

Antisemitism

2007 Hate Crime Survey

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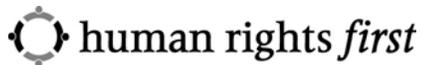
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About Us

Human Rights First is a leading human rights advocacy organization based in New York City and Washington, DC. Since 1978, we have worked in the United States and abroad to create a secure and humane world – advancing justice, human dignity, and respect for the rule of law. All of our activities are supported by private contributions. We accept no government funds.

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Preface

This report on antisemitism is a companion to the Human Rights First *2007 Hate Crime Survey*, which is a review of the rising tide of hate crimes covering the region from the far east of the Russian Federation and the Central Asian states across Europe to North America: the countries of the 56-member Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

In releasing the *2007 Hate Crime Survey*, Human Rights First documents and analyzes the reality of racist violence and other forms of intolerance. We have reviewed available reports on violence motivated by prejudice and hatred, including the findings of the handful of official monitoring systems that provide meaningful statistical information. This data, combined with the findings of nongovernmental monitoring organizations, provides important insights into the nature and incidence of violent hate crimes.

Our aim is to raise the profile of these insidious crimes and the challenges they pose to societies and communities that are becoming increasingly diverse. Many of these crimes are the everyday occurrences of broken windows, physical assaults, burnt out homes, and violent intimidation that are a consequence of prejudice and hatred. Our emphasis is on the violence at the sharp edge of discrimination and what can be done about it. We are seeking to overcome official indifference and indecision in the fight against discriminatory violence. The *2007 Hate Crime Survey* is accompanied by three companion surveys which look in greater detail at specific forms of discrimination and violence: antisemitism, Islamophobia, and homophobia. These reports are available on our website at: www.humanrightsfirst.org.

The *2007 Hate Crime Survey* as well as this companion survey on antisemitism builds upon the findings of previous Human Rights First reports. Our 2002 report, *Fire and Broken Glass: The Rise of Antisemitism in Europe* responded to a staggering wave of anti-Jewish violence and was intended to put antisemitism firmly on the human rights agenda. Our 2004 report, *Antisemitism in Europe: Challenging Official Indifference* focused on monitoring and reporting of antisemitic violence in Europe. Our more recent 2005 report, *Everyday Fears: A Survey of Violent Hate Crimes in Europe and North America* addressed antisemitic and other racist and religiously-motivated violence as well as violence motivated by biases based on gender, disability, and sexual orientation. In that report, we also examined government responses to hate crimes in each of the OSCE participating states and found that only a handful of governments had taken concrete measures to effectively monitor, respond to, and prevent hate crimes.

The response of governments has not markedly improved since then. Human Rights First continues to believe that governments need to do more to combat violent discrimination. In the *2007 Hate Crime Survey*, we offer a series of recommendations to governments with a view to moving forward in combating violent hate crimes. In particular, we are urging governments to strengthen criminal law and law enforcement procedures required to combat hate crimes. Stronger laws that expressly address violent hate crimes are important tools if governments are to more effectively deter, detect, and punish them. We likewise call on governments to establish systems of official monitor-

ing and data collection to fill the hate crime information gap. This is an essential means to assess and respond to patterns of discriminatory violence affecting particular population groups.

Executive Summary

Antisemitic incidents in Europe and North America – including acts of violence – remain at historically high levels. In 2006 there were several acts of extreme violence against Jews and Jewish community institutions in Europe, including the torture and murder of Ilam Halimi in a Paris suburb and the assault by a knife-wielding right-wing extremist on a Moscow synagogue that left nine worshippers severely injured. Beyond these extreme cases of violence, incidents throughout Europe continued to permeate the everyday lives of Jews in the form of intimidation and harassment, attacks on Jewish schools and on the children who attend them, as well as destruction of property at Jewish places of worship, cemeteries, and community centers.

In the handful of countries in which these antisemitic hate crimes are now readily acknowledged, criminal justice systems have responded effectively to investigate and punish the most serious incidents of antisemitic violence. But in most European states today, antisemitic violence and other hate crimes still are largely unacknowledged in public policy and action.

Throughout much of Europe, antisemitic hate crimes occur at a much greater frequency than in the 1990s. Even where the reported number of incidents has declined from one year to another as it has in some countries, the proportion of incidents involving personal attacks on Jews has risen precipitously when compared to attacks on property.

High levels of antisemitic threats and violence in 2006 occurred against a background of proliferating antisemitic discourse in both the public and the private sectors, promoted in many countries by local and

national leaders and mainstream media. In eastern Europe and the Russian Federation, extreme nationalist political groups have adopted the language of 19th century antisemitism, backed by some sectors of dominant churches. Antisemitism was also promoted throughout much of western Europe through Internet and other media connected to Middle Eastern and other Muslim countries that promoted hatred of Jews as a part of a political message intended to delegitimize Israel.

In 2006, reported incidents of antisemitic hate crimes rose in several countries in western Europe and North America with well-developed reporting systems - France, the United Kingdom, and Canada. In these and other places there is a disturbing trend toward more violent attacks on Jews and those perceived to be Jewish.

- In **France**, where official figures showed that antisemitic incidents had dropped dramatically between 2004 and 2005, antisemitic threats and acts increased by 6.6 percent in 2006. This came in a country where overall hate crimes declined 10 percent. The expression of antisemitism there was increasingly violent. Violent acts in France rose 35 percent, from 99 in 2005 to 134 in 2006. Personal assaults motivated by antisemitism practically doubled, from 53 in 2005 to 94 in 2006.
- In the **United Kingdom**, antisemitic incidents also rose dramatically in 2006, with the highest annual toll since the collection of statistics started in 1984. There were 594 incidents: a rise of 31 percent over the 2005 figure of 455 incidents. Personal assaults rose 37 percent in number over 2005 levels. A

surge in antisemitic incidents that coincided with the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon was reported in July and August.

- In **Canada**, B'nai Brith Canada's annual survey reported a 12.8 percent rise in antisemitic incidents over the previous year, to 935 incidents—the highest level ever reported (and more than double the 459 incidents reported in 2002).
- In **Germany**, police sources in late 2006 preliminarily reported a dramatic rise in extremist crimes by some 20 percent, although it was not confirmed that antisemitic crimes, a subset of extremist crimes, had also risen proportionately. Antisemitic incidents increased in both 2004 and 2005.

Most European governments still lack official mechanisms to systematically report antisemitic and other bias incidents. These information gaps are starkly apparent where nongovernmental monitors document and make public data on bias incidents. The work of community-based organizations in the field of data collection and reporting has compensated somewhat for the information gap on antisemitic and other bias incidents and has allowed for some level of analysis of trends in Europe.

Introduction

This survey examines antisemitic harassment, intimidation and violence in Europe today. The resurgence of antisemitic hatred and violence began at the end of the 1990s. It soon reached yearly levels in some countries nearly ten times that of the previous decade. The high incidence levels have continued in much of western Europe and in some of the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Although real numbers are available only from a handful of countries, these existing statistics are a cause for serious concern. They show both a general trend toward a rise in antisemitic incidents, and a trend toward violent crimes against Jewish people in a growing proportion of such incidents.

In 2006, reported incidents of antisemitic hate crimes rose significantly in several countries in Europe and North America with well developed reporting and law enforcement systems, such as the United Kingdom and Canada. Even in France, where government measures of prevention and deterrence contributed to a dramatic drop in antisemitic incidents in 2005, the violence began to increase again in 2006. In Russia and Ukraine, where no official data is available, antisemitic violence also appeared to be on the rise, while the situation of antisemitism in other eastern European countries is also of concern. There undoubtedly are a number of other European countries where antisemitic violence is also escalating, but where information on these attacks is much less readily available.

Human Rights First published its first special report on antisemitism in Europe in mid-2002. At that time there were almost daily reports of attacks on Jews, of homes vandalized and shop-windows smashed, and of

synagogues and day schools set ablaze. The panorama of arson and shattered windows was an unmistakable echo of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, half a century before. Thus we called our report *Fire and Broken Glass: The Rise of Antisemitism in Europe*.¹

As that report stated, antisemitism is a form of both racism and religious intolerance. Antisemitic acts are correspondingly serious violations of international human rights. The revival of antisemitism in Europe is part of a continuum extending from the early antecedents of the Holocaust through the more recent phenomena of “ethnic cleansing” and genocide in the former Yugoslavia.

Today the parallels with the 1930s include the seeming indifference of many governments and broad sectors of public opinion to the rising violence and fear that once again threatens European Jews, and with them members of other minorities. As it did in the 1930s, the reactivation of ancient prejudices and the transformation of new hatreds into deadly violence has been largely overlooked outside the Jewish community.

The extraordinary rise of violence against Jews since the 1990s was initially both seriously underreported and largely characterized by governments as a transitory side-effect of the Middle East conflict. There was relatively little reporting in mainstream media beyond coverage of occasional high-profile incidents. Antisemitic threats and violence were largely absent from the antiracism agendas of European governments and institutions even as the violence proliferated.

International anti-racism initiatives either turned a blind eye to antisemitism or responded with hostility to those

who pressed the issue. The United Nations' first ever World Conference Against Racism and Xenophobia, held in Durban, South Africa in September 2001, was itself a venue for antisemitic attacks. As such, its aftermath was a time for soul-searching and course correction within the human rights movement itself. The acrimonious attacks against representatives of Jewish organizations in Durban was a wake-up call to the growing reality of antisemitism on the international stage and the need for antisemitism to be placed prominently on the human rights and anti-racism agendas.

Human Rights First responded both to Durban and to the evidence of rising violence in Europe with a commitment to address antisemitism as a form of racism and as a serious violation of human rights. We set out to encourage others in the human rights community to make the fight against antisemitism a priority in their broader work aimed at fighting discrimination and violence.

This survey is a continuation of that effort. In it Human Rights First documents anti-Jewish violence and government responses through the lens of international human rights standards. We also address the means to overcome the hate crimes information deficit as an essential building block for change. Too frequently, the real incidence of antisemitic hate crimes is concealed, in a pale reflection of the way the "Jewish problem" was in another age confined to the ghetto or secretly transported east into darkness and death. Our advocacy aims for a combination of information and political commitment that will cast light on the reality of antisemitism in order to combat it.

