ACMS — Monthly Report
August 2019

ACMS
Antisemitism Cyber Monitoring System

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United States

Antisemitic Reactions Following Israel’s Decision to Bar US Congresswomen Entry to Israel
Following Israel’s decision on August 15th to bar entry to Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar based on their outspoken support of the BDS movement, a wave of antisemitic reactions flooded social media sites. The ACMS recorded a 65% spike in antisemitic discussion in the two days following Israel’s announcement, and though there was a slight decrease the following day, the amount of antisemitic posts remained significantly high for the remainder of the month.

US Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar Share Antisemitic Cartoon
Both women shared a controversial cartoon by well-known antisemitic caricaturist Carlos Latuff to their Instagram Stories on August 17th, where the image automatically disappeared after 24 hours. Latuff has previously been accused of antisemitism, and in 2006 came in second place in Iran’s annual International Holocaust Cartoon Competition. The image in question suggests that Israel is controlling and subverting the two politicians while simultaneously using President Trump as an instrument on its behalf.

Two White Supremacists Arrested After Threatening to Carry Out Mass Attacks Against Jews
White Supremacist activists from Ohio and Nevada were arrested following online threats to commit attacks against Jewish communities. James Reardon, Jr. of Youngstown, Ohio is a 20-year-old self-proclaimed white nationalist who uploaded a video to Instagram of a man who appears to be him firing a semi-automatic rifle with the caption “Police identified the Youngstown Jewish Family Community shooter as local white nationalist Seamus O’Rearedon;” ‘Seamus’ being the Gaelic equivalent of the name James. Reardon tagged the Youngstown JCC in his post. He took part in the Charlottesville protests in 2017, and upon raiding his home, authorities found several weapons, body armor, a gas mask, and dozens of rounds of ammunition, along with antisemitic and white nationalist propaganda.

The second, Conor Climo of Las Vegas, Nevada used an encrypted chat app to discuss plans to attack a synagogue and gay club with bombs and an “infantry squad.” Following an undercover FBI investigation, authorities discovered bomb making materials, a plan to burn down a synagogue, and correspondences with Atomwaffen Division, a white supremacist neo-Nazi group whose members killed a Jewish student last year. Authorities also revealed Climo tried to recruit others to help him carry out the attacks.
Orthodox Jewish Community Targeted in Tire-Slashing Spree

Over 100 tires belonging to members of an Orthodox Jewish community in New Jersey were slashed by a “serial tire-slasher” throughout August. The suspect can be seen on video surveillance skipping houses belonging to non-Jews and purposely targeting cars belonging to Jews; usually during Shabbat and while the victims were at synagogue. Police are still investigating the incident, and no arrests have been made.

Portugal

Pan-European Ultra-Nationalist Conference Convenes in Lisbon Amid Protests

An extreme far-right nationalist conference convened on August 10th in Lisbon, Portugal, amid strong protests. The event was organized by the Portuguese New Social Order movement (NOS) and attended by about 70 ultra-nationalist activists, neo-Nazi, and neo-fascist figures from all over Europe. Hundreds of activists carrying anti-Nazi posters marched through some of Lisbon’s main streets in protest. The government, led by prime minister Antonio Costa, has been heavily criticized for allowing the conference.

The conference was held in a conference room at Lisbon’s SANA hotel where most of the seats were empty, signalling the lack of popularity of these movements in Portugal. The key speakers at the conference were:

- Portuguese neo-Nazi Mário Machado, head of Nova Ordem Social. Machado was released from jail in 2017 after spending a decade behind bars for crimes including racial discrimination and possession of illegal weapons.
- French Antisemite and Holocaust denier Yvan Benedetti, head of extreme far-right organizations Parti Nationaliste Français and Jeune Nation; in charge of promoting the Alliance Fortress Europe founded on April 21, 2019 (Hitler’s birthday) in Sofia.
- Italian Francesca Rizzi, one of the favorite candidates for Miss Hitler 2019 competition held on VK social media under the name of Eva Braun.
- German neo-Nazi Matthias Deyda from Die Rechte.
- Bulgarian National Resistance’s leader Blagovest Asenov; a radical linked to the international neo-Nazi organization Blood and Honor.
- Less controversial Spanish former Falangist Josele Sanchez & Spanish Alba Lobera

The 2018 Annual Internal Security Report (RASI) states that the identity and neo-fascist sector in Portugal stood out again in 2018 through the organization of conferences, propaganda actions, symbolic date celebrations, protest actions, musical events and martial arts training sessions, in a “perfect alignment with the European counterparts, with whom it had frequent contacts.” RASI points out that the far-right has “intensely spread” propaganda in a virtual environment, with the objective
of creating favourable conditions for the electoral success of nationalist or populist political forces in 2019.”

