

# Anti-Semitism

Summary overview of the situation in the  
European Union 2001-2008

February 2009

FRA Working Paper

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# 1. Data availability, reliability and comparability

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights<sup>1</sup> presents its 5<sup>th</sup> brief update of its 2004 report “Manifestations of anti-Semitism in the EU”<sup>2</sup>. The overview contains the latest governmental and non-governmental statistical data covering 2001 to 2008 for those EU Member States that have official or unofficial data and statistics on anti-Semitic incidents. The Agency collects regularly publicly available official and unofficial data and information on racism and xenophobia in the EU Member States through its Racism and Xenophobia Network (RAXEN)<sup>3</sup> with a special focus on anti-Semitism.

The Agency’s data collection work shows that most Member States do not have official or even unofficial data and statistics on anti-Semitic incidents. Even where data exist they are not comparable, since they are collected following different methodologies. For some countries, RAXEN National Focal Points provide the Agency with lists of cases collected either ad hoc by civil society organisations or through the media with varying degrees of validity and reliability. Detailed data and incidents lists are presented in the FRA electronic database, Info\_Portal at <http://infoportal.fra.europa.eu>.

The Agency’s regular review of data collection systems indicates that most Member States have a serious problem of underreporting, particularly in reference to official systems of data collection that are based on police records and on crime and law statistics, because not all anti-Semitic incidents registered officially are categorised under the label “anti-Semitism” and/or because not all anti-Semitic incidents are reported to the official body by the victims or witnesses of an incident.

A complementary problem to underreporting is misreporting and over-reporting: This could be the case in unofficial data collection carried out by organisations that do not provide information concerning their methodologies.

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<sup>1</sup> The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in Vienna was established in 2007 by Council Regulation 168/07 (EC). The objective of the Agency is to provide the relevant institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Community and its Member States when implementing Community law with assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights in order to support them when they take measures or formulate courses of action within their respective spheres of competence to fully respect fundamental rights. More information at <http://fra.europa.eu>

<sup>2</sup> Available at <http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/material/pub/AS/AS-Main-report.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> RAXEN is a group of organisations (National Focal Points) in each EU Member State (usually consortia of research organisations, NGOs, special bodies, social partners, etc) contracted by the Agency to collect official and unofficial data on racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerances.

## 2. Data update by country

### AUSTRIA

In Austria, anti-Semitic incidents are recorded officially only if committed in an extreme right-wing context. In 2007 most incidents in 2007 were verbal offences, graffiti, property damage and mail, e-mail or SMSs.<sup>4</sup> Extremist offences under the Prohibition Statute<sup>5</sup> may encompass Holocaust denial, as well as the revitalisation of Nazi ideology. The NGO “Forum gegen Anti-Semitismus”<sup>6</sup> - Forum against Anti-Semitism – and the NGO “ZARA”<sup>7</sup> also records incidents.

Official statistics show that the number of anti-Semitic offences doubled in 2007, compared to the two previous years, in the context of a general increase of right-wing extremist and xenophobic offences. Similar peaks in anti-Semitic offences were recorded in 2002 and 2004 with lower figures in between. In significant contrast to unofficial recordings, official statistics display lower figures for incidents in 2005 and 2006 than in the three previous years. Unofficial data display a much higher rate of anti-Semitic incidents than official data, which records only registered crimes; they show a decreasing trend in anti-Semitic incidents from in 2005 to 2007. The number of anti-Semitic graffiti recorded by the NGO ZARA increased six-fold between 2006 and 2007, while the total number of racist graffiti recorded by ZARA decreased.<sup>8</sup>

<b>Official statistics (recorded criminal offences)</b>						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>

Source: Sicherheitsbericht 2002-2004; Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz und Terrorismusbekämpfung, Verfassungsschutzbericht 2006, 2007, 2008

<b>Unofficial statistics (incidents)</b>						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>incomplete data<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>incomplete data<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>134</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>62</b>

Source: NGO: Forum gegen Anti-Semitismus

<b>Unofficial statistics (Graffiti)</b>						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>no data</b>	<b>no data</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>60</b>

Source: ZARA, Racism Reports 2004,2005, 2006, 2007

<sup>4</sup> Austria/Bundesministerium für Inneres, Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz und Terrorismusbekämpfung, *Verfassungsschutzbericht 2008*, p. 30, available at: <http://www.bmi.gv.at/downloadarea/staatsschutz/BVT%20VSB%202008%2020080909%20online.pdf> (14.01.2009)

<sup>5</sup> *Verbotsgesetz*, Austria / BGBl 127/1945 last amendment by BGBl 148/1992 (19.03.1992)

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.fga-wien.at/> (22.01.2009)

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.zara.or.at/> (22.01.2009)

<sup>8</sup> ZARA, Racism Report 2007, Racist Incidents and Structures in Austria, p. 30, available at: <http://www.zara.or.at/materialien/rassismus-report/racism-report-2007.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Monitoring covers only a few months

## BELGIUM

The federal national equality body, “Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism”<sup>10</sup> (CEOOR), collects and investigates allegations of anti-Semitism and compiles statistics. The police in general do not officially record anti-Semitic incidents; however, upon request the Federal Police released in 2006 a more detailed breakdown of incidents by type. Federal police data for 2007 show two incidents on ‘genocide denial’ and two incidents on ‘approval or justification of the genocide committed by the Nazi’s during the Second World War’ (in 2006 there was one incident in this category; since data collection covering this category started on 1.10.2006 it does not represent the entire year). Official data display a steady number of anti-Semitic acts for 2002 and 2003, an increase in 2004 after which the level of incidents has varied only slightly.

In contrast, unofficial statistics by the NGO “Bureau Exécutif de Surveillance Communautaire”<sup>11</sup> (BESC) show a marked increase in anti-Semitic acts in 2002 as compared to 2001, followed by a drop in 2003, a steady increase up to 2005 and, smaller, increases from 2006 to 2008.

<b>Official statistics: complaints of anti-Semitism</b>						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No data	30	30	68	58	64	66
Source: Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism						
<b>Official statistics: Anti-Semitism related complaints by category</b>						
Category	2004	2005	2006	2007		
Verbal aggression	23	18	14	17		
Letters, articles	14	9	16	8		
Media	4	2	1	3		
Internet	10	11	21	25		
Violence	9	6	3	0		
Vandalism	3	6	3	9		
Genocide denial	3	6	2	0		
Other	2	-	3	4		
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>66</b>		
Source: Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism						

<b>Unofficial statistics - BESC (recorded anti-Semitic acts)</b>							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
30	62	28	46	60	66	69	73
Source: Bureau Exécutif de Surveillance Communautaire							

<sup>10</sup> See <http://www.diversite.be/> (14.02.2009)

<sup>11</sup> See [http://www.antisemitisme.be/site/homepage\\_fr.asp](http://www.antisemitisme.be/site/homepage_fr.asp) (14.02.2009)

## CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Ministry of Interior set up in 2005 a system of recording and categorising various incidents against the Jewish community, Jewish individuals, buildings and cemeteries. In 2005 there were 23 incidents of anti-Semitic nature, which amounted to 9 per cent of all incidents with extremist motivation. In 2006 the number of incidents dropped to 14. The Ministry of the Interior published in 2008 their report on 2007 statistics, but the report does not specify the number of anti-Semitic incidents.

The NGO Fórum proti Antisemitismu [Forum against Anti-Semitism] also reports on anti-Semitic attacks. The organisation operates under the Federation of Jewish Communities and receives from them reports on all anti-Semitic attacks, but also collects other data on its own, particularly on Internet harassment. The Forum recorded one assault in 2006 (none in 2005), five attacks against property (seven in 2005), two threats (two in 2005), ten incidents of harassment (two in 2005), and 16 incidents involving anti-Semitic literature - including Internet (eight in 2005).

