



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION



Ministry for Diaspora Affairs  
and Combating Antisemitism



הסוכנות היהודית  
לארץ  
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THE JEWISH AGENCY  
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## The State of Antisemitism in the World

### A Summary of the First Three Weeks of the 'Swords of Iron' War

Alongside the unprecedented suffering in Israel due to the 'Swords of Iron' war, there has been a dramatic increase in the scale of antisemitism worldwide, both in physical and online spaces, dramatically affecting the day-to-day lives of Jewish communities in the diaspora.

Globally, it appears that in the first three weeks of the war (October 7-25, 2023), **there has been a 500% increase in the overall volume of antisemitic events** compared to the same period last year. About a third of all antisemitic events were recorded in the United States, mainly in areas with Jewish population, particularly areas like New York, Florida, Chicago, and California—where many antisemitic activities were also recorded in universities and colleges. Other notable countries in this regard are Germany, France, and the U.K. Within this framework, there has also been **a significant 330% increase in violent antisemitic incidents**. Alongside this, there was an increase of about 128% in desecration of Jewish places such as cemeteries, about 660% in harassments, and about 300% in threats.

Regarding **online antisemitic discourse**, a research on a few social networks (October 7-23) **recorded an increase of around 400%** compared to the 17 days preceding the war, and around 340% compared to the same dates in the previous month. These numbers are much higher compared to previous military operations, such as 'Guardian of the Walls,' where online antisemitism increased by about 230%, and 'Black Belt' (about 30%). It should be noted that the peak of antisemitic discourse was recorded in the first days of the war, and since then the trend has been relatively stable. The leading cities in the number of users disseminating antisemitic content online are Paris, New York, Buenos Aires, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Chicago, Santiago, Barcelona, San Francisco, and Berlin. Also, Marseille and Sydney stand out in this regard. Within the overall increase, **there has been a 1,180% increase in antisemitic discourse that includes calls for violence against Israel, Zionists, and Jews**, where most of the discourse is in Arabic (71%) and in English (28%). This significant increase is highlighted in alternative networks (such as 4Chan, BitChute, Stormfront, and 8KUN). The leading cities in terms of the number of users disseminating violent antisemitic content are Cairo, Amman, Chicago, New York, Sydney, and Paris.



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Most of the antisemitic discourse online (80.5%) is new antisemitism/anti-Israel sentiment, which mainly originates from **Arab and Islamic groups and individuals**. These groups see Israel as an apartheid state that acts to carry out a “genocide” in response to Hamas' attack. In addition, there is an increase in antisemitic discourse originating from extreme right-wing groups and supporters of white supremacy, who exploit the situation for extensive promotion of antisemitic stereotypes and antisemitic conspiracy theories. Within this framework, **many attempts are made to draw comparisons between the suffering in Israel and the suffering in Gaza**. In this context, the hashtag #GazaGenocide stands out strongly, with millions of views, alongside other hashtags such as #GazaUnderAttack, #IsraeliNewNazism, #GazaHospitalBombing, etc. Online antisemitic discourse is also characterized by expressions of sadistic joy at the sight of the horrors carried out by the terrorist organization ‘Hamas’, combined with apocalyptic rhetoric.

Alongside the dramatic rise in online discourse, **hundreds of demonstrations in support of Hamas have been recorded since the outbreak of the war in many cities around the world, which in many cases included expressions of killing Jews and the destruction of the State of Israel**. In this context, there is also an increase in the use of swastika, and Hitler's image. A part of this is the attempts to compare the events of the Holocaust, and the intentions of the Nazis to systematically exterminate the Jewish people, to, ostensibly, the actions of Israel towards the Palestinians. Alongside this, is extensive use of Hitler as a hero in the Arab world and expressions of regret that he 'did not finish the job.

**These demonstrations pose a challenge for some countries, who are required to balance between their declared stance against antisemitism and expressions of hate, and their legal situation, which sometimes complicates the actions of the security and legal systems**. Thus, explicit calls for Jihad and the destruction of the State of Israel heard in protests in London did not lead to arrests, due to the position of the London police that “this is not illegal”. In France, despite the arrest of over 400 people for antisemitic acts, the Interior Minister's directive to ban mass pro-Palestinian protests was rejected by the legal authorities who ruled that such a sweeping ban harms freedom of expression. Indeed, an attempt to deport a Hamas supporter, linked to the 'Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine' terror organization, was also rejected.



