



June 2020 Antisemitism Highlights

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Reports and Surveys

Germany

German intelligence classified report - Antisemitism rampant among Islamist organizations in Germany

A classified German intelligence report (Antisemitismus im Islamismus), by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), revealed widespread Islamic antisemitism among Muslim organizations in Germany, including defective statistics about the origin of crimes due to Jew-hatred. It was the German paper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (SZ) that first reported on June 3, 2020 about the document. Since the end of 2015, the BfV has recorded antisemitic events with a suspected Islamist background in Germany. The findings show that antisemitism is an important part of Islamist ideologies. According to Thomas Haldenwang (CDU) hostility towards Jews is "represented by practically all noteworthy Islamist organizations that are active in Germany" - Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, Milli Görüs, Hezbollah or the "Islamic State". Already 700 cases are listed in this "case collection of anti-Semitic events with a suspected Islamist background" In view of these findings, the BfV had been sharply criticized, as official statistics, according to which 70, 80 or 90 percent of all anti-Semitic attacks in Germany are carried out by right-wing radicals, may be inaccurate, especially due to the fact that unclarified cases of antisemitism are mostly referred to as motivated by the extreme right.

References:

<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/verfassungsschutz-judenhass-islamisten-akte-1.4925890>

<https://www.idea.de/politik/detail/antisemitismus-gehört-zur-grundausstattung-islamistischer-ideologien-113189.html>

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/german-intel-syrian-teacher-says-all-jews-belong-in-gas-chamber-630225>

Venezuela

US Commission on International *Religious Freedom* Annual Report

On June 11, 2020 the Annual Report of Religious Freedoms (published by the US Commission on International **Religious Freedom** since 2001) denounced Venezuelan president Maduro's government and other related groups for interrupting church meetings, attacking attendants and shattering furniture in temples. The report especially highlighted the rise in antisemitism in Venezuela.

References:

<https://notiespartano.com/2020/06/11/eeuu-denuncia-dramatico-aumento-del-antisemitismo-y-persecucion-religiosa-en-venezuela/>
<https://www.uscirf.gov/countries/venezuela>

The Czech Republic, Antisemitism 2019

On June 3, 2020, The Federation of the Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic published its 2019 report on antisemitism. The findings show that in 2019 the number of antisemitic manifestations (694) doubled compared to 2018 (347). The Federation noted that no physical attacks were registered in 2019, but there were three attacks on Jewish property and six other incidents involving antisemitic threats, verbal insults and harassment. About 95% of attacks took place on the internet.

References:

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/report-finds-anti-semitism-rise-czech-republic-71039178>
<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/Hk70ObShL>
<https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/anti-semitism-on-the-rise-in-czech-republic-report-finds-1.8893696>

Haifa University Study Reveals Extreme Antisemitism on TikTok

In June 2020, a newly published study reveals that TikTok, today's fastest-growing social networking application, is also a growing hotbed of extreme antisemitism. TikTok has 1.5 billion users, 41 percent of whom are between the ages of 16 and 24. Although its terms of service prohibit users under the age of thirteen, it is believed, based on their videos that many users are below the minimum age. Led by researchers Gabriel Weimann, a professor of communication at the University of Haifa and senior researcher at the

Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT), and Natalie Masri, a research assistant and graduate student at ICT, the “Spreading Hate on TikTok” report scanned TikTok for far-right contents by applying a systematic content analysis. This scan of TikTok videos, conducted from February through May of 2020, revealed 196 postings related to far-right extremism. The most prevalent category of far-right postings on TikTok pertained to antisemitism and Holocaust denial, as the study recorded 43 postings of that kind, translating to more than one-fifth of the total posts.

References:

<https://www.jewishpress.com/news/jewish-news/antisemitism-news/haifa-u-study-reveals-extreme-anti-semitism-on-tiktok/2020/06/22/>

<https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/study-tiktok-users-target-young-people-with-antisemitism-and-holocaust-denial-1.8945175>

Switzerland

50 percent of Swiss Jews faced antisemitic abuse in past five years

A study published in June 2020, directed by Prof. Dirk Baier of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland, revealed that of the 500 Swiss Jews questioned (the total number of Jews in Switzerland is 18,000), half of them reported having been targeted with antisemitic abuse in the past five years. According to Baier, antisemitism in Switzerland “obviously comes from the middle of society,” referring to middle-class citizens. These findings are in contrast to residents of other Western European countries. “There is an ‘everyday antisemitism’ in Switzerland,” said Dominic Pugatsch, head of the GRA Foundation against Racism and Antisemitism, whose research supported the survey’s conclusions. “Verbal harassment is unfortunately widespread on the street, at work or at school.”

