

Manifestations of Antisemitism in the EU 2002 - 2003

Part on France

Based on information by the
National Focal Points of the
RAXEN Information Network

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¹ The present part on France is an integral part of the report on “Manifestations of Antisemitism in the EU 2002 - 2003”, it has been provided in this form for practical reasons (download time), the presentation and the layout are different, while the content remains identical in the main report and this part on France. Always refer to the EUMC website. <http://eumc.eu.int> for a copy of the integral report.

FRANCE - REPORT ON ANTISEMITISM

Data and Information provided for 2002 (with a special focus on the period of May – June) and 2003 by the French RAXEN National Focal Point

PREFACE

Jews settled in France already during the antiquity benefitting from rights and privileges deriving from their Roman citizenship. Jews were expelled from the country in 1306 by Philip the Fair. Jews returned to France gradually by 1640.

Until the end of the nineteenth century there were only about 100,000 Jews in France. Jews were eventually granted equal treatment with all faiths in France, and in 1831 they were in fact incorporated into the Civil Constitution of the Clergy. The French Government paid the salaries of rabbis just as it paid priests until the separation of church and state in 1905.

It is estimated that 200,000 Jews immigrated to France from eastern European countries between 1900 and 1939 and another 60,000 refugees came from Nazi Germany. During WWII about 75,000 were deported to Auschwitz out of an estimated 330,000.

The French Jewish community has today about 600,000 members amounting to slightly more than 1% of the total population.

LEGISLATION WITH RESPECT TO ANTISEMITISM

Racist offences are material facts from which racist intent may be imputed. Some have no identified victim but are judged to impugn humanity or some section of it (e.g. press offences), to violate the respect due to the dead (e.g. the profanation of graves and other memorials), or to deny the indignity of past atrocities (e.g. Holocaust denial, usually called in French “*négalionnisme*”, which was made a specific offence by a law of 1990). What these acts have in common is that the very fact of committing them creates a presumption that they were intended to transgress the right to dignity, which is the core of the French legal conception of equality.

Historically, French legislation first considered racism and discrimination as aspects of freedom of expression and of the necessary legal restrictions thereto. The Law on the Freedom of the Press of July 29, 1881 was amended by Law of July 1, 1972 by introducing aggravated penalties for racist speech or writing.

Subsequent legislation has enhanced this framework by clarifying its terms and extending its scope to acts as well as verbal utterances.

Additionally, the new Criminal Code, which entered into force on March 1st 1994, and was amended by the Laws of November 16, 2001 and February 3, 2003, has made a number of changes to the provisions relating to racism and discrimination in the old Criminal Code, but has not affected the law on freedom of expression.

RACIST OFFENCES IN THE CRIMINAL CODE

A distinction must be made between the law applicable to racial discrimination, which depends crucially on proof of discriminatory intent, which will be discussed below, and those miscellaneous provisions that define racist offences on the facts alone.

Criminal penalties against discrimination (articles 225-1 and 2 of the Criminal Code)

Article 225-1 defines unlawful grounds for discrimination that are subject to prosecution in very broad terms, which cover inter alia race, real or supposed origin, beliefs and opinions. Article 225-2 specifies the situations in which appeal to the unlawful grounds previously specified shall be punishable. The definition is more restrictive and covers only employment, provision of goods and services, and “interference in ordinary economic activity”.

Furthermore, a civil servant (*agent du service public*) may be prosecuted under these articles, but is liable to aggravated penalties if the offence was committed in the context of a public service mission (article 432-7 of the Criminal Code).

Criminal sanctions against discrimination are tightly circumscribed both by the definition of the offence itself and by the rules of criminal procedure, which require proof of racist intent for an act that would otherwise be entirely lawful (e.g. a choice of tenant or employee) to be declared unlawful. It is of the nature of such acts that intent cannot typically be inferred from the decision, and even when direct proof of, say, racist prejudice is available, its specific contribution to the questionable act is extremely difficult to assess, and often obscure even to the perpetrator. Furthermore, the collection of such evidence as may be available is made difficult by the lack of legal protection against reprisals for prospective witnesses. There are, in particular, many indications that employees are reluctant to come forward with evidence that may assist in the prosecution of their employer.

Racist offences

We discuss offences here in so far as racist intent is constitutive of them, and only substantively. There are no specific procedural rules relating to racist offences. The relevant offences are few in number and respond to very peculiar circumstances. In particular, racist intent is immaterial as far as the legal treatment of offences against the person or, in most cases, against property is concerned.

- Digital recording or storage of data comprising, directly or indirectly, a person's "racial origins", without that person's express consent and except where specifically authorized by law (art. 226-19 of the Criminal Code).
- Racist violation of the respect due to the dead (art. 225-18 of the Criminal Code).
- The wearing or public display of insignia, uniforms, or emblems, likely to remind the public of those characteristic of the perpetrators of crimes against humanity is an offence carrying a maximum fine of €1,500 (art. R645-1 of the Criminal Code).
- A final offence is peculiar to sports meetings, including broadcasts of sporting events. Any person that has, in any way whatsoever, incited spectators to hatred or violence against a person or group of persons faces a maximum sentence of 1 year imprisonment and €15,000 fine (art. 42-7 of the law of July 16 1984, incorporated in art. 222-16 of the Criminal Code). Introduction, wearing, or display, in such gatherings of insignia, signs, or symbols, characteristic of racist or xenophobic ideology carries the same maximum sentence (art. 42-7-1 of the law of July 16 1984).

In view of the growing number of attacks related to ethnic origin or religion, particularly targeting the Jewish and Muslim communities, a new law was adopted on 3 February 2003, which increases criminal penalties when assault or damage to property are committed for racial or religious reasons (Law N° 2003-88 of 03/02/2003 –JORF N°29 of February 4 2003).

