EXAMPLES OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

THIS DOCUMENT PRESENTS THE MAJOR REPORTED ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS DURING THIS PERIOD.

APR–NOV 2016

Prepared by the European Jewish Congress, Secretariat and Member of the Advisory Board of the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism (WGAS).
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I. REPORTS & POLLS

AUSTRIA

Antisemitic incidents in Austria up by more than 80%

Thursday, April 07, 2016 - The number of antisemitic incidents reported in Austria increased more than 80% in 2015, the Austrian Forum against Antisemitism said. The group said that reported internet postings denouncing Jews more than doubled during that time. The forum, which began monitoring antisemitic incidents in 2003, said 465 incidents were recorded during 2015, over 200 of them being internet postings hostile to Jews. The total number of internet postings reported to Austria's constitutional protection authority as offensive remained stable in 2015, but the number of postings liable to be used in criminal proceedings doubled compared to 2014, according to an interior ministry spokesman. "The whole picture is terrifying," Oskar Deutsch, president of the Jewish Communities of Austria (IKG), said.

Source: Israel National News

FRANCE

Large dip in French Jewish emigration to Israel

Monday, October 10, 2016 - The number of Jews making aliyah from France in the first eight months of 2016 has shown a 42 percent decline from the same period in 2015. Even though estimates predicted that the terror attacks in the country would boost the number of immigrants, it seems that an opposite trend has taken hold. The Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI) report for the last Jewish year shows that despite the fears of terrorism and antisemitism in France, only 3,452 people have immigrated to Israel from the country between January and August 2016, compared to 5,930 people in the same period of 2015. According to figures collected by the Jewish Agency for Israel, over 200,000 French Jews are considering making aliyah. The total number of olim for the entirety of 2015 was 7,835.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Yediot Aharonot

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Huge fall in number of antisemitic attacks in France

Friday, September 16, 2016 - Antisemitic incidents in France have decreased by 64 percent in the first half of 2016 compared to 2015, according to a French official who credited his government’s policing around Jewish institutions. Gilles Clavreul, France’s inter-ministerial delegate for the fight against racism and antisemitism, said that the drop began in June 2015 and continued into the first seven months of 2016 over the corresponding period of 2015. Clavreul did not name the number of incidents recorded in those periods in an interview published in Actualité Juive, but he did say that “if this tendency continues, we could drop below the 400 mark of incidents per year – one of the best results of the past 15 years.” Referring to the posting of some 12,000 soldiers at Jewish neighbourhoods and institutions following the murder of four people at a kosher supermarket in January 2015, Clavreul added: “The security measures put in place around synagogues and Jewish schools have had a discouraging effect” on would-be attackers.
Hate crimes in France down 80% this year

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 - France’s interior minister said that antisemitic and anti-Muslim acts had dropped 80% in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period the previous year. In a speech to a conference of the CRIF, the umbrella body of French Jewry, in Paris, Bernard Cazeneuve said the steep decline was due to heightened vigilance of law enforcement authorities and close coordination between state security services and each community's security organisation, France's Le Monde newspaper reported. “People might say, ‘That’s it, the battle is won.’ I do not think so. When there is so much violence and so much hatred, a decline in attacks does not mean that society has overcome [the violence],” he told the assembled Jewish leaders. “It means that the mutual vigilance we have put in place has started to bear fruit.” The good news would not lead to a decline in the efforts of law enforcement to counter hate crimes, Cazeneuve vowed, “but rather strengthen it.” Yet the drop in attacks suggests that “there is in this country, besides the ardour of those with hate in their hearts... a spirit of brotherhood and solidarity that, as happened so often in the history of our country, outweighed the bad.”

Source: Times of Israel

More tolerant, but increasing racist and antisemitic attacks

Tuesday, May 03, 2016 - The annual report on racism, antisemitism and xenophobia by France’s National Consultative Committee on Human Rights has noted increasing levels of tolerance towards the country's minority populations. The tolerance levels maintain an ongoing trend seen over the last five years, the report says. Opinions towards the Jews and Muslims were “undeniably” better, the report said. Attacks against Jews rose sharply in France during 2015 making up some 40 percent of the total of racist attacks. Attacks against Muslims also tripled in 2015.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Libération
one protester went as far as to carry a banner bearing a quote attributed to Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Times of Israel

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One in ten Germans think Jews have too much influence

Monday, June 20, 2016 - Eleven per cent of Germans think Jews have too much influence in society, according to a new study. One in 10 want a new Fuhrer to run Germany, with around six per cent believing that Hitler would have been regarded as a great leader were it not for the Holocaust. Researchers from the University of Leipzig asked 2,240 Germans about far-right attitudes. They found that eight per cent felt that Nazism had its good points, while 12 per cent believed Germans were naturally superior. Extremist views had become more acceptable following an increase in the number of immigrants arriving in Germany. Forty per cent of Germans were in favor of banning Muslims from migrating to the country, the survey found. Oliver Decker, a co-author of the report, said that far-right ideology had moved from the fringes of society and was now commonplace.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Jewish Chronicle

THE NETHERLANDS

Reduction in level of antisemitic attacks in the Netherlands

Tuesday, May 03, 2016 - A Dutch watchdog on antisemitism recorded 126 incidents it considers antisemitic in 2015 - a 26-percent decrease from 2014. Of the incidents recorded by the Centre for Information and Documentation on Israel, or CIDI, in 2015, 36 were in the victims’ direct environment, meaning incidents involving neighbours or acquaintances the victims knew as opposed to anonymous threats and abuse online, read the CIDI report. Five incidents involved physical violence against people and six were cases of vandalism. The most common category of incident was insults shouted or spoken on the street, accounting for 19 percent of the total, or 24 incidents. Online antisemitic harassment in the form of emails and electronic messages totaled at 12 cases. Despite the decrease in incidents, the total number of incidents recorded by CIDI in 2015 is the second highest since 2010, when 124 cases were observed, following the peak year of 2014 with 171 incidents. In 2015, a total of 96 Dutch citizens made aliyah, the highest figure recorded in a decade but still less than 0.2 percent of the total Jewish population of the Netherlands, which is estimated at 50,000.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Ha’aretz
Universities UK report on combating campus antisemitism

Wednesday, October 26, 2016 - Universities UK, the umbrella group representing university heads, published a 114-page document on the steps vice-chancellors and their staff should take to deal with hate crimes, including antisemitism, which affect students. It comes after UUK set up a taskforce in 2015 and took evidence from Jewish groups and communal leaders. Nicola Dandridge, UUK chief executive and chair of the taskforce, said: “The university sector has been clear that there is no place for antisemitism or any other kind of unlawful discrimination at our universities.”

