

FRA Working Paper

Anti-Semitism

**Summary overview of the situation in the
European Union 2001-2009**

April 2010

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Introduction

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights¹ (FRA) presents its 6th update of its 2004 report “Manifestations of anti-Semitism in the EU”. This update contains the latest governmental and non-governmental statistical data covering 2001 to 2009 for those EU Member States that have official or unofficial data and statistics on anti-Semitic incidents. The FRA collects regularly through its Racism and Xenophobia Network (RAXEN)² and analyses publicly available official and unofficial data and information on racism and xenophobia 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 using different definitions and 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 incident lists can be found in the Agency’s *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 criminal justice data, because not all officially registered anti-Semitic incidents are categorised under the label “anti-Semitism”, and/or because not all anti-Semitic incidents are reported to an official body by victims or witnesses.

Another problem, in unofficial data collection and when the methodology applied is not robust is when the same incident, is recorded twice under a different category, e.g. under ‘defamation’ and under ‘property damage’.

According to NGO and media reports, “Operation Cast Lead” in the Gaza strip at the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 led to a considerable increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents. However, although this is widely documented, the official data presented in this report cover only 2008 and therefore do not yet reflect it. Official data for 2009 will become available later in the year. Nevertheless, efforts have been made to include more recent data in this report, where available.

¹ 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>

² RAXEN is a network of National Focal Points in each EU Member State contracted by the FRA to collect data on racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerances.

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 the political conflict with Israel played an important role in the development of anti-Semitism. There is 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 anti-Semitic stereotypes, a typical claim of secondary anti-Semitism is, for example, that Jews are “manipulating” Germans or Austrians by exploiting feelings of guilt. 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.

While the impact of left anti-Zionism remains unclear, 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 forming a core element in the formation and cross-border cooperation of right-wing extremist groups.

Data update by country

Austria

In Austria, anti-Semitic incidents are recorded officially in the context of monitoring extreme right-wing activities. Extremist offences under Austria's *Prohibition Statute*³ may encompass Holocaust denial, as well as the revitalisation of Nazi ideology. The NGO "Forum gegen Antisemitismus"⁴ - Forum against Anti-Semitism - and NGO "ZARA"⁵ also record incidents.

According to the official statistics the number of anti-Semitic incidents increased in 2008 to 23 incidents from 15 incidents in 2007, following another increase between 2006 and 2007. While the number of incidents that are officially recorded remains lower than the number of incidents based on unofficial sources, the figure for the official recorded incidents in 2008 is the highest in the period 2001-2008. The peak in the number of anti-Semitic incidents is part of an overall increase between 2007 and 2008 in the number of generally right-wing extremist and xenophobic incidents, including agitation against a group, display of forbidden symbols, and other relevant crimes.

By contrast the unofficial statistics recorded by the "Forum gegen Antisemitismus" show a decreasing trend in the number of cases in 2003-2008. The information currently available for 2009, however, evidences a sharp increase, with a total of 200 incidents during 2009. The number of anti-Semitic graffiti recorded by the NGO ZARA decreased in 2008, while the share of anti-Semitic graffiti out of the total number of racist graffiti recorded by ZARA increased to 52%.⁶

Official statistics (recorded criminal offences)							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
3	20	9	17	8	8	15	23
Source: Sicherheitsbericht 2002-2004; Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz und Terrorismusbekämpfung, Verfassungsschutzbericht 2006-2009							

Unofficial statistics (incidents)							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
incomplete data ⁷	incomplete data ⁹	134	122	143	125	62	46
Source: NGO: Forum gegen Anti-Semitismus							

Unofficial statistics (Graffiti)							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
no data	no data	18	17	10	9	60	33
Source: ZARA, Racism Reports 2004-2008							

³ Verbotsgesetz, Austria / BGBl 127/1945 last amendment by BGBl 148/1992 (19.03.1992)

⁴ See <http://www.fga-wien.at/> (22.01.2009)

⁵ See <http://www.zara.or.at/> (22.01.2009)

⁶ ZARA, Racism Report 2008, Racist Incidents and Structures in Austria, p. 32, available at: http://www.zara.or.at/doc/2009/ZARA_RassismusReport2008.pdf

⁷ Monitoring covers only a few months

On 9 May 2009, a group of five adolescents aged between 14 and 17 years disturbed the commemoration of the liberation of the former concentration camp Ebensee. They shouted Nazi slogans and three of them shot with soft guns at the visitors of the commemoration festivities, some of them Holocaust survivors.⁸ The public prosecutor initiated investigations with regard to offences of the Verbotsgesetz [Prohibition Act].

On 12 February 2009, according to press reports,⁹ the Ministry of Education banned (Unterrichtsverbot) an Islamic religion teacher from teaching in a school in Vienna 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".¹⁰

According to press reports,¹¹ a man attacked the principal of the city's Jewish school run by the Chabad-Lubavitch Chassidic movement punching him as he conducted the annual ceremony to light the public Chanukah menorah in the Stefenfaltz Square in Vienna. The victim suffered severe injury as part of his finger was severed. The perpetrator was arrested by the police.

⁸ See <http://diepresse.com/home/politik/innenpolitik/478851/index.do?from=simarchiv> (24.09.2009).

⁹ See <http://derstandard.at/PDA/?id=1234370661565> (12.02.2009)

¹⁰ See <http://www.derislam.at/haber.php?sid=157&mode=flat&order=1> (12.02.2009)

¹¹ See <http://www.oe24.at/oesterreich/chronik/wien/Wiener-Rabbi-fast-den-Finger-abgebissen-0596882.ece> (02.03.2010)

Belgium

The federal national equality body, “Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism”¹² (CEOOR), collects and investigates reports of anti-Semitism and compiles statistics. The police in general do not record separately anti-Semitic incidents and these are coded under various categories relating to racist and xenophobic offences; however, since 2006 the police has implemented separate registration codes for some incidents which may be linked to anti-Semitic sentiment. The Federal police statistics for 2008 show three incidents on ‘genocide denial’ and four incidents on ‘approval or justification of the genocide committed by the Nazi’s during the Second World War’.