References:

<https://www.gra.ch/interview-dirk-baier/>

<https://digitalcollection.zhaw.ch/handle/11475/20180>

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/50-percent-of-swiss-jews-faced-antisemitic-abuse-in-past-five-years-study-633865>

United Kingdom

CST Briefing: "Coronavirus and the plague of antisemitism"

On June 8, 2020 the Community Security Trust (CST), UK, published the briefing "Coronavirus and the Plague of Antisemitism". Antisemitic posts have been collected and five different narratives against Jews were identified:

1. The virus is fake – conspiracies suggest that the virus does not exist and was made up for Jews (and other groups) to gain power and control.
2. The virus is real – some believe that it was created and spread with bad intentions, like the "Zionist agenda".
3. Jews are the main spreaders of the virus – Media outlets have suggested that the virus is spreading faster amongst Jews causing a rise on antisemitic remarks.
4. Celebrating Jewish deaths – cartoons and posts on different media outlets have been circulating.
5. Let's spread it to the Jews – names such as the "Holocough" have been made up as a "final step" to kill Jews.

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2020/04/08/coronavirus-and-the-plague-of-antisemitism>

Responses to Antisemitism

France

Police investigate after protesters shout 'dirty Jews' at Paris rally against police racism

On 13 June 2020, Paris police opened an investigation after several protesters were heard shouting "dirty Jews" at a demonstration named "Justice for Adama" at the Place de la Republique in Paris, dedicated to Adama Traore, a Malian French black man who died in police custody there in 2016. The chants erupted after counter-protesters waved a banner that read "Justice for victims of anti-white crimes", to which several protesters reacted with "dirty Jews" chants. The CRIF, (umbrella group

representing French Jewry) condemned the incident saying: "There cannot be a fight against racism which directly or indirectly tolerates antisemitism in its ranks". Among the leading figures involved in the ongoing Traore protests was Jean-Luc Melenchon, a far-left politician frequently accused of antisemitism, who told the French media he did not hear the chants about Jews, which were documented on social networks.

References:

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/protesters-shout-dirty-jews-at-paris-rally-against-police-racism>

<https://www.leparisien.fr/faits-divers/sales-juifs-entendu-a-la-manifestation-contre-les-violences-policieres-la-justice-saisie-13-06-2020-8335005.php>

https://www.huffingtonpost.fr/entry/manifestation-pour-adama-traore-des-sales-juifs-entendus-la-prefecture-saisit-la-justice_fr_5ee4f9abc5b63e88e0d0ea07

https://www.liberation.fr/checknews/2020/06/14/que-sait-on-des-insultes-antisemites-entendues-lors-du-rassemblement-pour-adama_1791194

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdQtqg0koEA>

United Kingdom

Rebecca Long-Bailey sacked from Labour shadow cabinet in antisemitism row

Rebecca Long-Bailey, shadow education-secretary of the Labour Party has been sacked by party leader Keir Starmer. According to the BBC on June 25, Long-Bailey shared an article containing “an antisemitic conspiracy theory”. The article was shared in a retweet and contained an interview with actor and Labour supporter Maxine Peake. In relation to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Peake wrote that the tactics used killing him was learnt from seminars with the Israeli secret services. The Independent reported on June 25 that Israeli police denies any protocols or even a tactic of using pressure on the neck or airway, as was the method discussed. Party leader Keir, who defeated Long-Bailey in the race for party leadership, commented that his “first priority” was to tackle antisemitism. The Jewish Labour Movement welcomed Keir’s decision. Long-Bailey refused to remove the article initially while claiming she did not “endorse all

aspects” of the article. The Board of Deputies of British Jews president Van der Zyl called her initial response “pathetic”.

References:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53183085>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/films/features/maxine-peake-interview-labour-corbyn-keir-starmer-black-lives-matter-a9583206.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2020/jun/25/uk-coronavirus-live-news-updates-robert-jenrick-richard-desmond?page=with:block-5ef47ebc8f089da92bd3c649>

Labour Suspended Local Party Chairman Ray Mooney

Labour has suspended the chairman of North Norfolk Labour Party (NNLP) Ray Mooney due to allegations of antisemitism as reported by the Jewish Chronicle (JC) on June 5, 2020. Earlier Mooney had been informed in a letter by the party of a pending investigation. The letter stated he had engaged in behavior which “may reasonably be seen to involve anti-Semitic actions, stereotypes and sentiments”. According to North Norfolk News, Mooneys Facebook account shared articles with anti-Semitic content as well as comments. One example is his commenting on the organization “Jewish voice for peace” with the words: “Have you learned nothing or do you think the crimes of yesterday will allow you to repeat them now because of the Holocaust?” Mooney claimed being aware of the accusations and that he is responding to the party in writing.

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/labour-suspends-local-party-chair-ray-mooney-after-he-shared-rothschild-conspiracy-posts-1.500422>

<https://www.northnorfolknews.co.uk/news/nnlp-chairman-ray-mooney-suspended-over-anti-semitism-allegations-1-6686159>

Nigel Farage Accused of Using Antisemitic Code Words

Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage has been accused for increasingly using “antisemitic code words”, as was reported by The Guardian on June 28, 2020. Many Jewish groups and MPs have condemned Farage for “repeatedly using language and themes associated with far-right antisemitic conspiracy theories.” The Board of Deputies of British Jews referred to, among other things, claims about plots against the government, references to Goldman Sachs and the financier George Soros. He is also criticized for agreeing to interviews with openly antisemitic media personalities such as US pastor Rick Warren who claimed Donald Trump’s impeachment was a “Jew coup”. On May 8, the Independent reported on another accusation against Farage where he after breaking the lockdown rules in order to make a political statement against immigration at the port of Dover got criticized, and then referred to the “North London commentators” on his Twitter. According to the Independent, “North London” has been used for a long time as a euphemism for Jews. A spokesman for Farage has condemned in the past similar claims as “pathetic” and “manufactured”.

