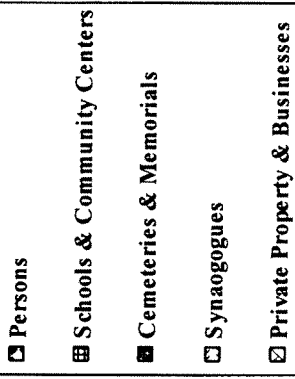
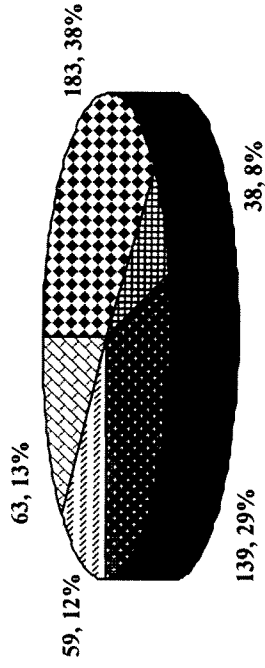
Major Violent Incidents in 2004

Breakdown by Country



Major Violent Incidents in 2004

Breakdown by Target



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