The CEOOR statistics on anti-Semitic incidents have settled to a relatively steady level in the period 2004-2008, after an increase between 2003 and 2004. Unofficial statistics by the NGO “Bureau Exécutif de Surveillance Communautaire”¹³ (BESC) show in 2004-2008 a level of anti-Semitic acts that is close to the incident statistics reported by CEOOR. During 2001-2004 the number of anti-Semitic acts fluctuated between 28 and 62 acts, before settling to a higher level of 60-73 acts in 2004-2008. However, in an analysis of the incidents recorded in Belgium at the time of the Israeli ‘Cast Lead’ operation, the BESC report 40 anti-Semitic acts in January 2009 alone.¹⁴

Official statistics: complaints of anti-Semitism							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No data	30	30	69	58	64	67	66
Source: Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism							
Official statistics: Anti-Semitism related complaints by category							
Category	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008		
Verbal aggression	23	18	14	17	16		
Letters, articles	14	9	16	8	3		
Media	5	2	1	3	0		
Internet	10	11	21	25	26		
Violence	9	6	3	0	5		
Vandalism	3	6	3	9	7		
Genocide denial	3	6	3	1	8		
Other	2	-	3	4	1		
Total	69	58	64	67	66		
Source: Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism							

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

¹² See <http://www.diversite.be/> (14.02.2009)

¹³ See http://www.antisemitisme.be/site/homepage_fr.asp (14.02.2009)

¹⁴ See Antisémitisme en Belgique – Conséquences de l’opération « Plomb durci », available at <http://www.antisemitisme.be/site/downloadFile.asp?language=FR&attId=97&catId=41&eventId=920> (04.02.2010)

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 Antwerpens: Flemish, Belgian and neighbours".

The international NGO Human Rights First reported¹⁵ 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.

The NGO ADL also reported¹⁶ on several attacks on Jewish buildings in January 2009 and the following other incidents in Antwerp during 2009:

On 11 June a group of Arab teenagers threw rocks at children of the Belzer Hasidic community.

On 21 April a 78-year-old Orthodox Jewish man was attacked and briefly hospitalized.

On 3 March four Jewish men from the Belzer Hasidic community were attacked with a metal bar and hospitalized.

¹⁵ See <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/media/disc/2009/alert/390/> (12.02.2009)

¹⁶ See http://www.adl.org/Anti_semitism/anti-semitism_global_incidents_2009.asp (12.03.2010)

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 2008 the statistics report 27 incidents, which is the highest number since data collection was started in 2005. The peak follows a two-year period when the number of cases remained under the 2005 level of 23 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 number of cases recorded by the Forum against Anti-Semitism in 2008, 44 incidents, is the highest what has been recorded in the four-year period 2005-2008.

Official statistics: recorded criminal offences							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
no data	no data	no data	no data	23	14	18	27
Source: Czech Republic, Ministry of the Interior, Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2006, Strategie boje proti extremismu, 2009							

Unofficial statistics: reports on anti-Semitic attacks							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
no data	no data	no data	no data	19	34	26	44 ¹⁷
Source: Fórum proti Antisemitismu							

¹⁷ Reported by the Fórum proti Antisemitismu to the OSCE, see p. 43-44 in *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses*. OSCE, 2008, available at http://www.osce.org/publications/odhr/2009/11/41314_1424_en.pdf (09.02.2010)

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”¹⁸ and the NGO “Documentation and Advisory Centre on Racial Discrimination”¹⁹ (DACoRD). While the number of anti-Semitic incidents registered by DACoRD has remained low in 2003-2007, the organisation indicated that for 2009 they recorded 20 incidents in January alone. Det Mosaiske Trossamfund data show a considerable decline since 2006, when 40 incidents were recorded, to 10 incidents in 2007 and one incident in 2008.

Unofficial statistics							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No data	No data	1	6	3	4	1	3
Source: Documentation and Advisory Centre on Racial Discrimination (DACoRD)							
Unofficial statistics: all incidents							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No data	No data	29	37	37	40	10	1
Source: Det Mosaiske Trossamfund							

On 5 January 2009 a school headmaster in Odense reportedly²⁰ 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.

¹⁸ See <http://www.mosaiske.dk/> (28.01.2010)

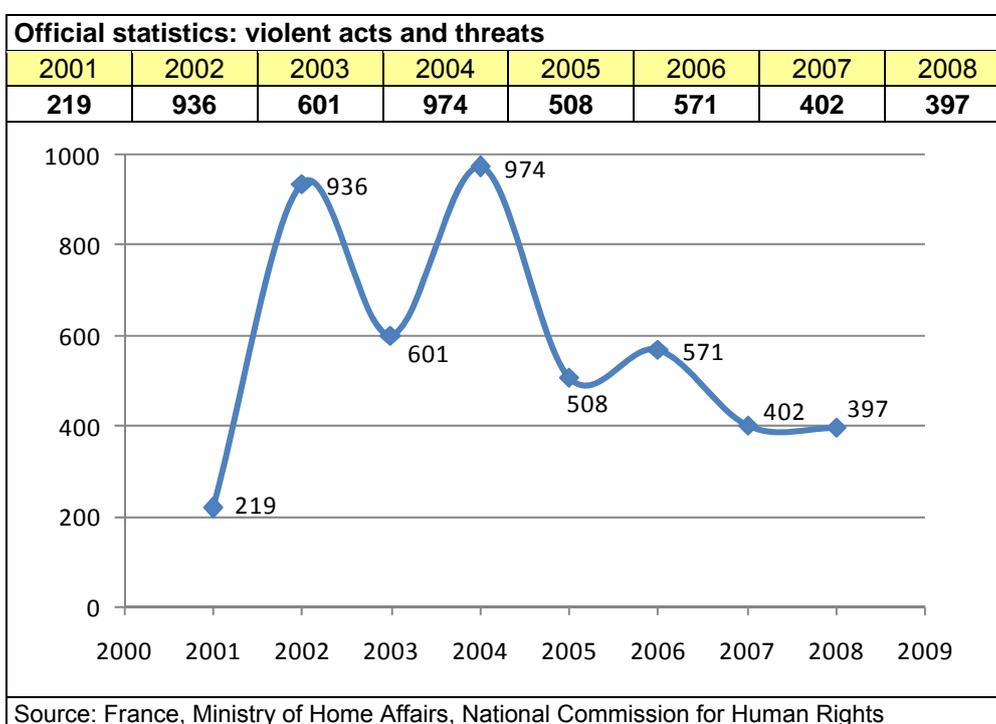
¹⁹ See <http://www.drcenter.dk/> (28.01.2010)