The increased penalties are defined as follows:

- Premeditated murder (art. 221-4 6° CP): the standard sentence is raised from 30 years to life
- Torture and barbaric acts (222-3 5° CP): from 15 to 20 years
- Murder (art.222-8 5° CP): from 15 to 20 years
- Assault leading to permanent disability or mutilation (art.222-10 5° bis CP): from 10 years and / or a 150,000 €fine to 15 years

- Assault leading to extended unavailability for work (art. 222-12 5° bis CP): from 3 years and / or 45,000 € to 5 years and / or 75,000 €
- Common assault (art. 222-13 5° bis CP): from 1,500 € (3,000 € in case of a repeat offence) to 3 years and / or 45,000 €
- Racially motivated damage to property:
 - General case (art. 322-2 al. 3 CP): from 2 years and / or 30,000 € to 3 years and / or 45,000 €
 - Damage caused by explosives, arson, or other means dangerous to human life (art. 322-8 3° Cp): from 10 years and / or 150,000 € to 20 years and / or 150,000 €

Furthermore, the law created a new offence “destruction of property with respect to places of worship, schools and educational or leisure facilities, or vehicles for the transport of children” (art. 322-3 al. 2 CP), the penalty being 5 years imprisonment and/or a 75,000 € fine.

Finally, in the context of growing numbers of acts of racist or antisemitic violence, two instructions from the Justice Ministry (dated 2 and 18 April 2002) were circulated to prosecution offices restating the need for a firm response to such acts as soon as perpetrators are identified and for information on legal proceedings to be provided to victims and relevant local voluntary bodies.

SOURCES OF DATA AND INFORMATION

The French NFP reports note the following sources:

- Ministry of the Interior;
- ‘French Human Rights Commission’ (Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l’Homme – ‘CNCDH’)²;
- ‘CRIF’ – the Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juifs en France – (The Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France). The ‘CRIF’ established a national observatory to collect a broad range of information on antisemitic violence in France, and is the only NGO in France to have developed its own reporting system with a help-line to collect victims’ testimony on antisemitic threats and actions since October 2000 (calls are systematically verified and facts confirmed before entry into the monthly statistics)³;

² Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l’Homme – *Human Rights Commission, 2002, The Fight Against Racism and Xenophobia, Activity Report*, Paris, La documentation Française, 2003

³ ‘CNCDH’, op cit, p 89

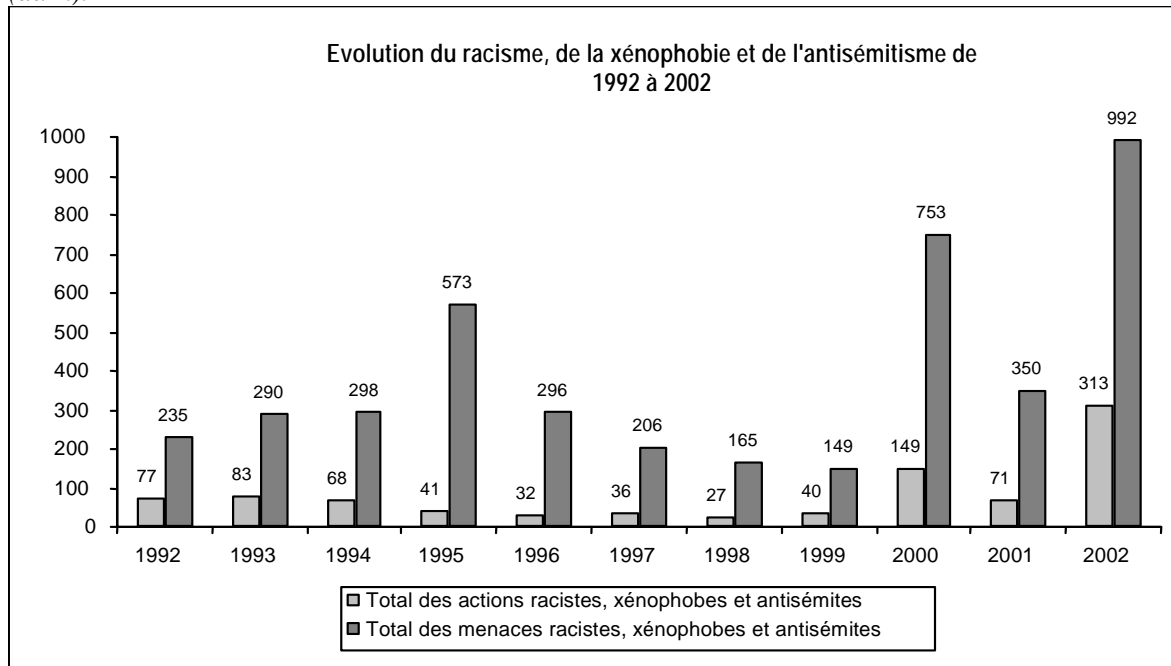
- Other Jewish organisations (UEJF) in particular new structures or initiatives set up to measure antisemitic acts or for the purpose of victim support ('Observatoire du monde juif', help lines such as 'SOS Vérité – Sécurité' or 'SOS Antisémittisme');
- Media of Jewish Communities ('Antisémittisme.Info', 'Actualité Juive');
- Anti-racist NGOs ('LICRA', 'SOS Racisme', 'MRAP', 'FASTI');
- All daily print press as well as press agencies (however, the NFP points out that some information widely disseminated by the press was not systematically checked).

DATA AND INFORMATION

I. ANTISEMITISM IN 2002

Concerning acts of violence counted in the 'CNCDH' report, antisemitic violence was most prevalent in 2002 (193 acts, corresponding with a six-fold increase from 2002), while during the 10 previous years (excepting 2000), other forms of racism and xenophobia predominated (120 incidents in 2001). Antisemitic violence constituted 62% of all incidents tolled in 2002, compared with 45% in 2001, but down from 80% in 2000.

The Evolution of Racism, Xenophobia and Antisemitism in France from 1992 to 2002. Total of racist, xenophobic and antisemitic acts (light), total of racist, xenophobic and antisemitic threats (dark).



With regards to the perpetrators of antisemitic violence, the ‘CNCDH’ notes that the percentage attributable to the extreme right is only 9% in 2002 (against 14% in 2001 and 68% in 1994). Furthermore, they ascribe the upsurge in racial violence and antisemitism to current national and international events (September 11th terrorist attacks, war in Afghanistan, and the fight against terrorism). Therefore, the revival of antisemitism can be attributed to the worsening of the Israeli Palestinian conflict, notably in the spring of 2002, corresponding with the Israeli army offensive in the West Bank and suicide bombings in Israel. Antisemitic acts are ascribed to youth from neighbourhoods sensitive to the conflict, principally of North African descent⁴.

Official data from the Ministry of the Interior is not exhaustive. Its figures only concern acts of violence reported to public officials and do not take into account the range of threats, gestures, insults and intimidations, which tend to be difficult to quantify. Nevertheless, placed in a longer-term context, they reveal trends. Statistics concerning penal convictions for 2002 are still not available.