The extreme levels of hatred and violence directed toward Europe's Jews have had an increasing cost, both for members of Jewish communities and for the larger societies of which they are a part. Rampages through city centers by skinhead and often openly neo-Nazi organizations, sometimes in military-style uniforms, have become a growing phenomenon.

Antisemitism is an ideological centerpiece of most of the extreme nationalist and racial supremacist organizations that have become a growing part of political life in Europe, and violence has been an integral part of their political dynamics.

Causes and Consequences

Antisemitism has persisted at a high level since late 2000 throughout Europe and North America. Often during this period it has surged in response to international events involving Israel. Attacks that are directly tied to the Middle East conflict are an important part of this picture, with some political groups indiscriminately targeting Jews everywhere for violence as if proxies for Israel. Europeans and immigrants alike have invoked the Middle East conflict to demonize Jews as a people and to incite violence against Jews. Terrorist attacks such as the Istanbul synagogue bombings of November 2003 have illustrated the potential extremes of violence intended to give voice to enmity towards Israel.

To some, criticism of Israel is itself a part of the “new antisemitism.” Whether – or rather, when – such criticism should be considered a manifestation of antisemitism is hotly disputed. In this debate, criticism of Israel’s policies or practices, or of the Jewish national movement, Zionism, is sometimes portrayed as inherently antisemitic. Unfortunately, the distinction between legitimate criticism of Israel and antisemitism is often blurred. But such criticism which disparages or demonizes Jews as individuals or collectively in attacks on Israel or Zionism – or which takes the form of broadside attacks against “Jews” or “the Jewish State” – crosses the line to become antisemitic expression.²

In 2006 as in previous years, antisemitic discourse concerning Israel has often been a major factor in antisemitic violence. The blurring of criticism of a nation or a government into racism or religious intolerance is a common feature in times of armed conflict and height-

ened international tensions, particularly when building upon firm foundations of hatred and prejudice. But this convergence and merging of ancient prejudices and political animosity has been particularly widespread and acute with regard to Israel, and has become a persistent feature of antisemitic discourse. As the British Community Security Trust wrote in early 2007, this is often the case:

Messages that start out as attacks on alleged Israeli policy or behavior often conclude with abuse of, or threats to, all Jews, the wish that all Jews were dead, claims of Jewish conspiracy or the accusation that Jews killed Christ. The antisemitism is compounded if the incident is targeted at a Jewish person or institution – such as a synagogue – that is then held responsible for the alleged actions of the Israeli government. This charge of collective responsibility and collective guilt, whereby every Jew in the world is supposedly answerable for the behavior of every other Jew, is one of the fundamental building blocks of all racism.³

In some countries, the Israel-Hezbollah conflict was a trigger for a surge in antisemitic violence, although levels of extreme violence were not comparable with those reported in France, for example, at the time of the Second Intifada (beginning September 29, 2000). Early reporting undertaken by the European Jewish Congress on the level of antisemitic incidents during this time period point to an increase in a number of European countries in such incidents, especially in the form of hate mail and threats directed at Jewish organizations, as well as vandalism and graffiti.⁴

On September 29, 2006, in **Norway**, a gunman directed automatic rifle-fire at an Oslo synagogue – the

largest Jewish temple in the country. Four men arrested for the attack were subsequently held on multiple charges, including terrorism, and were accused also of plotting the assassination of the Israeli ambassador and bombings of the Israeli and U.S. embassies.⁵ The synagogue attack occurred in the context of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, and followed months of incidents in which the synagogue appeared to be targeted as a means to express hatred for Israel.⁶ It was defaced with graffiti, the community's cantor was physically attacked, and in one incident, captured on security cameras, a man defecated on the synagogue steps and then broke two windows with stones.⁷

In the **United Kingdom**, the Community Security Trust reported a surge of 132 antisemitic incidents in 33 days between July and August 2006, with incidents including hate mail, verbal abuse, and graffiti on Jewish property coming from across the country. This is in comparison to the 455 antisemitic incidents reported for all of 2005.⁸

In **France**, while hate crime incidents may have declined overall in 2006, Jewish community sources reported 61 antisemitic incidents in July and August, an increase of 79 percent over the same period in 2005, when 34 acts were recorded.⁹

Modern antisemitism is multifaceted and deep-rooted. It cannot be viewed solely as a transitory side-effect of the conflict in the Middle East. Antisemitic incitement and violence in Europe and North America both predated the Middle East conflict and continues to flourish based on centuries-old sources of hatred and prejudice. The branding of Jews as a people as a scapegoat for both ancient and modern ills remains a powerful underlying factor in the irrational antisemitic hatred that continues to manifest itself today.

The growing nationalist extremist movements of Europe are steeped in the most primitive ideologies of antisemitism. Many of these groups demonstrate a shared hatred and commitment to carry out violence against both Europe's Jewish and Muslim communities as well as other minorities. In other situations, an antisemitic attack will have no apparent link to organized extremist movements, but will be no less lethal for being a violent assault by ordinary people steeped in antisemitism.

In Kiev, the capital of **Ukraine**, for example, a group of young men shouting antisemitic slogans and brandishing bottles attacked three Orthodox Jewish men on December 16, 2006 injuring one severely as well as a passerby who came to their aid. The three had just left a service at a synagogue in the city's Podol district.¹⁰

Sometimes violence against Jews forms part of a larger pattern of racism, notably in European football (soccer) violence. On the night of November 23, 2006, in the aftermath of a match in **France** between Paris Saint-Germain and Israel's Tel Aviv Hapoel on the outskirts of Paris, some 150 local fans shouting "kill the Jews," and "the dirty Jew must die" attacked 25-year-old Yanniv Hazout, a French Jew.¹¹ The incident received national and international prominence in part because a black police officer, Antoine Granomort rushed to Hazout's aid – and one alleged attacker was killed. In the fracas, Granomort reportedly first used teargas to fend off kicks and punches from the mob and then fired his revolver, killing one of the alleged attackers.¹²

The crowd hurled insults – 'dirty Jew,' 'Dirty Negro' and monkey cries - and raised Nazi salutes," the state prosecutor, Jean-Claude Marin, said afterward. ... Some fans shouted, "Death to the Jew!" before attacking Hazout. When the crowd began kicking and beating Granomort and apparently threatened to kill the fan he was protecting, he fired his service revolver, killing Julien Quemener, 25, a home-appliance technician, and wounding Mounir Boujaer, 26, a truck driver....

The response of senior public authorities was to stress the importance of eradicating racism and antisemitism in football. Then-Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy (now president of France), demanded action against racism in football, even if meant barring spectators. After meeting with soccer officials and representatives of fans, he told the press "We prefer to see stands that are empty than full of unwanted people." "We no longer want racists, Nazi salutes, monkey noises in stadiums. Soccer is not war."¹³

The multiple strands of ancient and modern antisemitism can also come together in particular surges of violence, when perpetrators motivated by the traditional hatreds of antisemitism associated with the European extreme right make common cause with minority populations concerned with the Middle East. Events that set these particular surges in motion may mean different things to different people, but combine to reinforce preexistent prejudices and hatred.¹⁴

Antisemitic Violence in 2006

“There is probably a greater feeling of discomfort, greater concerns, greater fears now about antisemitism than there have been for many decades,” remarked Henry Grunwald, the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in testimony to the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry on Antisemitism recently concluded in the **United Kingdom**.¹⁵

The president of **Germany’s** Central Council of Jews, Charlotte Knobloch, remarked in October 2006 that antisemitic and right wing violence had become “so blatant and aggressive that it brings to mind the years after 1933.” She added that both political leaders and the general public were largely ignoring the phenomenon.¹⁶

Similar sentiments were heard by Jewish leaders in **France** as antisemitic violence surged in late 2000 and continued to rise for several years in the absence of concerted government action. Jewish leaders advised special care to avoid attack even at the cost of concealing one’s Jewish identity, with young men encouraged to conceal their yarmulkes with baseball caps. The option of emigration in order to find security became a real one for many French Jews. Concerns there remain, despite effective new measures in the form of tough new hate crime laws introduced in 2002-2003 to respond to the threat.

Antisemitic violence elsewhere in Europe, notably in countries of the former Soviet Union, has been the cause of similar concerns. In **Ukraine**, a meeting of rabbis in Kiev in May expressed concern at rising antisemitic violence, and issued a statement to emphasize the need “to lower the level of anxiety” in the Jewish community. The statement concluded by

deploring government inaction: “Unfortunately we do not see any adequate or unequivocal response toward manifestations of xenophobia from the Ukrainian authorities.”¹⁷

In the **Russian Federation**, comprehensive statistics on antisemitic incidents are unavailable, but serious threats and extreme nationalist violence appear to be on the rise, while antisemitic discourse is increasingly a part of mainstream political life. A similar situation prevails in the Ukraine and other neighboring states, where information on rising antisemitism can be derived from incident reports but cannot be backed by consistent or comprehensive statistics.

Extreme Violence

Much as in previous years, attackers in 2006 singled out individuals because of their appearance, their leadership roles in their communities, or simply because they were seen leaving a synagogue or a Jewish school or community center. In some cases they attacked them in those very synagogues and community centers. A few cases stood out for their particular brutality.

The Russian Federation – Moscow Synagogue Attack

On January 11, 2006, Alexander Koptsev entered a Moscow synagogue shouting antisemitic epithets and attacked worshippers during evening prayer, leaving nine people seriously injured before being subdued. Koptsev was subsequently detained and charged with attempted murder with a motive of religious hatred,

deliberate infliction of grievous bodily harm, and with inciting hatred. On March 27, 2006, a court found Kopstev guilty on the first two charges, but acquitted him of inciting hatred. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison.¹⁸

On appeal, the Russian Supreme Court overturned the verdict and sent the case back for retrial.¹⁹ On September 15, the Moscow city court convicted Koptsev on all charges, sentencing him to 16 years in a high security prison.²⁰

Two days after the Moscow synagogue attack, on January 13, a young Russian man stormed into a synagogue in Rostov-on-Don waving a broken bottle and shouting antisemitic epithets. The assailant demanded to see the rabbi and threatened worshippers. Security personnel pushed him to the ground before he could act upon his threats. Police said the assailant had intended to copy Koptsev's action.