²⁰ 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)

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, and from 2005 to 2008.

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 officially recorded incidents remained stable in 2008 compared to 2007. The number of incidents in 2008 was the lowest recorded between 2002 and 2008.



Unofficial statistics: various incidents and registered complaints							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 ²¹	2008
No data available	516	503	590	300	371	473	474

Source: CRIF, Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive

The Service for the Protection of the Jewish Community²² (Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive – SPCJ) recorded in 2008 474 incidents compared to 473 in 2007. However, in 2009 the number of incidents climbed sharply to 832. According to the SPCJ report this increase is for the most part attributable to the

²¹ In a report published by the SPCJ in 2008 the number of incidents given for 2007 is 261 – however, in the report published in 2009 the figure for 2007 has been revised to be 473. The increase in the number of incidents between the two reports is for the most part due to the considerable increase in recorded threats.

²² Coordinated by the French Central Consistory, the Consistory of Paris, CRIF and the Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU)

incidents recorded in January 2009. However, even by excluding January 2009, comparing the rest of the year to a comparable period in 2008 still shows an increase of 10% in the number of incidents.²³ While the number of anti-Semitic acts increased from 150 to 174 between 2008 and 2009, the number of threats rose from 324 to 658.

Official data: Cases²⁴ registered by the Prosecution Services											
January – September 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 ²⁵
2	1	26	18	54	9	8	6	121	76	211	110

Source: Criminal affairs and Pardon Board – Direction des affaires criminelles et des grâces (DACG) – Ministry of Home Affairs, National Commission for Human Rights

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 abused and physically attacked in Enghien-les-Bains.

On March 9 in Creteil an 18 year old Jewish youth wearing a yarmulke was attacked by three men who were arrested by the police.

²³ See Rapport sur l'antisémitisme en France 2009, available at <http://www.spcj.org/rapport2009.pdf> (04.02.2010)

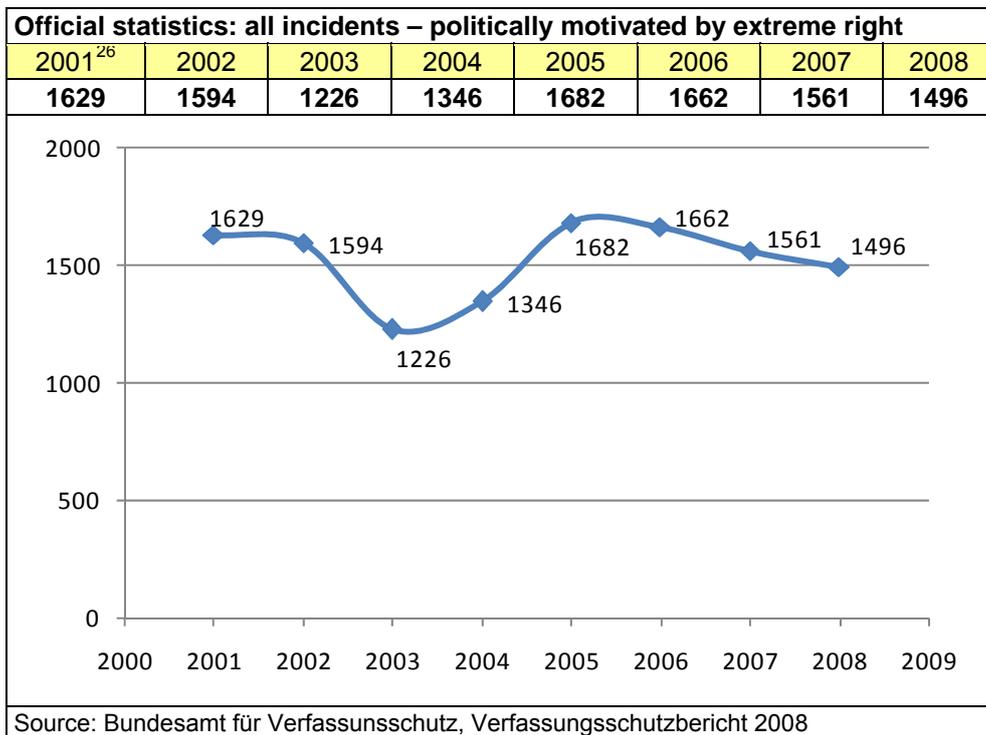
²⁴ Explanation of offences:

- "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).

²⁵ 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 collected by the Federal Criminal Police Office – Bundeskriminalamt – and published annually by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution – Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz. Most of the crimes registered are non-violent crimes (e.g. 44 out of a total of 1,496 incidents recorded in 2007 were violent crimes, down from 61 violent incidents in 2007). The trend shows 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 and 2008.



In early January 2009, the German Press Agency²⁷ reported that 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.

²⁶ Due to the introduction of a new system in 2001, figures of previous years are not comparable.