Official statistics: recorded criminal offences						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
no data	no data	no data	no data	23	14	No data

Source: Czech Republic, Ministry of the Interior, Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2006

Unofficial statistics: reports on anti-Semitic attacks						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
no data	no data	no data	no data	19	34	26 <sup>12</sup>

Source: Fórum proti Antisemitismu

In May 2008 skinheads stabbed a 22 year-old youth in Strakonice after he had protested against their anti-Semitic cries of "Jews to gas", etc. and Nazi salutes. The man was stabbed in the neck and his backbone was injured. The attackers were arrested and charged with attempted murder. Criminal proceedings are ongoing.<sup>13</sup>

In November 2008 three skinheads attacked a Rabbi in Prague as he was leaving a restaurant, which he had just inspected as chief of kashrut with insults, kicks and stones. The Jewish community's security officers called the police and the skinheads were arrested; they could, if found guilty, face up to five years in prison.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Provisional data

<sup>13</sup> Tolerance and Civil Society: Internal material – not published. See also: V. Janous (2008) 'A youth admonished hailing pairs and was left with a knife in his neck.' *MF Dnes* (13.05.2008), available at: [http://zpravy.idnes.cz/mladik-napomenul-hajlujici-dvojici-skoncil-s-nozem-v-krku-pm8-/krimi.asp?c=A080512\\_170051\\_krimi\\_cen](http://zpravy.idnes.cz/mladik-napomenul-hajlujici-dvojici-skoncil-s-nozem-v-krku-pm8-/krimi.asp?c=A080512_170051_krimi_cen) (15. 09. 2008)

<sup>14</sup> See <http://www.radio.cz/en/news/110285> (15.02.2009)

## DENMARK

Racist incidents are officially monitored by the Danish Security Intelligence Service (PET), which does not distinguish between anti-Semitic and other incidents. Unofficially, anti-Semitic incidents are recorded by the Jewish community organisation “Det Mosaiske Trossamfund”<sup>15</sup> and the NGO “Documentation and Advisory Centre on Racial Discrimination”<sup>16</sup>. The data show a significant drop in 2007.

<b>Unofficial statistics</b>						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>No data</b>	<b>No data</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Source: Documentation and Advisory Centre on Racial Discrimination						
<b>Unofficial statistics: all incidents</b>						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>No data</b>	<b>No data</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>
Source: Det Mosaiske Trossamfund						

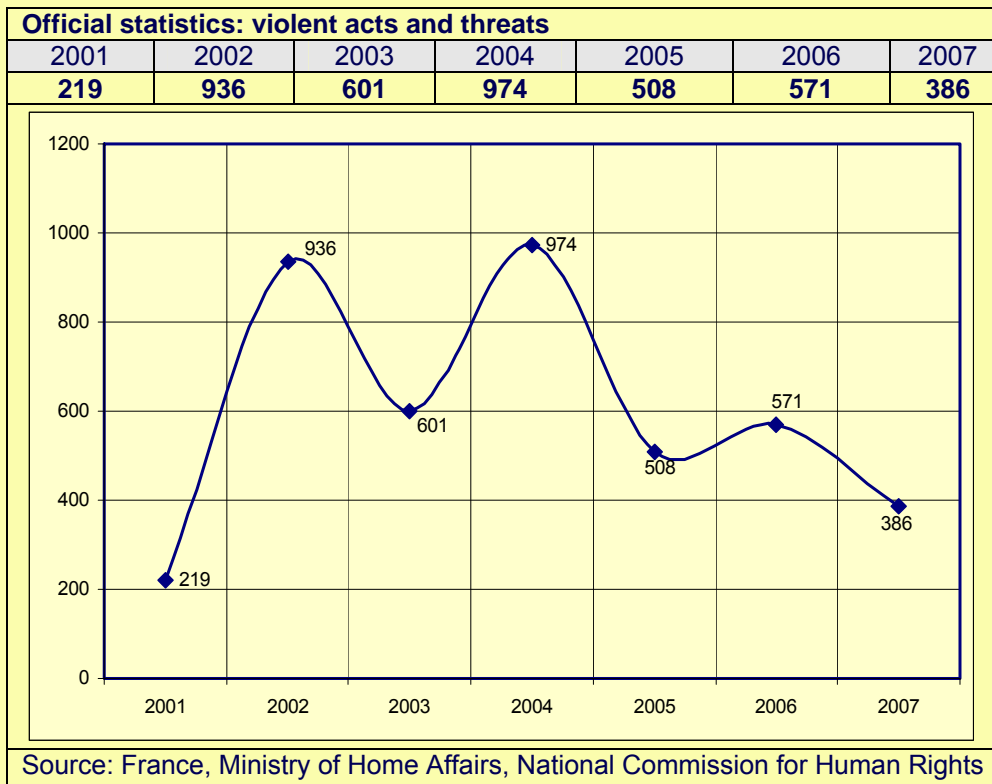
<sup>15</sup> See <http://mosaiske.com/joomla/> (14.02.2009)

<sup>16</sup> See <http://www.drcenter.dk/> (14.02.2009)

## FRANCE

Data are officially collected and compiled into statistics by the Ministry of Interior. The Representative Council of Jewish Communities of France - Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France - (CRIF) also records complaints and provides unofficial statistics. Official data shows high levels of anti-Semitic acts of violence and threats in 2002 and 2004 and lower rates for 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Both official and unofficial data display a decreasing trend in the number of anti-Semitic incidents, since the 2002 and 2004 peaks. The number of incidents in 2007 is lower than at any year since 2001.



Unofficial statistics: various incidents and registered complaints						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No data available	516	503	590	300	371	261

Source: CRIF, Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive

The Service for the Protection of the Jewish Community<sup>17</sup> (Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive) recorded in 2007 261 incidents compared to 371 incidents in 2006 (a fall of 30%). The decrease has been reflected both in the number of violent acts (146 cases, compared to 216 in 2006) and threats (115 cases, compared to 158 in 2006).

<sup>17</sup> Coordinated by the French Central Consistory, the Consistory of Paris, CRIF and the Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU)



Official data: Cases <sup>18</sup> registered by the Prosecution Services											
July 2007 – June 2008											
Dignity		Persons		Property		Discrimination		Verbal abuse		TOTAL	
Number of cases	Perpetrators identified	Number of cases	Perpetrators identified	Number of cases	Perpetrators identified	Number of cases	Perpetrators identified	Number of cases	Perpetrators identified	Number of cases	Perpetrators identified <sup>19</sup>
2	1	52	34	72	12	13	112	138	98	277	156

Source: Criminal affairs and Pardon Board - Direction des affaires criminelles et des grâces (DACG) - Studies and Evaluation Office – October 2008

France is currently the only EU Member States with a comprehensive national data collection system on racist and anti-Semitic incidents in schools. The Ministry of Education has installed in most primary and secondary public schools the SIGNA system (Signalement des actes de violence par les établissements du second degré), a software tool for collecting data on severe acts of violence. According to SIGNA data, during the school year 2005/06, the number of anti-Semitic acts decreased by 40 per cent compared to 2004/2005. At the beginning of the 2007-2008 academic year, SIGNA was replaced by the improved software system SIVIS (Système d'Information et de Vigilance sur la Sécurité scolaire).

On 21 June 2008, a young Jewish man, wearing a kippah, was brutally lynched and murdered in Paris by several young people of African and Maghrebian origin. The Public Prosecutor considered that the motive was anti-Semitism.