In the Rostov-on-the-Don copycat case in which nobody was injured, the Kirov district court on June 9 found the attacker unfit to stand trial and ordered that he be placed in a psychiatric ward on account of his mental state. He was facing hooliganism charges.²¹

While the political and criminal justice response to the Moscow synagogue attack, which generated widespread international attention, was swift and thorough, some Jewish leaders have criticized the Russian authorities, especially outside of the larger cities, for not reacting quickly, or at all, to smaller-scale antisemitic attacks, especially in cases of vandalism and destruction of property.

The Moscow synagogue attack also generated at least one similar incident beyond Russia's borders. In **Ukraine**, on February 3, 2006, a man brandishing a knife entered Kiev's Brodsky synagogue "screaming that all Jews should be killed," but was restrained by guards. The local prosecutor reportedly charged the man solely with weapons possession, despite the apparent bias motivation and lethal intent of the attack. According to one source, the accused has "vowed to murder Jews upon being released from custody."²²

France – Torture and Murder of Ilan Halimi

On February 13, 2006, Ilan Halimi died soon after he was found outside of Paris half-naked, stabbed, and burned with cigarettes and acid. Halimi was a 23-year-old French Jew who had been kidnapped and tortured for three weeks by a criminal gang seeking a ransom before he died. French police later made arrests and confirmed the antisemitic nature of the crime: the gang had targeted Halimi as a Jew, because they believed

that "all Jews are rich." They tormented and ultimately killed him because he was a Jew.

French police identified the perpetrators of this crime as an ethnically and religiously diverse group. But all of them were from poor neighborhoods, part of a very large underclass in the periphery of France's major cities, where citizens of immigrant origin are concentrated. The alleged perpetrators were identified as members of a gang in suburban Bagneux that included the French-born children of immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, North Africa, Iran, and Portugal—as well as others of French origin. Police said that one of the suspects had extremist Islamist literature in his possession, but added that many were not Muslim.

The Halimi case was part of a larger pattern of violent crimes against Jews in France. In the weeks after his body was found, several other antisemitic assaults were reported in the Paris suburbs. Three assaults were reported in one 24 hour period in suburban Sarcelle. On March 3, two men shouting antisemitic epithets near the Sarcelle synagogue assaulted Eliahou Brami, the 17-year-old son of a local rabbi, breaking his nose. In a separate incident there the same day, a group of five men attacked and beat Yacob Boccara, a young Jewish man. On March 4, a Jewish man wearing a kippa, who has asked for his name to be withheld, was subjected to antisemitic insults and assaulted in Sarcelles, his shoulder dislocated (four suspects in this case were subsequently arrested).

The Halimi murder was a reminder that antisemitism is still pervasive in large sectors of the population in France, where extremist political movements of the right as well as Islamist propaganda are a source of antisemitism. Neo-Nazi and skinhead groups as well as mainstream parties of the extreme right bring new recruits through antisemitic music, Internet sites, and political organization among young people and the unemployed. These racist groups are generally anti-black, anti-Muslim, and anti-immigrant, but make common cause on antisemitism with Islamist militants living in France. The murder of Ilan Halimi highlighted the merging of these sources of influence on the urban poor, and the fertile ground for antisemitism found in France's public housing estates.

In the wake of the Halimi murder, French authorities reaffirmed their commitment to combat antisemitism, combining new efforts to guarantee the security of the Jewish community with high-level political action and new educational programs. Public support for the fight against antisemitism also appeared to be growing, with new levels of cooperation between France's nongov-

ernmental antiracism organizations and Jewish organizations.

On February 26 some 100,000 people went onto the Paris streets to protest the murder of Ilan Halimi, in a demonstration called by the Representative Council of French Jewish Communities (Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France, CRIF) and the antiracism bodies SOS-Racisme and LICRA (International League Against Racism). Similar demonstrations were held in Bordeaux, Lille, Grenoble, Marseille, Nice, Orleans, Strasbourg, Toulouse, and other French towns and cities.

The torture-murder of Ilan Halimi resonated both in France and internationally, in the news media and in intergovernmental bodies. In June 2006, the Halimi case was one of the examples of antisemitic crimes cited in the European Union’s Resolution on the increase of racism and homophobic violence in Europe.²³

The United States – Attack on the Seattle Jewish Community Center

On July 28, 2006, Naveed Haq broke into the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle building by holding a pistol to the neck of a 13 year old girl. While in the building, Haq allegedly yelled “I am a Muslim-American angry at Israel” and started shooting, killing Pamela Waechter and wounding Layla Bush and Cheryl Stubmbo. Haq had also attributed his action to anger at Jews for the situation in the Middle East when he spoke to emergency service operations. He eventually surrendered to police.

The reaction to the attack was swift. That evening, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels said: “This is a crime of hate and there’s no place for that in Seattle.”²⁴ A few days later King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng told a news conference: “Make no mistake, this was a hate crime. The attack on these women was an attack on the Jewish community, not only in Seattle but throughout our nation and the world.”²⁵

Haq is being charged with nine felonies: one count of aggravated first-degree murder, five counts of attempted murder, kidnapping, burglary, as well as malicious harassment under the state of Washington’s hate crime legislation.

Under Washington’s penal code, a person is guilty of malicious harassment if he or she “maliciously and intentionally” causes physical or property damage because of “his or her perception of the victim’s race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or mental, physical or sensory handicap.” Malicious harassment constitutes a separate crime

according to Washington state law. If the hate crime is committed in conjunction with another crime, then prosecutors may pursue charges for both crimes, which they are doing in this case.²⁶

Everyday Harassment and Intimidation

Everyday violence and discrimination, a routine of often low-level threats and abuse, continues to be the norm for many European Jewish communities. The British author Howard Jacobsen described this well when he referred to “a certain grinding, low level of antisemitism all Jews learn to live with” in a written submission to the United Kingdom’s All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism.²⁷

Antisemitism, like other forms of racism, is an obstacle to participation in public life fully and free of fear and can take the form of an assault on identity itself. Some Jews are targeted because of their leadership positions in the Jewish community, or because they are leaders of the broader society who are singled out as Jews. Numerous incidents involve individuals who are identified as Jewish by their religious dress or appearance when traveling on public transport or walking in the street, and the expression “visibly Jewish” is commonly employed in incident reports by Jewish community organizations. At the same time, many Jewish Europeans have acknowledged that they no longer wear pendants of the Jewish star in full view; that yalmulkes are worn in public only under baseball caps or other concealing headgear; and that they think carefully before acknowledging their Jewishness to strangers. Some representative incidents include the following:

- In **Belgium**, a fellow passenger assaulted a religious couple and their baby in January as they traveled by train from Leuven to Mechelen. A passenger began cursing at them, pulled a knife and approached the couple in a threatening manner. The mother and her baby fled the train compartment with the other passengers. The father, who remained behind to ensure that his wife and baby could safely escape, was slightly injured.²⁸
- In **Canada**, antisemitic attacks increasingly targeted Jewish families for abuse in their homes in 2006, with 118 incidents recorded at private residences, from broken windows and defaced front doors to dumping the head of a pig in a backyard pool.²⁹
- In **Croatia’s** capital Zagreb on June 3, skinheads dressed in T-shirts with Nazi symbols attacked

local rabbi Zvi Eliezer Aloni as he walked home from synagogue. The men reportedly raised their hands in the Nazi salute and yelled in German “Jews out!” as they attacked and knocked him to the ground. Threatening messages were also sent to members of the Jewish community there in the course of the year.³⁰

- In **Estonia**, assailants on April 6 followed an Israeli citizen who directs a St. Petersburg theater into an underground tunnel in Tallin, shouting “Jew!” before throwing a beer bottle and chasing him and his friend. The two escaped and went to a police station to report the incident. The victims subsequently complained of police indifference.³¹
- In **Poland**, a man shouting “Poland for the Poles” punched and sprayed tear gas at Poland’s chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich, on May 27. In August, a suspect was convicted of using violence and racially motivated hate speech, and sentenced to a two-year suspended sentence. The suspect had confessed to hate speech and the use of a mace-like spray, but denied having struck the rabbi; Rabbi Shudrich insisted that this was the case, however, and produced medical evidence to this effect.³² This notwithstanding, Rabbi Shudrich publicly thanked the Polish president and prime minister for their public involvement in resolving the case.³³
- In **Serbia**, at the end of August, a group of skinheads harassed and beat two Israeli tourists at a rock music festival in a Belgrade park while shouting “Auschwitz, Auschwitz.”³⁴
- In **Ukraine**, local skinheads in April attacked an Israeli yeshiva graduate, stabbing him and hitting him over the head with a bottle, apparently because he was visibly Jewish. He was taken to the hospital and treated for injuries.³⁵ Also in April, in Dnipropetrovsk, an attacker severely beat and stabbed a Jewish boy; and in a separate incident there, a group of some 30 skinheads reportedly attacked four Jewish boys.³⁶
- In the **United Kingdom**, there were 29 reported incidents in 2006 in which politicians, journalists, and other public figures were targeted because they are Jewish or involving the targeting of Jewish community leaders.³⁷

Students

Students are particularly vulnerable to antisemitic harassment and violence while walking to or from school, particularly when attending Jewish schools. Students may also face harassment and abuse by schoolmates in public schools. The British All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism spoke with a random group of tenth grade Jewish students in Manchester and found that “The majority of students had a story to tell about a time they had felt uncomfortable or had been abused for being Jewish.”³⁸ The report of the inquiry gave these examples:

- A boy who was walking home from synagogue on a Friday night was verbally abused by some youths in the street calling him “Jew” and “Yid” and threatening him with a cigarette lighter.
- A girl reported that a group of people drove their car directly at her while she was walking to synagogue with her mother.
- A boy said that he and his friends are abused every day by youths barging into them shouting “Jew” and “Get out of our country.”
- A pupil said that whilst he was walking home from school a car was driven up and down the road, with the people inside shouting “Where does Hitler live?”³⁹