References:

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jun/28/jewish-groups-and-mps-condemn-nigel-farage-for-antisemitic-dog-whistles>

<https://www.indy100.com/article/nigel-farage-migrants-kent-police-lockdown-antisemitism-north-london-9505026>

BLM UK campaign accused of antisemitic rhetoric

The Black Lives Matter UK movement (BLMUK) has been accused of using antisemitic language, as reported in the Daily Mail on June 28, 2020. In the movement’s official twitter account it was stated that, “mainstream British politics is gagged of the right to critique Zionism and Israel’s settler colonial pursuits”. The context of the tweet is Israel’s planned annexation of disputed territories. President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Marie van der Zyl expressed her disappointment with the fact that BLMUK has “leaned into the antisemitic trope that British politics is “gagged” in terms of debating Israel”, according to the Jewish News. Chief executive of Holocaust Educational Trust Keren Pollock described the tweet as “dangerous” and that “...the insinuation is depressingly clear.” In response, BLMUK claimed on Twitter in that many Jewish organizations support them and on June 29 they posted an article on their website claiming to have been victims of “antisemitism slurs” and that “criticizing Israel is not

antisemitic”. The article also stated that “attacking BLMUK for standing up for Palestinians is an attempt to weaken the anti-racist movement”.

References:

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

Oriel College Students in Oxford Condemn 'Antisemitic Tropes' at Rhodes Must Fall Protest

On June 11, 2020, a protest hosted by the Rhodes Must Fall (campaign in solidarity of the Black Lives Matter movement) with 1,000 participants took place in Oriel College, Oxford. During the protest a student who identifies himself as a third generation Palestinian, from Leeds University gave a speech in which he said: “The American police are trained by the Israeli oppression army. They are united against us”. The speech kept going filled with conspiracy theories, including one suggesting that the university is “complicit in the oppression of the Palestinian people”. According to witnesses the speech was completely disconnected from the intension of supporting Black people’s rights and made several students feel so uncomfortable to the point of leaving the demonstration. Two Jewish students and six non-Jewish have approached Euan McGivern (Officer of the Equality and Diversity of Oriel Middle Common Room) expressing being “hurt and concerned”. Mr McGivern called Oriel College to condemn the hate-speech. A response from the college is still pending.

References:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/students-condemn-antisemitic-tropes-at-rhodes-must-fall-protest-1.500585>

United States

Principal Removed for Antisemitic Posts, Arizona

On June 8, 2020, the principal of the Heritage Elementary Charter School, in Glendale, Arizona, Justin Dye was removed from his position after

antisemitic and racist texts between him and a former employee, Danielle Elkin were posted on Facebook. Elkin, who is Jewish, posted the texts from Principal Dye which included antisemitic and racist jokes. She wrote on her Facebook page she could not "accept such casual racism and antisemitic comments in my life."

References:

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/glendale-education/2020/06/08/principal-justin-dye-heritage-elementary-charter-school-glendale-racist-texts/5321163002/>

<https://kvoa.com/news/local-news/2020/06/10/arizona-elementary-principal-removed-after-anti-semitic-racists-text-posted-on-social-media/>

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/arizona-principal-out-of-a-job-over-anti-semitic-and-racist-texts-sent-to-jewish-employee-with-biracial-son>

Norway

Norway withholds funding to Palestinian Authority over antisemitic and Jihadist content in school textbooks.

On June 4, 2020 the foreign minister of Norway announced that funds for the Palestinian Authority's education sector will be withheld until there is no more promotion of antisemitism and terrorism against Israel in school textbooks. On December 2019, IMPACT (an NGO that analyses textbooks around the world) brought the matter up to the Norwegian minister and the decision came after a voting in the Parliament. Ine Eriksen Soreide, the Foreign Minister, expressed optimism after meeting with PA Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh and assured that "some of the curriculum changes have already been made".

References:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/06/04/norway-withholds-funding-to-palestinian-authority-over-antisemitic-and-jihadist-content-in-school-textbooks/>

Sweden

The Swedish government has informed about a number of decisions related to initiatives against anti-Semitism, as is stated on the official

website of the government of Sweden on June 26, 2020. The government underlines the importance of increasingly involving the Jewish communities when deciding on issues that concern them including the decision making process related to security-enhancing measures. The initiatives mentioned include educational efforts, such as allocating funds to support travel to the “Holocaust Memorial Sites” in Poland and in April 2020 a special investigator assigned by the government concluded that a Holocaust educational museum be set up, where stories of survivors connected to Sweden should be in the center in an effort to educate about the dangers of anti-Semitism. The museum is planned to open in January 2022. In October 2021 Sweden will host the “Malmö International forum for commemorating the Holocaust and combating anti-Semitism”.

