

2014 Top Ten Worst Global Anti-Semitic Anti/Israel-Incidents



Introduction

2014 was a year of unprecedented explosions of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel hatred. Our Top Ten this year shows how pervasive anti-Semitism has become around the world. The ten examples selected by the Simon Wiesenthal Center are tragically indicative of burgeoning threats and challenges to the Jewish people not encountered since the end of WWII.

2014 was the year of ISIS, of “Lone Wolf” terrorism, of targeted murder and rape of Jewish citizens in European democracies, of pro-Hamas sentiment reverberating on the streets of Europe and on American university campuses.

2014 was a year of increasing acceptance of Jew-hatred in the political and social fabrics of societies. It was a year of unending genocidal threats against the Jewish state from a nuclearizing Mullahocracy in Iran and continuing efforts in Europe to criminalize age-old Judaic practices of Shechita (Kosher slaughter) and Brit Milah (ritual circumcision).

2014 left Jews across Europe questioning if they have a future in their native lands. Danny Cohen, director of BBC television summed up the feelings of many:

“I’ve never felt so uncomfortable being a Jew in the UK as I’ve felt in the last 12 months. And it’s made me think about, you know, is it our long-term home, actually. Because you feel it. I’ve felt it in a way I’ve never felt before actually.”

The Simon Wiesenthal Center urges people of good faith everywhere to commit in 2015 to break the apathy and silence and to stand up and speak out against history’s oldest hate wherever it rears its ugly head.

▶ BELGIUM

HIPPOCRATIC OATH – TREAT EVERYONE BUT JEWS?

A doctor in Belgium refused medical help to a 90-year-old Jewish woman with a fractured rib, telling her son who called the medical hotline on her behalf: **“Send her to Gaza for a few hours, then she will get rid of the pain.”**

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“I’m not coming,” he said and hung up.

Joods Actueel, a local Jewish newspaper reported that Hershy Taffel, Bertha Klein’s grandson, had filed a discrimination complaint with the police.

“It reminds me of what happened in Europe 70 years ago,” Taffel told *Joods Actueel*. **“I never thought those days would once again be repeated.”**

The paper’s editor-in-chief Michael Freilich lamented, “This is yet another incident in a short period of time. A shop in Antwerp refused to serve a woman because she was Jewish, a café in Liège has a sign hung with the message ‘Dogs welcome, Jews not,’ and in Brussels slogans like, “Death to the Jews” were chanted during a demonstration and on Facebook, we see calls every day of hatred against the Jewish people.”

The deadliest attack targeting the Jewish community in 2014 was the gunning down of three innocent people outside Brussels’ Jewish museum by an ISIS-trained French Islamist terrorist.



▶ ISRAEL/JORDAN

A SAVAGE ATTACK IN A JERUSALEM SYNAGOGUE; A MONSTROUS MOMENT OF SILENCE IN JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT

On November 18th, two terrorists from East Jerusalem entered the Kehilat Bnai Torah Synagogue in West Jerusalem. Armed with guns, axes and cleavers and shouting, “Allahu Akbar,” they savagely attacked worshippers, as they stood wrapped in their prayer shawls, leaving four rabbis - three of them U.S. citizens - dead in a pool of blood. Seven others were injured. A heroic Israeli Druze policeman who ran to aid the victims was gunned down before the terrorists themselves were killed. The shocking savagery plunged the Jewish world into mourning and grief.

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But not everyone grieved for the victims.

The very next day, Jordanian parliamentarians held a moment of silence for the murderers and read Koran verses aloud, **“To glorify their pure souls and the souls of all the martyrs in the Arab and Muslim nations.”** The Jordanian Prime Minister, Abdullah Ensour, sent this condolence letter to the families of the terrorists; **“I ask God to envelope them with mercy and to grant you with patience, comfort and recovery from your grief...”** The

Jordanian government, however, issued a statement condemning the attack, adding that all acts of violence against civilians in Jerusalem must be denounced.