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Therefore, recent events have created an incentive for some countries to regulate the legislation in a way that will allow for stricter measures against members and supporters of terror and extremist organizations. Thus, following antisemitic expressions and calls for violence by members of the organization 'Hizb at-Tahrir' in the U.K., the demand to outlaw the organization was raised. In Germany, expressions of support for Hamas by the pro-Palestinian organization Samidoun, led to Chancellor Scholz's declaration to outlaw it. Authorities in Germany acted early to impose a blanket ban on pro-Palestinian demonstrations, and even began a discussion on immigration policy and the need to prevent citizenship and expel Hamas supporters. Indeed, it was announced that engaging in antisemitism action could become a reason for not receiving citizenship in the country. In the U.K., the Home Office appealed to foreign citizens and warned them of its intention to cancel their visas due to antisemitic behavior demonstrated following Hamas' attack.

Alongside this, **there are growing calls to harm Jewish communities around the world following the war.** For example, in the last weekend, the terror organization 'ISIS' called on its believers to harm Jews worldwide. Among other things, the organization called to attack Jewish neighborhoods in the U.S., Europe, and around the world, synagogues, 'Jewish clubs' and Jewish economic facilities”.

**The significant increase in the scope of antisemitism recorded in various countries is also reflected in reports from Jewish communities and civil society organizations. In the U.S.,** ADL recorded 312 antisemitic incidents (October 7-23), 190 of which were directly related to the war (compared to 64 incidents in the same period last year), representing an increase of about 400%. **In the UK,** the London Police reported a 1357% increase in antisemitic incidents since the beginning of the war, compared to the same period last year, and the British Jewish Community Security Trust (CST) reported 600 antisemitic events across the country since the beginning of the war (October 7-23), compared to 81 events in the same period last year, representing an increase of 641%. This is the highest number in a 17-day period since the documentation began in 1984.



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In **Germany**, the Federal Association for Antisemitic Research (RIAS) reported 202 incidents in the country (October 7-15), a figure representing a 240% increase in the volume of antisemitic events, compared to the same period last year, when local monitoring centers in Germany report an even greater increase. For example, the monitoring center in the state of Schleswig-Holstein reported a six time increase in the number of antisemitic events since the beginning of the war. In Germany, Molotov cocktails were even thrown at a synagogue in central Berlin (October 18), and there are many reports of marking homes and shops of Jews with Stars of David. In **Austria**, the antisemitism reporting center of the Vienna Jewish community (IKG) recorded 76 antisemitic incidents (October 7-20), representing an increase of 300%. Alongside this, there have been exceptional events also in places where antisemitic events are not usually recorded, such as the desecration of synagogues in Porto (Portugal) and Padua (Italy).

In **South Africa**, the local government (ANC) openly sided with the Palestinians from the early stages of the war, pledging solidarity and wearing keffiyehs at public events. Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor even called Ismail Haniyeh at the outbreak of the war to express solidarity and support. Accompanying this, a number of demonstrations and events against Israel were recorded in Johannesburg and Cape Town. As part of this, the demonstrators passed by synagogues and Jewish facilities in order to intimidate the local community. In addition, there has been an increase in antisemitism in the online space, but fortunately physical incidents are limited so far. It should be noted that alongside the anti-Israel sentiment in the country, much support for the Jewish community has been recorded from Christian communities and many opposition parties.

Special attention should be paid to **Australia**, where huge protests against Israel are taking place across the country since the outbreak of the war, during which blatant antisemitic remarks are made, alongside explicit threats against local Jews. Certain local politicians and organizations contribute significantly to the public anti-Israel discourse in the country. A similar situation is happening in **Spain**, where the president of the Federation of Jewish Communities warned the local prime minister of a significant increase in antisemitism, expressed in many events recorded in Melilla, Barcelona, Madrid and other cities. Exceptional events were also recorded in **Latin America**, where vandalism was reported at a Jewish cemetery in Nicaragua, threats were made against a Jewish school in Argentina and a local basketball game was interrupted due to antisemitic chants, and vandalism at a synagogue in Chile was recorded.



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**Against the events above, security services in many countries around the world have rushed to strengthen the security of Jewish institutions.** It should be noted that some Jewish schools were even closed during the last two weekends, and many parents decided not to send their children to schools that remained open. In some countries, overall preparedness has also been increased for fear of terrorist attacks.

**A survey conducted by the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism reveals that as a result of the sharp increase in antisemitic events, many Jewish communities around the world report a dramatic decrease in personal security (among 87% of respondents), together with feelings of anger, anxiety, and shock.** In this context, the vast majority of respondents, testified that they now experience antisemitism more intensely compared to the period before the war, and accordingly also testified that there is a significant decline in their willingness to display their Judaism publicly (only 27% declared such willingness). **Alongside this, the communities report greater concern for Israel and active support for it.** They also identify Israel as a country that conducts a moral war, more than other countries (86% said that Hamas is responsible for the war). In this context, there is a marginal but noteworthy phenomenon of Jews from the U.S. who have expressed support for Hamas and regularly publish false information about Israel. Some of these Jews even identify themselves as relatives of Holocaust survivors, thus encouraging increased delegitimization against Israel. In this context, a prominent event was recorded last week in the Capitol building in Washington, where the organization "Jewish Voice for Peace" organized an anti-Israel demonstration with the participation of hundreds, with around 500 people arrested. However, these isolated events do not currently represent the sentiment that is very supportive of Israel, which surrounds the Jewish communities in the Diaspora.