References:

<https://www.regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/demokrati-och-manskliga-rattigheter/insatser-mot-antisemitism-och-for-okad-sakerhet/>

Belgium

Brussels: Prison Sentence for Antisemitic Harassment of Jewish MP

On June 19, 2020 a Belgian court in Brussels sentenced a man to two years in prison and a fine of 800 euros for antisemitic harassment of a Jewish member of parliament, Viviane Teitelbaum. The conviction came following a complaint filed by Teitelbaum against a man, who had sent her a series of Facebook messages in January 2018 containing death threats and antisemitic abuse. The man accused Teitelbaum of involvement in outlandish conspiracies that connected Israel’s Mossad intelligence agency with the diamond industry in the Belgian city of Antwerp, and threatened her with a series of “deadlines,” warning that she would be assassinated if she did not comply. One message read: “After this deadline, Ms. Teitelbaum, I promise you that nothing will be left!!! Neither from your stalls, nor from your constructions made with our programs, nor from your network, nor therefore from your money, nor from your cities, nor from your diamonds...!” Teitelbaum welcomed the sentence but expressed regret that the judge did not chose to apply the maximum prison sentence of four years.

References:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/06/19/belgian-court-jails-man-for-sending-antisemitic-death-threats-to-jewish-mp/>
<https://www.7sur7.be/belgique/deux-ans-de-prison-pour-des-menaces-antisemites-sur-le-compte-facebook-d-une-deputee-bruxelloise~ace83d5b/?referrer=https://www.google.com/>
https://www.rtf.be/info/societe/detail_deux-ans-de-prison-suite-a-des-menaces-de-mort-a-caractere-antisemite-envers-une-deputee-bruxelloise?id=10525590
<https://fr.timesofisrael.com/belgique-2-ans-de-prison-ferme-pour-menaces-et-insultes-contre-une-elue-juive/>
<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/man-given-two-year-jail-sentences-for-antisemitic-threats-against-mp-632209>

Bulgaria

Policy Against Antisemitism

On June 24, 2020 the Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, Ekaterina Zaharieva, spoke during a video conference with the board of directors of the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry. She announced that the Bulgarian government pursues a consistent policy against antisemitism, xenophobia and hate speech. Zaharieva also announced that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working on the first Bulgarian national action plan against antisemitism.

References:

<https://sofiaglobe.com/2020/06/25/foreign-minister-bulgarian-government-consistent-against-antisemitism-hate-speech/http://www.bta.bg/en/c/ES/id/2235219https://novinata.bg/bulgaria/ekaterina-zaharieva-balgariq-vodi-posledovatelna-politika-sresthu-antisemitizma-i-ksenofobiqta/>

Adoption of IHRA definition of Antisemitism

Argentina

Argentina adopts IHRA definition of antisemitism

On June 7, 2020 Argentina officially adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism in order to prevent, sanction and eliminate antisemitism in the country. The acceptance of the definition (also in the province of Tucuman and the City of Buenos Aires) was accompanied by public criticism coming from politicians and intellectuals who fear that it may "prevent complaints on violations on human rights, as has been happening for more than seven decades in the case of the Palestinian people". According to Argentinian historian Guillermo Caviasca, accepting this definition is a way of protecting Israeli politics that confuse criticism with discrimination.

References:

<https://www.jpost.com/international/argentina-adopts-ihra-definition-of-antisemitism-630740>

<https://www.infobae.com/sociedad/2020/06/08/el-centro-simon-wiesenthal-celebro-la-adhesion-de-la-definicion-de-antisemitismo-por-parte-de-la-argentina/>

<https://notasperiodismopopular.com.ar/2020/06/22/polemica-en-torno-a-la-definicion-de-antisemitismo-adoptada-por-la-cancilleria-argentina/>

<https://www.telam.com.ar/notas/202006/478449-ciudad-buenos-aires--adopcion-definicion-internacional-antisemitismo.html>

Spain

Balearic Islands Adopt IHRA Definition

On June 6, 2020, the Balearic Islands archipelago east of Spain passed a resolution to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. The Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain (FCJE), the country's EJC affiliate, has commended the Parliament of the Balearic Islands for adopting a resolution in

committee condemning antisemitism in all its forms, including boycotts of the State of Israel. The resolution, adopted by absolute majority by the committee of Social Affairs and Human Rights of the Balearic Parliament, condemns boycott activities against Israel, and specifically the “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions” (BDS) movement for its antisemitic character and for “violating the rights and liberties of individuals”, read the adopted text.

