

Anti-Semitism the World Over in the Twenty-first Century

Rita J. Simon · Jeffrey A. Schaler

© Springer Science + Business Media, LLC 2007

Abstract The article reports the numbers and types of anti-Semitic incidents, attacks, media reports, and public opinion against Jews in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Western and Eastern European countries, the Middle East, and Australia. It also reports responses to these actions by police and local and national government officials. The period for which the data are reported is from 2000 to mid-2007. For each country, the size of the Jewish community is reported. What is manifestly clear from the data presented is that anti-Semitism is on the rise in most countries of the world. The data show a dramatic increase in anti-Semitism in Western Europe notably, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, and The Netherlands. Of those countries, France has the worse record.

Keywords Jewish communities · Judaism · International · Government · Muslim

Introduction

In this special issue of *Current Psychology* we report on anti-Semitism the world over in the twenty-first century. The countries about which data are reported include the United States, Canada, Argentina, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Belarus, Russia, the Ukraine, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Morocco, and Australia. For the purposes of this report, anti-Semitism is operationally defined as prejudice, discrimination and/or hostility towards Judaism and/or Jewish people. People are regarded as Jewish by either “conviction or condition.” To the extent that data are available, we describe, on a country-by-country basis, anti-Semitic incidents that include verbal and physical attacks on Jews, incidents of vandalism (for example, graffiti on Jewish homes and institutions, the bombing of Jewish schools and community centers, and desecration of synagogues and cemeteries), the appearance in the media (for example, television, radio, print and the Internet) of anti-Semitic material

R. J. Simon (✉) · J. A. Schaler
Department of Justice, Law and Society, School of Public Affairs, American University,
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016, USA
e-mail: rsimon@american.edu

and poll data reporting denigrating attitudes toward Jews and Judaism. Responses by local and national government officials and the police are also documented.¹

The period covered in this report is from 2000 to the present (mid 2007). The sources for much of the material we present are US government reports available to the public at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/40258.htm>. These include reports by the US Department of State submitted to the US Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on International Relations in accordance with Section 4 of PL 108–332, December 30, 2004, released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, January 5, 2005.^{2,3,4,5}

Another US government report relied on here is from the US Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay (Cf. http://paraguay.usembassy.gov/report_on_global_anti-semitism.html and <http://baku.usembassy.gov>). We also refer to the “US Department of State’s International Religious Freedom Report” (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/>) and the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/>), published annually. Both detail incidents and trends of anti-Semitism worldwide. The US State Department’s instructions to US Embassies for the 2004 Reports on Human Rights Practices, explicitly required them to describe acts of violence against Jews and Jewish properties, as well as actions governments are taking to prevent this form of bigotry and prejudice” (August 22, 2006, page 12).⁶

Portions of government documents are taken verbatim, paraphrased and cited throughout. The stimulus for preparing this special issue of *Current Psychology* is the growing “concern that anti-Semitism is on the increase, especially in countries of Western Europe,” such as “France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and The Netherlands”.^{7,8}

Brief Background

In a recent article in *The Nation* (February 2, 2004), Brian Klug wrote,

In 1879, the German journalist, Wilhelm Marr, a former socialist and anarchist, founded an organization that was novel in two ways. It was the first political party based on a platform of hostility to Jews. And it introduced the world to a new word: “anti-Semite.”⁹

¹ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

² Ibid.

³ http://cairo.usembassy.gov/gas_egypt.htm

⁴ <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/40258.htm>

⁵ <http://amb-usa.fr>

⁶ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁷ http://www.easyencyclopedia.com/encyclopedia/d/di/discrimination_against_non_muslims_in_saudi_arabia.html

⁸ <http://pluralism.org/news/index.php?xref=Anti-Semitism&sort=DESC>

⁹ Klug, Brian. "The myth of the new anti-Semitism: reflections on anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and the importance of ", *The Nation*, Feb 2 2004 Issue

Anti-Semitism is hatred of Jews and Judaism. Jews are perceived as an enemy by anti-Semites. Anti-Jewish beliefs are based on Jewish beliefs and activities—what establishes Jews as an ethnic group and/or a race.

In an address entitled “Unconditional Hate,” presented at the conference on “Anti-Semitism in the Contemporary World” in Melbourne, Australia, February 2005, Natan P. F. Kellerman, a clinical psychologist and until 2004, Executive Director of Amcha, the National Israeli Center for Psychosocial Support of Holocaust Survivors and their families, offered five reasons for the persistent hatred of Jews throughout history. Jews are hated because:

1. They are the cause of all misfortunes (panapathogens),
2. They possess too much wealth and power (greedy, capitalist),
3. They arrogantly claim supremacy over other people (arrogant, “chosen”),
4. They killed Jesus, and (murderers, of Christianity),
5. They deviate from the cultural norm, and are thus inferior (weak).¹⁰

Jews have long been assigned scapegoat status. Scapegoats serve two social purposes: they are used to expel evil and they are used to affirm the dominant ethic.

Recently, the media referred to the “new anti-Semitism.” The “new” anti-Semitism is anti-Israel. New anti-Semitism preaches hatred against Jews and against Israel. The extent to which Israel is attacked as a sovereign state because it is a Jewish state is the new anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism masquerades as anti-Zionism and anti-Israeli nationalism (Cf. Edward H. Kaplan and Charles A. Small’s important study, “Anti-Israel Sentiment Predicts Anti-Semitism in Europe,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 50 No. 4, August 2006, pp. 548–561).

In a recent op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* (September 8, 2006), William Kristol, editor of *The Weekly Standard*, posed the following question: “Is anti-Judaism now enjoying a broader revival?” By “broader” he meant not only in the Middle East, but in other parts of the world as well. He answered his question in the affirmative: “It would seem so.” To support his views, Kristol cited the writings of University of Chicago political science professor John Mearsheima and Stephen Walt of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, Norwegian writer Josten Gaarder and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the President of Iran. Kristol noted that although Jews are under attack “no one seems very concerned.” He reminded his readers that while the two largest Jewish communities in the world are the US and Israel, this is not 1938. Nevertheless, he considered it important to draw attention to growing “anti-Jewish sentiments that are expressed in many parts of the world today.” In this report, we differentiate between criticisms of Israel based on state politics and criticism of Israel based on stereotypical Jews.^{11,12}

In a Gallup poll conducted in October 2005, 7,515 citizens from the 15 European Union (EU) member states were asked “Which countries pose the greatest threat to world peace?” Seventy-four percent of people in The Netherlands, 69% in Austria,

¹⁰ <http://www.jewishmag.com/91mag/antisemitism/antisemitism.htm>

¹¹ <http://historynewsnetwork.org/roundup/archives/17/2004/011>

¹² <http://middleeastinfo.org>

and 65% in Germany picked “Israel as the greatest threat to world peace.” Only Italy broke this trend with less than half of the respondents (48%) describing Israel as a threat. In second place after Israel, came Iran, North Korea, and the United States; 53% of the EU citizens regarded the United States as a threat.¹³

Jewish Populations

In 1939, there were approximately 17 million Jewish people in the world. In 1945 there were 11 million. As of 2005, there were “13.3 million Jews” in the world. “Jewish population growth worldwide is” currently “close to zero percent. From 2000 to 2001” the population of Jews worldwide increased by three-tenths of a percent, compared to an overall “population growth of 1.4 percent. In 2001, 8.3 million Jews lived in the Diaspora and 4.9 million lived in Israel.” Among the Diaspora countries, following the US, France at 519,000 Jews “had the third largest Jewish [community] in the world,” followed by Canada at 364,000, Russia at 435,000, the United Kingdom at 273,500, Argentina at 195,000, and the Ukraine at 112,000 Jews. Percentage wise, 63% of the Jewish population live in the Diaspora, with 64% in North America, 12% in Europe, and 5% in South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia.¹⁴

We turn now to a country-by-country account of anti-Semitism from 2000 to the time of writing.

Country-by-country Report

Canada

As of 2002, with 364,000 Jews, Canada “had the [fourth] largest Jewish population in the world, [preceded by Israel,] the US” and [France. Canada, at 11.8 percent, is also the] country with the highest number of Jews per [one thousand] population.” Among major Canadian cities, Toronto has the largest Jewish community, followed by Montreal and Vancouver.¹⁵

“According to the League for Human Rights of B’nai Brith, the number of anti-Semitic incidents has been steadily increasing” between 1990 and 2000. The “number of reports doubled from 2001 to 2003. B’nai Brith reported” 600 incidents in the first eight months of 2004, which surpassed the total reported in all of 2003. One incident involved the “firebombing of a Jewish school in Montreal in April. There were also numerous reports of vandalism at Jewish schools, cemeteries and synagogues.” In June 2005, more than 20 gravestones were toppled “in the historic Beth Israel cemetery in Quebec City, a designated national [historical] site.” The Canadian “Prime Minister acknowledged that violence directed against the Jewish

¹³ <http://middleeastinfo.net/forum1058>

¹⁴ <http://simpletoremember.com>

¹⁵ Ibid.

community” was a growing problem and condemned anti-Semitic acts when they occurred.”^{16,17}

United States

More Jews live “in the United States than in any country” throughout the world—including Israel. As of 2005, there are 6,500,000 Jews in the United States and nearly 5 million Jews in Israel. Together they comprise 86% of the world’s Jewish population. New York City, with 1.9 “million Jews, is the world’s [second] largest Jewish city” and Los Angeles, with 621,000 Jews is the fourth largest Jewish city.¹⁸

The first major immigration of Jewish people came from Germany following the failed revolution of 1848. In 1880, one-sixth of the quarter million American Jews living in the US emigrated from Eastern Europe. By 1920, about five-sixths of the 4 million Jews in the US were Eastern European immigrants. According to a study by Professor Sergio Della Pergola of Hebrew University, “in the next [eighty] years America’s Jewish population would decline by one-third to 3.8 million if current fertility rates and migration patterns continue.”¹⁹

A national poll conducted “by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) [in 2002 showed] an increase in the number of Americans with anti-Semitic attitudes. [This increase reversed] a ten-year decline and [raised] concerns that an undercurrent of Jewish hatred persists in America. The [survey found that seventeen] percent of Americans or about [thirty-five] million adults hold views about Jews that are ‘unquestionably anti-Semitic.’ Previous surveys commissioned by the ADL over the past decade had [shown] that anti-Semitism was in decline. A survey [conducted in 1998] found that the number of Americans with anti-Semitic beliefs had dropped from [twenty] percent in 1992 to [twelve] percent in 1998.”²⁰

This 2002 poll also asked a series of questions about the “admirable qualities that characterized Jews.” The results are shown below.