That attack came on the heels of other terror attacks targeting Israeli civilians, including the mowing down of a baby at a Jerusalem rail stop and the shocking kidnap/murder of three Israeli teens from a bus stop. **(The murdered boys are depicted in a cartoon on the official Fatah Facebook page as rats, not humans).**



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▶ **FRANCE:****HOME INVASION, RAPE, LEAVE ALL FRENCH JEWRY VIOLATED**

Shots fired at synagogues, beatings, vandalism, and fears of ISIS-trained terrorist attacks have left French Jewry reeling. One incident in particular has left many shaken.

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In December, assailants forced their way into an apartment in the Paris suburb of Creteil, tied up a young, Jewish man and woman. "Tell us where you hide the money," one of the assailants demanded, "You Jews always have money," as they ransacked the house and raped the 19-year-old woman.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve confirmed the "anti-Semitic nature (of the attack)..." saying the assailants, "Started with the idea that being Jewish means having money."

The Service for the Protection of the Jewish Community in France reported two suspects were charged with religion-motivated violence, armed robbery, rape, sequestration and extortion.

At the Elysee Palace, President Hollande declared, "A family in a city in France was attacked because it is Jewish...When such dramas occur, such tragedies, it is not simply the family that is wounded, attacked. It is the greatness of France that finds itself wounded, damaged."

Prime Minister Manuel Valls Tweeted that the attack in Creteil showed, "The fight against anti-Semitism is a daily fight."

The words of sympathy and support are welcome, but as 2014 comes to a close, members of Europe's most vibrant Jewish community worries if France can ensure a safe future for its Jews.

▶ **GERMANY****"TOILETGATE" DIVIDES LEADERS OF THE LEFT PARTY****4**

On November 10th, The Left party invited notorious Israel-bashers, Max Blumenthal (listed on the SWC 2013 Top10) and David Sheen to present an "expert talk" in the Party's meeting room in the Bundestag, the day after commemoration of the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the 1938 pogrom when the Nazis burned Jewish synagogues across Germany. Blumenthal often casts Zionism as racism and conflates alleged Israeli misdeeds with Nazi imagery. That was too much for top party leader Gregor Gysi who canceled the usage of the Party's meeting room. The incident came to be known as "Toiletgate" because Gysi was forced to barricade himself in a bathroom to escape the wrath of Blumenthal and Sheen. It highlighted the ongoing efforts to demonize Israel by a group of extreme anti-Israel MPs led by Inge Höger (pictured right) and Annette Groth (pictured left). Both of these parliamentarians were onboard the controversial 2010 Mavi Marmara Gaza flotilla and upon their return to Berlin were hailed by many of their party's MPs.

Groth, Höger and Left party official Claudia Haydt and MP Heike Hänsel - as organizers and participants - played a crucial role in stoking hatred of Israel during the "Toiletgate" scandal. All were present at the Blumenthal/Sheen talk. They are a part of a sizable group of hardcore anti-Israel The Left party MPs.



Pro-Hamas demonstration in Berlin, Summer 2014

In response to the "Toiletgate" scandal, a petition signed by the reform wing of The Left party MPs, regional politicians and members stated:

"By stoking obsessive hatred of and demonizing Israel, members of our party in positions of responsibility are promoting anti-Semitic patterns of argument and a relativization of the Holocaust and the German responsibility for the extermination of millions of European Jews."

► TURKEY

COLUMNIST: TURKISH JEWS SHOULD PAY SPECIAL TAX TO REPAIR GAZA



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Reminiscent of centuries past when special taxes were levied on Jews, an article by Turkish columnist, Faruk Köse, published in Yeni Akit, a newspaper close to the Erdoğan government, proposed that Turkish Jews and other Jews doing business in Turkey, pay a special tax to pay for damages in Gaza resulting from Israeli operation, “Protective Edge” launched to halt Hamas terror attacks. Failure to pay would lead to revocation of the Jew’s business license and the seizure of his property, Köse demanded.