In order to better understand antisemitism, the annual report of the ‘CNCDH’ provides data and some elements of analysis on antisemitic acts in France that draws on different indicators⁵. Notably, they have made use of statistics

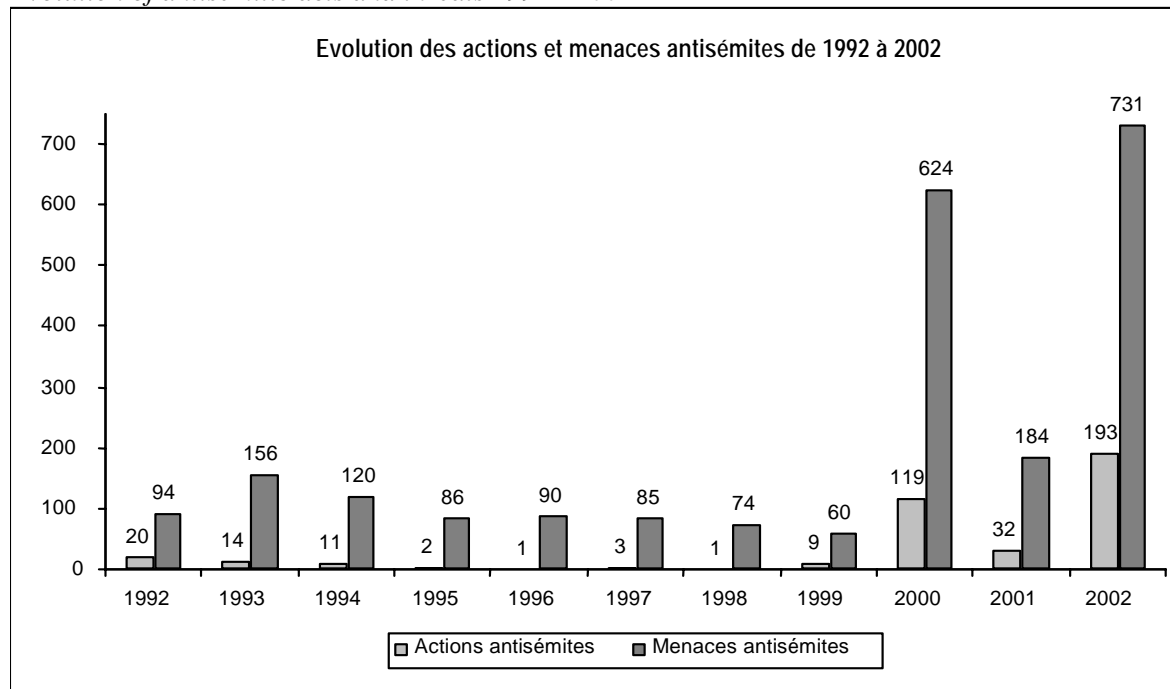
⁴ ‘CNCDH’, op cit, p 24-25

⁵ See the Analytic Report on Racial Violence produced for RAXEN 3 for detail on protocol used in the collection of statistical sources.

concerning racist and antisemitic acts established by the Ministry of the Interior, that is to say, the police, and inquiries carried out by its investigative service.

The Ministry of Interior usually provides the ‘CNCDH’ with temporary data concerning antisemitic actions by the beginning of the last quarter of the current year.

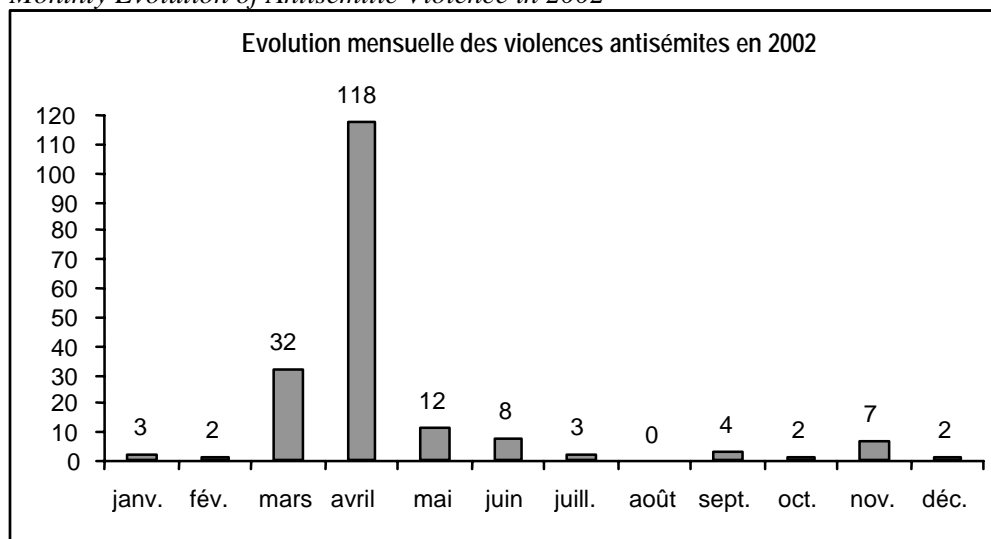
Evolution of antisemitic acts and threats 1992 - 2002



However, whilst the statistics for the whole year were high, there was significant variation within the year. The ‘CRIF’ reports a steady decrease in antisemitic threats and incidents as the year progressed, following a single peak in the month of April, seen to correspond with heightened Israeli-Palestinian tensions. The ‘CRIF’ attributes this decrease in antisemitic incidents over the year to different factors⁶:

- The results of the first round of presidential elections;
- The Ministry of the Interior’s resolution to re-establish security and authority;
- The harsh sentences (two to four years in prison without bail) issued to those convicted of attempted arson on a synagogue in Montpellier;
- A flurry of international events which served to divert attention away from the Israeli Palestinian conflict;
- A moderation of the tone in which the media reported the conflict.