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**In universities around the world**, most of the Jewish students report feelings of fear (56%) and sadness (67%) due to the situation in Israel. Indeed, approximately 25% of students reported hate and violent activities that occurred on campuses since the outbreak of the war, and about 58% claim that they do not receive support from the college or university where they study. It should be noted that most of the anti-Israel activity on campuses is led by anti-Israeli student organizations, such as 'Students for Justice in Palestine', and local faculty members. As a result, pressure is forming on universities, both from political and financial factors, to take a hard line against those who promote expressions of antisemitism or do not do enough to fight them. For example, members of Congress in the U.S. called for the President of Harvard University to resign (13.10) after she refused to condemn the statement published by student organizations at the university that blamed Israel for the Hamas attack, and the Governor of Maryland even announced that he will not fund scholarships at the university this year. In the U.K., the Minister of Education declared that local universities are required to report to the police events in which there are expressions of support for Hamas. She also declared that expressions of admiration for Hamas' terrorist attack constitute grounds for a 14-year prison sentence. Indeed, certain donors have announced in recent weeks the cessation of their donations to universities. The first results of this pressure are beginning to show, with various reports received about the suspension of lecturers who expressed support for Hamas.

**In the Arab and Muslim world, there is broad public identification with the Palestinians, which reflects on local governments.** This identification is expressed in demonstrations, in public spaces (for example in soccer fields), and in online discourse, when local governments usually allow the population to express their identification in 'legal' protests. In **Tunisia**, the government is advancing a law for the criminalization of normalization with Israel, which has meanwhile been approved by a committee in the parliament. Moreover, a synagogue near the city of Gabes was destroyed and burned by protesters on October 18. In **Turkey**, mass protests are being held across the country, with an emphasis on the cities of Istanbul, Ankara, Adana, and Diyarbakir. The protests intensified significantly following the news about the damage to the hospital in Gaza and reached a peak in a massive demonstration in Istanbul last Saturday (October 28). The targets of the protests were mainly Israeli diplomatic offices in Ankara and Istanbul, at which stones and fireworks were thrown, and U.S. diplomatic offices and an air force base in Incirlik. A bookstore in Istanbul even hung up a sign stating 'No entry for Jews.' The anti-Israel discourse in the country is fueled by President Erdogan, who declared that 'Hamas is not a terrorist organization' and that he intends to declare Israel to be a 'war criminal'.



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In **Morocco**, there is notable public support for the Palestinians, when large-scale demonstrations were held in major cities. Also in Morocco, as in Tunisia, soccer fields serve for demonstrations of solidarity. The Jewish community in **Iran** also expressed concern for its security and asked for the regime's protection, following an attack on the tomb of Mordechai and Esther in the city of Hamadan. In **Jordan**, turbulent demonstrations were held in the capital Amman and in front of the Israeli Embassy which evacuated its staff. In the first days, as has also happened in the past ('Guardian of the Walls'), large demonstrations were held near the fence without trying to infiltrate Israel. The Jordanian regime has so far managed to contain the anger and maintain control over the violent events, while its representatives (even Queen Rania) express anti-Israeli and pro-Palestinian positions. In **Kuwait**, support was expressed by the publishing of billboards with the message 'Did you murder a Palestinian today?' alongside pictures of children 'in the ruins of Gaza.' In addition, the publication included a campaign to boycott Israeli and American products, under the slogan 'Don't buy their weapons, Boycott.' **Global Jihad** organizations, such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda, expressed unprecedented support in the early days for Hamas' terrorist acts. The only two countries in which significant protests were not held are the **United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia**.

In the **former USSR** there was also a worsening in the antisemitic and anti-Israeli discourse following of the war, including by prominent public and media figures in Russia and Belarus. It should be noted that in Armenia, too, prominent antisemitic discourse stands out, following the weapons that Israel supplies to Azerbaijan, and their reported use in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. While in the first two and a half weeks of the war a small number of serious incidents were recorded, in recent days there has been a violent shift, primarily in areas populated by a Muslim population. In the North Caucasus of Russia, for example, calls were distributed to harm Jews and to expel them, which developed into a violent incident that included an attempt to harm a hotel in which Jews were allegedly hiding. In another area in the North Caucasus, a Jewish center under construction was burned down, and Nazi slogans were sprayed on it calling for the death of Jews. Another violent incident occurred in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, where a Chabad couple were physically attacked.



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