References:

<https://www.20minutos.es/noticia/4289413/0/cs-confia-en-que-otras-instituciones-sean-valientes-y-sigan-el-ejemplo-del-parlament-contra-el-antisemitismo/https://www.europapress.es/sociedad/noticia-judios-aplauden-propuesta-aprobada-parlamento-balear-condenar-cualquier-forma-antisemitismo-20200611180811.htmlhttps://eurojewcong.org/news/communities-news/spain/spanish-jews-congratulate-balearic-parliament-for-comprehensive-resolution-against-antisemitism/https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/06/15/spains-balearic-islands-renowned-mediterranean-party-spot-adopt-anti-bds-law/>

Holocaust and Nazi Era Attitudes

Portugal

Portuguese diplomat who rescued 10,000 Jews to be honored with Lisbon monument

A monument will be built in Lisbon, Portugal, to honor Aristides de Sousa Mendes, Portuguese diplomat who saved around 30,000 lives during WWII, including 10,000 Jews. In the beginning of June 2020, the Portuguese parliament unanimously accepted the resolution that states that he is “a heroic historical figure, is part of Portugal’s national patrimony... and above all a virtuous example for future generations”. In 1940 during his service as consul in Bordeaux, France he gave visas to people fleeing the Nazis until he was suspended from his position. In 1966 he was recognized as a Righteous Among the Nations by the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum.

References:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/portuguese-diplomat-who-rescued-10000-jews-to-be-honored-with-lisbon-monument/>

Spain

Spanish diplomat Angel Sanz-Briz was honored for saving thousands of Jews from the Nazis.

On June 12, 2020, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union, the Jewish Community of Madrid, the Sefaradic Center of Israel and Yad Vashem came together (in a virtual ceremony), 40 years after the death of Angel Sanz-Briz to honor him for saving thousands of Jewish lives during the Holocaust in Hungary. Sanz-Briz was in charge of the delegation of Spanish affairs in Hungary, a place from where he was able to hand out Spanish passports to thousands of Hungarian Jews, saving them from the Nazis.

References:

<http://www.aurora-israel.co.il/homenaje-al-angel-de-budapest-a-los-40-anos-de-su-muerte>

United States

Nashville Holocaust memorial vandalized with Nazi messages

On June 13, 2020 a white sheet with the words "Kikes Lie Whites Die" and the white supremacist 1488 symbol, was found hanging on the Holocaust memorial at the Gordon Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Nashville, Tennessee. The Center said the sheet was immediately removed and published a statement saying the JCC "is deeply shocked and saddened" by the attack. [...] "We condemn such bigotry and violence, which has no place in Nashville or anywhere in America. [...] At a time when our nation is confronting racism and antisemitic attacks are rising, our JCC community continues to stand united with those who condemn discrimination in all its forms". Nashville Police Department has increased patrol and is investigating the vandalism as civil rights intimidation.

References:

<https://www.wkrn.com/news/local-news/gordon-jewish-community-center-vandalized-with-hate-speech/>

<https://forward.com/fast-forward/448786/nashville-holocaust-memorial-vandalized-with-nazi-messages/>

<https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/crime/2020/06/16/nashville-police-investigate-anti-semitic-graffiti-holocaust-memorial/3196778001/>

<https://www.jns.org/nashville-holocaust-memorial-vandalized-with-anti-semitic-message/>

<https://www.wvlt.tv/2020/06/15/jewish-federation-responds-to-vandalism-at-nashville-holocaust-memorial/>

Poland

Support for “Never Again” Organization

On June 17, 2020 the Warsaw Jewish community declared its support for the ‘Never Again’ Association, a vocal watchdog fighting racism and antisemitism in Poland. The reason for this public support were ongoing attacks by several far-right figures on the Association following its objection to a new book by Rafal Ziemkiewicz — an ultranationalist TV pundit and journalist — that describes the Nazi Holocaust as a “myth” while opining that “Jews are working to earn themselves a new Holocaust or, at least, a new wave of pogroms.” Among the attackers was Ziemkiewicz himself who on May 15, 2020, speaking on Poland’s state-owned TVP Info channel on May 15, assailed Pankowski as “extraordinarily stupid, rude and anti-Polish” as well as the far-right politician Kazimierz Plotkowski, who accused Pankowski of being ‘murderer of Poles’.

References:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/06/16/polish-jews-express-support-for-antisemitism-campaigner-targeted-by-far-right/>

<https://eurojewcong.org/news/communities-news/poland/polish-jews-express-support-for-antisemitism-campaigner-targeted-by-far-right/>

Belgium

Holocaust Distortion in State Broadcaster Documentary

On 15 June 2020, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre reported in a press release that it had sent a letter to Belgian Federal Prime Minister, Madam Sophie Wilmès, expressing outrage at “the Holocaust distortion by the Belgian State broadcaster, VRT, in its Flemish-language television series ‘Children of the Holocaust’”. The letter by Director Shimon Samuels slammed VRT for the fifth episode of the Holocaust documentary aired on May 26, 2020, in which a voiceover narration claimed that in May 1948 "Jewish militias perpetrated massacres in 20 Palestinian villages, prompting hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to flee". According to Samuels' letter, "There is no mention of Arab terror and pogroms from 1929 against Jewish villages and cities across the British Palestine Mandate". Samuels further wrote "the Arabs of Palestine were led by the Grand Mufti, Haj Mohammed Amin al-Husseini, who fled to Nazi Berlin, requesting Hitler to prepare gas chambers for the ‘Yishuv’ – their Jewish neighbors". The series mentions neither Arab killings of hundreds of Jewish civilians in the years 1947-49 nor dozens of Arab settlements that were left intact and incorporated with their residents into the State of Israel. VRT's documentary was also condemned by other organizations and figures, including the Forum of Jewish Organizations of the Flemish Region and Holocaust survivor Regina Slusny, who was interviewed for the documentary and Israel's ambassador to Belgium, Emmanuel Nachson, who called it "irrelevant politicization". VRT has been implicated in numerous controversies involving its treatment of Israel and World War II.