⁶ ‘CNCDH’, op cit, p 90

Monthly Evolution of Antisemitic Violence in 2002

A. PHYSICAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS JEWS, THEIR COMMUNITIES, ORGANISATIONS OR PROPERTY

The 2003 report of the ‘CNCDH’ listed the following cases occurring in 2002 the majority occurring during April⁷:

- **28 January 2002** a man was attacked by two people between Rue Rodier and Rue Maubeuge in Paris. They insulted him: “you Jew, go back to Israel”; then one of them sprayed tear-gas in his face;
- **24 February 2002** in the Saint Paul area in Paris a Jewish teenager who was playing football with friends wearing a tee shirt with printed Hebraic letters on it was hit on the head and on the hands by three young people with sharp tools. He was sent to the hospital requiring many stitches;
- **14 March 2002** in Paris a Jewish crèche was desecrated, money and computers were stolen and antisemitic graffiti was smeared;
- **29-30 March 2002** in Lyon an arson attempt on a synagogue in the area of La Duchère was reported. Four people, including three of north African origin were arrested;
- **1 April 2002** in Montmagny a member of the Jewish community wearing a kippa was violently attacked near the Talmudic Centre by two youngsters, allegedly north Africans;
- **1 April 2002** in Strasbourg the synagogue in Hirschler Street was damaged by arson;

⁷ ‘CNCDH’, op cit, pp 518-528 and pp 531-570. This selection is supervised by the ADRI, which uses the list of antisemitic acts committed in 2002, which is elaborated by the Ministry of the Interior and the ‘CRIF’.

- **3 April 2002** two graves were damaged in the Jewish cemetery of Pere-Lachaise in Paris;
- **3 April 2002** a school bus of the Chné Or school in Aubervilliers was entirely destroyed by fire; two buses and a car were also damaged;
- **10 April 2002** around 10 pm, a group of people who wore hoods and had baseball bats violently attacked young Jews from the Maccabi team of Bondy who were training in the stadium. One of them was sent to the hospital with many contusions. The attackers also stole their personal sport bags;
- **10 April 2002** a teenager wearing a kippa was insulted, hit and knocked down in the 19th district of Paris;
- **10 April 2002** a young student of the high school in Trappes was insulted and knocked down by other girls allegedly “because she was Jewish”;
- **12 April 2002** the Jewish cemetery in the area of Cronembourg in Strasbourg was damaged and desecrated by antisemitic and Nazi graffiti;
- **18 April 2002** in Marseille three young Jewish women were attacked at the exit of a car park by three people allegedly of north African origin who hit them, damaged their cars, and stole their mobile phones;
- **24 April 2002** in Limeil-Brevannes, near the synagogue, a rabbi was insulted and attacked with tear gas sprayed into his face by two men who were arrested;
- **28 April 2002** arson destroyed the first floor of the ‘Tifferet Israël’ school in Sarcelles;
- **12 May 2002** in Saint-Maur des Fossés (a Paris suburb), three young Jews playing on a football field at Arsonval reported that they were insulted and attacked by about fifteen young people allegedly of North African origin. They lodged a complaint against them for assault and racist remarks (‘Le Figaro’, 15 May 2002);
- **26 June 2002** a man working in a kosher grocery shop in Rue Merlin in Paris was stabbed in the throat and shoulder by a man who attacked him from behind;
- **30 December 2002** in Marseille the technical installation of a Jewish radio station was destroyed.

B. VERBAL AGGRESSION, HATE SPEECH AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS JEWS

During 2002 the following incidents were highlighted by the NFP:

Hate speech

- **18 May 2002** in a demonstration organized in the 19th district of Paris by the 'Parti des Musulmans de France' against the 'Naqba',⁸ hostile slogans towards Jews were shouted without any attempt from the organizers to intervene;
- **26 May 2002** during a demonstration organized in Paris against the US President's visit to France by a combination of left wing, Green, anti-racist and human rights groups, about thirty teenagers chanted anti-Jewish and "pro Bin Laden" slogans. The organizers expelled them and ethnic minority activists then intervened to prevent some youths from attacking a young couple on a scooter in the belief that they were Jewish. (AFP Source);

Graffiti

- **28 January 2002** "The Jews must die. Terrorist state" on pro-Israel advertisements in the Saint Maur and Bel Air metro stations;
- **21 May 2002** police questioned an 18 year-old female student suspected of drawing antisemitic slogans and symbols on a kosher butcher's shop-front in Pré Saint-Gervais (Seine-Saint-Denis, Paris suburb);
- **June 2002** advertising posters in various metro stations as well as election posters were defaced by graffiti showing the Star of David and the swastika connected by an "=" sign.
- **1 March 2002** swastikas and graffiti: "the Jews must die... the Jews in crematoria" were painted in the stairs of a building in Sarcelles;
- **5 November 2002** various stickers with swastikas on the door of the UEJF in Paris, advocating the boycott of Israeli products;
- **16 November 2002** several graffiti, such as "you Jews", "son of a bitch" were discovered at the entry of the synagogue of the 'Yabne' high school in Paris.

⁸ "Naqba" is the word used by Palestinian activists to refer to the forced emigration of 1948.

Threats

- **15 January 2002** aggressive words and threats "we shall shave your face... we shall kill you... we have got weapons..." were addressed against a man living in Villepinte;
- **3 April 2002** on their way home, in Bobigny a Jewish man and his two children of 15 and 17 were insulted and threatened: "we know where you live, we shall set fire to your house". They went back home quickly in order to go to the police, but encountered another group of people who assaulted them and shouted: "you are going to die, as did your brothers over there";
- **6 April 2002** on the way to the synagogue in Saint Brice a group of men and their children faced a man who shouted: "you, Jews, I am going to exterminate you" and proceeded to attack them with a Stanley knife;
- **15 April 2002** several e-mails were sent to the Paris MJLF and the rabbi of the community was threatened;
- **17 June 2002** the neighbours of a Jewish family living in Mitry Mory insulted them and threatened to kill them.

Abusive behaviour

- **22 January 2002** in a high school of the 12th Paris district, a Jewish pupil in the fourth grade was constantly insulted by the class representative: "you Jew, your race must be exterminated, fuck you";
- **20 February 2002** an anonymous man claiming to belong to the "Breton phalanges" telephoned the 'CRIF', saying that he would cut the throats of all the Jews;
- **21 February 2002** anonymous phone call at the ACIP: "I am going to bomb a synagogue in the "Quartier Latin", because of Georges Kalman";
- **7 March 2002** anonymous phone call to the 'CRIF': "you Jews... we will do to you what you do to Palestinians";
- **5 April 2002** phone call at the 'CRIF': "fed up with the Jews, the Holocaust, the Jews' money";
- **26 July 2002** in a gas station in Paris, a man accompanied by his three children was insulted and told "You kill a Palestinian child";
- **2 August 2002** the UEJF and the 'CRIF' received envelopes containing razor blades and antisemitic text.