²⁷ See <http://www.dw-world.com/dw/article/0,,3944363,00.html> (12.02.2009)

The Netherlands

In 2009 the Landelijk Expertise Centrum Discriminatie (LECD) – National Discrimination Expertise Centre – published their first report on discriminatory incidents recorded by the police in the Netherlands. This data has become available following the introduction of a national uniform registration system of discriminatory incidents, as reported to the police. According to the report, in 2008 the Dutch police services recorded 141 cases of discriminatory incidents with anti-Semitic motive, while the Public Prosecution Service identified anti-Semitism in 49 discriminatory incidents. During 2001-2008 the number of anti-Semitic incidents has remained between 41 and 65, with the notable exception of 2006 when 108 such incidents were recorded.

Official statistics: Discriminatory offences (criminal acts) involving anti-Semitism, registered by the Public Prosecution Service							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
41	60	50	58	65	108	50	49
Source: Landelijk Expertise Centrum Discriminatie (LECD)							

Official statistics: Discriminatory offences (criminal acts) involving anti-Semitism, registered by the Public Prosecution Service			
Field	2006 ²⁸	2007 ³³	2008
Street and public places	55	24	15
Internet	5	16	13
Sport / educational institutions	11	0	6
Directed to criminal investigation officers	3	2	5
Housing environment	24	1	4
Other	6	6	4
Labour market	4	1	2
Total	108	50	49
Source: Landelijk Expertise Centrum Discriminatie (LECD)			

The NGO Information and Documentation Centre Israel – “Centrum Informatie en Documentatie Israël” – (CIDI) data shows that the number of incidents recorded by the centre remained in 2008 at a level comparable to that of 2007, which was preceded by a sharp decline after a peak in the number of anti-Semitic incidents in 2006²⁹. In their analysis of the anti-Semitic incidents over the period 2001-2008, the CIDI report argues that the higher level of incidents in 2002-2004 and 2006 coincide with periods of heightened Israeli military activity. In addition to the 2008 incidents the CIDI report examines incidents, which took place during 27

²⁸ The categories for incidents in 2006 and 2007 have been regrouped in order to conform with the classification used for 2008 statistics.

²⁹ See <http://www.cidi.nl/dossiers/an/rapporten/Monitor%20Antisemitische%20incidenten%20in%20Nederland%2008.pdf> (28.01.2010)

December 2008 – 23 January 2009, corresponding to the period of Israeli military activity in the Gaza strip. During this period alone CIDI recorded 98 incidents out of which 10 took place in 2008 and the rest in 2009.

Unofficial statistics – CIDI (all incidents)							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
168	359	334	327	159	261	104	108

Source: CIDI, Monitor antisemitische incidenten in Nederland: 2008

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

Unofficial statistics – Monitor Racisme & Extremisme (racial violence)							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
18	46	39	Not available	41	35	21	14

Source: Reports from Racism & Extremism Monitor³⁰

The NGO Dutch Complaints Bureau for Discrimination on the Internet – Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet – (MDI)³¹ deals with internet related complaints. Out of a total of 1,501 cases handled by the Bureau in 2008, 344 concerned anti-Semitism.³² This is a slight decrease from 2007 when 371 cases regarding anti-Semitism were processed.

Unofficial statistics: Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
197	533	477	531	302	463	371	344

Source: Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet, Jaarverslag 2001-2008

Art.1, a national association of local and regional anti-discrimination agencies and the former National Bureau against Discrimination, has published the following statistics on complaints related to anti-Semitic incidents showing a significant increase from 2007 to 2008:

Unofficial statistics – Art.1 (all incidents)							
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
154	184	139	119	94	132	72	123

Source: Kerncijfers 2008. Landelijk overzicht van discriminatieklachten geregistreerd bij antidiscriminatiebureaus en meldpunten in Nederland

³⁰ See <http://www.annefrank.org/content.asp?pid=28&lid=2> (28.01.2010)

³¹ More information at <http://www.meldpunt.nl> (28.01.2010)

³² Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet (2009) Jaarverslag 2008, Amsterdam: Stichting Magenta

In January 2009, after four synagogues were targets of arson or stoning, the Prime Minister³³ released 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.

CIDI reports³⁴ on six violent incidents against Jewish institutions and buildings, including the shooting. The first was aimed against the liberal 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.

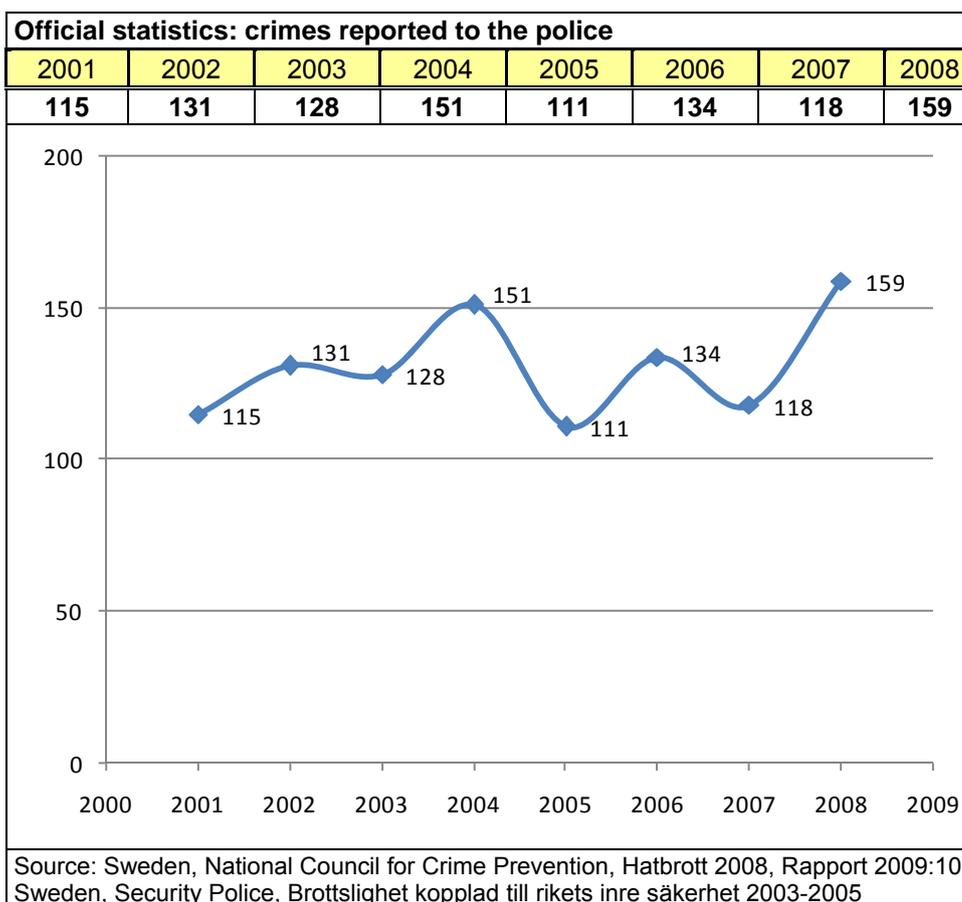
³³ <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2009/01/23/europe/EU-Netherlands-Anti-Semitism.php> (13.02.2009)