References:

<http://www.wiesenthal.com/about/news/wiesenthal-centre-to-belgian-6.html>

<https://www.jta.org/2020/06/12/global/belgian-holocaust-series-says-jews-massacred-and-systematically-displaced-palestinians>

<https://www.vrt.be/vrtnu/a-z/kinderen-van-de-holocaust/1/kinderen-van-de-holocaust-s1a5/>

Lithuania

Events in Vilnius Glorifying 1941 Pogroms

Julius Norwila and David Katz from the Lithuanian Defending History organization reported on June 23, 2020 about several events organized in Vilnius (Vilna) glorifying the anniversary of the June 23 pogroms of 1941. On June 23, 1941, on the eve of German conquest, Hitler's Lithuanian supporters attacked Jews in numerous locations. The Lithuanian far right claims, mistakenly, that this was actually a rebellion, which drove the Red Army out. The events were poorly attended, largely by far right supporters. The authors of the report noted that during the evening event in Vilnius the chief historian of the state-sponsored Genocide Center Dr. Andrius Bubnys, proudly spoke under a banner depicting two major Holocaust collaborators, Jonas Noreika and Kazys Skirpa. The Genocide Center, according to Katz and Norwila, is one of Eastern Europe's major centers of Holocaust obfuscation, Double Genocide revisionism (a claim that the Soviets, with Jewish help, committed genocide against the Lithuanian population), and far-right whitewashing of Nazi collaborators as "anti-Soviet national heroes."

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Croatia

WJC Vice President: "Croatia's fascist movement is on the rise yet again"

Menachem Z Rosensaft, the associate executive vice president and general counsel of the World Jewish Congress, (WJC), published an article on June 25, 2020 in the Independent (UK) about the rise of the Croatian fascist movement. The author claims that Croatia for some time now has been witnessing a widespread attempt to rehabilitate and legitimize the WWII nationalist and separatist Ustaša by characterizing it and its members as patriots. This movement murdered hundreds of thousands of Serbs and tens of thousands of Jews, as well as many Roma and Croatian anti-fascists. Rosenhaft claims that both the government and the Croatian society is tacitly complicit in whitewashing of Ustasa, except for Zoran Milanović, Croatia's president, who often protested publicly against.

Menachem Z Rosenhaft demands the international community to loudly protest against any legitimation of the Ustasa.

References:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/croatia-fascism-nazi-usta-a-sasenovac-antisemitism-zoran-milanovi-a9583146.html>

Slovenia

Slovenian court voids executed Nazi collaborator's 1946 treason conviction

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, former senior consultant on constitutional affairs to the British Policy Exchange, published on June 25, 2020 in the British paper The Article an assessment dealing with recent legal developments, pertaining to the Nazi era, in Slovenia. In January 2020 'an unnamed grandchild of the country's leading wartime pro-Nazi, the notoriously antisemitic General Leon Rupnik, had succeeded in persuading the country's Supreme Court to annul the death sentence imposed on him in 1946', claiming that the grounds of indictment were procedurally inaccurate. In theory, the case would go for a retrial in a lower court, but this is impossible in this case, since the defendant is long dead and thus cannot appear in such a court. The Slovenian government claims that, in any case, the annulment does not constitute a rehabilitation of Rupnik, who is still considered a war criminal. Still, the Wiesenthal Center, as well as Slovenian Jewish organizations, protested. Pinto-Duschinsky expressed concern that the annulment may open the possibility of challenging all trials against war criminals conducted immediately after the war, including the one at Nuremberg. He proposes that if the Slovenian Constitutional Court declines to review and reverse the verdict of the country's Supreme Court, an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg should be made.

References:

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<https://www.timesofisrael.com/slovenian-court-voids-executed-nazi-collaborators-1946-treason-conviction/>

Latvia:

‘New Book’ by Nazi-Era Collaborator H. Cukurs Distributed to Latvia’s Bookstores

In June 2020, according to the historian Aleksandrs Figmanis, a new edition of the book by the Latvian pre-WWII aviator Herberts Cukurs *My flight to Japan* (Mans lidojums uz Japānu), hit the Latvian stores. The book was published by the Latvian Museum of Aviation. Cukurs was a famous aviator before WWII. During the war he was an active member of the Nazi “Arajs Commando” responsible for the death of about 35,000 Jews in many towns all across Latvia. Cukurs, also known as "the Butcher of Latvia", who personally took part in many killings, fled to Brazil after the war. He was killed by Israeli agents in Montevideo in 1965. There is no mention of his WWII activities within the book.