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Universities UK; Jewish Chronicle

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The abuse of London ultra-Orthodox Jewish community is widespread

Tuesday, October 11, 2016 - According to a study carried out by Stamford Hill Shomrim, during the course of one month in London, there were 32 reports of hate crimes against Orthodox Jews, equating to eight incidents a week. These incidents include three assaults, two threats to kill, eight threats of violence, 18 cases of verbal abuse and one incident of criminal damage. The month-long study recording antisemitic attacks on the ultra-Orthodox community was compiled in the run up to National Hate Crime Awareness Week.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; International Business Times

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CST notes increase in antisemitic incidents in UK

Monday, August 22, 2016 - Incidents of antisemitism rose by 11% in the first six months of this year compared with the same period in 2015, according to Britain’s Community Security Trust. The overall figure of 557 cases of malicious acts was the second highest ever recorded during a January-June period, the CST said. There was no obvious trigger for the increase, said the organisation, which provides security to the UK Jewish community. Two years ago, the war in Gaza led to a big rise in antisemitic incidents in the UK. But the biggest increases this year were recorded in April, May and June, months when antisemitism in the Labour party was the subject of widespread media coverage. Racism and xenophobia were part of the campaign discourse in run-up to the EU referendum on 23 June. More than three-quarters of the incidents were recorded in London and Manchester, the two largest Jewish communities in the UK. In London there was a 62% increase in incidents, whereas Manchester there was a 54% fall. Commenting on the figures, the home secretary, Amber Rudd, said: “I condemn the deplorable rise in antisemitic hate incidents in the first half of this year and will continue to work with law enforcement partners and with the Jewish community to ensure their safety and security.” The government provided £13.4m for security measures at Jewish sites, she added.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; The Guardian

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British Jews feel less safe after Brexit vote

Thursday, June 30, 2016 - More than a third of British Jews feel less safe following the EU referendum result, a poll in London’s Jewish Chronicle has revealed. After the country backed
leaving the European Union, 38 per cent of the community said the outcome had left them more concerned about their security. More than half said they felt pessimistic about the future.
Sources: European Jewish Congress; The Jewish Chronicle

**Sharp rise in hate crimes against UK Jews**

**Monday, May 02, 2016** - Violent crime against Jews in England and Wales rose by more than half in 2015, according to police figures. Campaigners warned that the sharp rise in attacks coincided with an overall increase of 25 per cent in antisemitic crime which defied predictions that hate crime aimed at Jews would fall after reaching an all-time high two years ago. Figures obtained by the Campaign Against Antisemitism using freedom of information rules found that there were 938 anti-Semitic crimes in 2015, compared to 746 a year earlier. The 2015 total included 190 offences classified as violent, compared to 126 in 2014, a rise of 51 per cent. Violent attacks also rose as a proportion of the total attacks, meaning that one in five crimes committed against Jews now involves physical assault. Home Secretary Theresa May acknowledged that more needed to be done understand hate crime and said measures were now in place to record religion-based incidents in detail. She said: “The UK has one of the strongest legislative frameworks in the world to protect communities from hostility, violence and bigotry. But we must ensure that these laws are rigorously enforced and that victims feel confident about coming forward to report crimes.”
Sources: European Jewish Congress; iNews

**Third of British Muslims say Jews have too much power in UK**

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016** - An extensive new poll taken across the United Kingdom has revealed that British Muslims were more likely to hold antisemitic views than other British citizens. The poll, broadcasted on Channel 4, found that more than a third of British Muslims surveyed believed "Jews have too much power in the UK" and had undue influence in the media, financial institutions and the business world. More than a quarter of those sampled also agreed that Jews were responsible for most of the world's current wars. Polling Company ICM conducted the survey and aired their findings in a new documentary titled What do British Muslims Really Think. The ICM poll surveyed 1,081 British Muslims and discovered that British Muslims were more inclined to believe in antisemitic conspiracy theories than the national average. For example, asked if they "agreed" with the suggestion that Jewish people had too much power in Britain, 35% of British Muslims responded in the affirmative, compared to just 9% in the wider population. The poll also found that 31% of British Muslims thought Jews were too influential in government compared to 7% in the national average; while 39% said that Jews have too much power in the media compared to just 10% nationally.
Source: Jerusalem Post
II. ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

AUSTRIA

Vienna court sentences policeman for Heil Hitler shout

Friday, October 21, 2016 - A policeman in Austria was sentenced for shouting “Heil Hitler” at a Hungarian driver during a traffic check at the border with Hungary. A Vienna court handed the officer a nine-month suspended jail term after finding him guilty of “re-engagement with National Socialism” — a crime in Austria that has been punishable by up to 10 years in prison since 1947. The 29-year-old was denounced by a colleague who had witnessed the incident at the Nickelsdorf border checkpoint in Burgenland state. The accused had stopped the Hungarian driver and greeted him with the phrase “Heil Hitler,” according to the prosecution. The policeman denied the charge, insisting his colleague had misunderstood him.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Time of Israel

BELGIUM

Belgian tennis player makes antisemitic comment

Thursday, July 28, 2016 - A Belgian tennis club suspended a player who told a Jewish competitor on the court “All of you should have been gassed.” Alain Verlaak made the remark to a Maccabi player at the Tennis 7th Olympics club in Antwerp, the Belgian monthly Joods Actueel reported. The incident occurred during a tournament of the VTV national tennis association of the country’s Flemish region. The Jewish player, who asked to be identified only as Serge S. due to security concerns, told Joods Actueel the incident evolved after a dispute over the validity of a point lost to Verlaak, who was leading in the match.

Source: Times of Israel

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Allegations of antisemitism at local Belgian school

Monday, June 20, 2016 - The Belgian town of Braine-le-Château has called for an independent inquiry after a 12 year-old Jewish pupil at one of its schools was alleged to have received severe antisemitic bullying over a protracted period. According to the child’s mother, the child has suffered physical violence and antisemitic insults. A police complaint has been filed. The town council said it has not been made aware of any complaints at the school, while criticizing the “media attack” “right in the middle of the end of year exam period” for allegations that “for the most part, date back to last year”. Three children have been implicated in the alleged antisemitic incidents, one of which relates to the Jewish child being “sprayed” in the showers.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; DH Net
CZECH REPUBLIC

Children’s volleyball team named after gas used to kill Jews

Friday, October 07, 2016 - The team Cyklon B – the Czech-language transliteration for the Zyklon B pesticide that the Nazis used to kill Jews and Roma in gas chambers during the Holocaust — participated in a Prague tournament featuring teams from Czech Republic orphanages. The Czech Freedom Fighters Association condemned the choice of name. “The error involving the name Cyklon B for a children’s sports team is primarily the responsibility of adults and their ignorance, and I would term it stupidity,” Emil Kulfánek, vice chairman of the association, told Pravo.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Times of Israel

FRANCE

French centre-right presidential candidate makes antisemitic comments

Wednesday, October 26, 2016 - A French centre-right MP running in his party's primaries to be its candidate for president in 2017 has asserted that US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is controlled by “Zionist lobbies”. Jean-Frédéric Poisson is running in the primaries for the centre-right Republican party, the main party of opposition in France. He is not considered as one of the party’s main candidates. In an interview with Nice Matin, Poisson said that “the proximity of Hillary Clinton to the super-financiers of Wall Street and her submission to Zionist lobbies is dangerous for Europe and for France”. Poisson is well-known as being on the right wing of his party and has previously called for electoral deals with the far-right National Front party.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Le Figaro

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Front National representative criticises memorial to Jewish children victims of Nazis

Monday, October 10, 2016 - The leader of the far-right Front National in the Lyon region in south-eastern France has criticised funding for a memorial to Jewish children murdered by the Nazis. Speaking on a local Lyon TV station, Christophe Boudot, FN chief for the Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes region, Boudot said funding for the Maison d’Izieu, a home for Jewish refugee children, was “a bit too politicised and a bit too much.” In November 2015, he explained why he would have supported the collaborationist Vichy regime in 1940.