³⁴ See http://www.cidi.nl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=228&Itemid=63 (15.02.2009)

Sweden

Since 2005 data regarding hate crimes are published by the National Council for Crime Prevention – Brottsförebyggande rådet (Brå) – a governmental agency charged with producing the official crime statistics, as well as conducting research on crime and crime prevention. Before 2005 data regarding anti-Semitic crimes were collected by the Protection of the Constitution Section (PCS) of the Swedish Security Police (Säpo). Due to the change in the data collection methodology, when the responsibility for producing the hate crime statistics was transferred to Brå, statistical data before and after 2005 is not directly comparable.

In 2008 a total of 4,826 hate crimes against a religious group or with a xenophobic or racist motive were reported to the police³⁵; 159 of these involved an anti-Semitic motive, including 80 crimes against the person and 37 cases of agitation against a national or ethnic group³⁶. The total number of anti-Semitic incidents in 2008 was the highest recorded in the period 2001-2008.



³⁵ There was a sharp rise in the number of hate crimes reported to the police in 2008, from 3,536 cases in 2007 to 4,826 in 2008. However, this is partly due to a new definition of hate crime introduced in 2008. While the change in the definition does have an effect on the overall number of hate crimes, according to Brå, the change does not have an impact on the number of anti-Semitic hate crimes, and therefore the number of anti-Semitic hate crimes can be reliably compared to the previous years.

³⁶ Sweden/Brottsförebyggande rådet (2009), Hatbrott 2008 – Polisanmälningar där det i motivbilden ingår etnisk bakgrund, religiös tro, sexuell läggning eller könsöverskridande identitet eller uttryck.

Skånska Dagbladet, a newspaper based in Malmö in southern Sweden, published in January 2010 a series of articles on the situation of the local Jewish community who report on their experiences of anti-Semitic threats and attacks. The interview of the mayor of Malmö, which was published in the same newspaper, created concern due to comments which were considered anti-Semitic, and for failing to address the problem of anti-Semitic incidents in the city.³⁷ In response to a written question of a member of the Swedish Parliament the Minister of Justice stated that while the issue of security of the Jewish community is taken seriously by the government, the police does not consider that there would have been any recent change in the level of threat against the Jews in Sweden.³⁸

According to press reports³⁹ during the first week of January 2009 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.

³⁷ <http://www.skanskan.se/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100201/MALMO/100209982/1057> (04.03.2010)

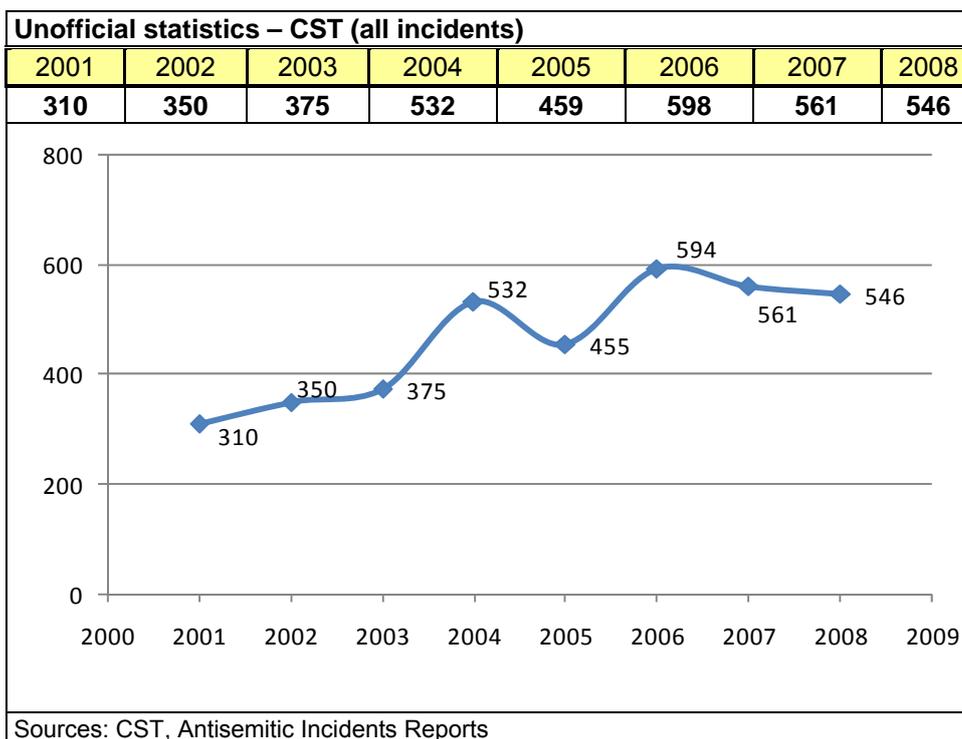
³⁸ See Answer to a written question 2009/10:443 at http://www.riksdagen.se/webbnav/index.aspx?nid=71&dtyp=frs&rm=2009/10&dok_id=GX12443&nr=443 (04.02.2010)

³⁹ See <http://www.thelocal.se/16782/20090107/> (12.02.2009)

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 2008 the CST recorded 541 incidents, which is lower than the number of incidents recorded in the two previous years, but still higher than the annual number of incidents in years 2001-2005⁴⁰. In addition to a case of homicide, 87 incidents of assault were recorded in 2008.