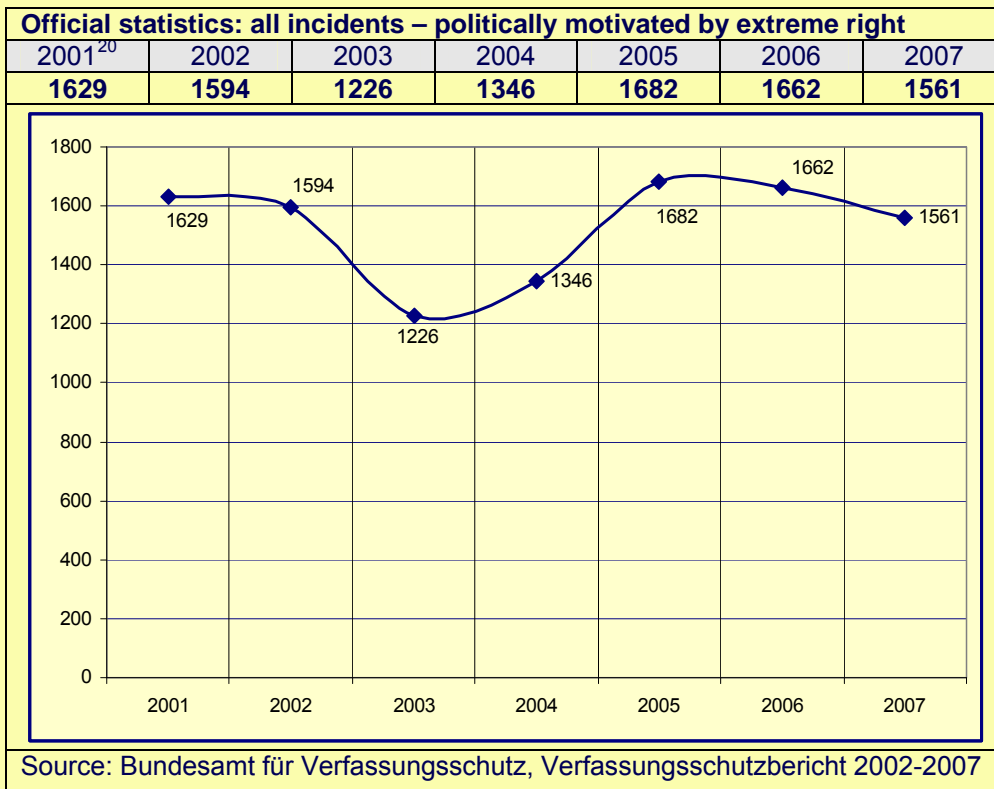
<sup>18</sup> Explanation of offences:

- "damage to dignity" is desecration of graves and damage to the integrity of a corpse
- "damage to persons" is murders, wilful acts of violence and threats directed at individuals
- "damage to property" is destruction, deterioration, theft, extortion, and threats directed at property
- "discrimination" is discrimination in hiring or dismissing an employee, discrimination in supplying goods or services (Article 225-1 to 225-4 and 432-7 of the Penal Code)
- "verbal abuse and defamation": verbal abuse, defamation, incitement to discrimination, hatred and racial violence (Freedom of the Press Act).

<sup>19</sup> There are no data regarding the ethnic origin of perpetrators.

## GERMANY

Officially the police records only “right-wing politically motivated criminality with an anti-Semitic background”. Official statistical data are provided by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution - Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz. Most of the crimes registered are non-violent crimes (e.g. 61 out of a total of 1,561 incidents recorded in 2007 were violent crimes, representing an increase from the 44 violent incidents in 2006). The figures show a peak in 2002 and 2005. The drop in 2003 was followed by a steady rise until 2005, followed by a slight drop in 2006, which continued in 2007.



On 22 July 2008 on a camping ground near Ückeritz two young men were physically attacked in two separate incidents apparently committed by the same perpetrators. One of the men informed the police that he was beaten and hurt in the face by a man out of a group of at least ten, because he had along with four friends complained about the perpetrator's offensive Nazi chants of “Buchenwald, da machen wir die Juden kalt” referring to the Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald. The men were arrested and are prosecuted.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Due to the introduction of a new system in 2001, figures of previous years are not comparable.

<sup>21</sup> See <http://www.mvregio.de/show/146525.html> (15.02.2009)

## THE NETHERLANDS

In 2007 the Public Prosecution Service reported that anti-Semitism could be identified in 50 of the total of 216 discriminatory incidents. These were about half of those identified in 2006 (108) and none involved violence. In 2006 of the 108 anti-Semitic criminal acts, 31 were committed by white suspects and 9 by suspects with an extreme right background.

<b>Official statistics: Discriminatory offences (criminal acts) involving anti-Semitism, registered by the Public Prosecution Service</b>						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
41	60	50	58	65	108	50
Source: Landelijk Expertise Centrum Discriminatie (LECD)						

<b>Official statistics: anti-Semitic discrimination incidents</b>		
Field	2006	2007
Directed to criminal investigation officers	3	2
Labour market	4	1
School and educational institutions	4	0
Sport	7	0
Bars, restaurants, catering – general	3	0
Housing environment	24	1
Street and public places	55	24
Internet	5	16
Press (media)	0	1
Other	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>50</b>
Source: Landelijk Expertise Centrum Discriminatie (2007) Figures in focus: Discrimination figures 2006 and Landelijk Expertise Centrum Discriminatie (2008) Figures in focus: Discrimination figures 2007		

The NGO Information and Documentation Centre Israel - "Centrum Informatie en Documentatie Israël" - (CIDI) 2007 reported<sup>22</sup> a sharp decline in the number of anti-Semitic incidents, after a peak in 2006. According to CIDI the decline is largely due to decrease in anti-Semitic e-mails: down to 5 from 132 in 2006, which were presumably triggered by the Lebanon war, confirming CIDI's hypothesis that increasing tensions in the Middle-East situation lead to a rise in anti-Semitic manifestations in the Netherlands. CIDI also notes, however, that the decline may be partly due to underreporting, as victims may be less prepared to report incidents and more prepared to adjust headwear and behaviour in order to avoid them, while authorities appear less prepared to take note and react adequately to incidents that were reported in 2007.

<sup>22</sup> See [http://www.cidi.nl/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=113&Itemid=156](http://www.cidi.nl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=113&Itemid=156) (12.02.2009)

<b>Unofficial statistics - CIDI (all incidents)</b>						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>168</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>104</b>
Source: CIDI, Anti-Semitic Incidents in the Netherlands, Report for 2006 and 1 January – 5 May 2007.						

The Anne Frank House also studies manifestations and developments in racism, including anti-Semitism, through its “Monitor Racism & Extremism” project. Its data indicate a drop in the number of incidents, since 2005.

<b>Unofficial statistics: Monitor Racisme &amp; Extremisme</b>						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>18</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>
Source: Reports from Racism & Extremism Monitor <sup>23</sup>						

The NGO Dutch Complaints Bureau for Discrimination on the Internet - Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet – (*MDI*)<sup>24</sup> deals with complaints about the Internet. In 2007, the Bureau received 715 complaints,<sup>25</sup> 371 on anti-Semitism (decrease of 20 percent in comparison to 2006 - 463 complaints on anti-Semitic content).

The “National Federation of Anti-Discrimination Agencies and Hotlines” - Landelijke Vereniging van Anti Discriminatie Bureaus - (LVADB) have collected the following data below.

<b>Unofficial statistics - LVADB (all incidents)</b>						
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>154</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>72</b>
Source: Kerncijfers 2007. Jaaroverzicht discriminatieklachten bij Anti Discriminatie Bureaus en Meldpunten in Nederland						

<sup>23</sup> See <http://www.annefrank.org/content.asp?pid=28&lid=2> (12.02.2009)

<sup>24</sup> More information at <http://www.meldpunt.nl> (12.02.2009)

<sup>25</sup> Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet (2008) Jaarverslag 2007, Amsterdam: Stichting Magenta

## SWEDEN

The Protection of the Constitution Section (PCS) of the Swedish Security Police (Säpo) collects data<sup>26</sup> regarding anti-Semitic crimes reported to the police. Around a third of anti-Semitic crimes are linked to “White Power” groups. Since 2005 figures data regarding hate crimes is published by the National Council for Crime Prevention - Brottsförebyggande rådet - (Brå), a governmental agency which is Sweden’s national statistical body in this field, as well as being charged with research on crime and crime prevention.

In 2007 a total of 3,536 hate crimes with xenophobic, anti-Semitic or Islamophobic motive were reported to the police; 118 of these involved an anti-Semitic motive representing a small drop in comparison to 2006.<sup>27</sup> 9 cases involved an assault or threat and the others were classified as “agitation against a national or ethnic group”.