Source: European Jewish Congress; Europe 1
**French Holocaust denier sentenced**

**Wednesday, September 28, 2016** - A Paris court sentenced French Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson to four months suspended prison term and a 4,000 euros fine for comments made in Tehran in 2006 denying the existence of Nazi gas chambers. Faurisson was found guilty of racial defamation. He was also ordered to pay 3,000 euros in costs to the International League Against Racism and Antisemitism (Licra), the civil party in the court action.

**Sources:** European Jewish Congress; Reuters

**French teacher says Holocaust "designed and organised by Jews"**

**Monday, August 01, 2016** - The French Education Ministry is currently investigating a high school teacher from Paris, who has allegedly shared antisemitic content on Facebook, including with some of her pupils. CRIF, the Representative Council of the Jewish Institutions of France and the country’s EJC affiliate, lodged a complaint with the ministry. The teacher works at the Janson-de-Sailly school and reportedly invited students to connect with her page on Facebook. She allegedly wrote to condemn “the American Jewish lobby” and voiced her support for Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign. It is also alleged that she wrote that French President François Hollande “is a Jew who benefited from his belonging to that community to ascend in politics and who now denies this” and that he “is a Jew and denies it. Backpedaling will begin all over, now that it is less beneficial for Jewry”. She also wrote of the Holocaust that “the Shoah was designed and organised by Jews”.

**Sources:** European Jewish Congress; Haaretz

**Jewish man stabbed in Strasbourg**

**Monday, August 22, 2016** - An Orthodox Jewish man was stabbed on a street in the French city of Strasbourg by an attacker reportedly shouting an Islamic slogan. Police arrested the suspected attacker who was heard shouting "Allahu Akbar" ("God is great"), according to French newspaper JDD. A police source said the victim was in distinctive Jewish dress. His life is not believed to be in danger.

**Sources:** European Jewish Congress; BBC

**French writer fined for saying "Hitler should have finished the job"**

**Thursday, June 16, 2016** - A French court slapped writer Alain Soral with a 12,000 euro fine and a suspended prison sentence of six months for saying the Nazis should have finished killing the Jews of Europe. The sentence, handed down was over Soral’s Facebook post about Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, two anti-racism activists who helped track down dozens of Nazi war criminals.

“This is what happens when you don’t finish the job,” Soral wrote about an article on a state honour conferred on the Klarsfelds by Germany. A judge found Soral, who is a well-known writer in far-right circles and an ally of the antisemitic comedian Dieudonne M'bala M'bala, guilty of “justifying war crimes and crimes against humanity.” Soral has had multiple previous convictions for minimising or mocking the Holocaust.

**Source:** European Jewish Congress; Times of Israel
Swastikas daubed on synagogue in eastern France

**Tuesday, June 07, 2016** - Swastikas and the inscription « White Power » were daubed on a synagogue in eastern France. The attack took place at the synagogue in Verdun and follows a similar incident, community president Jean-Claude Lévy said.

*Source: Le Parisien*

**French far-right activist investigated over "no Jews, no dogs" tweet**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016** - City prosecutors in southern France are investigating a local far-right activist for his Twitter account, which was marked “forbidden to dogs and Jews” and featured tweets mocking and denying the Holocaust. Montpellier prosecutors were notified by municipal officials about the account, which belongs to Djamel Boumaaz, a former member of France’s far-right National Front party, the Libération daily reported. Boumaaz, a Muslim who quit the party over what he termed anti-Muslim sentiments by party leader Marine Le Pen, said someone had hacked his account and posted the tweets, the news site Infos H24 reported. According to Libération, the profile of the account, which was shut down read: “Forbidden to dogs and to Jews.” A tweet featured a black-and-white picture of corpses along with the text: “OK, let’s make up besides I have a heap of Jewish friends.” Another tweet read: “My son has nightmares from your Holocaust. I told him not to be afraid of imaginary things.” A known associate of Holocaust denier Alain Soral and antisemitic comedian Dieudonne M'bala M'bala, Boumaaz was second on the National Front list for the municipal elections in Montpellier in 2014. Gilles Clavreul, France’s inter-ministerial delegate for the fight against racism and antisemitism, tweeted that he contacted Twitter’s French office demanding the closure of Boumaaz’s account for hate speech, which is illegal in France.

*Sources: European Jewish Congress; Ha'aretz*

**Three man arrested after antisemitic attack on locksmith near Paris**

**Monday, April 25, 2016** - Three minors were arrested in Meaux, east of Paris, after attacking a locksmith on the presumption he was Jewish. The three minors, aged 15, heard an advert for the locksmith on local radio and assumed the man was Jewish according to the name given in the advert. The youths proceeded to invite the man to a false address in Bussy-Saint-Georges where they beat him up, insulted and threatened to kill him. The victim, who was not Jewish, required hospitalisation. The three youths were arrested five months after the incident. One of them claims he only made the phone call, another that he was present during the attack but didn’t participate, while the third totally denies any association with the crime. Police found messages on their mobile phones, notably those of an antisemitic and racist nature.

*Sources: European Jewish Congress; Le Figaro*

**Faurisson again accused of Holocaust revisionism**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2016** - France’s Interministerial Delegate for Combatting Racism and Antisemitism, Gilles Clavreul, has brought a court case against well-known Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson, made during a banquet of the far-right publication Rivarol. Clavreul announced the action against Faurisson on his Twitter account. During the paper’s 85th anniversary dinner in Bagnolet, a suburb in the east of Paris, Faurisson, who has a string of convictions for Holocaust denial, said there had been no medical-legal expertise brought during 70 years “to establish how the crime was carried out”. Faurisson, 86, was similarly applauded during the event while denying that Auschwitz was an extermination camp, in what he claimed
was “bizarre for a camp which contained a volleyball court and a football pitch”. Around 1.1 million people, of which some one million Jews, were killed Auschwitz-Birkenau between 1940 and 1945.

Source: Le Figaro

GERMANY

Holocaust denial: ‘Nazi Grandma’ jailed for third time

Friday, October 14, 2016 - A court in the German spa town of Bad Oeynhausen found Ursula Haverbeck-Wetzel guilty of breaking Germany's strict post-war rules making the denial of Nazi war crimes an imprisonable offence. Ursula Haverbeck-Wetzel remains free while she appeals the latest sentence meted out at the court in Germany. In this instance, she denied in published articles that the Holocaust happened and that the death factory of Auschwitz in Nazi-occupied Poland was nothing more than a labour camp. The court heard she also wrote to the Central Council of Jews in Germany claiming that the mass murder of six million Jews had never taken place. In Germany, anyone who publicly denies, endorses or plays down the extermination of Jews during Adolf Hitler's regime can be sentenced to a maximum of five years in jail.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Daily Express

Germany's anti-immigrant AfD party embroiled in antisemitism row

Thursday, July 07, 2016 - A regional MP for the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party resigned after a row over his allegedly antisemitic views had threatened to cause a damaging split in the party. Wolfgang Gedeon, a former doctor turned AfD politician, triggered outrage by saying that denial of the Nazi Holocaust, in which six million Jews were murdered, was a legitimate expression of opinion, describing Holocaust deniers in the past as "dissidents." He also drew criticism for saying that "Talmud Judaism is the inner enemy of the Christian West." Holocaust denial is a crime in Germany.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Yediot Aharonot