Admirable qualities characterizing Jews by Americans (2002)

1. Jews place a strong emphasis on the importance of family life.	80%
2. Jews have contributed much to the cultural life of Americans.	69%
3. Jews have a special commitment to social justice and civil rights.	58%
4. Jews have played a vital role in making sure the US is a positive, moral force in world affairs.	53%

Between 1964 and 2002 the following items were included on what has become known as the Anti-Semitic Index:

Anti-Semitic Index (percentages)

Statement	1964	1969	1981	1992	1998	2002
1. Do you think Jews have too much power in the US? (Yes)	13	11	23	31	11	20
2. Do you think Jews have too much power in the business world (Yes)	33	26	37	24	16	24

¹⁶ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

¹⁷ <http://www.antisemitismus.juden-in-europa.de>

¹⁸ UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. (anti-Semitism)”, *Anti-Semitism Worldwide, Annual 1998 issue*

¹⁹ <http://simpletoremember.com>

²⁰ “Anti-Semitism on the Rise in America; ADL Survey on Anti-Semitic Attitudes Reveals 17% of Americans Hold ‘Hardcore’ Beliefs”, US Newswire, June 11 2002 Issue (http://www.adl.org/PresRele/ASUS_12/4109_12.htm)

3. Jews are more willing than others to use shady tactics to get what they want (agree)	48	28	33	21	13	19
4. Jews are more loyal to Israel than to America (agree)	39	29	48	35	31	33
5. Jews are not as honest as other businessmen (agree)	30	30	22	16	10	14
6. Jews have a lot of irritating traits (agree)	48	30	28	22	14	20
7. International banking is pretty much controlled by Jews (agree)	55	35	43	Not asked		
8. Jews don't care what happens to anyone but their own kind (agree)	30	40	21	16	9	16
9. Jews always like to be at the head of things (agree)	63	42	52	39	33	35
10. Jews stick together too much (agree)	58	52	53	51	57	50
11. The trouble with Jewish businessmen is that they are so shrewd and tricky other people don't have a chance in competition (agree)	40	54	27	19	14	17
Asked in 1992,1998, and 2002 instead of #7 "Jews have too much control/influence on Wall St." (agree)				27	16	20

For most of the items, the percentage indicating anti-Semitic responses dropped over the years. For example, "Jews are more willing than others to use shady practices to get what they want," dropped from 48 to 19%; "Jews have a lot of irritating traits," declined from 48 to 20%; "International banking is pretty much controlled by Jews" declined from 55 to 20%; "Jews always like to be at the head of things," declined from 63 to 35%; "Jews don't care what happens to anyone but their own kind," dropped from 30 to 16%, and "The trouble with Jewish businessmen is that they are so shrewd and tricky other people don't have a fair chance in competition," dropped from 40 to 17%. Only one item, "Do you think Jews have too much power in the US" increased to 20% (2002) from 13% in 1964.^{21,22,23}

On the 2002 National Survey, the ADL reported that 17% of the national sample indicated anti-Semitic propensities; and when broken down by race the percentages showed:

White	12%
African American	35%
Hispanics born in the US	20%
Hispanics born outside the US	44%

The 2002 responses by African Americans matched closely with those reported in 1992—37% and in 1998—34%.

In addition to race, education is strongly and negatively associated with anti-Semitic beliefs. For example, in 1981, 1992, 1998, and 2002 more educated respondents were much less likely to express anti-Semitic beliefs. In 1981, 15%; in 1991, 12%; in 1998, 5%; and in 2002, 12% of college graduates expressed anti-Semitic propensities as opposed to 28, 23, 18 and 26% of high school graduates during the same time periods.

In May 2003, a national Gallup poll asked the following questions:

"Do you think that anti-Semitism, a prejudice against Jewish people, is currently—a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, not much of a problem at all—in the

²¹ http://www.adl.org/anti_semitism/2002/as_survey.pdf

²² <http://cloud9.norc.uchicago.edu>

²³ "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (anti-Semitism)", Anti-Semitism Worldwide, Annual 1998 Issue

United States?” Nine percent answered a “Very Serious Problem,” and 48% answered “Somewhat of a Problem.” Of the other 43%, 30% said “Not Much of a Problem,” 9% answered “Not a Problem at All” and 4% had no opinion.²⁴

Concerning the issue of whether respondents believed there was more or less anti-Jewish sentiment in America today than there was 10 years ago, in 1998, 11% thought there was more anti-Jewish sentiment, and in 2002, 22% thought so. When asked: “Do you see any possibility of an increase in Anti-Jewish feeling around the country in the next few years?” Twenty-five percent answered “yes” in 1992 and 37% answered “yes” in 2002. Finally, when asked in 1998, “How likely do you think it is that there would be a serious increase in Anti-Jewish feeling around the world in the next few years,” 45% in 1998 and 63% in 2002 said they thought there would be a serious increase all over the world.^{25,26,27}

Anti-Semitic incidents are rare events on US college campuses. Indeed, the ADL has stated that “campus faculty and students are the least anti-Semitic among Americans.” Nevertheless, in 2005 two faculty members at the University of California, Santa Cruz, one faculty member at UCLA and the President of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East filed a petition about anti-Semitic events on California campuses that was presented to the Board of Trustees of the California State University system on September 20, 2006, and to the Board of Regents of the University of California system on September 21, 2006. More than 3,000 “faculty, students and concerned citizens signed the petition. The petition asked the faculty and administration on each of the California public university campuses to address the growing problem of hostility towards Jewish students fueled by anti-Israel and anti-Zionist rhetoric in the classroom and curriculum and at university-sponsored campus events.”^{28,29}

The examples cited are described below: “Physical threats and violence perpetrated against Jewish students at UC–Irvine; Swastikas spray-painted on the doors of Jewish students at UC–Santa Cruz”; at San Francisco State University, “flyers and posters dredging up the medieval anti-Semitic blood-libel of Jews slaughtering children; a Jewish student verbally assaulted and threatened with physical harm at a Muslim Student Association event in the student union at California State University–Long Beach.”³⁰

Particularly, the petition asked “that the administrators at all levels of the University of California and California State University systems address the problem by directing faculty on each campus to review course materials, curricula and invited speakers to ensure that the full range of scholarly views about Israel and Zionism

²⁴ <http://israpundit.com/archives/001058.html>

²⁵ http://www.adl.org/anti_semitism/2002/as_survey.pdf

²⁶ http://www.adl.org/anti_semitism/EuropeanAttitudesPoll-10-02.pdf

²⁷ http://www.adl.org/anti_semitism/2002/as_survey.pdf

²⁸ “Anti-Semitism on the Rise in America; ADL Survey on Anti-Semitic Attitudes Reveals 17% of Americans Hold ‘Hardcore’ Beliefs”, US Newswire, June 11 2002 Issue

²⁹ <http://www.studentsforacademicfreedom.org>

³⁰ Ibid.

were presented. In addition, universities were asked to develop and implement courses to educate students about contemporary anti-Semitism.”^{31,32}

[Coinciding with] “the rise in anti-Semitic attitudes, [the] ADL released the most recent statistics on anti-Semitic incidents in the US. [The] ADL’s ‘Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents’ reported an [eleven] percent increase in the number of anti-Jewish incidents during the first five months of 2002, compared with the same period in 2001.”³³

In January–May 2002, 626 “anti-Semitic incidents were reported to the ADL, compared with” 564 “incidents reported during the same period in 2001. This activity was comprised of” 435 “acts of harassment or intimidation and one hundred ninety-one acts of vandalism. The audit found that the number of incidents increased steadily during the first four months in 2002, with eighty-one incidents in January, ninety-eight in February,” 124 in March and 222 in April (101 “in May). Campus incidents were up dramatically. The ADL tracked at least sixty-three incidents nationwide on campus, while only fifteen incidents were reported during the same period in 2001.”

In March 2007, the ADL released its annual “audit of anti-Semitic incidents and reported that attacks against Jewish” targets in the United States declined by 12% for a second straight year.

We now shift our focus to South America.

Argentina

As of 2002, there were 195,000 Jews living in Argentina, making it the country with the seventh largest Jewish population in the world, and the largest of any of the Latin American countries. Almost all of the Jews in Argentina live in Buenos Aires. Argentina’s Jewish “population peaked in the early 1960’s when it was estimated at” 310,000. Those who left and are still leaving emigrate primarily to Mexico, Israel, Spain and the US.³⁴

“In 2003, the Delegation of Israeli Argentine Associations (DAIA) Center for Social Studies reported” 177 anti-Semitic incidents. Final figures were not compiled for 2004 or 2005, but the DAIA stated that it expected the numbers to be about the same. These “incidents made up seven percent of the complaints received by the National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI) in 2003.” Among the incidents reported were vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, “threats to Jewish institutions, sales of Nazi memorabilia, and graffiti and display of Nazi symbols, including a Jewish school bus” defaced with Nazi symbols.³⁵

The Argentinian government “reported that there were no developments in the investigation of the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. The investigation into the 1994 bombing of the AMIA” (Argentine Israelite Mutual

³¹ Ibid.

³² “Anti-Semitism on the Rise in America; ADL Survey on Anti-Semitic Attitudes Reveals 17% of Americans Hold ‘Hardcore’ Beliefs”, US Newswire, June 11 2002 Issue

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ <http://simpletoremember.com>

³⁵ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

Association) cultural center there, which killed 86 “people, resulted in the issuing of international arrest warrants for twelve Iranian officials and a Lebanese national associated with Hezbollah. In September 1994, a three-judge panel acquitted twenty-two Argentinean defendants charged in connection with the bombing, however, the Argentine government has pledged to continue the investigation and efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice.”^{36,37}

We travel next across the Atlantic to Western Europe.