References:

<http://defendinghistory.com/new-book-by-holocaust-killer-h-cukurs-hits-latvias-bookstores/102787>
<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-the-mossad-hit-job-that-killed-a-potential-amnesty-for-nazi-war-criminals-1.8800624>

Spain

MdyC left party demands the dismissal of Vice President Ruiz for praising the pro-Nazi Blue Division

On June 15, 2020 Francisco Jose Ruiz, vicepresident of the Assembly and member of Vox (far right wing Spanish political party) tweeted a statement referring to members of the Blue Division (a military force that supported the Nazis during World War II) as “heroes”. In response to the tweet Youssef Mebroud, Deputy from MdyC (Movement for Dignity and Citizenship, left-wing political party) questioned his position as vice-president, urging him to resign from office, assuring that his tweet was “a grave”... “attack against coexistence”.

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Germany

German controversy: philosopher Achille Mbembe accused of antisemitism and Holocaust trivialization

Since mid-April 2020, the Cameroonian post-colonialist philosopher, historian, political scientist and thinker Achille Mbembe has been at the heart of a virulent debate that has been stirring up the German political-media sphere. With the biggest German newspapers (Die Zeit, the Frankfurter Allgemeine and the Sueddeutsche Zeitung taking up the issue. The debate was triggered off on March 25, by Lorenz Deutsch cultural spokesman of the North Rhine-Westphalian faction of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), who criticized Stefanie Carp, director of the Ruhrtriennale, for inviting Achille Mbembe to give a speech at the opening of the major international cultural festival held every year in Bochum, cancelled for 2020 because of the corona pandemic. Achille Mbembe has been accused of antisemitism, relativizing the Holocaust and accusing Israel of being an apartheid state. His case has launched a larger debate on freedom of expression and criticism of the state of Israel in Germany. Achille Mbembe claims that the "shameful allegations" against him are unfounded. "Everything I have ever written or said rests on a single foundation, namely the hope for the development of a truly universal community, from which no one is excluded," the philosopher wrote in a detailed reply in the weekly paper *Die Zeit* on April 23, in which he also stated that antisemitism is "a terrible crime." He reinforced his position on April 28, stating that he would never trivialize the Holocaust or equate the mass murder of the Jews with apartheid in South Africa.

References:

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Argentina

DAIA and The Simon Wiesenthal Center reject Judge Eugenio Zaffaroni's remarks and accuse him of Holocaust trivialization.

On June 4, 2020 Eugenio Zaffaroni (former minister of the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina) accused the media of having a monopoly on information and “creating a reality that threatens the quarantine [...], the media has the power to channel public opinion and today they are equivalent to Hitler's [Nazi] party”. Some hours after these claims were made, Jorge Knoblovits and Alejandro Zuchowicki (President and General Secretary of the DAIA – Delegation of Israeli-Argentinean Associations) condemned this comment saying it was trivializing the Holocaust. On June 4, 2020 Baby Etchecopar ("A24" tv host) expressed his strong condemnation and anger against Zaffaroni. He went as far as assuring that the “actual Nazis” are those from Zaffaroni's party (Frente Grande – socio-democratic Party) and accused him of spreading xenophobia, antisemitism and hate speech.

References:

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Examples of Antisemitic Manifestations

Brazil

Brazilian pastor prays for a “second Holocaust” to “destroy Jews like venom”

“Kill the Jews, God, strike them with your sword, because they have abandoned God” yelled pastor Turiani da Hora Lores to a congregation of dozens of people in early June 2020. In a recording of such event the voices of the congregation repeating his words can be heard. “God what you have done during World War II, you must do again, this is what we are asking in our prayers: justice, justice, justice” he added. Sem Fronteiras, a web of Jewish communities in Brazil, denounced the incitement.

References:

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Italy

Antisemitic threats to PD deputy Emanuele Fiano - "Into the Oven"

On June 5, 2020, an image of Adolph Hitler with the threatening words "Into the oven!" ('Nel forno!'), was sent to Italian MP, Emanuele Fiano, a deputy of the Democratic Party (PD) and a prominent figure in the Italian Jewish community. Fiano posted the image on Facebook commenting: "Tonight I have been targeted but I don't want to remain pissed off by myself". The Democratic Party condemned the incident as a "disgusting, stupid, antisemitic act. An offense to the millions who died in concentration camps, to the millions who died during the war to defeat Nazi-fascism and restore freedom and democracy to Europe". The incident was also condemned by the President of the Italian Jewish Community, Noemi Di Segni, by the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Roberto Fico and by members of the opposition including Osvaldo Napoli and Anna Maria Bernini of Forza Italia (FI), and Giorgia Meloni, leader of nationalist conservative party Brothers of Italy (FDL - Fratelli d'Italia).