Incidents of serious assaults on Jewish students in 2006 have been reported from across much of Europe:

- In **Belgium**, a group of youths attacked a fifteen-year old ultra-orthodox student from the Yeshiva in Wilrijk on July 4. Although her companion was able to escape unharmed, she was beaten with, among other things, a helmet, and sustained injuries to her hands as a result of numerous falls.⁴⁰ In Beringen, on November 30, a group of teenagers threw stones and shouted antisemitic epithets at orthodox Jewish students who were on a school trip.⁴¹
- In the **Russian Federation**, a group of skinheads on March 25 in St. Petersburg followed and attacked three student after their participation in an anti-racism demonstration, reportedly beating a Jewish student with particular severity. The Jewish student was treated for a serious head injury.⁴²
- Also in the **Russian Federation**, a group of unknown youths on February 19 attacked a student from Israel in St. Petersburg. The student was taken to the hospital the following day and treated for injuries suffered in the attack.⁴³

- In the **United Kingdom**, a man chased and stabbed a Jewish religious student in Manchester, while shouting antisemitic epithets.⁴⁴

Attacks on Jewish Institutions and Property

While violent antisemitic attacks on individuals have become proportionally more frequent in some countries compared to the late 1990s, such cases are still less frequent than vandalism and other attacks on property in most OSCE countries. More commonly reported throughout the OSCE area are cases of vandalism and damage to synagogues, schools, cemeteries, memorials, and the property of Jewish community organizations. In many of these cases, the perpetrators are never found or brought to justice. Even when identified, police and prosecutors are generally inclined to treat these acts as minor acts of vandalism.

Places of Worship

Attacks on synagogues and their congregations that result in deaths or injuries are often among the best reported incidents of antisemitic violence, but incidents that result in damage to synagogues and religious articles within them are far more frequent.

- In **Canada**, there were 42 incidents targeting synagogues in 2006, including synagogues in Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Toronto. In May, vandals broke thirty-one windows in a Winnipeg synagogue. In 2005, 35 incidents targeted synagogues in 2005, including synagogues in Montreal, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Edmonton and Belleville, Ontario.⁴⁵
- In **Ukraine**, in June, vandals shattered windows in a synagogue in Kirovograd, the fifth time in 2006 that the building had been vandalized.⁴⁶
- In the **United Kingdom**, there were 82 incidents in 2006 that targeted synagogues and their staff, including 27 that resulted in damage to synagogues. A further 50 incidents were reported in which congregants were targeted for abuse while going to or from places of worship. In one, a man shouting an antisemitic epithet punched and kicked a Jewish man who was walking to synagogue with his two young sons, knocking him to the ground and breaking his leg.⁴⁷
- In the **United States**, the Beth Israel synagogue in Niagara Falls, New York, was repeatedly vandalized in 2006, while in January 2007 a message was taped to its door declaring: "Kill the Jews."⁴⁸

Schools

Jewish schools, like synagogues, continued to be particular targets of violence in many countries, with incidents ranging from the breaking of windows and vandalism through destructive and threatening graffiti, to bombings and arson. As noted, attacks on children going to or from school are frequently reported.

- In **Austria** on November 26, a man in his thirties was arrested in the early morning on the premises of the Lauder Chabad School in Vienna, after allegedly using an iron rod to smash more than 100 windows and to cause damage to the school rest rooms. The leaders of the Jewish community viewed the incident as the most severe in the last 20 years.⁴⁹
- In **Canada**, a masked attacker firebombed Montreal's Skver-Toldos Orthodox Jewish Boys School on September 1, 2006, shortly after students left religious services in the building. Although the incident was caught on a security camera, the assailant has yet to be detained.⁵⁰
- In the **United Kingdom**, there were 59 reported incidents targeting Jewish schools or schoolchildren, including 25 in which Jewish children were victimized while traveling to or from school.⁵¹

Cemeteries and Monuments

Attacks on Jewish cemeteries and monuments, in particular those commemorating the Holocaust, continued to be reported throughout the OSCE region in 2006, from North America to the Russian Federation.

- In **Belarus**, vandals on November 12 vandalized the Yama Holocaust memorial in Minsk with a swastika, and left antisemitic leaflets threatening "enemies and traitors of our fatherland." The leaflets bore the name of the White Russian Front for Aryan Resistance⁵² On November 15, the Belarusian State Security Committee reported that a little known neo-Nazi group was responsible for vandalizing the Yama monument, describing the incident as teenage hooliganism and stating that it would not launch an investigation.⁵³
- Also in **Belarus** on November 30, vandals used an explosive device to damage a Holocaust memorial in Brest; the sixth time the memorial was damaged in attacks since it was dedicated 14 years before.⁵⁴
- In **Belgium**, during the night of July 24, vandals damaged the Jewish Memorial for Holocaust Victims in Brussels, pulling out the gate of the memorial's crypt, destroying documents, breaking

windows, and emptying an urn containing ashes from Auschwitz victims onto the floor.⁵⁵

- In **Estonia** in early April, vandals defaced a memorial to 6,000 victims of the Holocaust murdered near Tallin on a day on which victims of the Holocaust were commemorated. The monument is at the site of the mass killings.⁵⁶
- In **Germany**, neo-Nazis in Frankfurt on Oder desecrated a memorial to a synagogue that was destroyed in the 1938 pogrom known as Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass." Some reportedly urinated on the memorial and scattered wreaths and candles placed shortly before at an anniversary memorial service.⁵⁷
- In **Latvia** in late May, vandals knocked down a Holocaust memorial that was to be unveiled on June 4 in the town of Rezekne. The memorial commemorates the murder of 120 Jews in the town.⁵⁸
- In **Lithuania** in late June, attackers desecrated a Jewish cemetery in Suderve, 16 miles east of the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, toppling 19 tombstones, some of which were smashed.⁵⁹
- In **Ukraine**, in July, attackers seriously damaged the Babi Yar memorial in Kiev, near the site at which Nazis massacred tens of thousands of Jews.⁶⁰ In March, vandals had smeared a Holocaust memorial in Sevastopol with pink paint and swastikas.⁶¹ Similarly, in April, a Holocaust memorial in Odessa was defaced with swastikas and other graffiti.⁶² On December 20, two days before it was to be inaugurated, a Holocaust monument in Donetsk was vandalized, daubed with a swastika and the initials SS.⁶³ In mid-October, 18 tombstones in a Jewish cemetery in central Ukraine were destroyed.⁶⁴
- In the **United States**, in June, vandals in the state of New Jersey toppled 64 headstones in two rural Jewish cemeteries.⁶⁵

Community Centers and Communal Property

Jewish community centers and other community institutions in many countries were the object of threatening graffiti, broken windows, and arson attacks. Individuals seen coming from or going from Jewish institutions were also singled out for harassment, threats, and violence.

- In **Canada**, 27 incidents involved attacks on Jewish communal buildings such as charities and community centers, in contrast to 19 the previous year.⁶⁶
- In the **Russian Federation** on February 27 in Saratov, a swastika was painted on the front door of the Jewish Charity Center. This was one of a series of antisemitic incidents targeting this center. On February 21, antisemitic graffiti and swastikas were painted on the walls of a building near the offices of the center.⁶⁷
- In the **United Kingdom**, assailants in 79 incidents in 2006 targeted Jewish communal organizations, including "representative bodies, youth movements, welfare and cultural organizations."⁶⁸

Proliferating Antisemitic Discourse

High levels of antisemitic threats and violence in 2006 occurred against a background of threats and incitement to hatred and violence in both the public and the private sectors. The context and motor of antisemitism is increasingly present in new forms of popular discourse with a message of antisemitic hatred, promoted in many countries by local and national leaders and mainstream media. Virulent antisemitism was promoted through political action in the form of threatening paramilitary marches, public meetings, and demonstrations expressly calling for violence and intolerance toward Jews. Print media, recordings, and Internet publications proliferated that demonize and encourage violence against Jews and other minority groups, while singling out named individuals as targets for extremist violence. Extreme nationalist groups founded upon ideologies of racial supremacy and religious chauvinism increasingly threaten to enter the political mainstream in many countries, with antisemitism a centerpiece of political action and ideology.

In eastern Europe and the Russian Federation, extreme nationalist political groups have adopted the language of 19th century antisemitism, backed by some sectors of dominant churches, while orchestrating violent action against religious, ethnic, and national minorities. Institutional propagation of antisemitism continued through much of the region by organized political movements, extremist news media, and through sectors of majority religious institutions and associated news media.

In **Poland**, a Catholic radio station with an audience of an estimated 3 million people, Radio Maryja, has been a persistent source of antisemitic discourse.⁶⁹ In July, the priest who heads Radio Maryja reportedly apolo-

gized for the antisemitic statements of one journalist.⁷⁰ The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) reported in November 2006 that the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the OSCE "informed the ODIHR about a decision that 'limits the space of action by the radio and brings it more strictly under the supervision of the Polish Bishops.'⁷¹

In **Ukraine**, racist and antisemitic discourse with official sanction has been a backdrop to racist and antisemitic violence. Complaints that the official bookstore of the Ukrainian parliament sold antisemitic literature, including the apocryphal *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, led in December 2006 to an agreement that these materials be removed.⁷²

The government of Ukraine has also been pressed to strip of its accreditation a large private university whose head is the leader of the far-right Ukrainian Conservative Party. The Inter-Regional Academy of Personnel Management, known by its acronym MAUP, has some 50,000 students and numerous branches, and has been identified as the Ukraine's principal source of antisemitic incitement and propaganda.⁷³ In the first half of 2006, MAUP "continued to distribute anti-Semitic literature in the form of pamphlets, magazines and books," according to ODIHR's October 2006 report on hate crimes.⁷⁴ In June, education authorities announced that seven branches of MAUP would lose their official status.