France

Former French Intelligence Chief Admits to Have Made Secret Pact with Palestinian Terrorists Behind 1982 Kosher Restaurant Goldberg Massacre

France’s representative Jewish groups demand a parliamentary investigation into revelations by the former French intelligence chief Yves Bonnet that the country’s security services agreed to a secret non-aggression pact with the Abu Nidal terrorist organization, whose dissident Palestinian group had split from Yasser Arafat’s PLO. Now 83, Bonnet is said to have admitted that he agreed the group’s members could continue travelling to France if they carried out no more attacks on French soil. “And it worked. There were no further attacks between the end of 1983 and the end of 1985...afterwards, they carried out attacks in Italy, for example, but that did not concern me as long as there was nothing on French soil,” pointed Bonnet.

Background:
According to Le Parisien, Bonnet made his sensational confession in January 2019 to the magistrate in charge of investigating the August 9, 1982 attack by Abu Nidal terrorists on “Chez Jo Goldenberg,” an emblematic kosher restaurant in the rue des Rosiers, the Jewish heart of Paris. Six people were murdered and 22 wounded, for which no person has yet been convicted. Lawyers representing the families have demanded the extradition of four suspects currently living freely in Jordan, Ramallah, and Norway. In May, Jordan’s highest court rejected a French appeal for the extradition of one of the suspected terrorists, 57-year-old Nizar Tawfiq Mussa Hamada, formally identified in 2014.

“French Connection” — Epstein Case Triggers A Wave of Anti-Jewish Conspiracies Online

The Paris prosecutor’s office has opened an investigation into Jeffrey Epstein to uncover possible sexual offenses committed in France and abroad against French citizens. Epstein's death and connection to French personalities triggered a wave of antisemitic reactions online, as ACMS French data indicate. Thousands shared antisemitic conspiracies alleging Epstein had been a Mossad agent and portraying Judaism as a satanic secret cult, reviving the medieval conception of the Jew as devil.

Conference Organized by Leading Antisemitic Ideologue Alain Soral Convenes Amid Protests

French far-right leading figure Alain Soral’s movement E&R, is holding its summer conference from August 25-31 in Amelie-les-Bains, amid strong protests from the socialist Mayor of the city and anti-fascist groups. The conference will be held in a private location, in the Haut-Vallespir forest. Alain Soral has received in April 2019 a 1-year prison sentence for antisemitic offenses.

Is Eastern France Becoming a Hub for German Neo-Nazis?
Hundreds of German neo-Nazis from the Hammerskins movement are meeting several times a year in Alsace-Lorraine, Eastern-France, to escape German police strict surveillance.

**Germany**

**Lower Saxony CDU Unanimously Advances Ban on Kosher Slaughtering**

On August 13th, the strongest political force in the parliament of Lower Saxony, the *Christian Democratic Union of Germany* (CDU), unanimously voted in favor of promoting a ban on the slaughter of animals without pre-stunning. If the decision passes, it would mean a complete stop of kosher slaughtering in Lower Saxony.

**Saxony AfD Calls for Ban on Circumcision and Ritual Slaughtering**

The *Alternative for Germany* (AfD) election platform in Saxony calls for a ban on ritual slaughter and the religious circumcision of minors; thus denying Jews their religious freedom. Opposition to ritual slaughter is featured on campaign posters in preparation for the September elections.

**Increasing Violence Against Jews in Germany**

Since the end of July, nine Jews, among them three rabbis and two Israelis, were attacked in six separate incidents in Berlin, Munich, and Potsdam. The victims were verbally assaulted, spat on, jostled, beaten, and pushed to the ground. Some needed medical treatment. In all the cases, the perpetrators shouted profanities in Arabic. These incidents are the latest in a wave of racially and religiously motivated crimes against Jews in Germany.

**Nazi Propaganda Featured on German Magazine Cover**

Following last month’s antisemitic article (see July report), the German weekly news magazine *Der Spiegel* devoted an issue of their bi-monthly *Der Spiegel History* magazine to Jewish life in Germany. The cover featured Jewish stereotypes that served as a model for the Nazi newspaper *Der Stürmer* by featuring an image of two Eastern European Jews from the 1920’s beneath the title *Jewish Life in Germany: The Unknown World Next Door*. This effectively promotes antisemitic stereotypes and prejudices by portraying Jews as something foreign or exotic and not German.

**Statistics on Antisemitism in Germany**

An analysis of Bundestag reports showed that in the first half of 2019, 442 antisemitic offenses were reported to the police thus far, and 18 of them were violent. Though 193 suspects were identified, only two suspects were provisionally arrested. Between January 1st and April 21st, at least 17 religious Jewish sites were vandalized. Aside from this, the research project *Berlin Monitor*, presented by Berlin’s justice senator, shows that every 10th person in Berlin has antisemitic views, while the number throughout Germany is even higher.
**Al Jazeera Journalist Advances Conspiracy Theories**
Top Journalist in *Al Jazeera*, the Egyptian Ahmad Mansur, with 480K followers, referred to rumors according to which Egyptian president ‘Abd al-Fattah al-Sissi has a Jewish mother and claimed that al-Sissi did not negate these rumors yet.