Great Britain

With a population of 273,500, the United Kingdom has the “fifth largest Jewish community in the world. The Jewish population” there, however, has been dropping since 1970 “due to low birth rates and high intermarriage” rates (50% of men under 30 are married to non-Jewish women). In 1990, the Jewish population in the United Kingdom was estimated at 285,000.³⁸

The “Community Security Trust (CST), an organization that analyzes threats to the Jewish community,” recorded 511 “anti-Semitic incidents between July 2003 and June 2004.” In September 2006, the CST reported “a significant increase in anti-Semitic incidents during the past month.” They also noted that “[T]he risk of a terrorist attack has been raised in overseas events. This is in addition to the considerable existing terror threat from domestic UK pro al-Qaeda sources.” Examples of the types of incidents reported are described below.^{39,40}

“On June 25, 2003 near Manchester, a group of five persons physically assaulted a rabbi while shouting anti-Semitic statements. In October 2003, a man driving past Borhamwood Synagogue shouted anti-Semitic statements at members of the synagogue’s security team.”⁴¹

“On June 17 [, 2005] vandals caused a fire in the South Tottenham United Synagogue, resulting in the destruction of Jewish prayer books smuggled out of Central Europe before World War II. On June 18, in an apparently unrelated incident, a suspicious fire damaged a synagogue and Jewish educational center in Hendon.”

“Nazi slogans and swastikas were painted on eleven Jewish gravestones at a Southampton cemetery in July 2003, and twenty Jewish gravestones were damaged at Rainsough cemetery in Manchester in August 2003.”

“[In November 2005, a fire,] deliberately-set, caused severe damage to the Hillock Hebrew Congregation near Manchester, and, in a separate incident, attackers used bricks to smash the windows of London’s Orthodox Edgware Synagogue.”

“Members of some far-right political parties such as the BNP, the National Front, and the White Nationalist Party, and extremist Muslim organizations such as Al-

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ <http://www.antisemitismus.juden-in-europa.de>

³⁸ <http://simpletoremember.com>

³⁹ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁴⁰ http://www.jta.org/page_view_breaking_story.asp?intid=4465&ref=bbwebcast

⁴¹ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

Muhajiroun, occasionally gave speeches or distributed literature expressing anti-Semitic beliefs, including denials that the Holocaust occurred. On October 19 [2005,] police charged Abu Hamza al-Masri with four counts of soliciting or encouraging the killing of Jewish persons based on recordings of his addresses to public meetings.”

“[In response to these and other incidents, British government officials reiterated their] commitment to addressing anti-Semitism and protecting Jewish citizens through law enforcement and education. In February 2005, Queen Elizabeth II awarded Nazi war crimes investigator, Simon Wiesenthal, an honorary knighthood in recognition of his lifelong efforts to counter anti-Semitism.”⁴²

France

As of 2002, France, at 519,000, “had the third largest Jewish population in the world.” Paris, with a Jewish population of 310,000, “is the largest Jewish city outside of the US and Israel. Along with” the Jewish community there are 5 million Muslims living in France.⁴³

The European Human Rights Commission reported a significant rise in anti-Semitic incidents and threats in 2002. Of the 313 racist, xenophobic or anti-Semitic incidents reported in 2002, 193 were directed at the Jewish community; six times more than in 2001. The French government reported that there were 510 “anti-Semitic incidents in the first six months of 2005, as compared” to 593 in 2003, and 932 in 2002. There were 160 “attacks against persons or property in the first seven months of 2004,” compared to 75 “during the same period in 2003. The French Justice Minister” also reported 298 “anti-Semitic acts between January 1 and August 20, 2005, of which” 162 “were attacks against property, sixty-seven were” assaults against individuals and 69 were “press violations.” These figures compare with 108 for all of 2003.^{44,45,46}

The following are excerpts of reports on specific incidents.

“On May 30 [2003] in Boulogne-Billancourt, a [seventeen-] year-old Jewish youth was attacked outside his home by a group of young men yelling anti-Semitic slogans. The youth is the son of a local rabbi.”

“In June [2003,] an individual shouting ‘Allah Akbar’ [(Glory to God)] stabbed a Jewish student and assaulted two other Jewish students in the city of Epinay-sur-Seine. This same person is believed to be responsible for similar knife attacks on five other victims, including those of Haitian and Algerian origin. A suspect, reportedly identified by several of the victims, was in custody at the end of the period covered by this report.”

“On March 23 [2003] in Toulon, a Jewish synagogue and community center were set on fire. According to media reports, the arsonist broke a window and threw a Molotov cocktail into the building. There was minor damage and no injuries.”

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ <http://simpletoremember.com>

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51552.htm>

⁴⁶ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

“On October 29–30 [, 2003] close to [one hundred] gravestones were desecrated at a Jewish cemetery in Brumath, just outside Strasbourg. The vandals painted swastikas and ‘SS’ symbols on [ninety-two] Jewish gravestones.”

“In November 2003, after an arson attack destroyed a Jewish school in Gagny, President Chirac stated, ‘An attack on a Jew is an attack on France’ and ordered the formation of an interministerial committee charged with leading an effort to combat anti-Semitism. Since its first meeting in December 2003, the committee has worked to improve government coordination in the fight against anti-Semitism, including the timely publication of statistics and reinforced efforts to prosecute attackers.”⁴⁷

“In [February 2006, Ilan Halimi, a twenty-three-year-old French Jew from Paris] was found naked, tortured and burned south of Paris after being held for three weeks by a gang demanding a large ransom. [Halimi] died of his injuries shortly afterwards. On February 23, French police arrested [twelve members] of the gang. Another suspect was arrested in Belgium. [Interim Minister Nicolas Sarkozy] described the crime as anti-Semitic in nature.”⁴⁸

On April 21, 2007, 180 graves were desecrated in the Sainte-Marie cemetery in Le Havre, one quarter of them were Jewish. Swastikas were painted on the gravestones. Five youths were arrested. The Mayor of the town and the President of the Jewish community of Le Havre visited the cemetery and condemned the vandalism. Two days earlier, 52 Muslim tombs in the military cemetery at Notre-Dame-de Lorette, Arras, were defiled, and on the night of March 31, 64 Jewish graves were desecrated in Lille.

France is among the five countries in Western Europe, along with the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, and Holland, in which the largest number of anti-Semitic incidents have occurred. Traditional far right groups, along with Muslim youth, are considered responsible for the attacks.

Germany

In 1933, when Hitler came to power, 500,000 Jews lived in Germany. Less than 20,000 remained there after the war. As of 2000, there were some 98,000 Jews living in Germany, making it the ninth-largest Jewish community in the world. It is also the largest growing Jewish community due to the migration, since 1990, of more than 100,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union into Germany.

Jewish leaders in Germany “believe that a newer form of anti-Semitism is emerging in the country. [The “new”] form tends to promote anti-Semitism as part of other stands against globalization, capitalism, Zionism, and foreigners. According to the 2003 report by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the total number of anti-Semitic crimes decreased [in 2002] from [1,515 to 1,199.] Among these, the number of violent crimes increased from [28] to [35,] and the number of

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ http://theproblemwithmostarabmuslims.blogspot.com/2007_01_01_theproblemwithmostarabmuslims_archive.htm

desecrations of Jewish cemeteries, synagogues, or memorials went up from [78] to [115.]”⁴⁹

German officials estimated there were more than 1,000 “Internet sites with what they considered to be objectionable or dangerous right-wing extremist content.”⁵⁰ Specific incidents are reported below.

“On July 22, a fifteen-year-old-boy in Hagen, along with two others, threatened synagogue visitors with a knife and made anti-Semitic remarks.”

“On July 31, [2003,] a young man wearing a Star of David sticker was walking on a street in Pankow, a suburb of Berlin, when a right-wing extremist put a national Democratic Party (NPD) leaflet in his hand. After dropping the leaflet on the sidewalk, the [extremist] attempted to strangle the victim and throw him on the ground. The victim had minor injuries and the attacker was arrested.”⁵¹

“An ancient Jewish cemetery in Duesseldorf was desecrated in June [2004]. Forty-five gravestones were covered with swastikas, SS signs, and anti-Jewish slogans. Other Jewish cemeteries, including in Bochum, Nickenich, and Bausendorf, were vandalized during the reporting period [2003–2005].”⁵²

On June 22, 2007, a young man of Turkish origin was attacked and slightly injured in Berlin when he tried to help a woman who was targeted with anti-Semitic insults. The perpetrator threatened him with a knife and then tried to run him over with his car. The attacker fled and police were investigating.

A survey conducted by the Bertelsmann Foundation found that 30% of Germans agreed strongly or partially with the following statements: “What the State of Israel is doing to the Palestinians is no different in principle from what the Nazis did to the Jews” and “Israel is waging a war of extermination against the Palestinians.” One third of the respondents agreed with the assertion that “Jews have too much influence in the world.” That is a decrease of 3% compared to responses made in 1991.^{53,54}

Belgium

There are about 42,000 Jews living in Belgium as of 2005. Before World War II, more than 100,000 Jews lived in Belgium, mostly in Antwerp (55,000) and Brussels (35,000). By the end of WWII more than 25,000 Jews died in the Holocaust. In the 1970s, some 40,000 Jews lived in Belgium, mostly in Antwerp and Brussels.