Jewish man beaten in Berlin antisemitic attack

Thursday, June 23, 2016 - Unknown perpetrators kicked and beat a 21-year-old Jewish man wearing a kippah after slurring him with antisemitic insults. The victim, identified as Oliver Geffers of Bonn, was slightly injured in the attack but did not seek medical help, according to the police report on the incident. The state criminal police agency is investigating. Geffers works as a volunteer at a refugee centre in Cologne and said he does not experience open antisemitism from refugees, according to the source. According to the police report, the incident occurred in a park along Puschkinallee, a main thoroughfare. The victim said the three attackers appeared to be Middle Eastern. They commented on his yarmulke and insulted him with antisemitic comments. One of them then beat and kicked him, he reported, before all the men fled.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Times of Israel
German MP from state legislature accused of antisemitism and Holocaust denial

Thursday, June 23, 2016 - A representative of Germany’s anti-immigrant and anti EU AfD party accused of antisemitism in his writings has avoided being expelled from his party. Wolfgang Gedeon will remain a voting member of the Baden-Württemberg state parliament with no party affiliation after temporarily waiving his rights to represent the Alternative for Germany (AfD) following a lengthy meeting with party leaders. The leaders decided to postpone a decision on removing the lawmaker until after Gedeon produces an expert opinion on writings over the years in which he referred to the Holocaust as a “civil religion of the West,” called the Holocaust memorial in Berlin “a memorial to certain crimes,” and referred to Holocaust deniers as “dissidents.” Gedeon, a medical doctor by profession and member of the state parliament, also has admired “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,” calling the 19th-century antisemitic hoax a “brilliant concept of domination,” according to the Die Welt newspaper.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Times of Israel

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German police investigate Britons' Nazi salute at Nazi death camp

Friday, May 27, 2016 - German police have launched an investigation to identify two men believed to be Britons who appeared in an online picture performing a Nazi salute at the former Buchenwald concentration camp, Bild newspaper reported. The image was published on the Twitter page of British neo-Nazi group National Action. It showed two men, whose faces had been blurred, holding a black flag displaying the group's lightning bolt logo and performing the salute. The picture appeared to have been doctored to add the captions "Execution Room @ Buchenwald 2016", and "Meat Hooks", with an arrow pointing to hooks on the ceiling used to hang victims strangled by the Nazi SS force. A police spokesperson in the eastern city of Weimar told Bild: "We take such actions very seriously." Buchenwald, near Weimar, was the biggest concentration camp on German soil. Set up by Hitler's SS in 1937, it held more than 250,000 Jews, Roma, gay and other people not tolerated by the Nazis. More than 56,000 people died there from torture, medical experiments and starvation.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Jerusalem Post

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Calling for dismissal of German self-declared Jew-hating pastor

Monday, May 09, 2016 - The German city of Bremen’s Jewish community blasted the local Evangelical Church for its failure to fire a pastor who openly declares himself an antisemite and plays a key role in stoking hatred of the Jewish state. “How should we accept a representative for dialogue, who is also responsible for dialogue for the Evangelical Church in Bremen with religious communities in Bremen – and should act in a neutral way – when he openly presents himself as antisemitic?” local Jewish leaders wrote in a letter to Edda Bosse, the president of the Evangelical Church in the city. “We decisively reject working with Pastor [Volker] Keller and are surprised how he continues to influence one of your communities as a pastor,” wrote Jewish community leaders Elvira Noa, Renata Bas and Dr. Grigori Pantijelew, as well as the city’s Rabbi Netanel Teitelbaum. The Jewish leaders continued, “We are shocked and appalled over Keller not only minimising antisemitism but especially that he misused his position and acted in a way unworthy of his office.” Keller serves on Bremen’s Council for Integration and plays a role in the absorption of migrants from Muslim-majority countries.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Jerusalem Post
Greek synagogue desecrated with swastikas

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 - The exterior of the synagogue of Ioannina was found by local Jewish community members to have been desecrated with swastikas. The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece issued the following announcement: “Vandal racists defaced with swastikas the exterior of the surrounding wall of the historic Synagogue of Ioannina, situated in the old walled city, the Kastro (Castle). Vandals drew swastikas also in some houses in the surrounding area.”

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece

Greek Jews condemn antisemitic comments by union leader

Tuesday, July 05, 2016 - According to a publication on voria.gr website, the Union’s president Mr. Dimitris Tsermenidis, during the last general assembly of the Union, allegedly stated that God by mistake created the Jews, who afterwards killed Jesus Christ. Moreover, Mr. Tsermenidis did not hesitate to express his regret for the fact that “unfortunately Hitler did not finish his work”. He also made derogatory characterisations against Avraam Benaroya, the founder of “Federation” (Greek workers’ movement), after whom the hall in which the assembly took place is named.”

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Central Council of Jewish Communities in Greece

Golden Dawn MP: ‘Jews are an eternal enemy of Greeks and Christians’

Thursday, June 02, 2016 - Greek Defence Minister Panos Kammenos called on the country’s justice ministry to take action against a neo-Nazi lawmaker after he made antisemitic comments in parliament. Speaking during a debate in parliament, Christos Pappas, from the Golden Dawn party, called Israel an “eternal enemy of Greece and Orthodoxy.” Pappas was speaking during a debate on the ratification of Greece’s international agreements with other countries. “The state of Israel implements genocidal methods and is a regional troublemaker,” he said, according to the Kathemirini newspaper, asking how “a state like Israel could possibly have relations with Greece, which is the cradle of civilization and humanism.” Defence Minister Kammenos, a member of the nationalist Independent Greeks party, called Pappas’ remarks racist and
xenophobic and called on the justice ministry to take action against him. Kammenos has himself in the past been criticised for antisemitic comments, after claiming in 2014 that Greek Jews paid fewer taxes than other Greeks, but since taking up the position as defence minister has overseen increasingly warm ties with Israel. Golden Dawn, which is the third largest party in Greece, frequently uses Nazi imagery. Its leaders have denied the existence of Nazi death camps and gas chambers. Much of its leadership is on trial for running a criminal organisation accused of being behind dozens of racist attacks on immigrants and the killing of a left-wing activist.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Jerusalem Post

Antisemitic ‘Burning of Judas’ event

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 - The umbrella of Greek Jews has called on the country’s national tourist board to cease publicising an event where an effigy of the New Testament figure, Judas Iscariot, is burned. In a letter to the tourist board, the Central Council of Jewish Communities in Greece wrote that “among the various traditions in Greece during the Easter holidays, the custom of the “burning of Judas” is still attested in many different areas on Holy Saturday.” “This custom perpetuates antisemitic feelings and it is characteristic that in other European countries it has almost vanished”, the letter went on. The community also noted in its letter that synodical circulars of the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church had three times explicitly demanded that the custom be abolished.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Central Council of the Jewish Communities of Greece

HUNGARY

Holocaust memorial vandalised in Hungary

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 - Suspected neo-Nazis vandalised a memorial dedicated to Hungarian victims of the Holocaust. According to the Hungarian Free Press, the grassroots ‘Living Memorial’ in Budapest’s central Liberty Square was desecrated by unknown
Italian Jews slam right-wing paper for free distribution of Mein Kampf