C. STUDIES, OPINION POLLS OR OTHER REPORTS ON CHANGES IN ANTISEMITIC SENTIMENTS

Between 28 January and 1 February 2002, the ‘Sofres Institute’ surveyed 400 people aged between 15 and 24 living in France⁹ reaching the following conclusions:

- The overwhelming majority rejected antisemitic acts: 87% of the young people questioned considered that “antisemitic acts against synagogues in France” are “scandalous; the state must punish the culprits very severely”. Only 11% considered that “if the Jews did not support Israel as much, these attacks would not take place”;
- Similarly, in reaction to assaults against “young Jews wearing kippa”, 88% of the young people questioned considered that “Jews should be allowed to follow their usual customs without risking getting into a fight”. Only 11% considered that “if Jews did not seek to make themselves conspicuous by wearing kippa, this kind of fight would not take place”;
- 99% of the young people questioned judged that defacing synagogues is “very serious” or “rather serious”;
- 97% of the young people questioned judged that writing antisemitic graffiti is “very serious” or “rather serious”;
- 91% of the young people questioned judged that joking about gas chambers is “very serious” or “rather serious”.

There were also questions regarding traditional antisemitic prejudices. To the question “do Jews have too much influence...?”

- “...in France”: 77% of the young people questioned answered that they “rather disagree” or “do not agree at all”;
- “...in the media”: 79% of the young people questioned answered that they “rather disagree” or “do not agree at all”;
- “...in politics”: 80% of the young people questioned answered that they “rather disagree” or “do not agree at all”.

For the director of political studies at ‘Sofres’, these figures show that young people as a whole are very tolerant and attach great value to minorities’ rights. Furthermore, the answers to the above questions given in this survey by French young people of North African origin were particularly interesting.

⁹ *Les Antifeujs* Paris, UEJF-S.O.S Racism, Calmann-Lévy, 2002

- 86% of young people of North African origin judged that “defacing synagogues” is “very serious” or “rather serious”;
- 95% of young people of North African origin thought that Jews have the “right to follow their usual habits without risking getting into a fight”;
- Only 5% of young people of North African origin thought that “if Jews did not seek to make themselves conspicuous by wearing kippa, this kind of fight would not take place”;
- Finally, 54% of young people of North African origin underlined the seriousness of “insulting the Jews, even if it is a joke”.

However, the tendency of French young people of North African origin to be more tolerant is reversed when it comes to the question relating to the alleged “influence” of Jews. According to the ‘Sofres’ director, “the survey shows that respectively 35%, 38% and 24% of the youth of North African origin (against only 22%, 21% and 18% of the total group of young people) think: “Jews have too much influence in the economic and political fields and in the media”.

On the whole the ‘Sofres’ director concluded that there is “no massive antisemitism among the youth of North African origin (...) It is thus essential not to stigmatize a community (...) which, in its great majority, rejects antisemitism”. Compared with the whole group of people between 15 and 24, the survey shows that the young people of North African origin are in fact even more intolerant of antisemitism than the average. This might be explained by the fact that antisemitic acts or attitudes remind them that they have themselves suffered from of racial or cultural discrimination, as Muslims or as children of North African parents.

D. GOOD PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION BY NGOS

- The dissemination of studies, such as the ‘Sofres’ public opinion poll “Youth and the Jewish image”, also in public meetings, maintained a feeling of hope with regard both to the decline of intolerance towards the Jews and to their “normalization” in French society. The situation seems also to be encouraging concerning the development of attitudes of children with North African parents towards Jews.
- Educational information campaigns within Muslim groups, on the theme: “Burning a synagogue is like burning a mosque”, have encouraged people to share views improving the solidarity between the different communities. Thus, the gesture of a local Muslim group in Aubervilliers (Paris northern suburb) to lend its own school bus to the Jewish school of the same city, whose buses were destroyed during an attack, carried a particularly important symbolism.

- **In 2002**, the ‘MRAP’ initiated awareness raising debates using educational tools, like films, novels, autobiographies, books, etc. focusing on issues such as: “How can the ‘duty to remember’ continue when the last witnesses are dead”; “How can history be linked to the current situation”; An “anti-racist book for youth” is also available on their website¹⁰.
- **In March 2002**, ‘SOS Racisme’ condemned antisemitic acts and published a book reporting and analysing such violence since September 2000, in order to disseminate the information as widely as possible. Addressing young people the organization used a slang term as title: “Antifeujs”¹¹. The book published in partnership with ‘UEJF’, argues that only a minority of people are actually antisemitic¹².

E. REACTIONS BY POLITICIANS AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS

- Faced with rising antisemitism from the spring of 2002 linked, according to the NFP, with the 11 September terrorist attacks and subsequent Middle East tensions, in March 2002 the Ministry of Justice called for a meeting with leaders of the Council of Jewish Institutions in France (‘CRIF’) to inform them of the situation and involve them in a Government response.
- After the antisemitic attacks in April 2002 (against Lyon, Marseille and Strasbourg synagogues), the President of the French Republic demanded Lionel Jospin’s Government to improve the security of Jewish buildings. The Prime Minister announced that additional police would be deployed.
- Two memos (2 and 18 April 2002) were issued to the public prosecutor’s office appealing for firm and dissuasive sentences for perpetrators of antisemitic violence, and for the need regularly to inform victims and local Jewish organisations of the legal outcomes handed down by “procedures 28”¹³. In 2002, the Interior Minister contributed to the protection of places of religious worship (notably mosques and synagogues) and school confessionals from tensions linked with international events.
- President Jacques Chirac, re-elected on May 5 2002, reacted repeatedly to accusations of antisemitism, in particular from Israel and the United States stating in the press that he “has protested against the ‘anti-French campaign’, which took place in Israel and which aimed at presenting France as an antisemitic country”. “France is not an antisemitic country”, he repeated the day before the 55th Cannes festival, in response to pressures by the American Jewish Congress, which sought

¹⁰ ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, p 111

¹¹ “Antifeujs” means “Anti-Semites” in current slang.

