



Coronavirus Antisemitism Briefing n. 3 – 14 May 2020

The Coronavirus Briefings analyze the development of the antisemitic hate speech connected to the Coronavirus crisis. This project, managed by Sammy Eppel, political analyst, is a common effort of the Kantor Center and its partners around the world.

Executive Summary

- The antisemitic manifestations of these last two months confirm the pattern of return to classic antisemitism of the last two years, with groups inspired by diverse ideologies portraying Jews as the virus or describing Jews, Israel, or the Zionists as plague-spreaders.
- The dramatic upsurge in online antisemitic hate speech might affect Jews in ways yet to be comprehended.

Responses to antisemitism

- The UN Secretary General António Guterres condemned the rise in anti-foreign sentiment, antisemitic conspiracy theories, and anti-Muslim attacks related to the Coronavirus crisis.
- The Antisemitism Accountability Project, launched by Ronald Lauder in 2019, has opened an online portal for online complaints of Coronavirus-related hate crimes.

Holocaust Abuse

- The comparisons between the pandemic and the Holocaust, mainly diffused in April, appear to have diminished. Yet, a new form of Holocaust abuse seems to appear:
- In at least one case this week, a protester in a demonstration in Illinois, U.S., used the “Arbeit macht frei” phrase, which mocked Jews at the entrance to Auschwitz, to oppose restrictive measures for combating the pandemic.

Islamist discourse

- In light of the recent discourse on the probable annexation of the West Bank, a Hamas-affiliated Palestinian MP evoked anti-Jewish religious texts conflating Jews and Israelis, also saying that Jews constitute a danger much as the Coronavirus.

ALGEMEINER 05-08-2020

Coronavirus Nazi Comparisons Dishonor Memories of Holocaust Victims

by David Harris

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/05/08/coronavirus-nazi-comparisons-dishonor-memories-of-holocaust-victims/>

EUROPEAN JEWISH PRESS (EJP)

Simon Wiesenthal Centre urges Paris Mayor to act against ‘pandemic of antisemitic stickers’

By YOSSE LEMPKOWICZ May 8, 2020

“Many of the stickers call for ‘separation between the French State and CRIF’ (the umbrella representative group of French Jewish institutions). Others, equating the State of Israel with Nazi Germany, cover lamp posts.”

<https://ejpress.org/simon-wiesenthal-centre-urges-paris-mayor-to-act-against-pandemic-of-antisemitic-stickers/>

USA

NY POST

Ronald Lauder opens online portal to report coronavirus hate crimes

By Noah Manskar

April 14, 2020 |

Lauder's Anti-Semitism Accountability Project set up the website to collect reports of physical and online attacks on Asian-Americans, Jews and other groups whom bigots have falsely blamed for the pandemic.

<https://nypost.com/2020/04/14/ronald-lauder-opens-online-portal-to-report-coronavirus-hate-crimes/>

JERUSALEM POST

UN Sec.-Gen. Guterres: Antisemitic conspiracies increased due to COVID-19

'The pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scare-mongering'

By TOVAH LAZAROFF

MAY 9, 2020

"We must act now to strengthen the immunity of our societies against the virus of hate. That's why I'm appealing today for an all-out effort to end hate speech globally," Guterres said.

<https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Antisemitism/UN-Sec-Gen-Guterres-Antisemitic-conspiracies-due-to-COVID-19-increased-627392>

JERUSALEM POST 05-01-2020

PAKISTAN

Pakistani cleric: Jews are responsible for creation of coronavirus

Mufti Abu Hisham Masood, a Pakistani Islamist a cleric affiliated with the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) movement of the Taliban in Pakistan, declared Thursday that Jews created the coronavirus.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF

MAY 8, 2020

<https://www.jpost.com/International/Pakistani-cleric-Jews-are-responsible-for-creation-of-coronavirus-627333>

CANADA

Racism and the Coronavirus Includes the Virus of Antisemitism - CAEF Bulletin May 04 2020

Yet it can't be ignored that the spread of the virus has been accompanied by the spread of anti-Jewish libel. When the **Canadian Antisemitism Education Foundation** experienced Nazi-oriented Zoom bombing during a webinar, it was indeed reported by Canadian print press and television, as have been stories of other specific instances and types of hostile acts, but given the significant increase in antisemitic acts across Canada, as reported in the newly released **Annual Audit of Antisemitism**, produced by **B'nai Brith Canada**, where is the outcry from civil society condemning the increased antisemitism? Where is the outrage about this ancient Jew-hatred that not only endangers one ethno-religious community but all of Canadian society?

<https://www.caef.ca/post/racism-and-the-coronavirus-includes-the-virus-of-antisemitism-caef-bulletin-may-04-2020>

JERUSALEM POST 05-06-2020

COVID-19, conspiracy theories and antisemitism

During the COVID-19 crisis, conspiracy theories are again rife.