Antisemitism was also promoted throughout much of Europe through Internet and other media connected to Middle Eastern and other Muslim countries that promoted hatred of Jews as a part of a political

message intended to delegitimize Israel. Hatred of Jews that is driven by Middle East politics has been characterized as the “new antisemitism” in Western Europe, and cited as a concern in particular in those countries such as France and the United Kingdom with large Muslim populations. In his report on the situation of Arab and Muslim peoples, U.N. racism official Doudou Diène had already observed in 2004 that “hostility towards Jews arises in a new context in which new forms of anti-Semitism, linked to the Middle East conflict, are overlaid on top of traditional anti-Semitism...”⁷⁵

The overlay of ancient prejudices and modern politics is readily apparent in much of the language and literature of the “new antisemitism.” Much of the antisemitic material published and broadcast from the Muslim world is, in fact, recycled from centuries of European tracts and screeds, from the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a forgery created in Czarist Russia, to direct translations of the writings and broadcasts of Germany’s National Socialism. This resurrection of the “old antisemitism” is new insofar as it has been reformed as a political weapon against Israel. The term “new antisemitism” is often applied both to the strain of antisemitism exported to Europe from the Muslim world, and to trends in criticism of Israel or Israeli policies by the European left that may also in some instances appear to demonize Jews as such as a people.

The impact of virulently antisemitic websites on the Internet, sponsored by Muslim political groups and some governments has been difficult to assess, but these sites are widely accessed. Similarly, concerns have been expressed about sermons in European mosques in which Jews are vilified as a people, often attributed to foreign religious leaders brought in from abroad (most European countries have no Muslim religious schools at which indigenous Muslim scholars and leaders can be trained).

Antisemitism as Public Policy

The lines between protected freedom of speech and incitement to violence and hatred are often disputed, and Human Rights First focuses on immediate threats and acts of violence motivated by prejudice and hatred. Public officials and political leaders who use their prominence and authority to advocate hatred and racist and related violence, however, violate international norms in doing so. As a consequence, in our reporting on the factors behind violent racism, antisemitism, and related intolerance, the statements of public officials, local national, are given particular importance.

In addition to officials holding political office or leading political parties in Europe, the Russian Federation, and North America, government leaders outside the region can also play a major role in the incitement of racist violence when their actions resonate internationally. The statements and actions of Iran’s president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, including his hosting an international conference to deny the reality of the Holocaust, were the most notorious of those by political leaders that encouraged antisemitism in 2006. The government’s organization of the December 2006 conference to promote denial of the reality of the Holocaust, and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s statements denying the Holocaust were, in Human Rights First’s view, part of a government strategy both to incite hatred and violence against Jews and delegitimize Israel. Doing so was a violation of Iran’s obligations as a U.N. member state and a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

In January 2007, on the occasion of the second annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, Human Rights First joined other organizations in an appeal to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the U.N.’s top human rights leaders to condemn Iran’s continuing promotion of antisemitism in word and action. While the real impact of Iran’s acts in Europe has yet to be assessed, their resonance through the news media was immense, and the encouragement given for antisemitic views and actions by European extremists of all kinds, Christians and Muslims alike, was significant.

In the **Russian Federation**, where antisemitism today is part of a centuries-old historical continuum, President Ahmadinejad’s actions were taken as a validation of extreme nationalist Russian political platforms. In December 2006, for example, the Russian National Union, an extreme right-wing group, held a rally in front of the Iranian Embassy in Moscow to express solidarity with Ahmadinejad and to “deplore Israeli policies and the world Jewry.”⁷⁶

Iran’s own Holocaust denial conference followed the template of a similar conference held in January 2002 at Moscow’s Humanitarian Social Academy. The participants of Moscow’s International Conference on Global Problems of World History included many of the personalities who later attended the Teheran conference, and its proceedings are featured prominently today on the virulently antisemitic website *Radio Islam*.⁷⁷ In Europe as in the Middle East, the “old” antisemitism permeates the “new.”⁷⁸

Resurgent Antisemitism in Central and Eastern Europe

In many parts of Eastern Europe, burgeoning extreme nationalist political movements have made antisemitism a centerpiece of ideologies of racial supremacy and religious intolerance. Sectors of the dominant Orthodox churches of the region, and certain Roman Catholic institutions, notably in Poland, have encouraged antisemitism and religious and ethnic chauvinism.

In **Hungary**, antisemitism was reportedly on the rise in the public discourse of political leaders as well as in the form of attacks on Jewish cemeteries. In a single wave of attacks in Vac, on November 6, 2006, vandals daubed antisemitic graffiti on the fence of a synagogue and vandalized a Jewish school, stealing a marble tablet presented to the school by the city to memorialize the Holocaust.⁷⁹ In December, a historic synagogue in the city of Pecs and a Jewish community building were spray-painted with swastikas and Nazi slogans. No progress was reported in investigations into an attack on June 15, 2005, in which vandals smashed some 130 gravestones in the Jewish cemetery in Budapest.⁸⁰

On October 23, 2006, hundreds of demonstrators shouted antisemitic slogans and threw a range of objects in the direction of the Great Synagogue in Budapest. Police reportedly acted to assist worshippers and others under threat to seek shelter inside the synagogue and dispersed the demonstrators.⁸¹

In an interview, Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany spoke out at the proliferation of antisemitism in the context of the protests against his government in October and November 2006. The protests followed the

dissemination of evidence that economic data had been deliberately withheld by the government prior to the April 2006 elections. Gyurcsany protested that opposition leaders during one demonstration had failed to distance themselves from a previous speaker who attacked the supposed role of Jews in Hungarian politics and read out the names of some 50 allegedly Jewish politicians in the parliament square.⁸²

In the **Russian Federation**, members of minorities from the Caucasus as well as people of African or Asian origin at present bear the brunt of the greatest violence, including dozens of racist murders in the course of 2006. The progressive insertion of antisemitism into the mainstream of Russian political life, including through parliamentary petitions and judicial inquiries into Jewish ritual, however, has provided a driving force behind newly virulent attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions.

Jews in Russia are victims of especially pernicious discrimination that draws upon attitudes rooted in centuries of antisemitism. Antisemitic views today are an increasing feature of the public statements of a wide range of public figures, nationalist political parties, and extremist groups and can also be found in the mainstream media. Antisemitic literature is widely available, sold in Russia's kiosks and bookstores, while antisemitism is a persistent feature of some mainstream television.⁸³

These antisemitic screeds and energetic diatribes by political leaders, although disavowed by the Kremlin, are the backdrop to violent antisemitic attacks against

individuals and the targeted vandalism and desecration of Jewish cemeteries and property. Examples include an incident in Pskov in which an individual released an incapacitating gas to disrupt a Hanukkah celebration on December 15, 2006, sickening worshippers at the local Jewish community center.⁸⁴ Similarly, on December 25, attackers in Ulyanovsk broke a window of the Jewish community's office there, daubing the entrance with fascist symbols and leaving an antisemitic leaflet at the scene.⁸⁵

Although extreme nationalist groups, including those composed of mostly young people known as “skin-heads,” are best known for racist and religiously motivated attacks, organized Orthodox religious groups have also carried out attacks. On July 5, 2006, some ten Russian Orthodox extremists attacked a group of Jews who were attending an exhibition with religious themes at the All-Russian Exhibition Center. The “With Faith, Hope, and Love in the Third Millennium” exhibition featured displays from a variety of faith traditions. Screaming “Kikes killed our Tsar!” the group attacked the visitors in front of an exhibit on the Russian Orthodox Church before being stopped by security guards. The epithet reflected a belief popular in some nationalist circles that Jews ritually murdered Nicholas II.⁸⁶

The incident at the exhibition center recalled an earlier attack, in January 2003, in which Orthodox religious extremists carried out a violent attack in the name of defending their faith. In that incident, young acolytes dressed in black from the Russian Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas in Pyzhi attacked the exhibition “Caution! Religion” at Moscow’s Sakharov Museum and Public Center, on the grounds that it was offensive to the Russian Orthodox Church. Although art work was destroyed and the organizers threatened, no charges were pressed against the attackers: in contrast, the organizers of the exhibition were tried and convicted of “inciting religious hatred.”⁸⁷

As extreme nationalists proclaim “Russia for the Russians,” slogans have been backed by political action to demand the supremacy of ethnic Russians and of the Russian Orthodox Church. Actions by mainstream and semi-clandestine political parties alike have taken up the banner of religious homogeneity, attacking minority religions including Protestant and other non-Orthodox Christian faiths. Even in protests and demonstrations at the presence of so-called “non-traditional” Christian faiths, antisemitism remains a unifying theme and rallying cry for violence and intolerance.

In June 2005, members of the *Rodina* (Motherland) Party demonstrated in Moscow to oppose the construc-

tion of premises for the Russian-American Christian Institute, declaring it to be “a sower of ideas that are alien to our state.” Leaflets combined anti-Protestant rhetoric with antisemitism. Some called upon “fellow citizens and patriots” to stop the “American Protestant heresy,” while others declared: “God is not in strength but in truth! Live without fear of the Jews!”⁸⁸

The so-called “Letter of 500,” issued by members of the Russian parliament, the Duma, and other public figures in 2005, continues to be one of the most widely circulated and influential vehicles for the incitement of antisemitism in Russia. The document was published in the form of an open letter on the website of the newspaper Orthodox Rus on January 14, 2005, signed by over 500 people, including 19 Members of the Russian State Duma (signatories within a year numbered over 15,000 people).

The seven-page letter restated many of the most ancient and venomous of antisemitic slanders, including the “blood libel,” while including a call for action: the banning of all Jewish institutions from Russia. The document, issued on Duma stationery on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, denounced Judaism as “anti-Christian and inhumane, whose practices extend to ritual murders,” and called on Russia’s prosecutor general to “open a legal investigation into banning all Jewish religious and community groups” on the grounds of “defense of the homeland.”