¹² ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, p 115

¹³ ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, pp 61-62

to dissuade Jewish celebrities from participating in the world's most prestigious cinema festival. During his discussions with US President G. W. Bush, who was in France on 26 and 27 May 2002, President Chirac "protested strongly" against the idea conveyed in the United States that France is seized by a kind of antisemitic fever.

- Interior Minister, Nicolas Sarkozy, visited the synagogue of Clichy-sous-Bois, which was attacked with a petrol bomb on 10 August 2000, launching the slogan "zero tolerance for antisemitism" on 29 May 2002.
- **2 June 2002** Nicolas Sarkozy met with representatives of the Jewish community and promised to improve the coordination of suitable preventive or educational safety measures, and to follow up regularly the files indexing complaints. Moreover, the Minister is said to have committed himself to work in partnership with the Ministries of Justice and Education on the issue (Source: 'Actualité juive', this information was not reported in the national dailies).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7 June 2002 the publication, on the Internet website 'Indymedia-France' of a text in which the "Israeli concentration camps" were compared to Nazi concentration camps in Germany during the WW2, provoked the resignation of two members of the editorial team. The article also pondered whether Israel might be equated with Nazi Germany. One of the founding members of this anti-globalization site, which was created after the Seattle summit, also demanded the expulsion of the author of the article. 'Indymedia' has been aware of the problematic "outbreak of fascist postings" since the second Intifada, and has questioned its own open publishing system, under which on-line publication is allowed initially without any editorial control, which is exercised later by censoring articles that are against 'Indymedia's charter, which prohibits "nationalist, sexist, racist, homophobic, commercial, ultra-liberal and antisemitic contributions"). Neo-Nazi groups have tried to use this open Internet publishing system to disseminate their views.

II. ANTISEMITISM IN 2003

The ‘CNCDDH’ report provides statistics only for 2002. Available evidence for incidents in 2003 was available by the ‘CRIF’:

A. EXTREME VIOLENCE: ANY ATTACK POTENTIALLY CAUSING LOSS OF LIFE

The ‘CRIF’ reports no incidents of extreme violence in 2003.

B. ASSAULT: ANY PHYSICAL ATTACK DIRECTED AGAINST PEOPLE, WHICH IS NOT A THREAT TO LIFE

The ‘CRIF’ reports 61 assaults in 2003.

C. DAMAGE AND DESECRATION OF PROPERTY

‘CRIF’ reports 33 incidents of damage in 2003.

D. THREATS, VERBAL OR WRITTEN

‘CRIF’ reports 39 threats in 2003.

E. ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR

‘CRIF’ reports 42 incidents of abusive behaviour in 2003.

F. ANTI- SEMITIC LITERATURE

‘MRAP’ (Movement against Racism and for the Friendship between Peoples), in its contribution to the Human Rights Commission 2002 report¹⁴, explains how much the Internet, is used by delinquent Internet surfers today pointing out that numerous antisemitic web sites, in order to avoid legal proceedings, often choose to host their sites in states where racist and antisemitic texts are allowed. In the report, MRAP does emphasize the exemplary and severe decision of the 17th District Court of Paris “Tribunal de Grande Instance”¹⁵, on 26 March 2002. A web user, who was sentenced for incitement to hatred and violence and for defamation, was given a suspended prison sentence of 18 months, and was ordered to pay a 1,500 € fine for damages to the two plaintiffs, including the MRAP. The court rejected the argument of the council for the defence who said that the person’s antisemitic outburst was influenced by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and racist anti-Arab messages he had received.

¹⁴ ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, p 107-108

¹⁵ Court presided over by three judges, authorized to try more serious cases

G. CHANGES IN THE EU POPULATION ATTITUDES TOWARDS JEWS

According to ‘SOS Racisme’¹⁶, it is particularly the influence of international news, which causes antisemitic violence. To some young people living in underprivileged suburbs, Jews constitute a “perfect scapegoat”, as the media coverage of the events in the Middle East helps to justify antisemitic prejudices¹⁷.

However, the ‘MRAP’ insists that it is dangerous to see the problem as lying in the “banlieue” (underprivileged suburbs) and “the youth”, simply because of their Arab or Muslim origin. The evidence of the survey by the ‘Sofres’ Institute shows that simplistic assumptions are not true, as young people of North African origin were in fact shown to be even more intolerant of antisemitism than the average French young person. French people of diverse origins have expressed in opinion polls that they felt sympathy with the Palestinians and their suffering and humiliation, while not seeing themselves as an enemy of the Israelis.¹⁸

H. RESEARCH STUDIES OR OPINION POLLS REPORTING ANTISEMITIC VIOLENCE OR ATTITUDES

There were a number of research studies and analyses in 2002 – 2003 focusing on two parallel and contrasting phenomena, Islamophobia and antisemitism. In 2002, Pierre-André Taguieff published an updated and elaborated version of his 1998¹⁹ book, in which he describes the construction of racial doctrine in France throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. In ‘La nouvelle judéophobie’²⁰, (‘The New Judeo-phobia’) Pierre-André Taguieff, who was among the first in France to denounce the “new faces of antisemitism”, demonstrates, within an international context, the dangers of anti-Jewish racism. The author examines the “rising tide of judeophobia” that extends beyond the French borders, to Europe and the Islamic countries.

In the same vein, the book by Alain Finkielkraut “Au nom de l’Autre, réflexions sur l’Antisémitisme qui vient” (“In the name of the Other: Reflections on an antisemitism to Come”) in which he accuses French intellectuals of a “new judeophobia”²¹ stemming from the left, anti-globalisationism, third-worldism, Christian socialists and the anti-racist milieu who associate anti-Zionism with antisemitism and deny the

¹⁶ ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, p. 113

¹⁷ ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, p. 98

¹⁸ ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, p. 109

¹⁹ Taguieff Pierre-André, *Colour and Blood. Racist Doctrines “à la française”*, Mille et une nuits, Paris, January 1998 and February 2002 (new edition), p. 326

²⁰ Taguieff Pierre-André, *The New Judeophobia*, Paris, Mille et Une Nuits, 2002, p. 234

²¹ Finkielkraut Alain, *In the Name of Others. On the Coming Antisemitism*, Paris, La Découverte, 40p 2003. Similarly, Pascal Boniface, *May People Criticize Israël ?*, Paris, Robert Laffont, 2003, p. 240

current renewal of antisemitic violence. He analyses antisemitic violence perpetrated by “frustrated Arab Muslim youth” living in suburban housing projects and discontent with their own social and economic disenfranchisement in French society who adopt the Palestinian cause.