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 - A rightwing Italian newspaper, owned by Silvio Berlusconi's brother, gave away free copies of Adolf Hitler's antisemitic manifesto Mein Kampf in a move which sparked both shock and condemnation. “Know it in order to reject it” was the justification given by conservative tabloid Il Giornale, which is owned by Paolo Berlusconi, brother of former premier Silvio Berlusconi. Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi quickly denounced the initiative on Twitter, writing: “I find it sordid that an Italian daily is giving away Hitler's Mein Kampf. I embrace the Jewish community with affection. #neveragain” It was also denounced by Italy’s 30,000-strong Jewish community, which is one of the oldest in Europe. “It is a vile act, light years away from any in-depth learning or study about the Holocaust,” said Renzo Gattegna, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities describing the initiative as “indecent”. Explaining the move, Il Giornale said it was an attempt to educate. “Reading Mein Kampf is a real antidote to the toxicity of national-socialism,” said the paper which published a 1937 version of the manifesto containing annotations by the historian Francesco Perfetti.

Source: La Reppublica

Antisemitic chants by Juventus fans

Wednesday, April 20, 2016 - Italian football club Juventus have been handed a suspended one-match ban for the Curva Sud section of their stadium after insulting chants were heard in the weekend’s 4-0 win over Palermo. Juventus went nine points clear at the top of Serie A with just five games left, but the win was tarnished by the behaviour of “roughly 3,000, which is 70 percent of the fans present in the Curva Sud” who were heard making antisemitic chants directed at people from Florence "during the 34th and 36th minutes of the first half." As a result, Serie A officials released a statement which handed down the suspended ban and the club will now be forced to play their next home game with a quarter of the stadium empty, although the sentence will only be enforced if there is a repeat of the misbehaviour of their fans in 2017.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; ESPN

THE NETHERLANDS

Dutch teens sing "Jews burn the best" at graduation party

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 - The chief rabbi of the provincial communities of the Netherlands Binyomin Jacobs has called on authorities to identify and punish high school pupils who during their graduation ceremony sang about burning Jews. The incident happened during the
graduation gala of the Elde College in the town of Schijndel, 70 miles south-east of Amsterdam. As they approached the party, several graduates sang: “Together we’ll burn Jews, because Jews burn the best.” The phrase is part of a chant heard several times in recent years during football matches connected to Amsterdam’s Ajax team, whose players and supporters are often dubbed “Jews” because of the historic Jewish presence in the city, which is sometimes colloquially called “Mokum” after the Yiddish word for “place.” The student body and organizing committee of the Elde College gala expressed their sincere apologies for the incident, but Jacobs said the guilty parties “must be prosecuted for hate speech.” The frequency of antisemitic chants and other hate crimes “means Dutch Jews are less inclined to report hate crimes, when they occur around them all the time,” Jacobs said.

Sources: Times of Israel

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PSV fans chant antisemitic songs

Thursday, May 12, 2016 - The Netherlands’ Israel information Centre CIDI said it is planning to take legal action against supporters of football club PSV Eindhoven who were caught on video singing antisemitic songs. The club is already investigating the incident, which was filmed in a fast food restaurant full of celebrating PSV fans. The text included the words: ‘My father was in the commandos, my mother was with the SS. Together they burned Jews, because Jews burn best.’ PSV took the Dutch league title by edging out Amsterdam club Ajax on the last day of the season. Ajax supporters call themselves ‘the Jews’ and rival clubs often chant antisemitic slogans during matches. The club’s leadership has urged fans to stop using the nickname because of the problems. A CIDI spokesman said that when anti-Jewish songs are sung in football stadiums, the Dutch football association takes action against them. However, because this incident was recorded outside the grounds, CIDI itself decided to intervene.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Dutch News

POLAND

Polish right-wingers deny 1946 pogrom was antisemitic

Friday, October 14, 2016 - Representatives of right-wing Polish organisations have applied to the Institute of National Remembrance to resume investigation of the 1946 pogrom, saying its cause was not antisemitism. In the application submitted, they claim Communist officials and not city police and residents committed the murders in the Kielce pogrom, which killed 42 Polish Jews. According to the groups, most of the victims died from shots fired by military weapons, which they say means that the responsibility for the massacre should not be borne by the residents of Kielce.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Times of Israel

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Football fans set fire to Jewish effigies, unfurl antisemitic banners

Monday, August 29, 2016 - A group of Polish football supporters put on a horrifying display of antisemitism, setting fire to Jewish effigies and parading a banner calling for the burning of Jews. Some 50 supporters of the Widzew Łódź football team had gathered outside a local train station to rally against rival team ŁKS Łódź. The ruffians unfurled an antisemitic banner, which
stated, “19.08, today the Jews were named. Let them burn, motherf**kers.” The message was intended as a direct insult to the ŁKS Łódź team, which was founded in 1908 and is often derided as Jewish by fans of other clubs.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; The Algemeiner

Polish party leader gets antisemitic death threat

Thursday, July 07, 2016 - A Polish MP from a political party with a strong anti-racism agenda said her party head received a hand-written, antisemitic death threat whose author signed it as “Sniper.” The note, which is presumably addressed to the leader of the Modern Party, Ryszard Petru, read: “A bird that shits over its nest needs to be shot. Time unknown, Jewish son of a bitch. Sniper.” Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus, a lawmaker for the party headed by Petru, who is not Jewish, published on Twitter a photo of the note.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Times of Israel

Polish minister denies responsibility for Jedwabne massacre and Kielce pogrom

Friday, July 15, 2016 - A few days after Poland’s President Andrzej Duda denounced antisemitism at an event marking the anniversary of the 1946 massacre of Jews in Kielce, a Polish government minister sparked anger for denying this massacre as well as another pogrom against Jews. Education Minister Anna Zalewska addressed the Jedwabne massacre of 1941, during which Poles burned alive more than 300 Jews inside a barn, and the Kielce massacre in 1946, in which Polish police because of a false blood libel accusation shot 42 people. Zalewska was asked about the two pogroms by a journalist in an interview on the public broadcaster TVN. She said that “Jedwabne is a historical fact that has led to many misunderstandings and very biased opinions.” When the journalist retorted that "Poles burned Jews in a barn,” Zalewska responded, “That's your opinion.”

Sources: European Jewish Congress; European Jewish Press
Teen arrested for allegedly smashing Holocaust memorial

**Wednesday, June 01, 2016** - A teenager in Poland was arrested for allegedly smashing a Holocaust monument and scrawling antisemitic slogans and a neo-Nazi symbol on it. The 16-year-old had escaped from a state juvenile care centre, the PAP news agency reported, quoting a police spokeswoman. The teenager did not say why he smashed the Star of David on the monument in Rajgrod, in north-east Poland, the spokeswoman said. Police said the boy spray-painted offensive slogans and Odin’s cross, a neo-Nazi and white supremacist symbol, on the monument. The slogans were “Send you the gas” and “F**k the whores”. The monument in Rajgrod, 130 miles from Warsaw, was previously vandalised in 2015, some six months after its unveiling. “We welcome the news that the alleged perpetrator has been arrested,” said Gideon Taylor, chair of operations of the World Jewish Restitution Organisation.