<sup>26</sup> Caution should be used in comparing data from 2004 with that from previous years, because a new data collection method was implemented by the Swedish Security Police.

<sup>27</sup> Sweden/Brottsförebyggande rådet (2008), Hatbrott 2007 – En sammanställning av anmälningar med främlingsfientliga, islamofobiska, antisemitiska och homofobiska motiv.

## UNITED KINGDOM

The Community Security Trust (CST), part of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, provides security and defence services and advice to the Jewish community and collects relevant data in collaboration with the police. Regional police forces have also collected data since 2004.

In 2007 the CST recorded 561 incidents, representing a slight decrease from 594 incidents in 2006. However, the 117 physical assaults recorded in 2007 represent the highest number ever recorded.

In 2008 the CST<sup>28</sup> recorded 541 incidents; a slight drop compared to 2007, explained by the absence of major 'trigger events', including 88 physical assaults. This includes the murder of a Jewish man in Manchester who was stabbed to death by his assailant, who has been indefinitely detained in a high security psychiatric hospital.



The Home Office is committed to ensure that all police forces will record anti-Semitic crimes by April 1st 2009.<sup>29</sup> Pilot changes were introduced to the Annual Data Requirement (Home Office Data Hub) from April 2008. The Data Hub will improve data analysis allowing the aggregation and disaggregation of data on many levels including whether a recorded crime is perceived to be a faith hate crime. The veracity and usefulness of the new system will be tested during 2008/09.

<sup>28</sup> See [http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Incidents\\_Report\\_08.pdf](http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Incidents_Report_08.pdf) (12.02.2009)

<sup>29</sup> See <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7381/7381.pdf> (22.12.2008)

### 3. Additional information

#### Greece

In March 2008 an Athens court convicted the publisher, the editor and the columnist of a far-right weekly for hate speech against Jews<sup>30</sup> according to anti-racist criminal law n.927/79. This is the second conviction within a few months, the first concerning the publication of an anti-Semitic book. On 18.9.2008 the Athens 1st Court of Appeal confirmed the ruling.

#### Hungary

In April 2008 a young woman walked into a ticket office in the traditionally Jewish 13th District of Budapest, and asked about the concert of an extremist far-right band. The woman later claimed the ticket agents had called her a fascist and had thrown her out. The agents said that she spouted anti-Semitic abuse when told the office did not sell tickets for that event. A little later a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the office. A widely known Internet blogger urged neo-Nazis to hold a demonstration at the ticket office, and about 30 turned up on April 7 along with 300 counter demonstrators. The blogger called for a second rally, four days later, and about 1,000 extremists gathered at the same spot, and were met across police barricades, by 3,000 antifascists.<sup>31</sup>

In December 2008 members of the extreme right-wing group Hungarian Guard staged demonstrations with anti-Semitic and anti-Roma elements in the Heroes Square.<sup>32</sup>

#### Italy

In 2008 the Observatory on Contemporary Anti-Jewish Prejudice<sup>33</sup> recorded 22 cases of anti-Semitism; two related to property damage, 15 to graffiti and two publications.

In February 2008, the Jewish community of Rome informed the Police of a website with a 'black list' of 162 Jewish university professors accused of "lobbying in favour of Zionists"<sup>34</sup>. The website was immediately shut down and its owner was identified and prosecuted for violation of the law on personal data and defamation with purposes of discrimination.

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<sup>30</sup> See <http://cm.greekhelsinki.gr/index.php?sec=194&cid=3253> (12.12.2008)

<sup>31</sup> See: <http://www.origo.hu/itthon/20080407-jegyiroda-molotovkoktel-hazafias-flashmobot-szervez-a-szelsojobb.html>; (12.12.2008)

<sup>32</sup> See pp. 11-12 [www.hm.gov.hu/files/9/10534/sajtoszemle20080903.doc](http://www.hm.gov.hu/files/9/10534/sajtoszemle20080903.doc) (12.12.2008)

<sup>33</sup> See [http://www.osservatorioantisemitismo.it/tipologie.asp?idtipo=59&idmacro=1&n\\_macro=&pagina=Episodi&documento=Episodi](http://www.osservatorioantisemitismo.it/tipologie.asp?idtipo=59&idmacro=1&n_macro=&pagina=Episodi&documento=Episodi)

<sup>34</sup> 'Sul blog la 'black list' dei docenti ebrei. Il Viminale: "Faremo accertamenti"', in: *La Repubblica* (08.02.2008)

In May 2008 a national survey<sup>35</sup> found widespread negative attitudes towards Jews with 23 per cent of the respondents stating that Jews cannot be considered “completely Italians”, 39 per cent stating that Jews have a “special relationship with money”, and 11 per cent stating that “Jews lie about the Holocaust”.

## Latvia

On 27 February 2008 the memorial to the Holocaust victims in Rumbula Forest was desecrated with yellow swastikas and stars of David. A criminal case was opened under Criminal Law Section 228 (desecration of a grave) but the perpetrators have not been identified.<sup>36</sup>

On March 6, 2008 the Riga Regional Court sentenced<sup>37</sup> a man to one year and six months imprisonment for publicly stating that “Jews and Roma are non-humans and it would be preferable to exterminate them”. In August 2007 the Prosecutor’s Office had decided to discontinue proceedings in this case on grounds of freedom of speech<sup>38</sup>, but the decision was overruled by the acting senior prosecutor of the Prosecutor General Office.

## Lithuania

According to the Interior Ministry<sup>39</sup> between January and August 2008, five desecrations of Jewish cemeteries were registered (Criminal Code, Article 312 on desecration of a grave or memorial).

On 11 March 2008,<sup>40</sup> in an unauthorised march of about 200 skinheads in one of the central avenues in Vilnius, participants carrying Lithuanian and Latvian flags, and flags with swastikas, shouted anti-Semitic slogans. The event was widely covered by the media and condemned by state officials. Several skinheads were arrested and prosecuted and on 10 June 2008 three were finally convicted and fined (Criminal Code, Article 170 on incitement to hatred or discrimination).

On 10 August 2008<sup>41</sup> swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans were smeared on a wall of the Vilnius Jewish Community Centre. The President, Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the act.

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<sup>35</sup> U. De Giovannangeli (2008) ‘Ebrei, l’Italia è il paese dei pregiudizi’, in: *L’Unità* (10.05.2008)

<sup>36</sup> Ilze Nagle, Apgāna Rumbulas memoriālu, *Latvijas Avīze* 29 February, 2008

<sup>37</sup> Latvia/Rīgas apgabaltiesas Krimināllietu tiesas kolēģija/ K04-0145-08/3 (28.03.2008)

<sup>38</sup> Latvia/Rīgas Tiesas apgabala prokuratūra/Nr.3/1032-07 (12.09.2007)

<sup>39</sup> Communication of the RAXEN NFP-Lithuania (Centre of Ethnic Studies at the Institute for Social Research) to the Interior Ministry, (16.09.2008)

<sup>40</sup> M. Jackevičius (2008) ‘Šėlstantys’skinai’ policijos nedomino’, in *DELFI* (12.03.2008), available at <http://www.delfi.lt/archive/article.php?id=16279078>; *www.DELFI.lt* (2008) ‘Dėl skinų eitynių pradėtas ikiteisminis tyrimas’, in *DELFI* (13.03.2008),

<sup>41</sup> *www.LRYTAS.lt* (2008) ‘Vilniuje - vandalizmo aktas prieš žydų būstinę’, in *Lietuvos rytas*, available at <http://www.lrytas.lt/-12183581641218148257-p1-kriminalai-vilniuje-vandalizmo-aktas-prie%C5%A1-%C5%BEy%C5%B3-b%C5%ABstin%C4%99-nuotraukos.htm> (22.11.2008)



## Poland

On 29 February 2008 the Strzelce Opolskie regional court discontinued criminal proceedings regarding public Nazi salutes arguing that it could also be an “ancient Roman salute”.<sup>42</sup>

On 22 May 2008 a 19-year-old American orthodox Jew was attacked at the cemetery in Warka by a group of 20 teenagers.<sup>43</sup> The prosecutor’s office conducted investigation for public insult based on national origin (art. 257 of the Criminal Code). The case is pending at the Family Court, since the perpetrators were minors.<sup>44</sup>

In June 2008 neo-Nazi members of the “Obóz Narodowo-Radykalny” [Radical Nationalist Faction] celebrated in Myślenice the anniversary of the 1936 anti-Semitic pogroms.<sup>45</sup>

The “Never Again” Association published in 2008 the *Brown Book* for January-November 2007<sup>46</sup> listing racist incidents reported by the media or the Association’s members or supporters. It contains 146 entries, including 23 anti-Semitic incidents.