“In recent years, the Belgian Jewish community has been increasingly concerned about anti-Semitism. In 2005, the Belgian Center for Equal Opportunity and the Struggle against Racism and Other Forms of Discrimination reported that the annual number of complaints rose to [30] between 2000 and 2003. Prior to 1999, an average of [four complaints per year] were reported. In the first 11 months of 2005, forty

⁴⁹ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ <http://spme.net/Report-GlobalAnti-Semitism12-30-04.pdf>

⁵² <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁵³ http://www.winsomegifts.com/win/win_EU_antisemitism.htm

⁵⁴ http://www.adl.org/anti_semitism/2002/as_survey.pdf

complaints were filed. The] most serious incident [involved] the [slaying] of a Jewish youth in Antwerp. Most complaints [involved] anti-Semitism in the media, on the Internet, graffiti and verbal abuse. [Examples of the incidents that occurred are described below.]”⁵⁵

“On January 28, [2003,] during an indoor Belgium–Israel soccer match in the city of Hasselt, spectators with Hamas and Hezbollah banners heckled the Israelis and shouted anti-Semitic slogans, some in Arabic.”⁵⁶

“In February, a group of students at a Jewish school in Brussels were assaulted by youths from the neighborhood, a neighborhood inhabited primarily by Muslim immigrants.”

“On June 24 [, 2003,] a number of allegedly North African [youth] assaulted four Jewish students as they departed their Jewish school in an Antwerp suburb; one fleeing student was stabbed and seriously injured. Jewish students at the school [have been] previously subjected to verbal [insults] and harassment from these youths. On June 26 [, 2003,] three Jewish students from the same school were harassed by four youths in a car. One fired what was believed to be a toy gun at the students before driving away; [no injuries] were [reported.] Later that evening, elsewhere in the Antwerp suburbs, a [thirteen-] year-old Jewish boy was beaten by three youths. An [eleven-] year-old Moroccan and two Belgians, ages [eight] and [sixteen,] were arrested and charged with racially-motivated assault and battery by a court for youthful offenders. They were required to apologize to the victim and pay damages. Also that evening, several immigrant youths reportedly kicked a Jewish youth repeatedly on the main street of Antwerp before escaping.”

“On October 30[, 2003,] at a soccer match involving Maccabi Soccer Club, an Antwerp-based team composed mainly of Jewish [youth,] members of the [opposing] team shouted ‘Heil Hitler’ and other abusive [racist epithets.]”⁵⁷

“Anti-Semitic acts or [speeches] are illegal [in Belgium and] several lawsuits [have been] filed [resulting in guilty verdicts. During the year 2003,] Prime Minister [Verkoptadt] met [with] Jewish community leaders [and] expressed the government’s concern [over the] recent [incidents.] The [Prime Minister] also addressed the Belgium Parliament and asserted] that such incidents were [essentially] attacks on the country’s fundamental values and institutions and [as such] would not be tolerated.”⁵⁸

On September 8, 2006 the Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt announced that police had arrested 17 right-wing extremists, alleged members of a neo-Nazi network, most of them soldiers, in four Flemish cities. The ringleader is “a member of the” [neo-Nazi] “Blood and Honor Group.” [The Prime Minister called the infiltration of extreme right-wing activists in the Army intolerable. Those arrested have also been accused of disseminating] “racism, xenophobia, Holocaust denial, anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism.”⁵⁹

⁵⁵ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ <http://antisemitismus.net>

⁵⁸ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁵⁹ “Belgium arrests alleged neo-Nazi soldiers.”, UPI NewsTrack, Sept 8 2006 Issue

The Netherlands

As of 2005, there are about 33,000 Jews living in The Netherlands: two tenths of a percent of the population. In 1940, at the time of the Nazi occupation of The Netherlands some 140,000 Jews lived in The Netherlands, comprising one and six-tenths percent of the population. Following World War II, in 1946, there were 30,000 Jews in the country.⁶⁰

The Center for Information and Documentation on Israel (CIDI) registered 334 anti-Semitic incidents from January 2003 to May 2004 in The Netherlands. In 2002, 359 incidents were recorded or registered. This marked the first decline in “anti-Semitic incidents since 2000. In addition, the number of serious incidents [that is,] physical violence, [threats] with violence and defacing of cemeteries and synagogues) decreased by [forty] percent.” CIDI also reported that “a considerable number of anti-Semitic offenders were of North African origin.” The incidents occurred most frequently in Amsterdam, the city with the largest Jewish population.⁶¹

Most anti-Semitic incidents were not violent. They involved abusive language, hate mail, verbal insults at soccer matches [and in] Internet “chat room” discussions, and Holocaust denial. The incidents were most often linked to the conflict in Israel between Israelis and Palestinians.

“Before leaving Europe, we report the results of a study just released in February 2007 by the Global Forum Against Anti-Semitism. The report stated that anti-Semitic attacks rose in 2006, especially in Europe [(The report was sponsored] by the Israeli government, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and [the World Zionist Organization.) It stated that] there were hundreds of violent attacks, ranging from murder to bodily injury, property damage and threats. [In Austria, incidences increased by sixty-six] percent in the past year, in Germany [by sixty] percent, [in the Sandinavian] countries [by fifty] percent, [and] in France and Russia by twenty percent. The Ukraine and the United Kingdom reported a slight decline.”^{62,63}

“[The five countries discussed in the preceding pages (Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom) are the Western European societies reported by the US State Department, indicating the highest and the increasing number] of anti-Semitic incidents in the twenty-first century.”⁶⁴

“In Eastern Europe, the [US State Department describes Belarus, Russia and other countries in the former Soviet Union as having the most anti-Semitic incidents and the strongest percent of anti-Jewish attitudes. We provide data on Belarus, Russia, and the Ukraine in the following section.]”⁶⁵

⁶⁰ Bsoul, Labeeb Ahmed. “The status of Palestinians in Israel: 1948-Oslo.”, Arab Studies Quarterly (ASQ), Spring 2006 Issue

⁶¹ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁶² http://www.jewishsf.com/content/2-0-/module/displaystory/story_id/31526/format/html/displaystory.html

⁶³ <http://levitt.com/newsletters/2003-09.pdf>

⁶⁴ <http://cairo.usembassy.gov/AMBASSADor/sp011805.htm>

⁶⁵ Ibid.

Belarus

[As of 2005, there were some fifty thousand Jews in Belarus, half of them living in the capital city of Minsk.] “Prior to World War II, Jews were the second-largest ethnic group in Belarus and more than [fifty] percent of the population in cities and towns. [In 1979, there were one hundred thirty-five thousand, four hundred Jews living in Belarus. Between 1989 and 1991, forty-nine thousand Jews emigrated to Israel.”⁶⁶

“Jewish leaders in Belarus reported that] memorials in Minsk and Lida commemorating victims of genocide were vandalized [in 2003. Vandalism also occurred at Jewish cemeteries and at a Holocaust memorial in the city of Brest. The prosecutor’s office did not officially react to these incidents and allowed] groups of “skinheads” and [the Russia] National Unity [Party] (RNE) [to function] openly in [the major cities of Belarus (Cf. http://www.adl.org/racist_skinheads/). While the police failed to prosecute suspects, the government did restore monuments and memorials that were vandalized. Instances of anti-Semitism occurred in the following venues.]”⁶⁷

“Despite a May 2003 order by the Prosecutor General and the Ministry of Information to terminate distribution of the anti-Semitic and xenophobic newspaper *Russki Vestnik*, distribution of the newspaper resumed in February 2004 through the government-distribution agency Belzoyuzprechat. Sales of similar literature continued throughout the year in government-owned buildings, in stores, and at events affiliated with the Belarusian Orthodox Church (BOC). Anti-Semitic and Russian ultranationalistic literature continued to be sold at Pravoslavnyaya Kniga (an Orthodox Bookstore), a store operated by the Orthodox Initiative that sells orthodox literature and religious paraphernalia. The head of the BOC, Metropolitan Filaret, promised to stop such sales, however, no action has been taken.”⁶⁸

“In January 2004, the RNE distributed anti-Semitic leaflets in Gomel, which stated the following: ‘The Jews are trying to destroy Christianity,’ ‘Now hostile activities against the Jews will begin,’ ‘The Jews are the forces of evil,’ and ‘The fighters against God [Jews] must be exterminated.’ In addition, the letters ‘RNE’ were sprayed on the walls of the Jewish Community building in Gomel. No suspects were arrested.”

“[In] September 2003, Sergei Kostyan, Deputy Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, rejected criticism regarding the installation of a gas pipeline near a Jewish cemetery in Maozyr. Kostyan accused Jews of sowing “ethnic discord” for objecting to the disruption and inconvenience caused by the gas pipeline construction. During an October [2003] press conference, Information Minister Vladimir Rusakevich said the country should live with Russia like a brother, but bargain with Russia like a ‘Yid.’”⁶⁹

⁶⁶ <http://www.999belorussia.com>

⁶⁷ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁶⁸ <http://antisemitismus.net>

⁶⁹ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

Russia

As of 2005, there are some 717,101 Jews living in Russia. They make up 0.5% of the population and are the fifth-largest Jewish community in the world. In 1959, in the former Soviet Union, the Jewish population was 2,267,800. By 1989, it dropped to 1,450,500. Between 1990 and 2000, 980,000 Jews emigrated mostly to Israel and the US. Current figures have 106,000 Jews living in Moscow, rated as the seventeenth largest Jewish city in the world. St. Petersburg is the second largest Jewish-populated city in the country.

In 2003, the ADL reported that “while the number of anti-Semitic attacks remained stable, the nature of the attacks became more violent.” Examples of the types of incidents that occurred are described below.

“On April 22 [, 2003,] eight skinheads stormed the Ulyanovsk Jewish Center screaming, “don’t pollute our land,” smashing windows, and tearing down Jewish symbols as Jewish women and children hid inside. No one was injured, but police failed to respond quickly, arriving [forty] minutes after they were called.”

“On October 17 [, 2003,] a group of skinheads tried to enter the synagogue in Penza, but were stopped by parishioners. A group of approximately [forty] people armed with chains and iron clubs approached the synagogue later that day. Parishioners locked themselves inside and called the police. There were reports that three skinheads were detained.”

“Unknown persons vandalized Jewish institutions. On many occasions, vandals desecrated tombstones in cemeteries dominated by religious and ethnic minorities. These attacks often involved the painting of swastikas and other racist and ultra-nationalist symbols or epithets on [Jewish] gravestones.”