**Sources:** [European Jewish Congress](http://www.europeanjewishcongress.org); [Times of Israel](http://www.timesofisrael.com)

Poland's US ambassador says he was smeared for Jewish roots

**Thursday, April 07, 2016** - Poland’s ambassador to the United States said he and his family were the targets of a “campaign of harassment, slander and lies” launched by the far-right media over his Jewish origins. Ryszard Schnepf, in a Facebook post, said the campaign started with an article written in the Gazeta Polska, a right-wing Polish language weekly news magazine. The article noted that Schnepf’s father was Jewish and helped Soviet intelligence in the 1950s while working for the Polish Embassy in the United States. Schnepf related in the post that he was stopped by the police and beaten in March 1968 amid the campaign in Poland to force out as many as 20,000 Jews. It also recalled that Schnepf was arrested in March 1980 at a University of Warsaw lecture on charges of spreading anti-government propaganda. During the interrogation, he was told “his place is in Israel.” “Today, the authors of the campaign refer to those patterns,” Schnepf wrote on Facebook. “No, I’m not afraid for myself. I learned to live on the edge. I’m afraid, however, for my children, that someone could also say to them ‘get out!’” Schnepf’s non-Jewish mother, Alicja, and her mother hid Jews in Warsaw during World War II.

**Source:** [Times of Israel](http://www.timesofisrael.com)

ROMANIA

Bucharest mayoral candidate accuses Jews of lying about Holocaust

**Tuesday, April 19, 2016** - A Romanian watchdog group on antisemitism has exposed the mayoral candidacy of a Bucharest politician who said local Jews lied for money about the number of their brethren killed in the Holocaust. Marian Munteanu of the National Liberal Party, Romania’s second largest, made the accusation in a press statement he co-signed in 1994, when he was part of the Christian-nationalist Movement for Romania organisation. Jewish groups put the number of Romanians killed in the Holocaust at 420,000 to “obtain illicit moneys from Romanian people through disinformation and manipulation of public opinion, with the complicity of treacherous elements who infiltrated the Romanian institutional structures,” the statement read, the online edition of Evenimentul Zilei reported. The Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of Holocaust warned that Munteanu “presents a concern” not only because of his nationalist rhetoric and “statements minimizing or denying” the Holocaust, but also for “misrepresenting” reality today, according to the Agerpres news website.

**Sources:** [European Jewish Congress](http://www.europeanjewishcongress.org); [Antisemitism Watch](http://www.antisemitismwatch.com)
Spanish far-left party publishes antisemitic cartoon

Monday, July 11, 2016 - Spanish Jews condemned a left-wing party’s use of antisemitic imagery that was meant to protest against US President Barack Obama’s upcoming visit to the country. The Madrid branch of Izquerda Unida, or United Left tweeted the cartoon image, which depicts a thick-lipped Obama standing behind a wall amid explosions while hugging a Jew with side curls, a kippah emblazoned with the Star of David and a suit in the light-blue color on the Israeli flag. The Obama character is shown slipping a wad of cash in or out of the Jew’s pocket. It used the hashtag #ObamaGoHome. United Left, which has eight MPs out of 350 in the Spanish Parliament, later tweeted a picture of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu visiting a victim of a terrorist attack, with a caption comparing Israeli soldiers to Islamic State fighters.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Haaretz

Swedish lawmaker criticised for decrying Jewish family's "control" of the media

Monday, October 10, 2016 - Swedish watchdog on antisemitism accused a far-right lawmaker of spreading racist stereotypes of Jews in speaking against “control of media by any family or ethnic group.” Anna Hagwall, an MP for the far-right Sweden Democrats party in the Riksdag, Sweden's national legislative body, submitted a motion on September 30, 2016 that proposes to condition state subsidies of media in Sweden on the plurality of entities that own the publications. In a statement to the Aftonbladet daily, she named specifically the Bonnier Group — a privately-held Swedish media group of dozens of companies operating in 15 countries that was started and is still controlled by the Bonnier family, which has Jewish roots. Opposing state
funding for local publications owned by the group, Hagwall wrote in the email: “Let the small Bonnier newspapers in the provinces go under. No family, ethnic group or company should be allowed to control more than five percent of the media” market.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Times of Israel

**UNITED KINGDOM**

British baroness leaves party after suspension for antisemitic remarks

Friday, October 28, 2016 - British peer Jenny Tonge said she left her Liberal Democrat party hours after her suspension from it amid an outcry over her latest antisemitic rhetoric. The party suspended Tonge, who serves in the upper house of the Parliament, after she hosted an event at the House of Lords that featured critical observations about the Balfour Declaration of 1917, in which the United Kingdom committed to viewing favourably the establishment of a Jewish national home in what would later become the British Mandate on Palestine. At the meeting, one member of the audience won applause for claiming that Jews were to blame for the Holocaust and comparing Israel to the Islamic State group. Tonge, who sits as an independent peer in the Lords after resigning from the party parliamentary group over anti-Israel comments in 2012, chaired the meeting organised by the Palestinian Return Centre.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Times of Israel

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Jews threatened with an axe in Manchester during Rosh Hashanah

Monday, October 10, 2016 - A man wielding an axe threatened a group of Jewish people in an alleged antisemitic hate crime in the northern English city of Manchester. Police were called to the ‘ugly’ incident, in the heavily-Jewish area of Prestwich during Rosh Hashanah. It’s understood that the suspect was in a vehicle at the junction and was making verbal threats while brandishing the weapon.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Manchester Evening News

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London man found guilty of antisemitic abuse

Thursday, October 06, 2016 - A man who threatened to “kill all the Jews” in a London Jewish neighbourhood has been found guilty of antisemitic abuse. Stuart Birnie, 36, approached a Jewish man in the street in Stamford Hill in North London and begun hurling vile antisemitic comments at him, including “f**k all the Jewish people” and “I’m going to kill all the Jews”.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Israel National News

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UK Labour group likely to oust activist for Holocaust remarks

Friday, September 30, 2016 - The steering committee of Momentum is seeking to remove its vice-chair, Jackie Walker, after widespread criticism of comments she made about Holocaust Memorial Day. Walker has faced calls to resign after she criticised Holocaust Memorial Day at a Labour party antisemitism training session, and took issue with the definition of antisemitism. “In terms of Holocaust Day, wouldn’t it be wonderful if Holocaust Day was open to all people who experienced Holocaust?” she can be heard telling organisers in a recording of the event. The veteran activist had previously been suspended from the Labour party after posting during a Facebook discussion that Jews were the “chief financiers of the sugar and slave trade”. She was readmitted to the party after an investigation.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; The Guardian
Corbyn campaign video laughs off antisemitism

Thursday, September 22, 2016 - A video produced by Jeremy Corbyn’s UK Labour leadership campaign team has received an angry response from British Jews after it appeared to dismiss accusations of antisemitism. The clip, which has been shared on all of Mr Corbyn's official social media channels, was titled: “Five questions Corbyn supporters are tired of hearing.” It features supporters of the politician explaining why they are backing his campaign. The final question asked: “Do you support antisemitism?” One of the contributors is shown throwing the piece of paper with the question on the floor. The man says: “So that’s gone as well.”
Sources: European Jewish Congress; Jewish News