The 2007 activity report<sup>47</sup> of *Stowarzyszenie Otwarta Rzeczpospolita* [Open Republic Association] includes a list of 27 anti-Semitic incidents.

The report *Monitoring of the Racist, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Content in the Polish Press* prepared for the Interior Ministry<sup>48</sup> found in its analysis of 22 issues in nine magazines many anti-Semitic themes.

## Portugal

In August 2008 the General Attorney concluded an enquiry against two “Hammerskin” skinheads<sup>49</sup> that vandalized a Jewish graveyard in Lisbon, damaging 17 tombs and painting swastikas charging them of several

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<sup>42</sup> The judgment was appealed against by the local prosecutor’s office and the matter is being re-tried before the court in Strzelce Opolskie. In July 2008, the regional prosecutor’s office in Lublin argued likewise (referring to the Roman salute) and discontinued the investigation against a 19-year-old who uploaded a photo of himself conducting the controversial gesture to the web community portal. See: J. Brzuszkiewicz, I. Żbikowska (2008) ‘Syn burmistrza nie hajlował. On tylko pozdrawiał’, in: *Gazeta Wyborcza* (04.07.2008), available at: [http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/Wiadomosci/1.80708.5424009.Syn\\_burmistrza\\_nie\\_hajlowal\\_On\\_tylko\\_pozdrawial.html](http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/Wiadomosci/1.80708.5424009.Syn_burmistrza_nie_hajlowal_On_tylko_pozdrawial.html) (22.11.2008)

<sup>43</sup> Regional Prosecutor’s Office in Grójec in reply to the RAXEN National Focal Point letter requesting information on the case (Letter to HFHR dated 25.06.2008, ref. no. 3DS 480/08).

<sup>44</sup> Letter from the Regional Prosecutor’s Office in Grójec to RAXEN National Focal Point dated 25.06.2008, ref. no. 3DS 480/08.

<sup>45</sup> Portal Społeczności Żydowskiej, [http://www.jewish.org.pl/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1560&Itemid=57](http://www.jewish.org.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1560&Itemid=57) (22.11.2008)

<sup>46</sup> [http://nigdywiecej.org.pl/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=259&Itemid=20](http://nigdywiecej.org.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=259&Itemid=20) (22.11.2008)

<sup>47</sup> Otwarta Rzeczpospolita, *Dla tolerancji: Działania Otwartej Rzeczpospolitej 2007*, available at: <http://www.or.org.pl/druki/Raport%2008-gotowy.pdf> (22.11.2008)

<sup>48</sup> Poznańskie Centrum Praw Człowieka Instytutu Nauk Prawnych PAN (2007) *Monitorowanie treści rasistowskich, ksenofobicznych i antysemitkich w polskiej prasie*, available at: <http://www22.patrz.pl/uf/35/16/17/351617.pdf> (17.09.2008)

<sup>49</sup> See <http://www.cicdr.pt/content/view/41/16/> (26.09.2008)

crimes. Lisbon's main skinhead leader was sentenced in March 2008 to 4 years and 10 months for racial discrimination, weapons possession, etc.

## Romania

Various unofficial sources report anti-Semitic acts ranging from vandalism against Jewish property and goods to publishing anti-Semitic articles, books or making anti-Semitic public statements.

In May 6 2008 a 2006 decision by the Bucharest Appellate Court partially exonerating Marshal Antonescu and others convicted for war crimes was overturned. Antonescu was responsible for widespread atrocities against the country's Jewish community and Roma during World War II.<sup>50</sup>

In February 2008 the Prosecutor's Office in Bucharest (Sector 3) decided not to prosecute a professor who consistently denies the Holocaust in media statements and books following a criminal complaint filed by the Federation of Jewish Communities and a Jewish NGO in January 2007.<sup>51</sup>

## Slovakia

In February 2008 Grigorij Mesežnikov, a renowned political scientist and president of the Institute for Public Affairs, was attacked in Bratislava. According to the victim, the assailant openly declared that he hated Jews. The police charged the assailant with disorderly conduct and defamation of race, nation and religious beliefs.<sup>52</sup>

## Spain

In February 2008 three neo-Nazis were arrested<sup>53</sup> in Barcelona for insulting and threatening persons gathered in a local synagogue in the summer of 2006.

In March 2008 the Barcelona High Court<sup>54</sup> reduced the sentence for Pedro Varela, owner of a bookshop where Holocaust denial lectures were organised from 6 years to seven months in prison. This came after the Constitutional Court of Spain ruled that Holocaust *justification* should be punishable by imprisonment, but Holocaust *denial* should not be, as it falls

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<sup>50</sup> See 2008 International Religious Freedom Report, March 2008, available at [http://bucharest.usembassy.gov/US\\_Policy/2008\\_IRF\\_En.html](http://bucharest.usembassy.gov/US_Policy/2008_IRF_En.html)

<sup>51</sup> See US/ Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, 2008 International Religious Freedom Report, March 2008, available at [http://bucharest.usembassy.gov/US\\_Policy/2008\\_IRF\\_En.html](http://bucharest.usembassy.gov/US_Policy/2008_IRF_En.html) (last visited 29.09.2008). Although the authorities claim that the use of force was "in self-defense, responding to alleged hostility by Roma communities during police raids in search of criminal offenders.

<sup>52</sup> Grigorija Mesežnikova dnes v centre Bratislavy napadli ['Grigorij Mesežnikov Attacked in Downtown Bratislava This Morning']; available at <http://www.sme.sk/c/3748872/grigorija-meseznikova-dnes-v-centre-bratislavy-napadli.html>

<sup>53</sup> See <http://www.movimientocontralaintolerancia.com/download/raxen/37/RAX37.pdf>

<sup>54</sup> Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung / Sonntagszeitung vom 7.3.2008, p. 6

within freedom of speech. SOS Racismo announced that it would lodge an appeal against the decision.

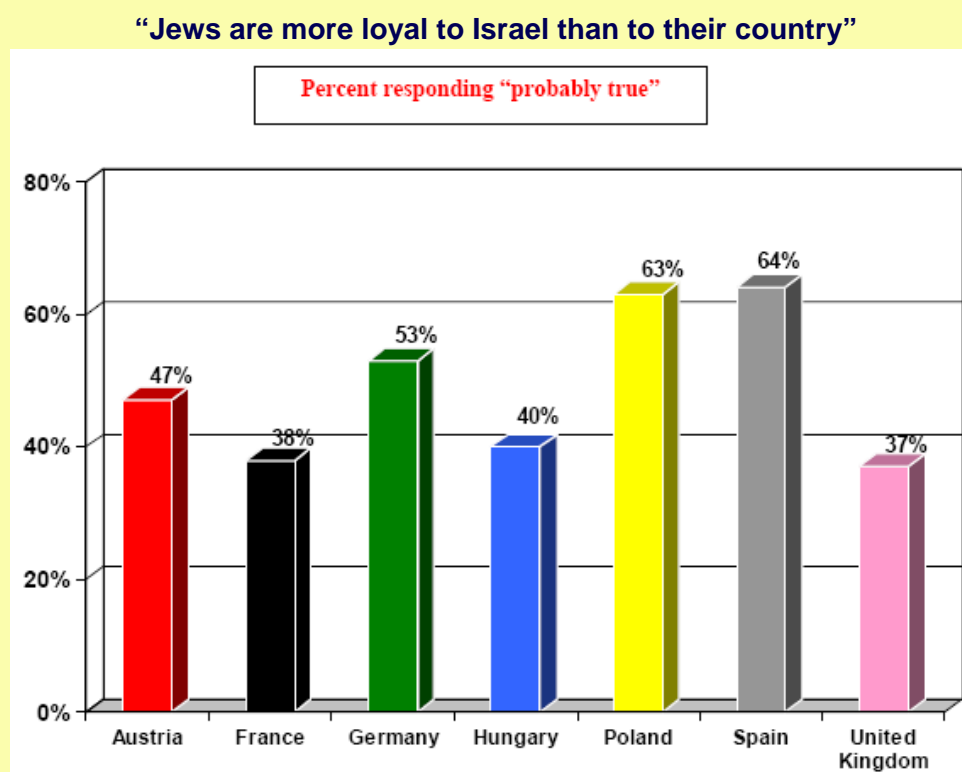
The government announced as part of its December 2008<sup>55</sup> Human Rights Plan an amendment to the Religious Freedom law, the creation of an observatory on religious pluralism and awareness training for public officials in questions of religious freedom.