“On January 27 [, 2004,] an explosion shattered several windows in a synagogue in Derbent, in the southern region of Dagestan. Vandals attempted to torch a synagogue and library in Chelyabinsk in February of the same year, but neighbors managed to extinguish the fire before firefighters arrived.”

“On March 29, 2004, vandals broke the windows of the only kosher restaurant in St. Petersburg. Jewish cemeteries were desecrated in Bryansk, Kaluga, Kostroma, Petrozavodsk, Pyatigorsk, St. Petersburg, Ulyanovsk, and Vyatka. In Petrozavodsk, unknown persons sprayed anti-Semitic graffiti on tombstones on the day a local court was to render a decision in another case concerning cemetery desecration. In February [2004,] several Jewish tombs were desecrated in one of the oldest cemeteries in St. Petersburg; vandals again desecrated Jewish graves there in December [2004.]”⁷⁰

“[Most of the] anti-Semitic crimes were committed by groups of young skinheads. The estimated number of skinheads increased from a few dozen in 1992 to more than [fifty thousand in 2004. Anti-Semitic rhetoric and beliefs appeared with greater frequency in the publications of nationalist parties such as Rodina,] the Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (KPRF). One of the [Senators] of the [KPRF, writing in] the

⁷⁰ Ibid.

[party's newspaper,] blamed Zionism and Jews in general for many of the country's problems, and blamed Soviet Jews for helping to destroy the Soviet Union."^{71,72,73}

"There are at least [eighty] Russian web sites dedicated to [spreading] anti-Semitic propaganda. [Russian] law does not restrict web sites [for containing] hate speech. [According to] the US State Department, responses to anti-Semitic violence were mixed. Authorities often provided strong words of condemnation, but preferred to label the perpetrators as "terrorists" or "hooligans" rather than "xenophobes" or anti-Semites."^{74,75}

"[Russian] Federal officials maintained regular contact with Jewish community leaders. In March [2004,] then Russian Minister for Nationalities Vladimir Zorin brought extremism to the forefront of public attention by calling anti-Semitism and xenophobia major threats to the country."

"Prominent rabbis Berl Lazar and Pinchas Goldschmidt together requested that the government define the meaning of extremism. Lazar and Goldschmidt said that law enforcement was prone to dismiss anti-Semitic actions as simple hooliganism to avoid calling attention to the presence of extremists in their region, and to consciously protect extremist groups with which they sympathized. In October, President Putin met with Rabbi Lazar and promised that the state would help to revive Jewish communities in Russia."^{76,77}

Ukraine

As of 2005, there were 142,276 Jews living in the Ukraine, placing the Ukrainian Jewish community among the ten largest Jewish communities in the world. In 1989, there were an estimated 487,000 Jews in the Ukraine. Jews from the Ukraine represent the largest emigrant group to the US over the previous 10 years.

No overall figures are available for recent anti-Semitic incidents in the Ukraine, however. There are accounts of specific events such as an attack on two rabbis in Central Odessa, the removal of "gold from the mass graves of Jews killed by Nazis at the" Sosonkz "memorial I" Rivre, the destruction of "several dozen tombstones at Jewish burial sites" in the Kurenvovske "Cemetery in Kiev," and in other cemeteries in different regions of the country.

On February 18, 2007 red swastikas and the slogan "Congratulations on the Holocaust" appeared on a Holocaust memorial near Tolbukhin in Odessa where 25,000 Jews were murdered during World War II. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry denounced the incident and stated that it discredited Ukraine and that there was no place for anti-Semitism there. On that same day, 240 graves were desecrated with red swastikas at the Jewish cemetery in Odessa.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² <http://www.kirchen-in-osteuropa.de/archiv/05031004.htm>

⁷³ Acumen PI-Title: Russia's Political Party System as an Obstacle to Democratization, Date: 2005-04-21

⁷⁴ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁷⁵ <http://www.hrwf.net>

⁷⁶ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁷⁷ http://www.interethnic.org/EngNews/280105_6.html

Although anti-Semitic articles rarely appeared in the national press, they did appear in small publications. The monthly journal *Personnee*, whose editorial board included members of Parliament, generally published one anti-Semitic article each month.⁷⁸

“A large number of high-level government officials continued to take part in the annual September commemoration of the massacre at Babyn Yar in Kiev, the site of one of the most serious of the Holocaust crimes directed against Jews and thousands of individuals from other minority groups. Discussions continued among various Jewish community members about erecting an appropriate memorial, and possibly a heritage center, to commemorate the victims. The government was generally supportive of these initiatives.”⁷⁹

Before leaving Europe we provide a brief report on an incident in Poland that occurred in 2006. On May 27, 2006, one day before the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Auschwitz, Poland’s Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich was attacked with what appeared to be pepper spray in downtown Warsaw. The perpetrator also punched him and shouted “Poland to Poles” before fleeing the scene. The Polish Prime Minister called Rabbi Schudrich and assured him there is “no place for anti-Semitism in Poland.”^{80,81}

Now, we move to our next destination, the Middle East.

Egypt

In 1948 there were 75,000 Jews living in Egypt. In 2004, there were less than 100 Jews living there. In 1956, following the Sinai campaign, the Egyptian government expelled some 25,000 Egyptian Jews, and confiscated their property.

“On November 23, 1956, a proclamation signed by the Minister of Religious Affairs, and read aloud in mosques throughout Egypt, declared that ‘all Jews are Zionists and enemies of the state,’ and promised that they would be soon expelled. Thousands of Jews were ordered to leave the country. They were allowed to take only one suitcase and a small sum of cash and forced to sign declarations ‘donating’ their property to the Egyptian government. When war broke out in 1967, Jewish homes and property were confiscated.”⁸²

“In 1979, the Egyptian Jewish community became the first in the Arab world to establish official contact with Israel. Israel now has an embassy in Cairo and a Consulate General in Alexandria. At the present time, the few remaining Jews are free to practice [their religion] without any restrictions or harassment.”⁸³

“Anti-Semitism is rampant in the [Egyptian] government-controlled press, and increased in late 2000 and 2001 following the outbreak of violence in Israel and the [occupied] territories. In April 2001, [Egyptian] columnist Ahmed Ragheb lamented

⁷⁸ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ “Pope Benedict XVI Stands Up to Legacy of John Paul II.”, Europe Intelligence Wire, May 31 2006 Issue

⁸¹ “Poland’s Chief Rabbi Attacked in Warsaw.”, The America’s Intelligence Wire, May 28, 2006 Issue

⁸² <http://www.letterealdirettore.it/forum/testo/topic/9145-1.html>

⁸³ <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/anti-semitism/egjews.html>

Hitler's failure to finish the job of annihilating the Jews. In May 2001, an article in *Al-Akhbar* attacked Europeans and Americans for believing in the false Holocaust. On March 18, 2004, "Bad al-Ahab" Adams, deputy director of *Al Jumhuriya*, accused Jews of the terrorist attack in Madrid on March 11, 2004, as well as for the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States."⁸⁴

"On June 24 and July 1, 2004, the National Democratic Party (NDP) newspaper *al-Lewa Al-Islami* published articles by Professor Refaat Sayed Ahmed in which he denied the Holocaust. On August 25, 2004, the NDP announced that [Professor Ahmed was] banned from future publishing, the editor who approved his article had been fired, and the NDP and the government rejected anti-Semitism and acknowledged the reality of the Holocaust."⁸⁵

"In December 2003, following international expressions of concern, the special collections section of the Alexandria Library removed a copy of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* [from] a display of religious manuscripts. In a statement from the director of the library, allegations that the book had been displayed next to the Torah [were denied,] but nonetheless [the director] stated that its inclusion was a "bad judgment," and [he] regretted any offense the incident might have caused."^{86,87}

Iran

As of 2005, the Jewish community in Iran was composed of 25,000 people. Following Israel, it is the second largest Jewish community in the Middle East. In 1948, Iran's Jewish population consisted of 100,000 people. Following the overthrow of Shah Rezashah Palevi and the declaration of Iran as an Islamic state in 1979, Iran severed relations with Israel. There were 80,000 Jews living in Iran at the time. Tens of thousands of Jews—mostly wealthy Jews—left the community for Israel, France and the United States. They left behind great amounts of property.

"On the eve of Passover in 1999, [thirteen] Jews from Shiran and Isfahan in southern Iran were arrested and accused of spying for Israel and the United States. Those arrested [included] a rabbi, a slaughterer [of kosher meat] and teachers. In September 2000, an Iranian appeals court upheld [a lower court] decision to imprison ten of the thirteen Jews accused of spying for Israel. In [this] appeals court, ten of the accused were found guilty of cooperating with Israel and were given prison [sentences] ranging from two to nine years. Three of the accused were found innocent in the first trial. In March 2001, one of the imprisoned Jews was released, a second was freed in January 2002, and the remaining eight were [freed] in late October 2002. The last [three] apparently were released on furlough for an indefinite period, leaving them vulnerable to future arrest. Three [other Jews] were reportedly

⁸⁴ <http://www.letterealdirettore.it/forum/testo/topic/9145-1.html>

⁸⁵ <http://amcoptic.com/n2005/Egypt.htm>

⁸⁶ <http://antisemitismus.net>

⁸⁷ <http://www.studentsforacademicfreedom.org>

pardoned by Iran's [then revolutionary and] Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali [Khomenei.]”⁸⁸

“At least [13] Jews [were] executed in Iran since the Islamic revolution [nineteen] years ago. Most of them [were executed] for either religious reasons or their [alleged] connection to Israel. For example, in May 1998, Jewish businessman Ruhollah Kakhodah-Zadeh was [hung] in prison without any due process of law, that is, without legal indictment or legal conviction proceedings, apparently [for assisting Jews to emigrate from Iran.]”⁸⁹

[The Iranian government's anti-Israel policies,] along with a perception among radical Muslims that all Jewish citizens [are Zionist or] support Israel, [clearly created] a hostile atmosphere for [Iran's remaining] Jewish community. Many Iranian newspapers [celebrated] the one hundredth anniversary of the [publication] of *The [Protocols of] the [Elders of] Zion*. Recent demonstrations included the denunciation of [‘Jews,'] as opposed to the past practice of denouncing only [‘Israel’] and [‘Zionism.’]”