The publicity around the “letter of 500” provided a point of convergence for many extreme nationalist groups, with a number of Orthodox Christian and monarchist groups campaigning on its basis for the formation of a Movement for Living without Fear of the Jews.⁸⁹ The public resonance of the letter also provided the backdrop to what Moscow’s SOVA Center called “the most notable organizing event of the year” in regard to resurgent antisemitism: the “restorative” congress of the Union of Russian People, described as the first large-scale effort to restore the pre-Communist “Black Hundred” nationalist group. The congress brought together more than 70 Orthodox Christian and monarchist groups, and speakers including the leader of the *Rodina* party, and the vice speaker of the State Duma.⁹⁰

Notwithstanding the extremist posture of some Orthodox leaders, other senior religious figures have spoken out in condemnation of antisemitism and intolerance. On June 9, 2005, Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II addressed the international conference of the OSCE in Cordoba, Spain, to declare that the Russian Orthodox Church shares concerns over “incidents of antisemitism, xenophobia and other forms

of racism.” He described antisemitism, as “one of the more radical expression of misanthropy and racism,” and a sin, and said its perpetrators included “public figures, publicists, and the leaders of radical organizations.”⁹¹

A major concern of human rights monitors in Russia is the mainstreaming of antisemitism in political life. The incorporation of antisemitic discourse into the platforms and speeches of nationalist political movements in Russia has been reported by human rights monitors in Russia as well as in the press. Antisemitic slogans and rhetoric in public demonstrations are frequently reported, attributed to both nationalist and Communist parties and political groups. In a February 23, 2006 rally celebrating “Defenders of the Fatherland Day,” a yearly tribute to war veterans, according to the newspaper *Kommersant*, marchers flourished signs with messages including “Kikes! Stop drinking Russian blood!,” “White Power!,” and “A Russian government for Russia!”⁹²

The resurgence of antisemitism as a political phenomenon in the Russian Federation has also been manifested through violent attacks against Jews, Jewish institutions and property, as well as in the desecration of cemeteries and synagogues. The SOVA Center documented 27 incidents of antisemitic attacks on people and on property in 2005, although this accounting can not be considered comprehensive.⁹³

A January 2007 report by the Union of Councils for Jews in the former Soviet Union (UCSJ) chronicles incidents of antisemitism in Russia and Ukraine in 2005 and 2006, and identifies antisemitism as a serious problem in both countries. The report observes that “antisemitic attitudes among the general population are widespread” in both, to the extent that politicians in both countries “have been elected and re-elected while openly espousing antisemitic beliefs.”⁹⁴

The report further observes that in contrast to Russia, where national minorities from the Caucasus are the principal targets of racist violence, Jews are among the primary objects of violent extremist attacks in the **Ukraine**. These attacks are often hidden from public view, rarely reported on in the local news media, while human rights organizations have been less effective than in Russia in raising the profile of this type of violence.⁹⁵

In May 2006, the government of Ukraine asserted that “all forms of discrimination based on race and nationality have been eliminated in Ukraine,” in its periodic submission in compliance with its obligations as a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).⁹⁶ Ukraine’s 41-page submission to the committee that monitors compliance with the treaty made just one reference to antisemitism, reporting the publication of a statement by a government committee in the mass media condemning xenophobic attitudes, “with the aim of bringing a halt to manifestations of xenophobia, anti-Semitism and racial and religious intolerance.”⁹⁷

When taken to task by members of the CERD committee, on the incidence of antisemitic publications and vandalism, the government responded that such problems were “rare and in no way systematic,” and were investigated on a case by case basis.⁹⁸

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko spoke out against racism and antisemitism on September 26, 2006, at a ceremony at the Babi Yar ravine, where some 33,000 people were killed between September 29 and 30, 1941.⁹⁹

“The Holocaust and Babi Yar killings wounded our nations. Babi Yar should be that injection preventing aggressive bloody xenophobia,” he said on September 26 at the commemoration. Speaking at a conference the following day, he added: “I clearly and straightforwardly promise that there will never be ethnic intolerance and religious hatred in Ukraine. Like all Ukrainians, I refuse to accept and tolerate the slightest manifestation of xenophobia and antisemitism.”

An estimated 100,000 were killed at Babi Yar in the course of the 1941-1943 Nazi occupation of Ukraine.¹⁰⁰

Statistics and Trends in Western Europe and North America

Only a few of the OSCE participating states record and report on offenses as specifically anti-Jewish or antisemitic. Because systems of monitoring vary widely, comparisons between countries on the levels of violence against the Jewish community are generally difficult to make. Many OSCE states publish little or no data on hate crimes and incidents and in ordinary crime reporting do not disaggregate data on violent crimes to distinguish the groups affected. However, the official and unofficial statistics available can be helpful in determining trends in individual countries and cities. The hard facts and statistics of antisemitic threats and violence give objective support to a grim analysis of today's phenomenon of antisemitism. What follows below is an analysis of the statistics and trends in those countries where monitoring and reporting systems are sufficiently comprehensive to allow such a review.

In a number of countries where systematic monitoring is undertaken, notably **Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States**, statistics on antisemitic crimes showed a decline in 2005 after peaks in 2004, while remaining at levels far higher than the norm in the 1990s. In France antisemitic offences in 2005 declined 48 percent from 2004 levels—but again rose in 2006 by 6.6 percent.

In 2006, while reported incident levels remain at high, but fairly steady levels in France and the United States, the number of incidents leaped in Canada and the United Kingdom. At the end of 2006, police in Germany warned of a sharp rise in extremist crimes there, although complete statistics for antisemitic offenses for 2006 were not confirmed at the time. In Denmark,

reports for 2006 from the community-based organization Det Mosaiske Troessamfund held that there were as many antisemitic incidents in the first half of 2006 as in the entire year of 2005, with most aimed at people going to synagogue or at children on their way to school.¹⁰¹

The annual report of the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism similarly reported a worldwide increase in antisemitic incidents, with most incidents coming from Europe and North America. The institute reported on 590 cases of violence and vandalism, marking a high since 2000 and reversing the decrease in incidents reported in 2005 as compared with 2004.¹⁰²

France

Human Rights First has monitored and reported on antisemitic hate crimes in Europe since 2002. Human Rights First chronicled the rise in antisemitism in France and in much of Europe since 2001, attacks which were a reaction, in part, to events in the Middle East. In our first report, *Fire and Broken Glass: the Rise of Antisemitism in Europe* we were highly critical of the French Government's "policy of indifference."

At that time, violent attacks including the burning of synagogues and assaults on Jewish schools, shops, and homes were rising dramatically. After initially refusing to acknowledge the severity of the problem the French Government took a number of meaningful steps, including enacting unprecedented hate crimes

legislation, greatly enhancing official monitoring and reporting of hate crimes, demanding more concerted police action, introducing a series of new educational programs, and, through statements and actions by French political leaders, giving antisemitic hate crimes a high public profile.

Together, the evidence shows that these official actions have made a striking difference. In January 2006, French nongovernmental organizations that monitor antisemitism applauded government measures to combat hate crimes. They reported a decrease by almost half of antisemitic crimes between 2005 (with 504 cases) and the high levels of 2004 (974 cases). Despite continuing high levels of antisemitic violence, there has been considerable progress.

Statistics from the Jewish Community Protection Service (Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive, SPCJ) backed up the 2005 official statistics produced by the Ministry of the Interior. Ministry of Interior statistics also reported a rise in successful prosecutions of antisemitic and racist hate crimes, from 303 in 2004 to 435 in 2005.

Yet the problem remains, and requires continued vigilance on the part of the French authorities going forward. The 2006 statistics, broken down into “racist and xenophobic” and “antisemitic” offences, revealed a 10 percent *decrease* in total offences—but a *rise* of 6.6 percent in the number of antisemitic offences, from 504 offences in 2005 to 541.

Equally significant was the increasingly violent character of all registered hate crimes, and particularly of antisemitic offences.¹⁰³ The increase in violent antisemitic offences was by far more acute both in real numbers and in proportional terms.

Violent antisemitic acts (against both property and individuals) rose 35 percent, from 99 in 2005 to 134 in 2006, while attacks on persons practically doubled in number, from 53 in 2005 to 94 in 2006. In 2006, there were 30 persons wounded who were “of or perceived to be of the Jewish confession” (registered cases also included 20 wounded “of immigrant origin”). One person was reported murdered: Ilan Halimi, a member of the Jewish community who was kidnapped and tortured (Ilan Halimi was the only person reported killed in a bias crime in France in 2006, and the only individual victim named in the report).¹⁰⁴

The overall rise in antisemitic offences was entirely a rise in violent acts. Minor offences, categorized as threats (*menaces*), dropped from 409 to 407 in 2006. But there, too, an emphasis on increased violence – or threat of violence – was starkly apparent in the statistics. Threats *against persons* doubled over the

year, from 69 of a total of 409 threats in 2005 to 135 of the 2006 total of 407 threats.¹⁰⁵ Despite the dramatic improvement of 2005, the total of all bias offences remained extraordinarily high compared with the period of the late nineties.¹⁰⁶

Nongovernmental monitoring has performed a crucial role in France, providing independent data on antisemitic acts against which to assess changing government monitoring policies and practices. The Representative Council of French Jewish Communities (*Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France*, CRIF), the principal umbrella organization of the Jewish community in France, publishes data that cross-references information provided by Ministry of Interior with a data-base of incidents recorded by the SPCJ’s telephone hotline.¹⁰⁷ Statistics from these sources identified 275 antisemitic acts recorded from January to September 2006, a rise of 16 percent over the 236 incidents reported in 2005 in the same period.¹⁰⁸

The CRIF’s/SPCJ’s statistics for all of 2006, republished in the annual report of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH), confirm these trends. There were 371 antisemitic incidents in 2006 according to this data, a rise of 25 percent over 2005 levels. Antisemitic acts, totaling 213, rose 40 percent; *menaces*, totaling 158, rose 6 percent.¹⁰⁹ The most striking finding, parallel with those of the official government figures, was a rise of 45 percent in assaults on persons (117) and a 70 percent rise in insults (82). The SPCJ statistics exclude threats (*menaces*) registered with public authorities.¹¹⁰

France’s accelerated introduction of hate crimes legislation and concerted public policy measures to enforce them appear to have been uniquely effective, but must be sustained in order to meet the continuing challenge of antisemitic and racist violence. Despite improvement from the peak years of violence, the levels of antisemitic incidents today continue to be nearly ten times that of the late nineties. This notwithstanding, the official report of the CNCDH for 2006 has stressed that the CRIF has itself insisted on the positive, even in the face of the new statistics, observing “that the statistics of the current year remain far below the peaks observed since 2000, notably that of 2004...” The CRIF has also acknowledged progress in official monitoring and action, noting that the Ministry of Interior had registered just “12 acts and 70 threats in 1999.”¹¹¹

Germany

In Germany, official statistics for 2006 were still incomplete at the time of the release of this survey. Police statements and partial statistics released throughout the year warned of a leap of some 20 percent in extremist crimes, although statistics on antisemitic crimes, a subset of these offenses, were not yet confirmed.¹¹²

In 2005, the federal police data on “right-wing crime with an extremist and anti-Semitic background” identified a total of 1,658 offences. This represented an increase of 25.9 percent from the previous year (1,316). Of these, 49 offences were described as violent crimes, a rise from 37 in 2004.¹¹³ Violent antisemitic crime rates had been even lower in 2003 with 35 crimes registered.¹¹⁴

Incidents included physical assaults, vandalism, and symbolic acts of intimidation. In one incident in October 2006, in Parey, in the German state of Saxony Anhalt, a sixteen-year-old schoolboy who spoke out against racism was forced by schoolmates to wear a placard declaring “I’m the nastiest swine in town; with the Jews I always hang around” – reproducing Nazi doggerel of the 1930s that vilified those who associated with Jews.