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<sup>55</sup> See <http://www.la-moncloa.es/NR/rdonlyres/00016a1e/mnlxznldxhjqqvctyvsfikirrcegetsmp/ExecsummaryPlanHR1.pdf> (15.02.2009)

## 4. Anti-Semitic attitudes 2002 – 2008

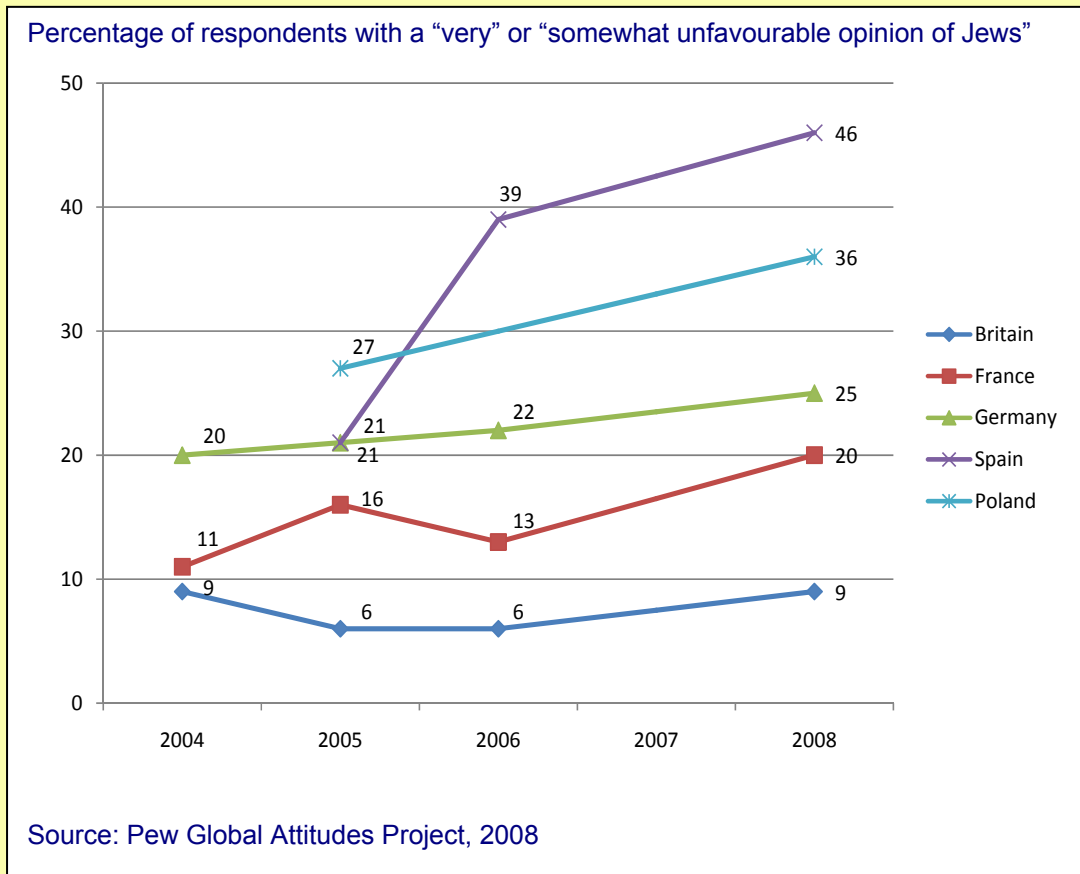
A telephone survey commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League on a random sample of 500 persons in each of the Member States of Austria, France, Hungary, Poland, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom was carried out by Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS) between December 1 2008 and January 13 2009, coinciding with the violent events in Gaza, which might have influenced the results, although this is not mentioned in the report<sup>56</sup>. The survey found that “significant percentages of European respondents continue to believe in some of the most pernicious anti-Semitic stereotypes”, like “Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their country”, “Jews have too much power in the business world”, “Jews have too much power in international financial markets”, “Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust”, and “Jews are responsible for the death of Christ.” The findings reveal that nearly half of those surveyed believe that Jews are not loyal to their country and more than one-third believe they have “too much power” in business and finance.



Source: Attitudes toward Jews in seven European countries, February 2009

<sup>56</sup> Report available in electronic form at [http://www.adl.org/Public%20ADL%20Anti-Semitism%20Presentation%20February%202009%203 .pdf](http://www.adl.org/Public%20ADL%20Anti-Semitism%20Presentation%20February%202009%203.pdf) (10.02.2009)

A similar survey carried out in 11 EU Member States in 2005 and a follow-up survey in five EU Member States in 2007 showed a marked increase in the acceptance of traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes. The results of the Pew Global Attitudes Project from five EU Member States from the period 2004-2008 also indicate an increase in anti-Semitic attitudes.<sup>57</sup>



<sup>57</sup> The Pew Global Attitudes Project (2008) *Unfavourable Views of Jews and Muslims on the Increase in Europe*. Available at <http://pewglobal.org/reports/pdf/262.pdf>

## 5. Preliminary conclusions

The available data indicate an increase in anti-Semitic activity between 2001 and 2002, between 2003 and 2004 and again in 2006, but a decrease in 2007 and 2008. Sufficient and comparable data are not available to calculate an overall trend in anti-Semitic activity in the European Union for the period 2001-2008.

France, Germany and Sweden collect sufficient official criminal justice data allowing for a trend analysis of recorded anti-Semitic crimes. To this end we are able to note that, according to official sources, recorded anti-Semitic crime has increased significantly over a period of years in France (2001-2007), but only very slightly or not at all in Germany and in Sweden.

### Trends in official recorded anti-Semitic crime by Member State<sup>58</sup>

Official data	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% change 2005-07	mean % change <sup>59</sup> 2001-06
France	219	936	601	974	508	571	386	-32%	+ 48%
Germany	1,629	1,594	1,226	1,346	1,682	1,662	1,541	- 7%	0%
Sweden	115	131	128	151	111	134	118	-12%	+ 2%

In France official data show high levels of anti-Semitic acts of violence and threats in 2002 and 2004 and lower rates for 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2006 followed by a significant drop in 2007 and 2008. However, both official and (unpublished) unofficial data point to a sharp drop in the number of anti-Semitic incidents between 2004 and 2005 followed by a small rise in 2006.

As reported in the Agency's 2007 Racism Report, it appears that dramatic increases in recorded anti-Semitic crime in France, for example in 2002 and 2004, directly reflect periods of heightened conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Palestine, which then manifests itself as anti-Semitism in France. In addition, it is important to note that partly the sharp rise in 2004 could be attributed to improvements in data collection, an increased sensitivity of the police to record anti-Semitic activities more efficiently. Similarly the sharp drop in 2005 could have been affected by measures of increased vigilance and a greater awareness of penal sanctions.