“Jewish citizens [are] permitted to obtain passports and to travel outside [Iran, however,] they are often denied multiple-exit permits normally issued to other citizens. With the exception of certain business travelers, the authorities [require] Jewish persons to obtain [‘clearance’] and pay additional [‘fees’] before each trip abroad. The government [has been] concerned about the emigration of Jewish citizens, and permission generally was not granted for all members of a Jewish family to travel outside the country at the same time. Jewish leaders reportedly are reluctant to draw attention to official mistreatment of their community, for fear of government reprisal.”^{90,91,92}

Morocco

As of 2005, there were 5,000 Jews in Morocco. In 1948, some 250,000 Jews lived there. Following the establishment of the State of Israel, many Jews emigrated there from Morocco. Emigration to Israel was estimated at 8,171 in 1954. It increased in 1955 to 24,994. Morocco gained independence from France in 1955. From 1956 to 1963 emigration to Israel was prohibited. When the government allowed emigration in 1963, more than 80,000 Jews left over the years. After the Six Day War in 1967, over 25,000 Jews left Morocco, mostly for Europe and North America, rather than for Israel. Most of the Jewish community is located in Casablanca, with some in Fez.

By and large, the Jewish community lives safely in Morocco. “In September 2003 [, however,] a Jewish merchant was murdered in an [apparent] religiously-motivated killing. During May 2003, members of the Salafiya Jihadia targeted a Jewish community center in Casablanca. After [those] attacks, [Moroccan] Muslims

⁸⁸ http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/html/final/eng/sib/4_04/as_sa.htm

⁸⁹ http://www.jewishsf.com/content/2-0-/module/displaystory/story_id/31526/format/html/displaystory.html

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ http://www.jewishsf.com/content/2-0-/module/displaystory/story_id/31526/format/html/displaystory.html

⁹² <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

marched in solidarity with Jews to condemn the terrorism. There have been thousands of arrests and many prosecutions of persons tied to the May bombing and other extremist activity. Government officials and private citizens often [cite] the country's tradition of religious tolerance as one of its strengths.^{93,94,95}

Saudi Arabia

There is no Jewish community in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia issues travel visas for employment, pilgrimages and other visits that have official sanctions only. Before the end of 2004, the Saudi government was expected to begin the issuing of tourist visas, however, there are four categories of people who will not be issued travel visas. One of those categories is "Jewish People." Additionally, travelers holding Israeli passports or passports that have an Israel arrival/departure stamp on them will not be issued travel visas by the Saudi government.

The following newspaper accounts of anti-Semitism as well as incidents and policies occurred in Saudi Arabian newspapers during 2002–2004:

Don't you see the resemblance between Sharon, Hitler, and Milosevic? Don't you see a parallel between Nazism and Zionism? Don't you know how Hitler ordered his officials to search Jewish houses for those he called dangers to the state and how he put them into concentration camps? Can't you see the parallel with what Sharon has done and is doing? Don't you know that Sharon ordered his army to go to Jenin, Ramallah, Nablus, Bethlehem and other places to search Palestinian houses for people he called terrorists and how he then massacred many and imprisoned others? Sharon and his cabinet are staging an all-out war with the aim of Palestinian genocide and ethnic cleansing. I need a voice to cry out and tell the world there is an impending Palestinian Holocaust. I only pray that when I find a voice it will not fall on deaf ears! (Article in Saudi English daily "There is an impending Palestinian Holocaust" by Sehan M. S. Fatani, April 17, 2002.)

It is not a Jewish demand to merely support Sharon, but to ignore his horrible massacres, which exceeded the Nazism massacres, as well. (Ibid.)

Why are they (the Jews) hated by all the people which hosted them, such as Iraq and Egypt thousands of years ago, and Germany, Spain, France and the UK, until the day they gained control over the capital and the media, in order to rewrite the history? ("All of History is Against Them" by Turk Abdallah as Sudays in Saudi government daily, April 15, 2002.)

But the notion that the Israelis are reacting with blind, brainless fury is less horrifying than the idea that Sharon has a solution in mind. For if he does, it looks all too chillingly like a "final solution": the permanent eradication, one way or another, of the Palestinians as a threat to Israel. (Ibid.)

⁹³ <http://antisemitismus.net>

⁹⁴ <http://www.studentsforacademicfreedom.org>

⁹⁵ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

The use of such a charged expression is fully justified... There is no doubt now that behind Sharon's aggression is a deep hatred of the Palestinians and a desire to crush them mercilessly. It is telling that the main piece of weaponry in the Israeli onslaught is not the tank but the bulldozer. The aim is to wipe Palestinian communities off the face of the map. (Ibid.)

The irony of the Israeli soldiers spreading death and destruction in Palestinian towns and villages, just like jackbooted Nazi storm troopers, is evident to anyone with an ounce of intelligence. But whether or not Sharon's violence has an objective, it is painfully evident that he feels he has a free hand. The US has gone along with his brainless action, in no small part because of a chilling indifference across much of the US to the suffering of Palestinians. American public opinion, which can move mountains when activated, is not interested. (Editorial "Feral Solution," Saudi English daily, April 14, 2002.)

There are frequent instances in which "mosque preachers, whose salaries are paid by the government, used anti-Semitic language in their sermons. There [are many] instances in which mosque speakers prayed for the death of Jews, including from the Grand Mosque in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina.

"Saudi Arabia's public schools instruct that Jews ['obey the devil'] and are those whom ['God has cursed and with whom He is so angry that He will never again be satisfied.'] The Saudi edition of the Koran injects the phrase ['such as the Jews'] into the opening chapter, following the clause ['those who have incurred your (God's) wrath.']"

Of all the anti-Jewish influences in the region, one of the most prevalent and potent is *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. Disseminated with the support and official sanction of the governments of Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Palestine, and Syria, as well as Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, this work is used to shape the collective consciousness of Arab populations."^{96,97,98,99}

Syria

"[In 2003, there were fewer than one hundred Jews living in Syria. In 1948, there was a Jewish community of thirty thousand. In] 1944, after Syria gained independence from France, the government prohibited Jewish immigration to Palestine. [In 1947, when partition was declared and the state of Israel was born, Arab mobs killed scores of Jews in the ancient city of Aleppo and destroyed more than two hundred] homes, shops and synagogues. Thousands of Jews fled Syria [illegally] to go to Israel. [In 1992, the Syrian government] began granting exit visas to Jews on condition that they not emigrate to Israel. [Most of those who left emigrated to the US and established a Jewish Syrian] community in Brooklyn, New York."

⁹⁶ <http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/060323/2006032321.htm>

⁹⁷ http://www.adl.org/anti_semitism/2002/as_survey.pdf

⁹⁸ Shea, Nina Hoffman, Jeanne. "Teach Your Children Well: Classic anti-Semitic literature in Arab schools," *The Weekly Standard*, August 14, 2006 Issue

⁹⁹ <http://www.antisemitismus.juden-in-europa.de>

“The Syrian government [bars] Jewish citizens from government employment and [exempts] them from military service obligations. Jews are the only religious minority group [there] whose passports and identity cards note their religion. Jewish citizens must obtain permission [from Syrian] security services before traveling abroad, and [they] must submit a list of possessions to ensure their return to the country. [Jews] also face extra scrutiny from the government when applying for licenses, deeds, or other government papers.”

“In 2003, there were reports of minor incidents of harassment and property damage against Jews in Damascus perpetrated by persons not associated with the Syrian government. According to local sources, these incidents were in reaction to Israeli actions against Palestinians.”^{100,101,102,103,104}

We leave the Middle East now and travel to our final destination, Australia, with a brief stop in Japan. In June 2007 a Japan Holocaust denier, Richard Koshimizu, founded the Independence Party of Japan. The party propagates anti-Semitic and Holocaust denial propaganda such as the idea that “9-11 was generated by secret Jewdom,” “9-11 was a hoax” and “not even one Jew was killed in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.”^{105,106}

Australia

With a Jewish population of 100,000, Australia has the tenth largest Jewish community in the world. “[About eighty] percent of them [live] in Melbourne and Sydney. [The following] is [a brief history of the Australian Jewish community.]

“When the American colonies revolted in 1776, England lost its biggest prison—convicts were routinely shipped to the thirteen colonies to make room in the perpetually-crowded British jails. As a result, England annexed the island of Australia in 1788 as a new prison colony. While Australia had been known to Europeans since its discovery in the sixteenth century, the English were the first to settle there on a permanent basis, aside from the native Aboriginal population.”

“Among the [fifteen hundred] prisoners who initially arrived in Australia, [sixteen were] Jews; by 1817, more arrived, and enough had been freed to form an organized minyan and burial society. As their numbers swelled, primarily due to immigration from England and Germany, kehillahs (organized communities) sprang up in the cities of Sydney (1831) and Melbourne (1841), which were to become the two centers of Jewish life. The gold rush of the 1850s attracted more Jewish immigrants, so that foreign-born Jews soon outnumbered the native-born.”

¹⁰⁰ http://intelligence.org.il/eng/sib/4_04/as_sa.htm

¹⁰¹ http://www.jewishsf.com/content/2-0-/module/displaystory/story_id/31526/format/html/displaystory.html

¹⁰² <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/anti-semitism/egjews.html>

¹⁰³ <http://www.robertfulford.com/2004-03-27-antisemitism.html>; Fulford, R. (2004). Anti-semitism can't be explained or cured. *The National Post*, 27 March

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.state.gov/g/dr/rls/irf/200435508.htm>

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3408801,00.html>

¹⁰⁶ http://www.adl.org/PresRele/ASInt_13/5067_13.htm

“Australia remains to this day the only country in the world, other than Israel, whose founding members included Jews. As a result, Jews were treated as equal citizens from the outset. In contrast to contemporary Europe, incidents of anti-Semitism [have been] very rare in Australia. Jews were free to participate in economic and cultural life, and played an important role in their development.”