An opinion poll published in March 2003 by the ‘BVA Institute’ (‘Institut d’études de Marché et d’Opinion’ – The Institute for Market and Public Opinion Studies) and carried out in November 2002²² on xenophobia, antisemitism, racism and anti-racism issues, produced results that seem to contradict some conventional assumptions concerning racist and antisemitic behaviour showing that in general French opinion does not appear to consider antisemitism as an important issue in relation to other social concerns: Out of 15 potentially worrying issues, racism ranked ‘6th’ after insecurity, unemployment, poverty, terrorism and drugs, while antisemitism was the source of least concern, and was selected by only 6% of those polled.

In this survey, there were also four questions on the way people perceive Jews in France: Are they part of the national community? Should there be restitution of their property that was stolen in WW2? How important is the memory of the Holocaust and how far can antisemitic words be allowed?

- Almost all respondents (89%, including 63% who “totally agree”) have the feeling that the Jews are “as French as others”;
- Almost all respondents (87%, including 63% who totally agree) think that the Jews should be given back what the French state robbed from them during WW2;
- Only 17% of the respondents feel that people talk “too much” about the extermination of the Jews by the Nazis;
- Most respondents (59%) find it normal that racist remarks, such as “you Jew”, should be punished.

The poll asked exactly the same question about French Muslims: Are they as French as the others? Most respondents (75%) answered “yes”. But on the whole, respondents were better disposed towards French Jews than towards French Muslims or French of North African origin²³.

²² *Xenophobia, Antisemitism, Racism and Anti-racism in France*, Institute BVA - March 2003, 35 p. Study conducted upon the joint request of the ‘CNCDDH’ and the Government Information Service, using one-on-one surveys, based on a representative sample of the French Population (1010 people ; figure base on quota method), between November 29 and December 6 2002.

²³ ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, pp 100-101

The French NFP provides also an interesting comparison of a survey issue asked in a similar way in the years 1946, 2000 and 2003:

To the question “Is a French person of Jewish origin ‘as French as the others’?”

In 1946, 33% of the respondents replied affirmatively.²⁴

In 2000, 66% of the respondents replied affirmatively.²⁵

In 2003, 89% of the respondents replied affirmatively.²⁶

Another question revealing of antisemitic attitudes and regularly asked in opinion polls concerns the belief in the stereotype of “Jewish occult power” (those who believe in it also tend to consider that “Jews are too numerous” and that they are not “as French as others”). In 1999, 31% believed in this and in 2000 the figure was 34%²⁷. However, in 2002, the figure was down to 25%.²⁸

It is conventionally thought that hostility towards the Jews should go together with favourable attitudes towards Arabs, Muslims, and Palestinians. The results of the ‘BVA’ poll suggest the contrary. In fact, those who refuse to consider the Jews as French are most likely to refuse to consider also Muslims as French. They are also more critical of immigrants and foreigners, and they are the most reluctant to acknowledge their rights and the equality of races; they are less shocked by discrimination against Blacks and North Africans, etc.

Antisemitism, as studies of racism have shown, is part of ethnocentrism, and people who refuse to consider the Jews as French also do not like Arabs, Muslims and immigrants. Such prejudice develops especially in low-educated families, where people are economically or socially insecure, and minorities are the scapegoat of their problems. In the political field, such prejudices are more present on the right than on the left. The radical right remains the most attractive political area for those expressing racist and antisemitic attitudes, whereas people who vote for the radical left are the least racist and the most likely to consider Jews and Muslim as French²⁹.

²⁴ Poll made by the IFOP for the ‘CRIF’, 13-20 February 1946 (N=1132).

²⁵ Poll made by the Louis Harris institute for the 2000 report of the Human Rights Commission, *The Fight against Racism and Xenophobia*, 2000, Paris, La Documentation Française.

²⁶ Institute BVA - March 2003, op. cit., p. 35

²⁷ Survey CEVIPOF/SOFRES (9-20 May 1988), Political Inter-regional Observatory (17 June-3 July 1991) and Louis Harris/ ‘CNCDH’, 17-24 November 1999 and 2-14 October 2000.

²⁸ ‘CNCDH’, op cit, p 101

²⁹ ‘CNCDH’, op cit, p 104

I. GOOD PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION BY NGOS

There is no systematic inventory of the initiatives that are carried out in France in the field of the fight against antisemitism. Therefore the information given in this section, extracted from the 2002 report of the Human Rights Commission and from the declarations of NGOs, is not inclusive:

Since October 2000, the Jewish community has implemented a toll-free number, which aims at collecting the testimonies of victims of antisemitic acts or threats. The calls and the facts are systematically checked before being added to a monthly record³⁰.

Each year, during the Anti-Racism Education Week, ‘SOS Racisme’ organizes debates in schools, notably on the issue of antisemitism and the “duty of remembering the past”.

The Paris committees of ‘SOS Racisme’ organize awareness raising and educational travel in partnership with the “Memory Department” of the ‘UEJF’, like one-week trip to Cracow, Auschwitz, Lublin, Majdanek, Sobibor, Theresinstadt and Prague. Participants talk about their experiences to other pupils. The testimony of people who were sent to concentration camps is another good educational project by the Ministry of Education³¹.

The French delegation, which was commissioned by the Prime Minister, is now leading the International Action Group for the memory of the Holocaust (‘G.A.I.S.’). During the two plenary assemblies in June 2002 in Paris and in October in Strasbourg, it proposed that member states should adopt strategies in conformity with these objectives. With the help of the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah, presided by Simone Veil, of the Contemporary Jewish Documentation Center and of the Council of Europe³², it organised an international scientific seminar on the theme “Education of the Shoah and artistic creation” (Strasbourg, 15-18 October 2002)³³ with the participation of well known scholars, artists, as well as policy makers, diplomats, etc. The Ministers of Education of the Member States of the Council of Europe were given the conclusions of the seminar and decided to launch an annual day in schools on “the memory of the Shoah and the prevention of crimes against Humanity.” In France, the Government decided that it would be on 27 January in commemoration of the liberation of the Auschwitz camp.

³⁰ ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, p 89

³¹ ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, p 117

³² ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, p 118

³³ ‘CNCDDH’, op cit, p 118

J. REACTIONS BY POLITICIANS AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS INCLUDING INITIATIVES TO REDUCE POLARISATION AND COUNTERACT NEGATIVE NATIONAL TRENDS:

None were reported by the NFP for 2003.