British Jewish MP receives more than 25,000 hate messages

Monday, September 05, 2016 - A Jewish MP from Britain’s principal opposition Labour party says she has been sent 25,000 abusive messages in two months and accuses her own party leader Jeremy Corbyn of failing to help stamp out the problem. Ruth Smeeth said Corbyn should “name and shame” those behind the abuse and condemned the party leader for suggesting that MPs on the receiving end should simply ignore it. One particularly antisemitic, racist, misogynistic and homophobic message to Smeeth also contained a clear death threat and is being investigated by police.
Sources: European Jewish Congress; The Times

Former London mayor renewed its comments on Hitler and Zionism

Tuesday, September 06, 2016 - The umbrella organisation of British Jews called on the opposition Labour Party to expel Ken Livingstone from its ranks “immediately,” after the controversial former London mayor, a close ally of Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, again claimed that Adolf Hitler once supported the Zionist movement. “Hitler’s persecution of the Jews started early in the 1930s,” Board of Deputies Vice President Marie van der Zyl said in a statement. “He expressed his loathing for Zionism in the 1920s. But yet in 2016 Ken Livingstone seems to want to rewrite history to make it seem like Zionism was responsible for the Holocaust, which is as false as it is grotesquely offensive. Every day that Labour does not expel him is a stain on the party.”
Sources: European Jewish Congress; Times of Israel
Jewish graves at Belfast cemetery damaged by vandals

Monday, August 29, 2016 - Graves at the Jewish plot in Belfast City Cemetery have been destroyed in a "systematic" attack. Headstones and surrounds were knocked over and smashed in the attack on 13 graves. Broken beer bottles and cans were also strewn around the plot. The police said they were treating the attack as a hate crime and appealed for information.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; The Irish News

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London mayor targeted with antisemitic abuse for attacking party leader

Wednesday, August 24, 2016 - Sadiq Khan has been on the receiving end of a barrage of abuse including antisemitism after backing Owen Smith to be Labour's next leader. The London mayor was highly critical of the current leader and his role in the EU referendum campaign in an article for the Observer, hours before ballot papers were sent out in the two-way leadership contest. Soon after his article was published, he received a number of messages suggesting Jews had influenced him. One asked “Who owns you @sadiqkhan?”, alongside a picture of a kippah-wearing mayor eating matzah during an event ahead of Pesach. Another said Khan “spends his time writing articles to help his masters in Tel Aviv”, while a further tweet attacked the mayor as a “Zionist” together with an image of Khan in front of a London Jewish Forum banner.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; London Jewish News

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British student suffers antisemitic insults at the university

Monday, June 27, 2016 - A British university law student will receive an apology and 1,000 pounds in payment for the antisemitic harassment and bullying he suffered for more than two years at the university. Zachary Confino said York University in the north of England “had done very little over two years” after he was called a “Jewish twat” and an “Israeli prick.” He was also subjected to social media taunts including one, which said Adolf Hitler “was on to something.” He noted that his tormentors were “far-left students”: “[They] say racism is a black/white issue. They seem to think Jews are fair game.” Confino blamed the stress of the abuse for his narrowly
missing out on a first-class degree. “The experience has been so depressing,” he told the Sunday Times. “It ruined my experience at university. I can never get that time back.”

**Sources**: European Jewish Congress; Daily Mail

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**British MEP says Israeli lobbyists "like a rash"**

**Monday, May 30, 2016** - Martina Anderson, a member of the European Parliament representing the British region of Northern Ireland said Israeli lobbyists were “all over this place like a rash” during a meeting in the parliament. Anderson was moderating a discussion dedicated to health issues and sanitation in Gaza and the West Bank when she compared the lobbying efforts of Israeli and Jewish groups to the efforts by Palestinian groups. “We know that the Palestinians do not have the same capacity or personnel as the Israelis do,” said Anderson. “The Israelis are all over this place like a rash – they are lobbying to no end.” Anderson is a representative from the Sinn Féin party, historically the political wing of the IRA terror organisation.

**Sources**: European Jewish Congress; Yediot Aharonot

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**Headstones smashed at Jewish cemetery in Manchester**

**Friday, May 20, 2016** - Vandals have destroyed 14 headstones at a Jewish cemetery in the northern English city of Manchester, in what police called a sickening act of antisemitism. The headstones were knocked over and smashed in the “abhorrent” wrecking spree at the Blackley Cemetery in Charlestown, north-east Manchester. Chief Supt Wasim Chaudhry from Greater Manchester police’s north Manchester division said: “This is a sickening act of antisemitism which we are taking very seriously. I believe this was a deliberate and targeted attack and there is no place for such abhorrent behaviour in our communities.” The attackers appear to have targeted the 14 headstones at random as they were dotted all around the Blackley Jewish cemetery. It is thought the vandals scaled a perimeter wall to access the burial site, which is locked and only accessible with a code for the gate.

**Sources**: European Jewish Congress; The Guardian

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**UK Labour hit by new antisemitism row over report publication**

**Thursday, May 19, 2016** - Britain’s opposition Labour party was hit by a fresh antisemitism row after the author of a report into the extent of the problem said she was "disappointed and frustrated" it had not been published in full. Baroness Royall made her feelings clear in a blogpost for the Jewish Labour Movement shortly after the executive summary of her findings went online. The highly-respected peer was asked by the party to investigate allegations of antisemitism by members of the Oxford University Labour Club. Some members of the club were accused of harassing Jewish students. Its co-chairman, Alex Chalmers also resigned after claiming that some of its members had "some kind of problem with Jews". In her findings, she said there was no evidence of "institutional antisemitism" at the club. She also recommended
that Labour members found guilty of antisemitism should not face an automatic life ban from the party. But in the blogpost Baroness Royall said: "I know that you will share my disappointment and frustration that the main headline coming out of my inquiry is that there is no institutional antisemitism in Oxford University Labour Club. “That is true, but it is only part of the story. I am clear that in the OULC there is a cultural problem, which means that Jewish students do not always feel welcome. And we have to take action to change this situation.” But Jeremy Newmark, chairman of the Jewish Labour Movement, said: "In deciding not to publish the entire report, the NEC risk contributing to the existing problem of denial of antisemitism in the party. I am deeply frustrated that the full report has not been published. I know that Baroness Royall is equally frustrated.”

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Politics Home

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Leading British boxer in antisemitic rant

Monday, May 16, 2016 - British boxer Tyson Fury could face a new inquiry after he posted a foul-mouthed rant on YouTube. The Campaign Against Antisemitism has submitted a formal complaint about the world heavyweight champion’s behaviour to the British Boxing Board of Control. Fury has posted a video on YouTube in which he claims that Jews “own all the banks, all the papers, all the TV stations”. He said “everyone just do what you can, listen to the government follow everybody like sheep, be brainwashed by all the Zionist, Jewish people who own all the banks, all the papers all the TV stations. Be brainwashed by them all.”

