



# Antisemitism overview - Latvia

Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in Latvia in 2014-2024

## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Latvia.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1.	Official data .....	3
1.2.	Unofficial data .....	4

# 1. Latvia

The country overview provides a descriptive analysis of the available official and unofficial data. 'Official data' refers to those collected by law enforcement agencies, authorities that are part of criminal justice systems and relevant state ministries. 'Unofficial data' refers to those collected by civil society organisations, including Jewish community organisations. All data presented are based on the countries and organisations' own definitions and categorisations of antisemitism. Some of these draw on the IHRA Working definition of antisemitism, which was endorsed by all EU member states, except Malta. Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia also adopted the IHRA Working definition on antisemitism. <sup>(i)</sup> Where available, the country overview provides a breakdown of the data by month following 7 October 2023, showing stark increases in recorded antisemitic incidents following the Hamas attacks and the and the ensuing military intervention in Gaza.

This publication is part of a larger series of overviews of antisemitic incidents. FRA and its predecessor (the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia) have monitored antisemitism since 2004.

## 1.1. Official data

No criminal proceedings concerning crimes related to antisemitism were initiated in Latvia in either 2022 or 2021 (Table 1), according to data provided to FRA. However, the data system for collecting data on criminal proceedings on the basis of antisemitism has remained in place. In 2020, criminal proceedings were started in one instance of crimes related to antisemitism, whereas two criminal proceedings were started in 2019. No antisemitic crimes were recorded in 2018 and 2017. In 2016, one case related to the desecration of Jewish graves was successfully prosecuted, whereas no antisemitic crimes were recorded in 2015.

In 2023, nine incidents related to antisemitism were recorded. In mentioned incidents there were six criminal proceedings initiated for vandalism (1- February, 2 – March, 1- April, 1- May, 1 – June) One case is still being investigated and the others have been closed. Also, there was one case of threat recorded by the State Police on October 10, 2023, where an unidentified museum visitor, while in a state of intoxication, orally threatened to set fire to the Riga Ghetto and the Latvian Holocaust Museum - criminal proceedings were not initiated.

In 2024 five incidents related to antisemitism were recorded. No criminal proceedings initiated. In one incident unidentified person mounted an anti-Israeli poster of swastika on the masthead of the Israeli flag near Embassy of Israel in Riga. Two incidents were about praising Nazism and justifying the Holocaust in Telegram portal and the rest were about vandalism.

**Table 1: Number of criminal proceedings started or prosecuted on the grounds of antisemitism 2015–2024**

Year	Number of criminal proceedings
2015	0
2016	1
2017	0
2018	0
2019	2
2020	1
2021	0
2022	0
2023	6
2024	0

Source: Data from NLO, 2016-2024.

## 1.2. Unofficial data

No unofficial data were available when this report was compiled.

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(<sup>i</sup>) See an overview of EU Member States and accession countries that adopted the [working definition of antisemitism](#) by the 2016 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.