By DAVID HARRIS

MAY 6, 2020

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/covid-19-conspiracy-theories-and-antisemitism-627150>

HAARETZ 05-13-2020

Coronavirus Crisis Unleashed 'Tsunami' of anti-Semitism, Trump Official Says

Special envoy Elan Carr says his office is closely monitoring online expressions of anti-Semitism around the world, clearly seeing an uptick in hate speech caused amid the spread of COVID-19

Amir Tibon

Washington 05-13-2020

<https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/.premium-coronavirus-crisis-unleashed-tsunami-of-anti-semitism-trump-official-says-1.8820596>

JERUSALEM POST 05-05-2020

Jonathan Greenblatt warns of post-pandemic antisemitism

We shouldn't kid ourselves: Antisemitism is still alive and well. The oldest hatred has persisted so long because it insidiously adapts and adjusts to situations like these.

By JONATHAN A. GREENBLATT

MAY 5, 2020 07:09

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/jonathan-greenblatt-warns-of-post-pandemic-antisemitism-626930>

MEMRI 05-01-2020

“Northern Virginia’s Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center Friday Sermon By Imam Shaker Elsayed: COVID-19 is a Divine Wake-Up Call”

<https://www.memri.org/reports/northern-virginias-dar-al-hijrah-islamic-center-friday-sermon-imam-shaker-elsayed-covid-19>

THE ALGEMEINER 05-08-2020

UK Broadcaster Rejects Pro-Israel Group's Call to Ban 'Antisemitic' Covid-19 Expert From Programming

By Algemeiner staff 05-08-2020

"Prof. John Ashton — a medical doctor and one of the UK's leading experts on health — was alleged to have compared Zionism with Nazism in material posted on social media between 2012 and 2018."

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/05/08/uk-broadcaster-rejects-pro-israel-groups-call-to-ban-antisemitic-covid-19-expert-from-programming/>

JEWISH BOSTON 05-10-2020

COVID-19 and Antisemitism: An Unseen Connection

By Dr. Michael Laitman for Bnei Baruch Education Center

COVID-19, like any crisis in history since the inception of the Jewish people, will ignite a wave of antisemitism.

<https://www.jewishboston.com/covid-19-and-antisemitism-an-unseen-connection/>

CHICAGO SUN TIMES 05-05-2020

Hatemongers exploiting coronavirus pandemic to push anti-Semitism worldwide

The history of bigots linking disease with Jews, immigrants or other minorities is a long and ugly one.

By Contributor May 5, 2020 Chicago Sun Times

Edna Friedberg

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2020/5/5/21248296/anti-semitism-anti-immigrant-racism-bigotry-pandemic-holocaust-museum-edna-friedberg>

Edna Friedberg is a historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

TABLETMAG.COM 05-03-2020

Pork Chop Anti-Semitism

The long and newly resurgent history of a particular kind of hatred

BY

ALVIN ROSENFELD

MAY 03, 2020

“Equally wild are messages circulating on extremist websites that attribute the coronavirus to Jews”

<https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/pork-chop-anti-semitism>

MEMRI 05-06-2020

WHAT JIHADIS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS

Steven Stalinsky May 6, 2020

“Jihadist groups are closely following the spread of the new coronavirus. In their publications and on social media their members post analyses, threats and even sanitary guidelines. Counterterrorism officials should monitor these communications for a window into their thinking.”

<https://www.memri.org/reports/what-jihadists-are-saying-about-coronavirus>

MEMRI TV

Hamas MP Yunis Al-Astal: Who Is More Dangerous to Humanity - COVID-19 or the Jews? The Jews Should Be Treated in Keeping with the Quranic Verse "Kill Them

Wherever You May Find Them"

#7984 | 02:12 **Source:** Al-Aqsa TV (Hamas/Gaza)

<https://www.memri.org/tv/hamas-mp-yunis-astal-parliament-should-recommend-kill-jews-wherever-find-them>

FRANCE 04-05-2020

**L'OBS(formerly Le Nouvel Observateur)
Grandstand.Racism and anti-
Semitism in Covid-19 times**

As "the black plague had excited hatred and fury against the Jews", the coronavirus pandemic is causing a surge of racist and anti-Semitic remarks, writes Marc Knobel, historian and director of studies of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (Crif) .

By Marc Knobel

Posted on April 05, 2020

<https://www.nouvelobs.com/coronavirus-de-wuhan/20200405.OBS27077/tribune-racisme-et-antisemitisme-en-temps-de-covid-19.html>

SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER

05-12-2020

Wiesenthal Center Slams Iranian Antisemitic State Policy Transplantation to Latin America

May 12, 2020

"Dr. Ariel Gelblung, Director for Latin America, added: *"This is one more example of the attempts to import into this region a conflict that is not its own. Iran continues to do so after promoting through its Hezbollah proxies three terrorist attacks: the Israeli Embassy in Argentina in 1992, the headquarters of the Argentine Jewish mutual AMIA and the Alas Chiricanas flight carrying prominent Jewish leaders in Panama, both in July 1994."*

<http://www.wiesenthal.com/about/news/wiesenthal-center-slams-14.html>

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Note: The following report by the WZO is not specifically on CORONAVIRUS. It is included, because it reports on the many sources of world Antisemitism in the last twelve months.

WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION (wzo)

Office of the vice-chair Yaakov Hapoel

“After much hard work, the WZO developed an in-depth report analyzing the trends of Antisemitism worldwide in the year 2019 including updates on the effects of COVID-19 on Antisemitism”

https://drive.google.com/file/d/12yT5ojXfH4I_jCZP2ifox2zsNbAlrZRI/view

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