Earlier, Köse penned an open letter to Turkey’s chief rabbi, Rav Isak Haleva, urging Erdoğan to demand that the Jewish community apologize for Israel’s actions in Gaza. **“You came here after being banished from Spain. You have lived comfortably among us for 500 years and gotten rich at our expense. Is this your gratitude – killing Muslims? Erdoğan, demand that the community leader apologize!”**

“If you come out with your ‘Jewish’ identity and start massacring my Muslim brothers ... I will have earned the right to ask for the ‘an eye for an eye’ approach towards you,” Köse threatened. **“The ‘Zionist/Jewish terror base’ that is Israel, continues to turn Gaza into hell with its genocide,” he wrote. “So of course one feels like saying, ‘God bless that Hitler!’”**

Poisoning of attitudes against Israel and the Jewish people from the highest levels of government threaten the future of Turkey’s Jews, who were also stunned by a call from Edirne’s Governor, Dursun Sahin to bar Jews from worshipping at the historic Buyuk Synagogue. He later retracted after international protests. The Wiesenthal Center maintains a travel advisory for Turkey.

► SWEDEN

DEPUTY SPEAKER TO JEWS: ABANDON YOUR RELIGIOUS IDENTITY



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The Jerusalem Post reported that Björn Söder, Sweden Democrats Party politician declared in an interview, **“Most [people] of Jewish origin who have become Swedes leave their Jewish identity,” and that it is important to distinguish between “citizenship and nationhood.”**

Lena Posner Körösi, of the Official Council of Jewish Communities in Sweden told The Guardian, Söder’s statements were “exactly like in 1930s Germany” and that they constitute, “good old right-wing anti-Semitism.”

Swedish Jews have been targets of hate crimes from Muslim extremists, but authorities have rarely, if ever, taken action against the perpetrators. The SWC issued a travel advisory for Malmö, Sweden’s third largest city because city officials have failed to protect their Jewish citizens and leading political figures have often justified anti-Jewish sentiment because of the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

***In response, Mr. Söder’s representatives have provided this statement in response to our posting. It is presented here in its entirety:**

Dear Mr. Hier,

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The Sweden Democrats are the party in the Swedish Parliament that takes the dangers of militant Islam seriously. As a result of this, our political opponents and specifically adherents of Islamism have accused us of being racist. The desire to depict me and my party as xenophobic and racist has led to the interview, where I discussed Jews and their status in Sweden, being misinterpreted.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center incorrectly claims that I have told Jews to “abandon your religious identity.” I have neither said nor demanded this. Furthermore a quote is taken out of context when it’s written that I said “most [people] of Jewish origin who have become Swedes leave their Jewish identity.” What I answered to the question “can someone be both a Jew and a Swede at the same time?” was “I believe that most people of Jewish origin who become Swedes leave their Jewish identity. But if they don’t, it doesn’t have to be a problem. One needs to differentiate between citizenship and nationality. They can still be Swedish citizens and live in Sweden. Sami and Jews have lived in Sweden for a long time.” The fact that we differentiate between citizenship and nationality is no stranger than the fact that all Israeli citizens are not Jews. I don’t think that is a controversial statement in Israel.

Jews are according to Swedish law one of five recognized minority groups in Sweden. These groups have the legal right to receive, to a certain extent, access to public welfare in their own language (in this case Yiddish) and certain other rights. This also includes the Sami population and, with regards to their history, recognizes their right to continue to live in Sweden as their own nation within the borders of the Swedish state. The reason for this legislation includes guaranteeing that these groups are not affected by assimilation policies and that they do not, in other ways, lose their status as a nation.

To, in this context, differentiate between citizenship and nationality is entirely natural. Members of the five recognized minority groups are of course free to decide for themselves how they want to live their lives and if they want to identify as Swedes. They also have the possibility to live as citizens of the Swedish state, with the same rights and obligations as all other citizens, while not having to identify as Swedes but as Finns, Tornedalians, Sami, Roma or Jews. I am acquainted with many people belonging to these groups and I know that it primarily is common that they feel a sense of community both with the Swedish nation and with a minority group.

The party I represent is also Sweden’s most pro-Israel party, which fought against the Swedish recognition of Palestine and rejects foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority to avoid complicity in the financing of terrorism.