Unofficial statistics – CST, Incidents by category					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Extreme violence	4	2	4	1	1
Assault	79	79	110	116	87
Damage & Desecration	53	48	70	65	76
Threats	93	25	28	24	28
Abusive behaviour	272	278	366	336	317
Literature	31	27	20	19	37
Total	532	459	598	561	546

Sources: CST, Antisemitic Incidents Report 2008

The data released by the CST in February 2010 on anti-Semitic incidents recorded in 2009 show that the total number of incidents has almost doubled from 546 in 2008 to 924 incidents in 2009. Out of the total, 402 incidents were

⁴⁰ See http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Incidents_Report_08.pdf (29.01.2010)

recorded in January-February 2009 alone. While 124 violent assaults in 2009 is the highest number of such offences ever recorded in one year by the CST, the proportion of violent assaults out of all incidents declined for the second year in a row. Out of the 124 violent incidents three incidents can be considered extreme violence (threat to life or grievous bodily harm). The largest incident category is abusive behaviour with 605 incidents in 2009.

The Home Office has committed itself to ensure that all police forces will record anti-Semitic crimes by April 1st 2009. 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.⁴¹

On 17 January 2009, according to media reports⁴², a 32-year-old Jewish man was violently attacked while walking home at night in Golders Green, north London by two men who punched and kicked him.

In January 2009 prominent British Muslims 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."⁴³

⁴¹ See <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7381/7381.pdf> (12.10.2009)

⁴² See http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7885233.stm (15.02.2009)

⁴³ See http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7831897.stm (15.02.2009)

Additional selected country information

Bulgaria

Incidents against Jewish property (buildings and monuments) that the FRA reported in 2009 resulted in a joint declaration by the *Организация на евреите в България 'Шалом'* [Organisation of the Jews in Bulgaria 'Shalom'] and the *Централния израилтянски духовен съвет* [Central Israelite Spiritual Council], where the organisations express their concerns for the increased number of cases of vandalism against buildings and monuments related to the history and life of Jews in Bulgaria and called upon the Bulgarian people to oppose any act of hatred and xenophobia.⁴⁴

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 of a possible attack on the building police surrounded the Chabad House, located in the capital.

Finland

Since 2003 the Finnish Police College analyses crime reports submitted by the police and reports annually on racist crime. Following a review of the monitoring process new categories were introduced in 2009, including a category for crimes based on the victim's religion. An analysis of 2007 crime reports did not find any incidents that could have been characterised as anti-Semitic. The 2009 report (based on crimes reported in 2008) states that from a total of 53 crimes based on victim's religion most concern Muslims or Christians, and only a few cases involving victims of other religious groups could be found (the report does not individualise anti-Semitic incidents).

On 18 February 2009, the Helsinki Court of Appeal upheld a decision of the Helsinki District Court pertaining to a case of a self-published poetry book, which slandered asylum seekers, migrants, ethnic minority groups and praised the Holocaust. The Helsinki Court of Appeal sentenced the author to pay 30 day-fines and to forfeit all copies of the publication, as was decided by the District Court of Helsinki on 15 January 2008.⁴⁵

Greece

The General Prosecutor of the Supreme Court exercised his right to appeal the court decision which led to the acquittal of a defendant accused of publishing anti-Semitic material. This had been the first time the courts effectively implemented the anti-racism law No 927/79 in Greece and it concerned a major case of hate speech and incitement to violence against Jews, which ended with

⁴⁴ Bulgaria/Национален съвет за сътрудничество по етническите и демографските въпроси (2009) *Разпространена е Декларация на Организацията на евреите в България „Шалом“ и на Централния израилтянски духовен съвет срещу вандалските прояви на ксенофобия и антисемитизъм*, available at: <http://www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=73&id=1116> (29.09.2009).

⁴⁵ Helsingin hovioikeus/R 08/607 (18.02.2009).

an acquittal of the author of a racist book and a far-right wing political figure. The acquittal was heavily criticised by national and international organisations, as well as by the Greek Foreign Minister. UN CERD requested information on the court case in relation to its August meeting discussing Greece's progress on the International Covenant for the Combating all forms of Racial Discrimination.

Ireland

The Central Statistics Office Ireland publishes statistics on crime based on the information provided by the police (An Garda Síochána). In year 2009, the police recorded 5 incidents with an anti-Semitic motive, compared to 7 incidents in 2008, 2 incidents in 2007 and 1 incident in 2006 (all provisional information).

Italy

According to information reported by the Italian authorities to the OSCE, the Interior Ministry in Italy recorded 23 anti-Semitic offences in 2008. These incidents included 4 cases of threats and insults and 8 instances of anti-Semitic graffiti.⁴⁶

Spain

According to the Anti-Defamation League⁴⁷, on January 2009 a man with a baseball bat repeatedly struck the nameplate of a synagogue in Barcelona. When an employee of the synagogue approached the man, he was hit in one arm and head. Passers-by alerted the police and the attacker was arrested. The synagogue employee required hospitalization for a fractured arm and head contusions. In the same month and city, the windows of the Chabad house were broken and 'assassins' was spray-painted on the building.