In another incident in June 2006, in the town of Pretzien, in Saxony-Anhalt, a public bonfire festival held annually was transformed into a platform for public book-burning and antisemitic chants. One hundred or more skinheads chanting neo-Nazi slogans ritually kicked, tore, and burned a copy of the *Diary of Anne Frank* in the presence of a crowd of townspeople. Charges were brought against seven individuals for what are essentially propaganda offences: incitement of racial hatred, disparaging the names of the dead, and glorification of the Nazi regime.¹¹⁵ The German news agency Deutsche-Welle reported that local police initially “deemed the crime as a mere ‘disturbance to peace.’”¹¹⁶

United Kingdom

Although there are national hate crime figures in the United Kingdom, the independent police authorities across the United Kingdom have not adopted consistent practices for recording antisemitic incidents. According to the Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism, released in September 2006:

All but eight forces record such incidents within their figures for racist incidents and do not produce separate figures for antisemitic incidents. The Metropolitan Police and some other forces which have significant Jewish communities do keep separate figures for such incidents...¹¹⁷

The commission of inquiry expressed concern that “there is a lack of consistency in police processes and procedures,” and that “only a minority of police forces in the United Kingdom have the capability to record antisemitic incidents.”¹¹⁸

The Community Security Trust (CST), a nongovernmental organization that monitors antisemitic acts in the United Kingdom, provides a breakdown of incidents that distinguishes acts of extreme violence (with a threat to life), assaults, property damage and desecration, threats, abusive behavior, and antisemitic literature. Its incident data showed a consistent increase from 1997 to 2000 (from 228 to 405 incidents), a slight decrease in 2001, followed by a rise to a peak in 2004 (532 incidents).

Peak periods of violence recorded in the United Kingdom, as elsewhere, largely coincided with events in the Middle East. The CST identified the outbreak of the second Palestinian Intifada (September 2000), the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and the beginning of the war in Iraq (March 2003) as past “trigger events” for spikes in antisemitic incidents. The increase in antisemitic incidents in 2004, in turn, was attributed in part to international reactions to the Israeli assassination of the Hamas leader Sheik Yassin.¹¹⁹

The CST report for 2005 identified a total of 455 incidents, a decrease of 14 percent from the previous year. The decrease, it suggested, was “largely due to the relative lack of ‘trigger events,’ particularly from the Middle East, which cause spikes in the number of incidents.”¹²⁰ This notwithstanding, the United Kingdom figures for 2005 were striking for showing a continued high level of violent acts, equal to that of 2004, despite the overall reduction in incidents. The report observed that “[t]his is the second year in a row in which violent attacks on Jewish people have outnumbered incidents of damage to Jewish property”—a trend that continued in 2006.¹²¹

The 2006 figures for antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom again peaked, with the highest annual toll since the collection of statistics by the CST started in 1984. There were 594 incidents: a rise of 31 percent over the 2005 figure of 455 incidents. Incidents involving attacks on people rose to unprecedented levels, with assaults rising in a year from 82 to 112; a 37 percent rise. Of these, four cases were of extreme violence resulting in serious injury: in the separate incidents, assailants stabbed a Jewish man; beat another in the presence of his two young sons, breaking his leg; beat a man over the head with an iron bar; and bashed a man on the head with a bottle.

Parallel to the rise in personal violence, there was a 45 percent rise in antisemitic damage to property and

desecration, from 48 incidents in 2005 to 70 incidents in 2006.¹²² The timing of the rise in incidents in 2006 corresponded in part to the conflict in Lebanon and Israel in July and August.¹²³ The CST registered 92 antisemitic incidents in July, compared with 41 for the same month in 2005. Violent incidents in July rose from 58 in 2005 to 67.¹²⁴

The response of law enforcement and the criminal justice system to antisemitism in the United Kingdom was also closely monitored. In a number of serious cases, arrests were made and convictions resulted, although the courts did not always take into account the bias elements of crimes in handing down lengthy sentences. In August 2006, a 13-year-old Jewish girl traveling on a London bus was attacked after she was asked whether she was “Jewish or English.” She was then robbed and kicked unconscious. Two teenage girls were subsequently convicted of robbery.¹²⁵

CST also provided limited information on the identification of the perpetrators in the 2006 incidents, using a British police coding system for physical descriptions that were provided in 205 of the 594 incidents. The data is useful in part to illustrate that antisemitic incidents involve both attacks from sectors of the majority population as well as minority-on-minority threats and violence. Of these perpetrators “96 were White (47 per cent), 4 East European (two per cent), 28 Black (14 per cent), 60 Asian (29 per cent), 1 Far Eastern (one per cent) and 16 Arab (8 per cent).”¹²⁶

Other European Countries

A May 2006 report on antisemitism by the E.U.’s principal antidiscrimination body, the EUMC, found that only seven of the 25 EU Member States – Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom – provide statistics on antisemitic incidents, and that most do so indirectly. For example:

- **Austria and Germany** report on antisemitic incidents, but only in the context of recording right-wing extremist activity.
- In **Belgium**, police do not officially record antisemitic incidents, although the CEOOR, an official specialized body, does compile statistics on “allegations of antisemitism.”
- In **Denmark**, antisemitic incidents are recorded as racist, although incident reports can be accessed that distinguish those motivated more specifically by antisemitism.
- The statistics available for the **United Kingdom** come from the Community Security Trust (CST), a

nongovernmental organization, rather than from an official body (although the CST draws upon publicly available police information).

The EUMC concluded that the other E.U. member states are unable to provide any official statistics on antisemitic incidents.¹²⁷ This is a situation these countries have in common with most other European and Central Asian states in the OSCE region.

To a certain extent, NGOs have been able to compensate for the absence or inadequacy of official data collection with independent data collection and analysis. Among the most effective such organizations are the Community Security Trust (United Kingdom), the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions (France), the Israel Information and Documentation Center (the Netherlands), the Executive Committee of Community Monitoring (Belgium), and the SOVA Center for Information and Analysis (Russian Federation). In North America, the Anti-Defamation League in the United States and the League for Human Rights of B’Nai Brith in Canada also provide comprehensive annual statistics on the levels of antisemitic incidents in those countries. The Stephen Roth Institute reports on antisemitic incidents worldwide, with a large proportion of the countries covered by this reporting belonging to the OSCE.

Canada

While there is no uniform hate crime reporting nationwide in Canada, police in a number of metropolitan areas report on hate crimes, including those motivated by race, ethnicity, and religion. Anti-Jewish crimes are distinguished in the reporting in some jurisdictions. In Toronto, for example, police reported 33 occurrences of crime classified as anti-Jewish in 2005, representing 25 percent of the total reported bias-motivated crimes, a significant decrease from the 59 reported in 2004.¹²⁸

Although police data is only available from part of the Canadian justice system, systematic reporting from within the Canadian Jewish community draws upon both official and community sources and provides coverage of violent crimes and antisemitic incidents across the country. The League for Human Rights of B’Nai Brith Canada produces an annual national audit of antisemitic hate crimes, based largely on its system of hate crime hot lines. In 2005, 829 incidents were reported to B’nai Brith, an overall decrease of 3.3 percent over 2004 levels (but still far higher than the 584 incidents reported in 2003). Of these cases, 32 percent had also been reported to Canadian police authorities by the victims themselves.¹²⁹ The total reported cases were broken down into three broad

categories: 273 cases of vandalism (defined as incidents causing physical damage to property, from graffiti to firebombing or arson) 25 of violence (defined as physical use of force against a person or group of persons), and 531 cases of harassment (a category that included 72 direct threats to individuals or institutions, including bomb threats and threats of assault).¹³⁰

In 2006, B'nai Brith Canada reported a 12.8 percent rise in antisemitic incidents over the previous year, to 935 incidents—the highest level ever reported (and more than double the 459 incidents reported in 2002).¹³¹ In line with trends in Europe, although of lesser scale, the rise in 2006 was particularly acute in the area of violent assaults, with a 20 percent increase over 2004 cases, from 25 to 30. Cases identified as harassment (62.9 percent of the total incidents) rose from 531 in 2005 to 588 cases; cases of vandalism, 33.9 percent of the total, rose from 273 to 317.¹³²

United States of America

In the United States, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) system records antisemitic crimes as a subcategory under crimes motivated by religious bias, using the term "anti-Jewish." The FBI's annual statistical report on hate crimes provides an important window into the nature and incidence of hate crimes in the United States. Statistics for each category include the number of incidents, offenses (some incidents involve more than one crime), and the number of victims.