References:

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Finland and Sweden**Finnish and Swedish neo-Nazis attend paramilitary training in Russia**

Finnish newspaper Helsingin Sanomat reported on June 9, 2020 that neo-Nazis have attended paramilitary training courses in Russia. Finnish and Swedish participants connected to the “Nordic Resistance Movement” (NRM) have been trained at a camp near St Petersburg for years according to the article. Finland’s Supreme Court already in March 2019 placed a ban on the NRM but the group is still believed to operate under a different name in Finland according to the European Jewish Congress Website. In Sweden three members of the NRM were convicted in April for death threats against Jews, according to the Swedish “Expo” magazine. The Finnish Security Intelligence Service has declined to comment on the report.

References:

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<https://expo.se/2020/04/nmr-aktivister-doms-for-dodshot-mot-judar>

Australia**Australian Newspaper Slammed for Publishing ‘Antisemitic’ Cartoon of Country’s Jewish Treasurer**

A cartoon published on June 6, 2020 in The Australian Financial Review depicting the Jewish Treasurer of Australia, Josh Frydenberg with a hooknose, drew angry responses and accusations of antisemitism against the newspaper. The cartoon by David Rowe, portrayed a group of government officials as Captain Cook and his team of explorers, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison as Captain Cook and Treasurer Josh Frydenberg as a sailor, with a head covering and hook nose, carrying a spear shaped as gold dollar sign. The image sparked harsh criticism on social media, with users condemning the cartoon as "antisemitic piece of garbage" and a "beyond despicable portrayal of our treasurer using racist stereotypes" and "Hitler would love this!"

Alex Ryvchin, the co-CEO of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, addressed the cartoonist, David Rowe on Twitter, about the cartoon. Mr. Rowe, denied the cartoon was antisemitic and said he apologized if it was interpreted that way. Ryvchin apparently accepted the apology.

References:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/06/07/australian-newspaper-faces-storm-of-criticism-for-publishing-antisemitic-cartoon-of-countrys-jewish-treasurer/>

<https://ajn.timesofisrael.com/financial-review-slammed-over-antisemitic-cartoon/>

United States

Nevada Jewish man stabbed in head by man shouting anti-Semitic slurs

On 19 June 2020 a Jewish man leaving a "Tap Shack" bar in Carson City, Nevada, was stabbed in the head by a man on the sidewalk outside. The alleged stabber Jeremy Jay Ortega had asked him for money and then shouted antisemitic insults, raised his arm in a Nazi salute multiple times and said "Heil Hitler, you piece of shit" before stabbing the man and walking away from the bar. The suspect was arrested shortly after the attack and a violent struggle with police. He was charged with attempted robbery, battery with a deadly weapon, battery on a police officer and obstruction. The victim stated that though the suspect was yelling racial and antisemitic slurs, the suspect did not know the victim was Jewish and the victim does not believe it was a hate crime. Additional charges are being considered. Police are investigating.

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<https://mynews4.com/news/local/man-arrested-in-stabbing-near-the-tap-shack-in-carson-city>

Russia**Jewish oppositional activists at political talk-show**

On June 27, 2020, Igor Korotchenko, chief editor of the military affairs journal 'Natsional'naya oborona', attacked several Jewish oppositional activists on Olga Skobeeva's political talk-show on "Rossia-1" TV channel. He said that under the Nazis, the blogger Leonid Gozman would turn into ash and the musician Andrei Makarevich would be killed and his skin would be turned into a lampshade. As to the political activist Liubov' Sobol he expected her to 'rot in a German bordello'. Statements were accompanied with pictures of these Jewish activists, so the journalists covering the matter assume that these were planned ahead of time.

References:

<https://www.economics-prorok.com/2020/06/%D0%B2-%D1%84%D0%B0%D1%88%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B9-%D1%80%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%81%D0%B8%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0%D1%8F%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%B8-%D1%87%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BC%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B0%D1%80.html>

Anti-Zionism/ Anti-Israel Manifestations

Musician Roger Waters, co-founder of Pink Floyd British rock group, made statements deemed antisemitic on June 20, 2020. Waters was interviewed by the Hamas-affiliated “Shehab News Agency”. According to the MEMRI transcript, Waters stated that US Jewish business magnet Sheldon Adelson is “pulling the strings of the Trump administration” and that “he believes that only Jews, only Jewish people, are completely human...and everybody else on Earth is there to serve them.” He was also reported as having said: “Zionism is an ugly stain, and it needs to be gently removed by us.” Rabbi Cooper at the Simon Wiesenthal Center told the Jewish Journal, Waters used “Nazi-like terminology”. Anti-Defamation League CEO Greenblatt called him a “propagation of antisemitism and anti-Zionism”. Waters himself commented on his website on June 25 that he had no idea he was invoking antisemitic trope and that he regrets any hurt caused by him.

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Venezuela

Wiesenthal Center Not Surprised at Venezuelan Appointment of Holocaust Denier to State Official Role

On June 17, 2020 the Wiesenthal Center condemned Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro’s government after naming Luis Fuenmayor Toro for a State Official Role. Fuenmayor Toro, is recognized for defending terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, denying the Holocaust and delegitimizing Israel’s right of existence. According to the Ariel Gelblung, president of the Wiesenthal Center for Latin America, “there is only one step between denying the Holocaust and attacking modern Jews in the world”.

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