⁴⁶ See *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses*. OSCE, 2008, available at http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2009/11/41314_1424_en.pdf (09.02.2010)

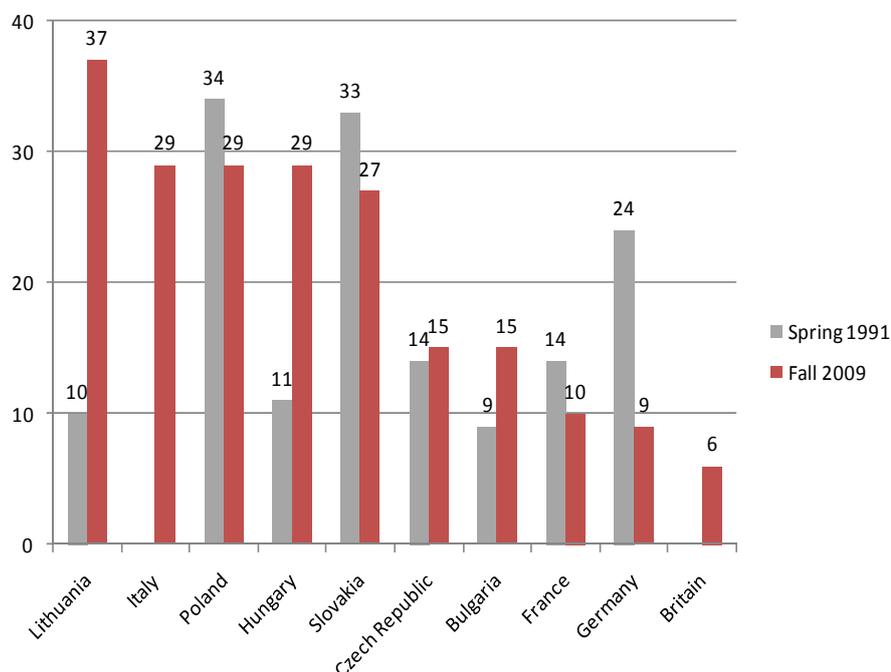
⁴⁷ See http://www.adl.org/Anti_semitism/anti-semitism_global_incidents_2009.asp#Spain (02.09.2009).

Anti-Semitic attitudes

In August-September 2009 the Pew Global Attitudes Project conducted surveys in 14 countries, including 11 EU Member States, with a sample of approximately 1,000 respondents per country. Out of the EU Member States, in the UK, France, Germany and Spain the interviews were carried out over telephone, while in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia respondents were interviewed face-to-face.⁴⁸ The survey was designed to provide an update on a similar study conducted in 1991, when the focus was on Central and East Europe.

Among other topics, the survey asked the respondents to give their opinion on selected minority groups, including the Jewish.⁴⁹ The results from ten Member States (results on Spain regarding this item are not available, and in the case of Italy and the UK there is no comparable data for 1991) suggest a large increase in anti-Semitic attitudes in Lithuania and Hungary, and a smaller increase in Bulgaria, between 1991 and 2009. The level of anti-Semitic sentiment remains relatively high in Italy and, despite some decrease, also in Poland and Slovakia. While the results for the Czech Republic show a relatively stable level, the measurements for France and Germany show a decrease in unfavourable opinions of Jews.

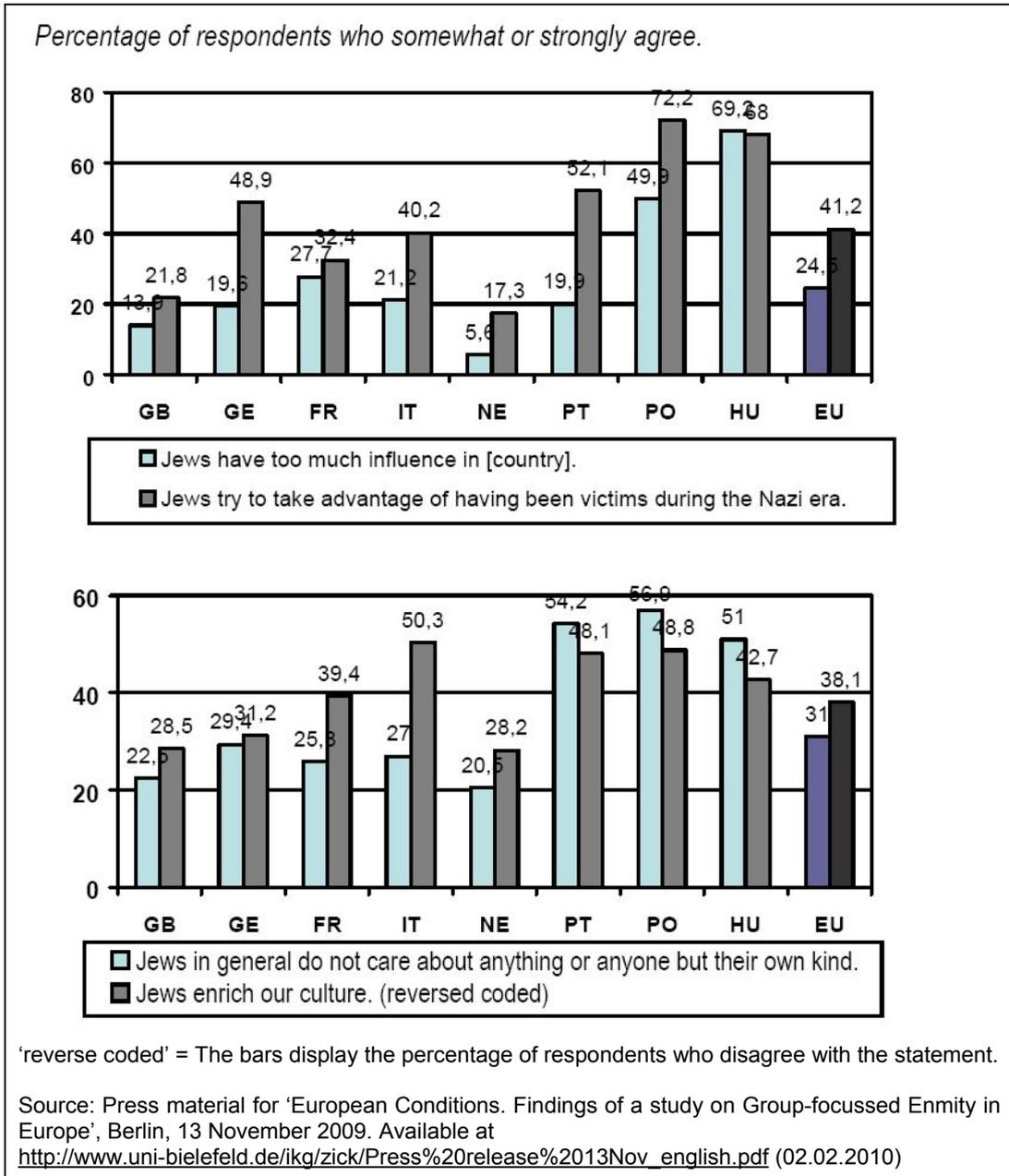
Percentage of respondents with very unfavourable or mostly unfavourable opinion of Jews in their country