Just as often as my party is called anti-Semitic, we are called Zionists and anti-Muslims. For those who follow the Swedish debate it is obvious that these are just epithet utilized by political opponents who are distressed about The Sweden Democrats’ advance in public opinion and feel that their positions of power are threatened. Therefore, when a distinguished institute such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center reports about Sweden it is important that one takes their time and does thorough research. The consequence of your publication is that it has severely damaged the reputation of Sweden’s most pro-Israel and Jewish-friendly party. It is also my belief that it damages the credibility of the Simon Wiesenthal Center when they, without basis, depict me as an anti-Semite, based on opinions I do not hold. Those who know me are aware of my strong devotion to the State of Israel and to the Jewish people. To, against this background, be accused of the exact opposite is directly insulting. Furthermore, I have clarified my reasoning for Haaretz and The Jerusalem Post among other publications.

In Sweden, violence and threats against Jews and vandalism of synagogues is becoming more and more common. Politicians are reluctant to address these problems in fear of offending Muslims and being accused of racism. If the Simon Wiesenthal Center takes the situation of Swedish Jews seriously they should investigate this further and publish a clarification and an apology to me and The Sweden Democrats.

Best regards,

BJÖRN SÖDER
Secretary-General for the Sweden Democrats Second
Deputy Speaker of the Swedish Parliament

► HUNGARY

HUNGARIAN MAYOR HANGS ISRAELIS ... IN EFFIGY

Mayor Mihaly Zoltan Orosz, of Erpatek (eastern Hungary) hanged Israeli P.M. Benjamin Netanyahu and former President Shimon Peres in effigy at a public display in early August. He told reporters, "The Jewish Terror state," was trying to annihilate the Palestinians and he opposed, "The efforts of Freemasons to rule the world." The sign hanging above the "body" of President Shimon Peres reads:

I am a war criminal, bastard genocider, that's why I get my rightful punishment, death by hanging! I am going to my master, to Satan, because hellfire awaits me!

- Simón Peres

Orosz has become a nationally known figure, making public appearances in "traditional" Hungarian attire (pictured) and calling himself a protector of traditional Hungarian values.

Hungary's political nexus has shifted to the far right, and many WWII fascist-era figures are being rehabilitated and celebrated as heroes. The anti-Semitic Jobbik party continues to gain political power and social influence. Over 550,000 Hungarian Jews perished in the Holocaust during the final year of WWII.



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► USA

SPREADING HATE IN ACADEMIA

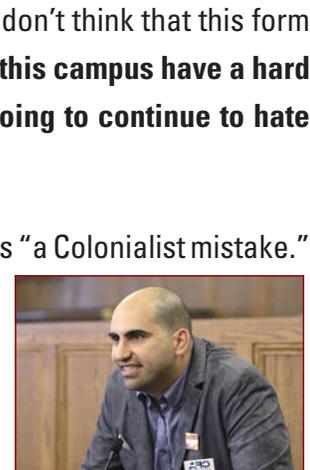
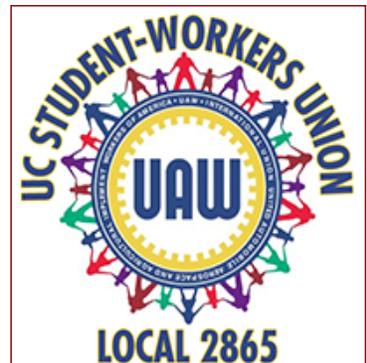
The global campaign to demonize and delegitimize Israel continues unabated in diplomatic, Church and academic circles. Their real impact is to hurt prospects for peace and to mainstream hate against Israel and her supporters. One exchange at a UC Berkeley forum, hosted by United Auto Workers (UAW) #2865, in November provides a devastating example.

A graduate student who identified herself as Latina, Jewish and pro-Israel said, **"I really just get a strong sense of hatred coming from the voices and the language...I have to say it is very hard to listen to this and not think it has something to do with Jewish identity. The way you are talking is so aggressive and anti-Semitic."**

Lara Kiswani, Executive Director of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, who was promoting an ultimately successful anti-Israel boycott vote among UC graduate students retorted: "See, part of the problem with the Palestine question particularly on campus is it always gets framed as this two-sided thing and liberal democracy loves to make it seem like everyone has a right to speak...I don't think that this form of democracy really has a place in terms of real struggle. **Many liberal Zionists here on this campus have a hard time understanding what that means...As long as you choose to be on that side, I'm going to continue to hate you.**" The Jewish student left the room in tears.