“[Following World War II, more European Jews—mostly from displaced persons camps—arrived in Australia.] Immigration did not let up, and, in 1989, the flow of primarily South African [immigrants to Australia] was augmented by refugees from the newly disbanded Soviet Union.”

“[There has been a slight] decrease in anti-Semitic incidents in Australia [in 2004] compared to 2003, in contrast to the gradual [increases] seen in recent years. On January 5, anti-Semitic slogans were burned into the lawns of the Parliament House in the State of Tasmania. Between February and July of the same year, several Asian businesses and a synagogue in Western Australia’s capital city of Perth were firebombed or sprayed with racist graffiti. In August, a Perth court convicted three men, two were associated with the Australian Nationalist Movement—a Neo-Nazi group—for their [role] in the attacks.

Anti-Semitism is not an issue of any significance in the countries [of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.]”^{107,108}

Anti-Semitism in Muslim Countries¹⁰⁹

Because the government, media, and political groups in Muslim countries devote so much of their time and energy toward the distribution and publicizing of anti-Semitic beliefs, sentiment, and policies, we believe it is important to include a separate chapter on modern day anti-Semitism in the Muslim world.

In an essay by Manahem Milsan, professor of Arabic Literature at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the distinctive features of Arab anti-Semitism are described as follows (MEMRI, No. 26, February 27, 2004; Cf. www.memri.org):

1. Anti-Jewish opinions derived from traditional Islamic sources,
2. Anti-Semitic stereotypes, images and accusations of European and Christian origin,
3. Holocaust denial and the equating of Zionism with Nazism.

The Islamic Component

Apes and Pigs

“An extremely common insult directed at Jews, not only in Friday sermons but also in articles, is that they are, or are descended from, apes and pigs. This reference

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/vjw/australia.html>

¹⁰⁸ <http://baku.usembassy.gov>

¹⁰⁹ With the assistance of Arnold Alexander

“appears in” a number of Qur’anic verses which state that some Jews were turned into apes and pigs as punishment for violating the Sabbath.”¹¹⁰

Western Components

“[Arab anti-Semitism has adopted European anti-Semitic myths, even those] that Western [countries] have discarded as too primitive. The most obvious examples are *The [Protocols of] the [Elders] of [Zion]* and] the charge—rather strange for Muslims—that the Jews killed Jesus.”¹¹¹

Holocaust Denial, Zionist and Nazi Components

“[The] most common trend today in [Arab anti-]Zionist writing is equating Zionism with Nazism. Articles and public discussions in the Arab world point [to a putative] similarity between the two movements’ ideologies, particularly with regard to racism. The claim is that just as Nazis believed in the [genetic supremacy of] the Aryan race, Zionists believe in a ‘Chosen People,’ [the supremacy of the Jewish race.] It follows that neither movement [—Nazi or Zionist]—rules out military expansion a[s part of its genetic and nationalist mandate.”

“The sixteen countries covered in this chapter are Aden, Algeria,] Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, [and] Yemen.” Three quarters of them have no Jews living there or have populations of less than two hundred Jews. As of 2001, the following countries had Jewish communities ranging from fifteen hundred to over twenty thousand: Tunisia (fifteen hundred), Morocco (five thousand), Turkey (seventeen thousand) and Iran (twenty five thousand).”

Jews have lived in what were Arab and became Muslim societies in the seventh century CE, at least since the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem (built under the reign of King Solomon) in 586 BCE. The Jewish mass exodus from these countries came largely as a result of the establishment of the Jewish State of Israel in May 1948. About two-thirds of the Jews in the Muslim societies emigrated to Israel, almost all of the others emigrated to the United States, Canada and France.

“[Between 1948] and the [present, the] Jewish [State of Israel has been at war with its Arab and Muslim neighbors at least five times—in 1947–48, in 1953–54, in 1967, in 1982 and most recently in 2006.”

“Of the sixteen countries included in this chapter, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Iran are most virulent in their hatred towards Jews and in their anti-Semitic polemics. Jews and] Christians are [forbidden] to live in Saudi Arabia. Jews may not set foot in Saudi Arabia. Christians are [permitted] temporary [residency only. Public schools in Saudi Arabia teach] that Jews obey the devil and are [cursed by] God. [They teach their children that God] is so angry that he will never be satisfied [with Jews.]”

¹¹⁰ <http://truthandgrace.com/muslimantisemitism.htm>

¹¹¹ Ibid.

A Saudi textbook for [eighth] grade students explains [that] Jews and Christians were cursed by Allah and turned into apes and pigs (Steven Stalinsky, ["Preliminary Overview–Saudi Arabia's Education System,"] MEMRI Special Report–Saudi Arabia, No. 12, 20 Dec. 2002). A two-part commentary by Dr. Muhammad Bin Sa'd al-Shuway'ir, published on 3 and 10 January in the Saudi paper *al-Jazira* and entitled ["Why Pork is Forbidden,"] refers also to this [accusation.] The [alleged] transformation of Jews into apes and pigs, he said, was punishment ["because monkeys and pigs were considered among the lowliest of animals, in nature and manners."] Jews[, anytime] and anywhere, were [said to be "an example of human lowness, as demonstrated in the Qur'an."] He attributed to the Jews ["bad"] and ["inborn"] traits:

a love for sowing sedition and hatred, a tendency to lie to the media and in politics, a failure to honor appointments, breach of agreements, and conspiring against Muslims, and particularly against Saudi Arabia, which is to the Muslims what the head is to the body.^{112,113,114,115,116,117,118,119}

"[Another common theme in Islamic anti-Semitic propaganda] is the well-known hadith (oral tradition) known as ["The Promise of the Stone and the Tree."] It tells [a story] of Judgment Day when Muslims will fight the Jews, and the Jew will hide behind a rock or a tree, but the rock or tree will call upon the Muslim to come and kill him. The hadith, which appears in another Saudi textbook for [ninth] grade students, is accompanied by comments that emphasize the enmity between Muslims and both Jews and Christians, and the eternal struggle with the Jews who are doomed to defeat (Steven Stalinsky, ["Preliminary Overview–Saudi Arabia's Education System,"] MEMRI Special Report – Saudi Arabia, No. 12, 20 Dec. 2002).¹²⁰

"In June 2004, three Saudi dailies published an article by the secretary-general of the Manpower Council, 'Abd al-Wahid al-Humayd, entitled ['Good Cause, Bad Lawyers,'] in which he claimed that Jews were ['masters at manipulating the media, money, and world organizations.'] The Jews, he added, had ['succeeded in winning world sympathy by playing on the Holocaust and on Nazi atrocities. The result has been a world that gradually shifted from disliking Jews to sympathizing with them'] (MEMRI)¹²¹

¹¹² <http://truthandgrace.com/muslimantisemitism.htm>

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Cosgrove, Michael Marsh, Daniel. "International economics and state-sponsored terrorism.", Journal of Academy of Business and Economics, Feb. 2003 Issue

¹¹⁵ <http://mondrian.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2003-4/arab.htm>

¹¹⁶ Shea, Nina Hoffman, Jeanne. "Teach Your Children Well; Classic anti-Semitic literature in Arab schools.", The Weekly Standard, August 14, 2006 Issue

¹¹⁷ http://intelligence.org/il/eng/sib/4_04/as_sa.htm

¹¹⁸ <http://middleeastfacts.com/Articles/history-of-jews-in-arab-countries.php>

¹¹⁹ http://www.adl.org/Anti_semitism/arab/as_egypt_03_2004/Anti-Semitism-in-Egypt-2003-2004.pdf

¹²⁰ <http://mondrian.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2003-4/arab.htm>

¹²¹ Ibid.

“[The following is an excerpt] from an article by Dr. ‘Umymah Ahmed al-Jalahima, published in a Saudi newspaper identified with the Saudi royal family (Al-Riyadh Internet edition, March 10, 2002):”

During the Purim festival (while every Jew/ess is required to dress up in fancy dress and a special cookie known traditionally as “Haman Tashen” (Haman’s Ear) is baked, and made traditionally with poppy seed, to commemorate this festival) the Jews bake a cookie whose ingredients are neither expensive nor hard to come by, but one ingredient cannot be found in local and international markets, and unfortunately it has no substitutes and cannot be omitted. The ingredient in question is human blood. In other words, (the Jews) cannot perform their ceremonies without bloodletting... That fact has been proved throughout human history, and it was the reason for the oppression of the Jews in Europe and Asia.

The festival (Purim) begins on the 13th day of March with a fast in memory of the Jewess Esther. On Purim, the Jews wear masks and costumes, drink large quantities of wine, commit adultery and behave wildly. The blood used in baking the cookie must come from a non-Jewish youth, that is, Christian or Muslim, and the religious scholars knead it into the dough. As for the Passover (Matza; ie., unleavened bread), the blood (needed for its preparation) must come from a Christian child younger than 10 years of age.

To return to the issue of bloodletting: the victim is put into a barrel which has been made to measure him, into which very sharp needles are then fitted. The needles pierce the skin of the body and have the blood run out very slowly to torture the victim. The torture delights the bloodthirsty Jews watching the act with a love and joy which are difficult to understand. After the barbaric deed has been performed the Jews take the blood, which has been collected in a vessel, and bring it to a religious Jewish scholar who uses it to prepare the dough for the cookie (i.e., the Matza). There is another way to get the blood, namely by slaughtering the victim or by cutting his arteries in several places. Humanity is revolted by the sight of the Jews’ cookie, to say nothing of the way it is made or of eating it.

The following are “excerpts from an article by Muhammad bin Saad al-[Schwier], who writes a daily column for *Al-Jazeera* and was an advisor to the late Saudi Arabian Sheikh ‘Abdallah bin Baz, and the editor-in-chief of *Islamic Research*, a periodical published by the Association of Arabian Muslim Religious Scholars. The article appeared in the Saudi Arabian daily *Al-Jazeera* on September [11,] 2002 (taken from the MEMRI Internet site):”¹²²

The Jews have been known for their treachery and faithlessness since the earliest days of (ancient) history they hate everyone and desire revenge against the entire human race, their guiding principle is that “the ends justify the means” (sic). They feel themselves entitled to the property of anyone who is not Jewish and call them Jewish Gentiles.