⁴⁸ For details on the survey methodology used please see pp. 85-92 in *Two Decades After the Wall's Fall*, The Pew Global Attitudes Project (2009) – <http://pewglobal.org/reports/pdf/267.pdf> (02.02.2010)

⁴⁹ Q22 – I'd like you to rate some different groups of people in (survey country) according to how you feel about them. Please tell me whether your opinion is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable or very unfavorable: Jews.

In November 2009 findings of the 'European Conditions – study on group focused enmity in Europe' survey were presented in Berlin. The research, coordinated by researchers of the University of Bielefeld, Germany, covered eight EU Member States: UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, Poland and Hungary. One of the study components involved a telephone survey with a representative sample of 1,000 respondents in each country measuring respondents' attitudes towards various minority groups.



Concluding remarks

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. Based on the available data, despite the recent reduction in the number of anti-Semitic incidents in France, the annual level of incidents remains above that of 2001 and an overall increasing trend can be observed. The number of official recorded incidents in Sweden increased between 2007 and 2008, but over the eight-year period 2001-2008 the level of incidents has remained relatively stable. The number of incidents in Germany had a low point in 2003 and increased in 2004 and 2005, but since 2005 the number of recorded incidents has followed a downward trend.

Trends in official recorded anti-Semitic crime by Member State⁵⁰

Official data	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-08	Mean change ⁵¹
France	219	936	601	974	508	571	402	397	- 1%	+ 41% 2001-08
Germany	1,629	1,594	1,226	1,346	1,682	1,662	1,561	1,496	- 4%	- 0.3% 2001-08
Sweden	115	131	128	151	111	134	118	159	+ 35%	+ 7% 2001-08

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. The available data for 2009 from various organisations and Member States suggest that there will be an increase in recorded cases in 2009.

⁵⁰ **Note:** No direct comparisons of absolute figures between Member States are possible; the table should be read with respect to the trend shown only within each Member State.

⁵¹ 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 EU, as a whole, as to how different political developments in the Middle East could influence attitudes and behaviour of Europeans, in particular 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, but sometimes also by members of the extreme left. 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.

Perpetrators of anti-Semitic acts

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 France⁵², Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

As the FRA has noted in the past, in the course of the past years, there has been a shift in media and NGO reports and in the public perception of the ‘typical’ anti-Semitic offender 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 currently available evidence.

⁵² Although details about their ethnic background are not released.

Annex I - Anti-Semitism in sports

In 2009 the FRA carried out research on racism and ethnic discrimination in sports. The research revealed that anti-Semitic incidents are registered in many EU Member States in relation to sports, in particular both amateur and professional football.

For example, players in Jewish teams have been subjected to anti-Semitic slander and threats by players of other teams or spectators in Austria, Belgium, Denmark and Germany. Anti-Semitic slanders and chants were directed at the fans and players for clubs that have or once had a Jewish background or roots in the Jewish community like Ajax Amsterdam in the Netherlands; FK Austria Vienna or Tottenham Hotspur in England.

There were also references to the Holocaust in graffiti, chants or banners directed at fans and players of opposing teams, e.g. in Poland and Slovakia or anti-Semitic slanders and remarks expressed by neo-Nazis.

The report also presents some evidence of worrying anti-Semitic incidents at children and youth sport events, for example in Denmark and Belgium, where a Jewish youth team was harassed by its opponents who made the Hitler-salute shouting 'Heil Hitler'. In Germany, 13 – 15 year-old spectators chanted anti-Semitic and xenophobic insults during a match.

Annex II - Holocaust education

Recognising the importance of combating anti-Semitism the Agency has carried out a range of related activities promoting Holocaust education.

Since 2005 in cooperation with Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, the FRA has developed a number of joint projects, for example, virtual meetings through video conference between Austrian school pupils and Holocaust survivors. In 2008, the Agency and Yad Vashem launched a four-year pilot project on the Holocaust and Human Rights Education scheduled to run from 2008 to 2012. The objective of this project is to empower a network of teachers teaching about the Holocaust, share knowledge about and improve methodologies in Holocaust and Human Rights education. While the teachers have been implementing teaching projects on the Holocaust and Human Rights Education in schools across the EU, the Agency has been working on a Toolkit on the Holocaust and Human Rights Education. The work will continue with network meeting, as well as the production of a Toolkit on Holocaust and Human Rights Education.

The FRA also publishes every year its "S'cool Agenda", a calendar aimed at raising young people's awareness of fundamental rights and combating prejudice and discrimination, including awareness of anti-Semitism and of the Holocaust. The dedicated content on the Holocaust education and anti-Semitism was developed in partnership with Yad Vashem, Memorial de la Shoah and other relevant organizations.

On 27 January 2010, the FRA published a report on the role of historical sites and museums in teaching about the Holocaust and human rights. The findings of the study show that Holocaust education and in particular linking education about the Holocaust and education about human rights remains a challenge for memorial sites, as well as schools. Based on the findings of this research the FRA will publish a handbook for teachers on how to make best use of visits to Holocaust-related sites and support material for those working at memorial sites.

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