<sup>58</sup> **Note: direct comparisons between Member States of absolute figures should not be undertaken; the table should be read with respect to the trend shown within each Member State.**

<sup>59</sup> This percentage mean change is calculated on the basis of an average of the year-by-year percentage changes for the period in question for each country.

**There is a certain contradiction inherent in data collection: Where there exists a huge variation in the degree to which EU Member States collect data and the ways that they do it, there is always the danger that those with the best data collection systems become portrayed as those with the greatest problems. For example, France is the only EU country with a comprehensive data collection system of anti-Semitic incidents in school, including a new software tool for recording incidents of violence. Yet this appears to have generated the possibility that schools which have collected data most efficiently can be labelled as the 'most violent' schools. This brings the danger of the superficial judgement that those countries with the best systems have the worst problem. Instead, whilst high figures in a Member State do indicate that a serious problem exists, they also indicate that this Member State is taking the problem seriously.**

As regards general causes for increases and decreases in anti-Semitic activity, the Agency's Annual Reports have noted that for some countries statistical trends allow us to discern an impact of Middle East political developments on anti-Semitic activity (for example, the impact of the Lebanon war in France and the UK in 2006). However, due to the overall paucity of data, only speculative conclusions can be drawn for the European Union, as a whole, as to how different political developments in the Middle East could influence attitudes and behaviour of Arab and Muslim European communities, as well as the rhetoric and activities of the extreme and far- right and to some extent the extreme left.

A clear distinction must also be made between anti-Semitism in political and media discourses and incidents on the ground directed against Jews. There is no systematic research so far showing the relationship between these two strands. Therefore, the motivation of perpetrators and the relationship between their acts and anti-Semitic attitudes and ideology remains under-researched and unclear. Further national and transnational comparative research is necessary in order to establish causal links between the formation of anti-Semitic attitudes and related anti-Semitic behavioural patterns by specific population groups.

Anti-Semitic activity after 2000 is increasingly attributed to a "new anti-Semitism", characterised primarily by the vilification of Israel as the "Jewish collective" and perpetrated primarily by members of Europe's Muslim population. The available research dealing with the perception of Jews within the EU indicates that there is little evidence showing changes in the traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes. However, manifestations of anti-Semitism in politics, media, and everyday life, have indeed changed in recent years, especially since the start of the "al-Aqsa Intifada" in 2000.

## Historical background

In Europe, anti-Semitism is a very old and deeply rooted cultural trait that has found a specific political expression since the 19th century initially in the context of the development of racist ideology and later in the context of national socialist ideology. However, in the Arab and Muslim world it is rather the political conflict with Israel that led to a development of anti-Semitism rather than a dominant a priori prejudice against Jews. It is therefore reasonable to assume that anti-Semitism in European Muslim communities is directly linked with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and especially the current crisis that began in 2000 with the collapse of the Oslo peace initiative and the outbreak of the “al-Aqsa Intifada”. However, there is also some research evidence that European anti-Semitic stereotypes have in recent decades gradually been adopted by sections of Muslim communities around the world and have to some extent acquired a presence independent of underlying national conflicts.

Major aspects of post-1945 anti-Semitism are the emergence of so-called “secondary anti-Semitism” and transformations in anti-Semitic discourse and expressions through the existence of the state of Israel. Since “open anti-Semitism”, in the sense of the often self-declared anti-Semitism from before the Second World War, was after 1945 associated with “Auschwitz” (the main metaphor for the genocide against the European Jews) and was censored, anti-Semitic statements had to be rephrased so as to avoid being labelled as such, particularly in Germany, Austria and France. The result of this transformation is that post-1945 anti-Semitism can be characterised as “anti-Semitism without anti-Semites”. However, anti-Semitism after 1945 is also characterised by “secondary anti-Semitism”, which, broadly defined, is any form of anti-Semitism that is in itself a reflection of the taboo of “open anti-Semitism”. The notion is commonly used primarily to describe anti-Semitism in Austria and Germany, where secondary anti-Semitism is usually considered as a reaction to the debates on national identity and National Socialism. Drawing on older stereotypes about Jewish media influence, a typical claim of secondary anti-Semitism is, for example, that Jews are “manipulating” Germans or Austrians by exploiting feelings of guilt. The term has proliferated in scholarly analyses particularly to explain the debates on National Socialism and anti-Semitism in Germany in the 1980s. Characteristic of all forms of “secondary anti-Semitism” is that they relate directly to the Holocaust and that they allow speakers to avoid expressing open anti-Semitism. Secondary anti-Semitism also has a psychological component. Rather than constituting a form of anti-Semitism that exists in spite of the history of National Socialism, it exists because of it: As Henryk Broder aptly coined it in the context of the German debates of the 1980s: “Germans will never forgive the Jews the existence of Auschwitz.”<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> Henryk M. Broder, *Der ewige Antisemit* (Frankfurt: Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, 1986)



The impact of left anti-Zionism to this recent wave remains unclear and both secondary anti-Semitism and the use of anti-Zionism as a way of getting around the anti-Semitism taboo are prevalent particularly among the extreme and populist far right in Europe. Particularly, Holocaust denial or 'revisionism' has become a central part of the propagandistic repertoire of parties and organisations on the right fringe of the political spectrum throughout Europe. Although "revisionism" is not restricted to the right, it has become a central unifying feature of different right-wing extremist movements – both between the often-divided groups within one country and beyond national borders. In contrast to the extreme and far left, anti-Semitism forms a core element in the formation and networking of right-wing extremist groups.

### **Perpetrators of anti-Semitic acts**

As with other categories of data under the heading of anti-Semitism, there is a wide variety in the reliability and detail of information on perpetrators of anti-Semitic acts, and therefore in the generalisations that can safely be made about them. In the country sections perpetrators are identified only in France<sup>61</sup>, Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

In the course of the rise in anti-Semitic incidents over the past years, there has been a shift in media reports and in the public perception of the 'typical' anti-Semitic offender, particularly in countries, like Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden, and the UK, from the "extreme right skinhead" to the "disaffected young Muslim", "person of North African origin", or "immigrant" and member of the "anti-globalisation" left. However, this shift, although widely reported, is difficult to substantiate on the basis of the available statistical evidence, particularly as in most countries the ethnic or religious background of perpetrators is not recorded.

### **The impact of the recent violence in the Middle East**

Since the outbreak of hostilities in Gaza a number assaults against Jews, attacks on synagogues and sporadic violence have been mainly reported in France, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark and the UK by the media, while for France and Germany there are some limited official data. Below we present a collection of such incidents. The FRA will continue to collect the relevant data in 2009 to present an elaborated analysis, which will also include official data, in its 2010 update.

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<sup>61</sup> Although details about their ethnic background are not released.

In **Austria** on 12 February 2009, according to press reports,<sup>62</sup> the Ministry of Education banned (Unterrichtsverbot) an Islamic religion teacher from teaching in a school in the Vienna district of Ottakring for allegedly having urged pupils not to “buy from Jews” based on a list of multinational corporations. The Austrian Islamic Faith Community initiated disciplinary procedures and is campaigning against anti-Semitism under the motto “Yes to constructive criticism – no to defamation”.<sup>63</sup> In Innsbruck, police protection for the local synagogue was stepped up after attacks by vandals.

In **Belgium**, on 3 January 2009 unknown assailants attempted to burn the house of a Jewish family in Antwerp. This and other incidents in January prompted a joint statement by Jewish and Muslim Community leaders: “The Jews and Muslims of Antwerp do not share the same views on what is happening in the Middle East, but that is no reason to bring the conflict here. We are all Antwerpers: Flemish, Belgian and neighbours”.

The international NGO Human Rights First reported<sup>64</sup> the following incidents in early 2009:

5 January, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the Beth Hillel synagogue in Brussels causing damage to the building;

5 January, rocks were thrown through the windows of a synagogue in Charleroi for the second time in a week.

12 January, a group of seven youths insulted and hit an Orthodox Jewish man and one of his children on a train;

There were also other reports of incidents of vandalism of Jewish-owned shops that have been sprayed with anti-Semitic graffiti.