¹²² Ibid.

Because they are weak, their hatred appears in the form of the schemes they devise, the traps they set, the intrigues they plot. When their usual means cannot be used they find strange ways to harm other people and nations, especially Christians and Muslims.

On June 7, 2002, on official Saudi TV2, Sheik Abd-al-Bari al Thubayte prayed in a sermon “O God the Jews have transgressed all limits in their tyranny. Shake the grove under their feet, pour torture on them, and destroy all of them.”¹²³

In the words of Deroy Murdock, a contributing editor to *National Review* online, While Mideast governments outside Israel often disparage Jews, Saudi Arabia’s anti-Semitic rage is unsurpassed.... Though sometimes hassled, Iran’s Jews may practice Judaism. Even Iraq has some one hundred or so elderly Jews who pray at Baghdad’s synagogue. While these two members of the Axis of Evil permit Jewish worship, America’s “moderate ally” forbids non-Islamic devotion and is basically Jew-free.¹²⁴

On March 30, 2004, the ADL wrote the following: “Anti-Semitism remains deeply ingrained in Egyptian society, finding expression in the mass media, popular literature and public statements while remaining virtually unchallenged by government leaders.”

“Articles and caricatures in the Egyptian media regularly feature anti-Semitic depictions of Jews as stooped, hook-nosed, money-hungry and conspiratorial. Israeli leaders are depicted as Nazis, while other articles deny or diminish the Holocaust. Anti-Israel and anti-Jewish conspiracy theories frequently surface, including references to the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and modern reincarnations of the medieval blood-libel charge.”

“In January 2004, Egypt hosted its annual book fair in Cairo, the largest literary event in the Arab and Muslim world, where numerous anti-Semitic books were displayed. Since the international outcry over the airing on Egyptian television of an anti-Jewish drama based on the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* in December 2002, important public discussions on anti-Semitism have taken place, leading to calls to condemn anti-Semitism and for Egyptians to avoid such manifestations. Nonetheless, vicious and hateful anti-Semitic articles and caricatures have continued to appear in the opposition and government press.”

“The following are selected examples of anti-Semitic articles and caricatures that have appeared in Egyptian newspapers from July 2003 to February 2004. Several common anti-Semitic themes are apparent:”¹²⁵

- Conspiracy theories of Jews wanting to control the world, Jews controlling the Western governments and Jews controlling the world media,
- Comparing Jews and Israelis to Nazis and comparing Zionism with Nazism,
- Illustrating the stereotypical Jew (big nose, black coat and hat, skull cap), along with Jewish symbols such as the Star of David and demonizing Jews as bloodthirsty and violent.

¹²³ <http://middleeastfacts.com/Articles/history-of-jews-in-arab-countries.php>

¹²⁴ <http://www.nationalreview.com/murdock/murdock091702.asp>

¹²⁵ http://www.adl.org/Anti_semitism/arab/as_egypt_03_2004/Anti-Semitism-in-Egypt-2003-2004.pdf

“While anti-Semitic cartoons can be found in opposition newspapers, many are printed in the government-backed press, including the largest Egyptian dailies, *Al-Ahram* and *Al-Goumhuriyya* and the popular magazine, *October*. Several common themes in the cartoons are:”^{126,127}

- Graphic displays of Jews as demonic and subhuman figures bent on killing innocent Arabs,
- Jews controlling the American government,
- The equation of Jews with Nazis which often depends on illustrations of Israeli leaders wearing a swastika. In many of the cartoons depicting Ehud Barak and more recently, Ariel Sharon, they are dressed in Nazi uniform with a swastika armband or with a superimposed Hitler-style mustache.

In the fall of 2006, Iran hosted a conference on the Holocaust. Iran’s President Ahmoud Ahmadinejad had “already called the Nazis’ World War II slaughter of [six million] European Jews a myth, and said the Jewish state should be wiped off the map or moved to Germany or the United States.

“Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said that because the Holocaust is a [“scientific”] issue, both opponents and proponents of the existence of the Holocaust could participate.” “The Holocaust is not a sacred issue that one can’t touch,” he told reporters. “I have visited the Nazi camps in Eastern Europe. I think it is exaggerated,” Asefi said.¹²⁸

It is, however, worth noting that in April 2005, the speaker of Iran’s parliament, Gholamali Haddadadel, rebuked Iranian state television for airing serials that insulted the country’s ancient but dwindling Jewish community: No Saudi official would rebuke its state-controlled television, radio or print media for anti-Semitic programs or commentaries.

We conclude our review of current anti-Semitism in the Muslim world by emphasizing that it is much more widespread than in the countries of Western Europe in which anti-Semitism is on the increase. A major difference is that in the Muslim societies anti-Semitism is by and large condoned and supported by government officials and political leaders.

Concluding Remarks

It is clear from the materials presented in the preceding sections that anti-Semitism is on the rise in Europe. Western Europe, notably Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, and The Netherlands show significant increases in verbal and physical attacks on Jews and on the Jewish community in their country, and on Judaism generally.

On April 15, 2007, the Roth Institute at Tel Aviv University released the results of a comprehensive study of anti-Semitism worldwide, funded by the World Jewish Congress. The report stated that “There was a dramatic rise in physical, verbal, and

¹²⁶ http://www.adl.org/egyptian_media/media_2001/Intro.asp

¹²⁷ http://theproblemwithmostarabmuslims.blogspot.com/2007_01_01_theproblemwithmostarabmuslims_archive.html

¹²⁸ <http://www.studentsforacademicfreedom.org>

visual manifestations of anti-Semitism in 2006.” In total, 590 incidents of violence or vandalism were recorded in 2006, a 15% increase from 2004. The 2006 figures also represent a 31% increase from 2005. The report goes on to state that the worldwide increase is heavily tilted toward Western Europe.

Of the Western European countries, France has the worst record. Jews in France are responding to the increasing anti-Semitic sentiments and actions by leaving their country and emigrating to Israel in greater numbers than at any time since the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948. In 2004, the Israeli government reported that 7,024 immigrants came from France alone since 2000. One emigre was quoted in the Israeli press as stating that “In five or ten years, all of the Jews of France will be in Israel because of anti-Semitism.”

Perhaps the most surprising Western European country included in this group is The Netherlands, given its valiant record of helping and protecting its Jewish community during World War II, when the Dutch were under Nazi rule.

The fact that Argentina is on the list is not surprising, given its history of pro-Nazi sentiment during World War II. Eastern Europe, of course, has experienced hundreds of years of pogroms and violent anti-Semitism under the Czars, and later under Stalin. Generalizing from hatred of Israelis to hatred of Jews the world over has become the pattern in most Middle Eastern and North African countries. Saudi Arabia and Iran show the worst examples and a desire to destroy the State of Israel.

We included Canada, the United States and Australia in our study to show that even in those countries where the Jewish communities have generally felt secure, wanted and free for decades, anti-Semitic sentiments and incidents are still increasing.

With the evidence presented, we believe that anti-Semitism is on the rise. It is important, however, to emphasize that we are nowhere near experiencing the anti-Semitism of the 1930s, even in the Western European countries described in this piece. In the words of Robert Fulford (*The National Post*, March 27, 2004)

Current anti-Semitism in the West lacks government sponsorship, the help of big corporations and the support of major public personalities. Just 80 years ago, anti-Semites included the greatest industrialist in the world, Henry Ford, who preached Jew-hatred through his own newspaper in Michigan, the *Dearborn Independent*. (It was as if Bill Gates were to turn into a dedicated anti-Jewish publicist in 2004.) Today, nobody in the West gets elected mayor of a major city on an anti-Semitic platform, as Karl Leuger did in Vienna from 1897 to 1910, and there are no big newspapers devoted to anti-Semitism, as there were in France and other European countries at the same time.

The above cannot be said about Muslim countries in North Africa and the Middle East, where government officials and political leaders are the major spokespersons fomenting anti-Semitic sentiments and propaganda. In the coming years we shall remain vigilant, on the lookout for changing trends in beliefs and behavior toward Jews the world over.

Rita J. Simon is a sociologist who earned her doctorate at the University of Chicago in 1957. Before coming to American University in 1983 to serve as Dean of the School of Justice, she was a member of the faculty at the University of Illinois, at the Hebrew University on Jerusalem, and the University of Chicago. She is currently a “University Professor” in the School of Public Affairs and the Washington College of Law at American University. Professor Simon has authored thirty seven books and edited nineteen including: *Immigration the World Over* with James P. Lynch, Rowman and Littlefield, 2003 and *In Their Own Voices* with Rhonda Roorda, Columbia University Press 2000; *Adoption Across Borders* with Howard Altstein, Rowman and Littlefield, 2000. She is currently editor of *Gender Issues*. From 1978 to 1981 she served as editor of *The American Sociological Review* and from 1983 to 1986 as editor of *Justice Quarterly*.

Jeffrey A. Schaler a psychologist and analyst in private practice since 1974, teaches full-time as a professor in the Department of Justice, Law and Society at American University’s School of Public Affairs. The Executive Editor of *Current Psychology*, he is General Editor of the *Under Fire* series published by Open Court (Chicago). His books in that series include most recently *Peter Singer Under Fire: The Controversial Philosopher Faces His Critics*; *Howard Gardner Under Fire: The Rebel Psychologist Faces His Critics*; and *Szasz Under Fire: The Psychiatric Abolitionist Faces His Critics*. Schaler is the author of *Addiction Is a Choice* and editor of *Drugs: Should We Legalize, Decriminalize, or Deregulate?* co-editor (with Magda E. Schaler-Haynes) of *Smoking: Who Has the Right?* (both published by Prometheus in 1998). He is currently writing a book on psychiatry, psychology and law for Open Court.