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Manchester Evening News

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UK Labour activist suspended by party over antisemitic tweet

Friday, May 13, 2016 - Britain’s principal opposition Labour party has suspended a party member who posted a link online claiming “Jews control Britain and are committing genocide on us”. Musabbir Ali, a member of the Tower Hamlets Labour Party in east London who used to serve as a campaign officer, “has been suspended pending an investigation”, a party spokeswoman confirmed. Ali tweeted a link to the blog post headed “Timeline Of The Jewish Genocide Of The British People”. According to the article, British “Jews swore their revenge” after being “finally expelled” from the country in 1290. It then tells readers that “The Jews financed Oliver Cromwell’s overthrowing and beheading of Stuart King Charles I after he refused them control of England’s finances.” It accuses numerous British leaders of being “Jewish puppets,” including Oliver Cromwell, Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, Edward Heath and Tony Blair.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Jewish Chronicle

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UK Labour suspends former London mayor in antisemitism row

Monday, May 02, 2016 - Britain’s opposition Labour Party suspended former London mayor Ken Livingstone in a row over antisemitism, as the party struggles with deep divisions since electing a hard-left leader. Dozens of Labour lawmakers had demanded that leader Jeremy Corbyn suspend Livingstone - his ally and a party veteran - over remarks he made about Hitler being a Zionist in defense of a colleague the party suspended a day earlier over antisemitic remarks. "Ken Livingstone has been suspended by the Labour Party, pending an investigation, for bringing the Party into disrepute," the Labour Party said in a statement. It said another lawmaker, John Mann, had been summoned over his behaviour after he was filmed shouting "You’ve lost it" at Livingstone and accusing him of being a "Nazi apologist" over the former mayor’s comments that Hitler had supported Zionism "before he went mad and ended up killing
6 million Jews". Prime Minister David Cameron condemned the comments, saying antisemitism, like racism, was unacceptable.

Source: Yahoo News

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British MP resigns as shadow cabinet aide following discovery of antisemitic Facebook posts

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 - British opposition Labour MP Naz Shah has stepped down as private secretary to Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell after a series of social media posts she made about Jews and Israel were revealed. The Bradford West MP, who defeated George Galloway in 2015’s general election, backed the spending of “transportation costs” to move Israelis out of the Middle East. It was revealed that Shah had shared a highly offensive graphic arguing in favour of the inflammatory “transportation” policy in 2014, during the summer before her election. In August 2014 Shah also posted a tweet with a link to a blog which claimed Zionism had been used to "groom" Jews to "exert political influence at the highest levels of public office". In July 2014, at the height of the Gaza conflict, she also posted a link on Facebook to a newspaper poll asking whether Israel had committed war crimes. She wrote: "The Jews are rallying to the poll." She then called on people to vote "yes". In another post she appeared to liken Israel’s policies to those of Hitler.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; Jewish Chronicle

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Woman with history of antisemitic statements elected head of British student movement

Thursday, April 21, 2016 - Britain’s National Union of Students has elected in a woman as president who has previously spoken about “mainstream Zionist-led media outlets”. Malia Bouattia, who has been the Union’s Black Students Officer since 2014, was elected to the top student job after just a single round of voting, despite concerns from Jewish students over her prior remarks. Some of her previous comments include calling Birmingham University “a Zionist outpost in British higher education”. She has also said that Prevent, the government’s anti-radicalisation policy, is dictated by “all manner of Zionist and neo-con lobbies”. She also spoke about the “mainstream Zionist-led media outlets” in 2014, during an event at which she appeared to promote armed struggle against Israel. Board of Deputies of British Jews President Jonathan Arkush said: “We are deeply concerned by the failure of new NUS president Malia Bouattia to satisfactorily clarify past remarks and associations. There can be no excuse for associating with organisations who have a history of antisemitism, equivocating on terrorism or considering Jewish societies on campus as ‘a challenge’.

Sources: European Jewish Congress; London Jewish News

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Scottish Jewish leaders blast Nazi dog video

Wednesday, April 20, 2016 - Jewish leaders in Scotland have condemned an internet prankster who released a viral video in which he teaches his girlfriend’s dog to Sieg Heil and react to the phrase "gas the Jews". The short clip, recorded by Markus Meechan from Coatbridge, has attracted almost one million views on YouTube and has been shared widely on social media after it was released. The video shows Meechan, who goes by the online moniker 'Count Dankula', teaching a pug-breed dog named Buddha to respond to the antisemitic phrase and to raise its paw in an imitation Nazi salute when it hears the words 'Sieg heil'. He also films it watching speeches made by Hitler on a TV screen. At the end, the former security guard insists that he is
a not a racist, but is only trying to play a joke on his girlfriend to "p*** her off". So far it has been watched more than 750,000 times and was featured on the front page of the popular content-sharing website Reddit, as well as on other sites around the internet.

Source: Scottish Herald

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UK Conservative activist makes comments about Jews and Christians

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 - A senior member of the UK’s governing Conservative Party group in the northern city of Bradford has been suspended over comments relating to Christians and Jews. Abdul Zaman, who is deputy chair of the association in the area is believed to have made remarks about Jews in Mirpuri, a Pakistani dialect, during a local elections meeting. According to the Urban Echo, Zaman said: “Why should we let our daughters dishonour us... We will not give up the Biradri (clan) which is handed down from our forefathers... We must send a clear message to the Christians and the Jews”. Following these alleged remarks, the Labour MP for Bradford West, Naz Shah, wrote a letter of complaint to David Cameron. She was quoted in the Telegraph and Argus as saying she had “grave concerns” over such comments, adding: “Mr Zaman was speaking very passionately about clan politics, women, Jews and Christians and defying equality values while endorsing misogyny and antisemitism.” Barry Whitaker, chairman of the association, refuted Shah’s claims, saying: “I did not hear a single word of complaint about anything that was said.” “She (Naz Shah) is accusing Abdul Zaman of misogyny and antisemitism. He did use the word ‘Jews’. He was talking about Jews and Christians joining with us, unifying with us and being as one, rather than as separate entities. Unification is good.”

Source: London Jewish News

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UK local councillor tweets "Hitler was greatest man in history"

Monday, April 11, 2016 - A councilor from Britain’s principal, opposition Labour party has been suspended by the party for posting a message on her Twitter account claiming that Hitler was the “greatest man in history”. The councillor also tweeted that former Labour leader Ed Miliband would never be Prime Minister because he was Jewish, and suggested that Iran could develop a nuclear weapon to “wipe Israel off the map”. Following the allegations, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn insisted the party is “absolutely resolute” on tackling “abhorrent” antisemitism. Corbyn said there is “no place for any racism of any sort” within the party and said swift action is taken in any cases which come to light.

Source: London Jewish News

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UK Muslim school teaching that Jews are "plotting world domination"

Monday, April 04, 2016 - A private Muslim school in the North of England is teaching its students that Jews are plotting to take over the world, and its founder quotes a notorious antisemitic tract in the written material he disseminates. Islamic Tarbiyah Academy in Dewsbury, Yorkshire teaches some 140 students of elementary school age in classes that take place after the school day ends, Sky News reported. The report described the academy’s founder and leader, Mufti Zubair Dudha, as “a respected cleric from the orthodox Deobandi sect, which is thought to control half of all mosques and madrassas in the UK.” But, the report continued, Dudha has produced flyers that quote the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a forged text produced in Russia at the turn of the last century that purports to outline Jewish plans to take over the world. Furthermore, the report stated, Dudha has instructed Muslims to be ready to “expend ... even life,” in order to bring about a world that is in line with “Allah’s just order.”

Source: Times of Israel