**Islamic Motives in Antisemitism**
Islamic discourse is prevalent in the daily routine of antisemitic expressions in Arabic. Some verses of the Qur’an figure often in comments on Israeli sites or in internal Arab debate, for example on normalization with Israel.

A daily search of the expression “the hand of God is idle” ("يد الله مغفلة"), in which the Jews are accused of claiming that God cannot hurt them and they can do everything and get rich, will bring dozens of twits. One of them, by the Qatari, Nasser al-Kawari (16K followers), is making use of the verse in response to the Voice of Israel in Arabic and under the hashtag #The Jewish Lie. #كنب_اليهود

The Saudi Salafi Twitter account “Supporting Salafi accounts” (257K followers) discussed Islamic prophecies on the appearance of the false messiah (al-Dajal) before the day of judgment.

According to Islamic tradition many Jews will follow the false messiah, while the Muslims, will oppose the false messiah and will have to fight the Jews and kill them. The account then repeats the tradition according to which the persecuted Jews will try to hide behind stones and trees and these will refuse to shelter them.

**Opposition to Performing Jewish Rites at Mount Nevo in Jordan**
On August 3rd the Jordanian newspaper *al-Ghad* criticized the Jordanian government for allowing Jewish religious rites in Mount Nevo, near Petra, which according to Jewish tradition is the burial site of Aharon. According to the paper, citing the “Jordanian Council against Normalization”, these Jewish rites infringe upon Jordan’s security, history and sovereignty. The Jordanian trade unions also joined the criticism.

**Opposition to Normalization and Classic Antisemitism in Saudi Arabia**
Following the visit of the delegation of Arab journalists in Israel in late July, the social media in Saudi Arabia still discusses the question of normalization with Israel. The most famous member of that delegation was the Saudi blogger Muhammad Sa’ud who was humiliated on Temple Mount.

The Saudi user *Bin Kfit* (127K followers) stated that ever since the prophet expelled the Jews from the Arabian Peninsula, Jews did not visit there until the period of the current government. The user implies that the Saudi government is defying the prophet and his prohibitions.

Under the headline “The Danger in the Jew” the Saudi Falih al-Shibli (87K followers) claims that the Jewish plan to control the world is the most evident danger to all the world’s countries. According to him even strong states will fall victim to this plan.
Additional Incidents

Russia—Following the wave of public protests against restrictions imposed by the authorities regarding the participation of opposition parties in the municipal elections scheduled for September 8th, the nationalist press accused the Jews of trying to undermine Russia's foundations. The "Jewish liberals" were also accused of trying to import the Ukrainian protest model to Russia. One of the articles in the national "Zavtra" newspaper which described the involvement of the Jews in demonstrations even carried a headline "before the spring-spring of the Sabbath" (Pered shabbatnimi poskakushkami).

Russia—Throughout August, a series of harassments were reported to Chabad community centers across the state. In PERM, the old conflict continues between the Jewish community and nationalists trying to prevent the Jewish center in the city. Opponents of the center are exerting pressure and attempting to damage construction efforts, using clear antisemitic rhetoric. Krasnodar, a nationalist group which presents itself as a public organization, attempted to infiltrate the community center while filming the event. The video uploaded to the network is accompanied by antisemitic comments accusing Jews of harming non-Jews and subversion of Russia's spiritual foundations.

Russia—Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov rudely attacked the Jews and blamed them for harming Islam and attempts to damage Muslim unity in the world. The things that were broadcast on local television were voiced during a meeting with a group of 150 Jordanian boys of Chechen origin (Circassian) who visited the Republic as part of a tour of the roots [a program simulating the "Birthright" venture]. According to Kadyrov, Prophet Muhammad preferred to kill Jews and they made up most of his victims.

Ukraine—Following the visit of the Prime Minister of Ukraine and his meetings with President Volodymyr Zalansky, and the fact that both sides will be presented by Jews, old antisemitic motifs were raised regarding Jewish attempts to take over the country's territory in order to establish an alternative "national home" for Israeli citizens. It should be noted that these motifs were voiced by both Ukrainian nationalists and pro-Russian separatists in the East.

Ukraine—The process of placing monuments and memorial plaques honoring Ukrainian nationalist underground fighters who fought during the Second World War continues; completely ignoring the role of these nationalists in destroying the Jewish population during the Holocaust.

Lithuania—Nationalist protests against Vilna municipality's decision to remove memorial plaques for collaborators Jonas Noreika (General Veter) and Kazys Škirpa, who are considered national heroes. The protest included significant antisemitic content which blamed the Jewish community for treachery and cooperation with Russia.