In **Cyprus**, according to the island's chief rabbi, a car carrying a Hanukkah on its roof had two of its windows broken and on January 25, following reports a possible attack on the building police surrounded the Chabad House, located in the capital.

In **Denmark**,<sup>65</sup> according to an Associated Press report, two Israelis, who sold hair care products in a shopping mall in Odense were shot and wounded by a man who then fled. One was hit in the arm, and the other suffered a leg wound. The men had been harassed recently by youths, AP reported, citing the Ritzau news agency, but the motive of the shooting remains unclear.

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<sup>62</sup> See <http://derstandard.at/PDA/?id=1234370661565> (12.02.2009)

<sup>63</sup> See <http://www.derislam.at/haber.php?sid=157&mode=flat&order=1> (12.02.2009)

<sup>64</sup> See <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/media/disc/2009/alert/390/> (12.02.2009)

<sup>65</sup> See <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=aspx4qLOnrHE> (12.02.2009)

On 5 January 2009 a school headmaster in Odense reportedly<sup>66</sup> stated that he would not register Jewish pupils fearing conflicts with the school's Palestinian pupils. A number of school administrators also said that they would recommend that Jewish children do not enrol in schools with a high concentration of pupils with Arab descent.

In **France**, the latest official data available indicate a sharp rise in serious anti-Semitic incidents.

<b>Official statistics: anti-Semitic incidents (27 December 2008 – 26 January 2009)</b>		
<b>Acts</b>	Murder/attempted murder	1
	Violence	22
	Assault/attempted assault	1
	Arson/attempted arson	7
	Verbal insults/ Vandalism	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>
<b>Threats</b>	Verbal abuse and threats	29
	Letters	3
	Inscriptions	33
<b>Total</b>		<b>65</b>
<b>TOTAL (acts and threats)</b>		<b>113</b>
Source S.P.C.J et Ministère de l'Intérieur		

Jewish organisations and the press reported in January 2009 on attacks on kosher shops in Bordeaux, a synagogue in Toulon, and an apartment and rabbi's car in Paris. Other incidents include:

On 5 January a burning car was driven at a synagogue in Toulouse;

On 11 January, a petrol bomb was thrown at a synagogue in the northern Paris suburb of Saint-Denis and set fire to an adjacent Jewish restaurant;

On 7 January, an 15-year-old Jewish girl was insulted, knocked to the ground, kicked and punched by a gang of 10 youths in Villiers-le-Bel, north of Paris; four persons were arrested and charged;

On 16 January a Jewish man was attacked in the Paris suburb Fontenay-sous-Bois and initially beaten by the two assailants in an effort to steal his car, but after noticing a Jewish religious symbol on him they stabbed him four times with a knife.

On 17 January, an 18-year-old girl was verbally and physically attacked in Enghien-les-Bains.

<sup>66</sup> See <http://www.cphpost.dk/index.php/news/national/88-national/43930-schools-caught-up-in-palestinian-conflict.html> and <http://www.fyens.dk/article/1155056:Indland-Fyn--Skoleleder-saettes-p--plads-i-joedesag?rss> (12.02.2009)

French President Nicolas Sarkozy declared that France would "not tolerate international tension mutating into violence between communities,"<sup>67</sup> and Interior Minister Michèle Alliot-Marie met with religious leaders and police to discuss the situation.

In **Germany**, the Federal Interior Ministry stated<sup>68</sup> on 17 February 2009, responding to a Parliamentary question<sup>69</sup>, that during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008 a total of 292 anti-Semitic offences with extreme right political motivation were recorded: 11 of those were violent acts, where 9 persons were injured, and 70 concerned hate speech incidents. A total of 150 suspects were questioned and four persons were arrested.

In early January 2009, the German Press Agency<sup>70</sup> reported that a police chief in Duisburg issued a formal apology after his officers tore down two Israeli flags during a recent street protest against Israel's bombing raids in Gaza. The police said they were acting to defuse a situation that threatened to turn violent as over 10,000 people marched through the city in protest at Israel's actions in Gaza.

During the same week in a separate incident in Berlin, a 35-year-old man who identified himself as Palestinian attacked a synagogue guard with an iron bar to register a protest against the war in Gaza, according to a police statement.

In **the Netherlands**, after four synagogues were targets of arson or stoning, the Prime Minister<sup>71</sup> release a statement that Dutch Muslim and Jewish groups need to work together to ease tensions citing as an example Muslim action last year to calm tempers after a Member of Parliament released a short film denouncing the Quran.

On 19 January 2009, according to an NGO report by "Centrum Informatie en Documentatie Israël" (CIDI) a house was set on fire in Amsterdam and the word "Jood" (Jew) was inscribed on the window in yellow.

On 4 February 2009 two shots were allegedly<sup>72</sup> fired at the 'Sinai' mental health clinic in Amstelveen run by the Amsterdam Jewish Community.

CIDI reports<sup>73</sup> on six violent incidents against Jewish institutions and buildings, including the shooting. The first was aimed against the liberal

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<sup>67</sup> See <http://www.euractiv.com/en/socialeurope/gaza-incursion-sparks-eu-anti-semitism-fears/article-178345> (12.02.2009)

<sup>68</sup> See <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/16/119/1611994.pdf> (23.02.2009)

<sup>69</sup> See <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/16/117/1611799.pdf> (23.02.2009)

<sup>70</sup> See <http://www.dw-world.com/dw/article/0,,3944363,00.html> (12.02.2009)

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2009/01/23/europe/EU-Netherlands-Anti-Semitism.php> (13.02.2009)

<sup>72</sup> See <http://www.ipost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1233304685408&pagename=JPArticle%2FShowFull> (15.02.2009)

<sup>73</sup> See [http://www.cidi.nl/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=228&Itemid=63](http://www.cidi.nl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=228&Itemid=63) (15.02.2009)

synagogue in Haaksbergen, where assailants threw stones at the windows. The second was an attempted arson against a Jewish institution in Arnhem, followed by a Molotov cocktail which assailants hurled at an Amsterdam Jewish-owned building. Later on, another Jewish-owned building was pelted with stones in Oss.

In **Spain**, on 30 January 2009 a synagogue in Barcelona was reportedly<sup>74</sup> attacked by unknown assailants and one of its employees was hurt with a baseball bat leading to nose fractures and bleeding.

In **Sweden**, according to press reports<sup>75</sup> during the first week of January the Jewish center in Helsingborg was attacked by arsonists who set alight the wooden staircase twice in three days by flammable liquid spread over the stairs. According to the Jewish congregation in Stockholm there were other threats against members of Jewish congregations, including cases of graffiti, as well as an arson attack at a Jewish burial chapel in Malmö.

In the **United Kingdom**, the Community Security Trust (CST) reported 24 incidents against Jewish people since December 29 2008 including arson attacks on synagogues, physical assaults of Jews and anti-Semitic graffiti across the country.

On 17 January 2009, according to media reports<sup>76</sup>, a 32-year-old Jewish man was violently attacked by two men while walking home at night in Golders Green, north London who punched and kicked him.

Prominent British Muslims have denounced anti-Semitic attacks in a letter to mosques in which a broad range of scholars and progressive thinkers appeal to British Muslims to stand by British Jews, rather than allowing extremists to attack them. The letter's signatories say they condemn "attacks on innocent British citizens and the desecration of places of worship... British Jews should not be held responsible for the actions of the Israeli government."<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> See [http://www.antisemitism.org.il/eng/events/38296/Spain\\_%E2%80%93\\_Attack\\_of\\_an\\_employee\\_in\\_a\\_synagogue\\_in\\_Barcelona](http://www.antisemitism.org.il/eng/events/38296/Spain_%E2%80%93_Attack_of_an_employee_in_a_synagogue_in_Barcelona) (15.02.2009)

<sup>75</sup> See <http://www.thelocal.se/16782/20090107/> (12.02.,2009)

<sup>76</sup> See [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/7885233.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7885233.stm) (15.02.2009)

<sup>77</sup> See [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/7831897.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7831897.stm) (15.02.2009)