Many academics use their hallowed positions to pillory Israel and label the Jewish state as "a Colonialist mistake." One instructor, Steven Salaita, an Arab American professor went beyond the pale for the University of Illinois at Champaign. Salaita has blamed Jews for anti-Semitism and has called for the destruction of Israel as well as the "de-colonization of America."

Originally hired to teach American Indian Studies, the school cancelled his contract after reading Salaita's rants like these he made on social media. **"At this point if Netanyahu appeared with a necklace made from the teeth of Palestinian children, would anybody be surprised?"** About American Jewish Youth, Salaita declared, **"Every little Jewish boy and girl can grow up to be the leader of a murderous colonial regime."**



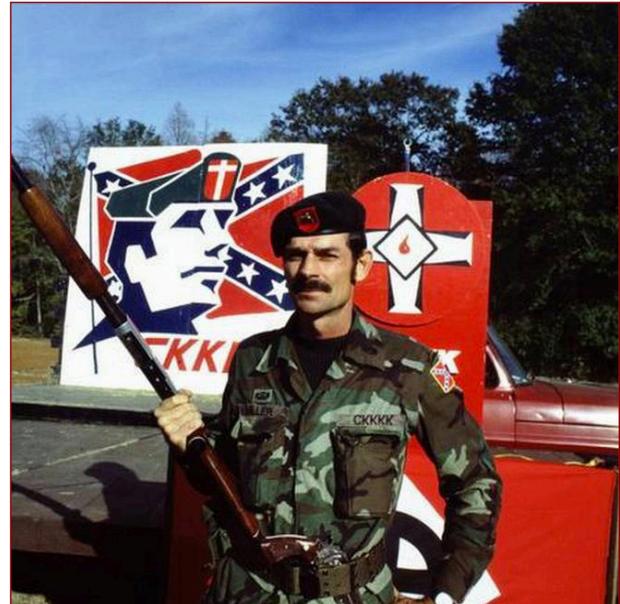
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▶ USA

“WANTED TO MAKE DAMN SURE I KILLED SOME JEWS BEFORE I DIED”

Frazier Glenn Cross Jr. a former KKK Grand Dragon, pulled up outside the Jewish community center and Jewish Home for the Aging in suburban Kansas City, Kansas, just before Passover. Cross later told a reporter that he, “Wanted to make damned sure I killed some Jews...before I died.” Within minutes, three people - none of them Jews - lay dead in the parking lot. In December, Cross, 74, was found competent to stand trial.

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▶ UNITED KINGDOM

JEWISH KIDS BARRED FROM SPORTING GOODS STORE: “NO JEWS, NO JEWS”

Of the hundreds of reported anti-Semitic incidents that took place in the United Kingdom in 2014, one of the most outrageous took place at a sporting goods store in Hertfordshire, when 7th graders wearing the uniform of the Yavneh Academy were refused entry by a security guard who told them, “**No Jews, No Jews.**” The store chain eventually apologized and fired the guard.

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Beyond the insults, threats and vandalism spawned by last summer’s Hamas conflict in Gaza, classic anti-Semitism reared its ugly head when Dave Whelan, owner of the Wigan soccer team, told reporters, **‘I think Jewish people do chase money more than everybody else.’**

His comments came as part of the Whelan’s attempts to defend the appointment of Malky Mackay as Wigan’s manager, even though Mackay was being investigated for racism and anti-Semitism by the UK’s football association.



Danny Cohen, director of BBC Television, summed up the feeling of many British Jews, **“I’ve never felt so uncomfortable being a Jew in the UK as I’ve felt in the last 12 months. And it’s made me think about, you know, is it our long-term home, actually. Because you feel it. I’ve felt it in a way I’ve never felt before actually.”**



www.wiesenthal.com/TopTenAntiSemitic2014

We invite members of the public to forward to the Wiesenthal Center anti-Semitic and/or anti-Israel so that such incidents can be exposed and that the perpetrators be held accountable.

Please email us at: topten2014@wiesenthal.com

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