The report for 2005, released in October 2006, said 7,163 criminal incidents involving 8,380 offenses were reported in 2005, "as a result of bias toward a particular race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, or physical or mental disability."¹³³ Of these, 900 offenses were classified as "anti-Jewish." This is about 16 percent of the total 8,380 reported offenses motivated by bias and a 9 percent decrease over the 2004 figure of 1,003 anti-Jewish offenses.¹³⁴

Of the subcategories of religious bias, anti-Jewish incidents represented by far the largest group: 68 percent of all single-bias offenses classed as religious were anti-Jewish. In real numbers, religious bias statistics covered 1,227 incidents, 1,314 offenses, and 1,405 victims. Of these, anti-Jewish hate crimes accounted for some two-thirds of the totals, with 848 incidents, 900 offenses, and 977 victims.¹³⁵

The hate crime statistics published in the UCR series in October 2006 showed a slight decrease in hate crimes over the previous reporting period (2004), as well as a decline in the number of participating police jurisdictions that are part of the UCR network. The U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a major contributor to efforts to improve monitoring of all categories of hate crimes, almost immediately responded with criticism. Unlike in past years, in which it stressed the positive contribution of the reports to the fight against discriminatory violence, ADL said the report was "clearly incomplete": statistics from New York City and Phoenix were omitted.¹³⁶

In the organization's own annual report on U.S. antisemitism for 2005, ADL observed a slight decline in the number of incidents reported, with 1,757 incidents in 2005, a 3 percent decline from 2004 levels (when 1,821 incidents were reported).¹³⁷ In 2006, ADL reported 1,554 antisemitic incidents, a further decline of 12 percent over the 2005 figures. ADL noted however, that the decline came in a year marked by several violent attacks, including the shooting at the Seattle Jewish Community Center.¹³⁸

The Role of Intergovernmental Organizations

European antidiscrimination bodies continued to make reporting and action on antisemitism a priority in their work.

In addition to the work of the antidiscrimination bodies ECRI and EUMC (now the Fundamental Rights Agency), the region's intergovernmental political bodies have made antisemitism an integral part of the region's antidiscrimination norms. Both assistance and pressure from the E.U., the Council of Europe, and the OSCE may also be influencing national policies toward antisemitism. Antisemitism expert Michael Whine, for example, has noted that "some states are making progress against considerable financial, philosophical, religious and other odds."

For east European and central Asian states which have recently acceded to the EU or OSCE, or which seek to do so in the future, it has become axiomatic that they address the issue of antisemitism, start to make restitution to their devastated Jewish communities and confront the growth of racist violence, which targets Jewish and other minority communities, which ultimately also threatens democracy.¹³⁹

The Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Unit of the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) continued to be tasked with making combating antisemitism an important part of its program, through its hate crime monitoring, analysis, and reporting; its police training program; and through initiatives to promote education concerning antisemitism. In its October 2006 report on hate crimes, the authors stressed that antisemitism motivating physical attacks against Jews had been "fuelled by Holocaust denial, anti-Jewish sentiment, nationalism and strong anti-Israel attitudes."¹⁴⁰ The report cited a

number of antisemitic attacks from across the region, while acknowledging cases in which governments had responded promptly and effectively to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators. The ODIHR launched in October 2006 a web-based Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System, which serves as a useful resource for information on the participating states' implementation of commitments related to combating intolerance.

In January 2007, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office reappointed Gert Weisskirchen as his Personal Representative on Combating Antisemitism. Weisskirchen is one of three personal representatives who have been helpful in raising the problems of antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of racism and religious intolerance at the political level in the participating states.¹⁴¹

On June 15, 2006, the European Parliament passed a resolution condemning the increase in racist and homophobic violence in Europe, which specifically referenced, inter alia, the Treaty on European Union, the E.U. Charter on Fundamental Human Rights and directives which established a framework to fight racism and antisemitism. It noted the increase in anti-Jewish violence and discourse in specified countries and called on member states to withdraw funding from political parties that failed to abide by their Charter and Treaty obligations, launch public awareness campaigns to promote cultural diversity, and pay proper attention to the fight against racism and other forms of intolerance.¹⁴²

Endnotes

- ¹ In subsequent reports, "Antisemitism in Europe: Challenging Official Indifference" (2004) and "Everyday Fear: A Survey of Violent Hate Crimes in Europe and North America" (2005), Human Rights First looked at the violent reality of antisemitism country by country, at trends in antisemitic violence, and at the roles of governments and civil society in combating antisemitism.
- ² See Human Rights First, "Antisemitism in Europe: Challenging Official Indifference," 2004, pp. 67-76.
- ³ Community Security Trust (CST), "Antisemitic Incidents Report 2006," p. 14.
- ⁴ The rifle attack was tied expressly to earlier incidents: "...this particular synagogue was targeted numerous times during the course of the Lebanon war, turning the place of worship almost into a focal point for protests against Israel." Ilan Moss, "Antisemitic Incidents and Discourse in Europe During the Israel-Hezbollah War," European Jewish Congress, 2006, p. 34, available at: http://www.eurojewcong.org/ejc/news.php?id_article=601 (accessed March 21, 2007).
- ⁵ The expanded charge was brought under paragraph 147a of the Criminal Code, which concerns groups committing acts of terrorism. "Charged with terrorism: Police have expanded the charges against the four arrested for firing on the Oslo synagogue," *Aftenposten* (on-line edition, in English), September 21, 2006. Initial charges were "vandalism, violation of the Weapons Act and reckless handling of a firearm." "Arrest in synagogue shooting," *Aftenposten*, September 20, 2006. The Norwegian criminal code provides for racist motivation to be considered an aggravating circumstances with regard to the specific offenses of bodily harm, vandalism, and some felonies against personal liberty. (See Human Rights First, "Everyday Fears," p. 98).
- ⁶ Ilan Moss, "Antisemitic Incidents and Discourse in Europe During the Israel-Hezbollah War," European Jewish Congress, 2006, available at: http://www.eurojewcong.org/ejc/news.php?id_article=601 (accessed March 21, 2007).
- ⁷ "Synagogue vandalized," *Aftenposten* (on-line edition, in English), August 2, 2007.
- ⁸ CST contrasts this surge which the rise in incidents in the first full month of the Second Intifada: "By comparison, the highest monthly total ever recorded by the CST was 105 incidents during the 31 days of October 2000." Community Security Trust, "Antisemitic Incidents Report 2006."
- ⁹ In slightly less than half of the incidents a direct reference to the conflict was present. This source stresses that the two month toll was still less than the toll for those months in 2004, the peak year of antisemitic violence in France. Ilan Moss, "Antisemitic Incidents and Discourse in Europe During the Israel-Hezbollah War," European Jewish Congress, 2006, p. 20.
- ¹⁰ "Gang Attacks Three Jews in Kiev, UCSJ, Bigotry Monitor, December 22, 2006, vol. 6, no. 44, citing the AEN news agency. Ukrainian news media reportedly did not cover the attack.
- ¹¹ Elaine Sciolino, "Night of Soccer Violence in France Reveals an Ugly Underside," *New York Times*, November 28, 2006; and Bruce Crumley, "France Confront's Soccer's Vicious Underside," *Time*, December 1, 2006.
- ¹² Bruce Crumley, "France Confront's Soccer's Vicious Underside."
- ¹³ Elaine Sciolino, "Night of Soccer Violence in France Reveals an Ugly Underside," *New York Times*, November 28, 2006. For background on racism at the Parc de Princes stadium, see Bruce Crumley, "France Confront's Soccer's Vicious Underside." Racist chants and violence are so much a part of the Paris San Germaine (PSG) culture there, writes Crumley, that "some PSG ultras have mockingly denied anti-Semitism motivated their slander of Hapoel fans and their attack on Hazout, explaining it was the same unbridled belligerence they direct at all 'enemies.'" "To be sure, the PSG 'ultras' have established a reputation for equal-opportunity thuggery...."
- ¹⁴ See CST "Antisemitic Incidents Report 2006," pp. 12-13, for a discussion of the differing impact of triggering events on varied groups, based on their preexistent prejudices.
- ¹⁵ "Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism, All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism," House of Commons, September 2006, p. 8, available at <http://thepcaa.org/Report.pdf> (accessed March 24, 2007).

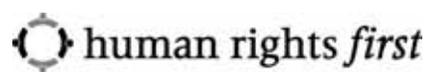
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- ²⁰ “*Mosgorsud vynes prigovor po delu A. Koptseva*,” SOVA Center for Information and Analysis, September 15, 2006, available at: <http://xeno.sova-center.ru/45A2A1E/7F22B52?print=on> (accessed on May 3, 2007).
- ²¹ “Synagogue Attacker in Rostov Found Unfit to Stand Trial,” UCSJ, Bigotry Monitor, Volume 6, No. 22, June 23, 2006, citing the Jewish Telegraph Agency.
- ²² “Chronicle of Antisemitism in Ukraine and Russia: 2005-2006,” UCSJ, January 2007, available at: <http://fsumonitor.com/stories/020207Report.shtml>.
- ²³ European Parliament, Resolution on the increase in racist and homophobic violence in Europe, Strasburg, June 15, 2006, available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2006-0273+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (accessed on March 19, 2007).
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- ⁴⁷ CST, “Antisemitic Incidents Report 2006,” p. 4.
- ⁴⁸ Arrests were made in the case in February 2007. See “ADL Welcomes Arrest In Niagara Falls Synagogue Attacks,” Anti-Defamation League, February 16, 2007, available at http://www.adl.org/PresRele/ASUS_12/4979_12.htm (accessed on March 1, 2007). Desecrations of synagogues in 2005 included an incident in rural New York state in August 2005 in which local teenagers broke in and defecated, spray-painted religious books and pictures, drew swastikas, and set fire to a curtain over the Torah ark. Similarly, in Swampscott, Massachusetts, in October, three days before the start of the Jewish High Holidays, vandals defaced the inside of a synagogue with antisemitic graffiti. “Annual ADL Audit: Anti-Semitic Incidents Decline in 2005 but Levels Still Of Concern in U.S.,” Anti-Defamation League, April 5, 2006, available at http://www.adl.org/PresRele/ASUS_12/audit_2005.htm (accessed on March 1, 2007).
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