CONCLUSIONS

Antisemitism has been a highly visible issue in France during recent years. The French NFP reports present mixed messages, with both negative and positive developments during 2002 - 2003. Data and information gathered by the French Human Rights Commission and 'CRIF' indicate a significant rise in antisemitic violent incidents and threats in 2002. Of the 313 racist, xenophobic or antisemitic incidents reported in 2002, 193 were directed at the Jewish community, six times more than in 2001. As with some other countries, the highest total was in April 2002, precisely the time of heightened Israeli-Palestinian tensions. On the other hand, surveys show that antisemitic attitudes within the general French population are declining. In particular one survey shows that young French people are especially intolerant of antisemitism, and that young people of North African origin, while exhibiting some traditional antisemitic beliefs of Jewish influence and power, are on other dimensions even more intolerant of antisemitism than the average. There are many organisations involved with combating antisemitism, and more is being done to address the problem, including a strengthening of the legal measures against it. A new law was adopted in 2003, which increases the penalties when assault or damage to property is committed with a racist or religious motive.

IRELAND - REPORT ON ANTISEMITISM

Data and information provided for 2002 (with a special focus on the period of May – June) and 2003 by the Irish RAXEN National Focal Point

PREFACE

Jews have lived in Ireland for centuries. The earliest record of a Synagogue in Ireland dates from 1660 with the establishment of a prayer room in Crane Lane, opposite Dublin Castle. The oldest Jewish cemetery dates from the early 1700's and is situated near Ballybough Bridge, Dublin. Between 1880 and 1910 almost 2,000 Jews came from Eastern Europe, mainly Lithuania, and settled in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Drogheda, Dublin, Limerick, Lurgan, and Waterford. Only a handful of Jews came during the Nazi period and shortly after the end of World War II. The Jewish population reached its highest number (5,500) in the late 1940's. The 2002 Census demonstrated that there is now a Jewish population of 1,790 living in Ireland. This was the first increase since the 1961 Census that probably means that there are 'new' Jewish people mostly labour migrants, in Ireland.

LEGISLATION WITH RESPECT TO ANTISEMITISM

There is no specific legislation on antisemitism in Ireland. However, a number of legislative provisions address inter alia the issue of antisemitism.

- ***The Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989:*** the use of words, behaviour or the publication or distribution of material, which is threatening, abusive or insulting and are intended, or are likely, to stir up hatred are prohibited under the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989. The Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act is currently being reviewed in the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform with a view to improving its effectiveness. According to the draft report under CERD the review is taking into account the Protocol to the Cybercrime Convention on combating racism and xenophobia through computer systems and the EU Framework Decision combating racism and xenophobia, on which negotiations are continuing. It is also taking place against the background of an increased number of successful prosecutions under the 1989 Act. This review is currently at an advanced stage though, as yet, there is no timetable for its completion.

Other relevant legislation includes:

- **The Video Recording Act 1989:** aims to prevent generally undesirable video works from being supplied to the public. Among the grounds on which the Official Censor can conclude that a video recordings should not be classified as fit for viewing are that the viewing of the video would be likely to stir up hatred against a group of persons in the State or elsewhere on account of their race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origins.
- **The Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act** makes threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour with intent to provoke a breach of the peace (or being reckless as to whether such a breach is caused) an offence (section 6). The Act also makes it an offence to distribute or display material, which is threatening, abusive, insulting or obscene with intent to cause a breach of the peace (or being reckless as to whether such a breach is caused).

SOURCES OF DATA AND INFORMATION

The bulk of incidents recorded in the NFP 2002 report come from information supplied by Jewish organisations in Ireland. The Organisations contacted in this regard include the ‘An Garda Síochána’ (Irish police) Racial & Intercultural Office and Jewish organisations, namely the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland, the Chief Rabbi’s Office, the Israeli Embassy and the Ireland-Israel Friendship League.

The 2003 report has been mainly compiled through a consultation process with the Jewish community in Ireland. In addition this report reflects research initiatives, which sought to identify antisemitism on the Internet and in the mainstream media in 2003. The National Focal Point also consulted with the national police force in relation antisemitic violence and crime. The key sources of information regarding racism in general in Ireland are the Garda PULSE system³⁴ the informal monitoring system that has been put in place by the NCCRI³⁵, and the casework of the Equality Authority and the ODEI – The Equality Tribunal. However these sources have not, to date, provided

³⁴ As a consequence of increased awareness of the need to collect statistic on racist crimes the ‘An Garda Síochána’ have recently drawn up and approved a definition of what constitutes a racial incident. The new Garda Information system, PULSE has been adapted to record racial incidents but it is likely that such statistics will only be published in the Garda Annual Report of 2003 (due in 2004).

³⁵ In May 2001 the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) established a voluntary procedure for reporting racist incidents in Ireland. The reports do not seek to provide a comprehensive list of every racist incident in Ireland, indeed the evidence from other countries tends to show that with all racist incidents reporting systems, there is likely to be significant under-reporting of incidents.

significant data in relation to antisemitic incidents. Consequently the 2003 report draws also on consultations with Jewish people living in Ireland, researchers, the Jewish Representative Council, and the Israeli Embassy.

DATA AND INFORMATION

III. ANTISEMITISM IN 2002

The NFP considers many incidents reported by Jewish organisations to be one off and unusual occurrences, with no evidence of systematic targeting of the Jewish community.

However, one representative of the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland believes that there is increased apprehension in Irish Jewish community. This anxiety relates primarily to recent events in Europe, such as the increased electoral support of the far right, as opposed to any marked change in attitudes amongst the Irish population.

There has been no discernible increase in antisemitic violence or rhetoric in the period in question, though there have been other incidents, just outside the research period again mostly in the verbal aggression category. The police provide discreet presence at the synagogue in Dublin on certain occasions according to the Garda Racial and Intercultural Office.

According to the Intercultural Office there appear to be good relations between the local police and representatives of the Jewish community and meetings have been held between Garda Racial & Intercultural Office and Jewish communal leaders in the period in question.

A. PHYSICAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS JEWS, THEIR COMMUNITIES, ORGANISATIONS OR PROPERTY

The NFP reports no incidents of physical violence during the research period.

B. VERBAL AGGRESSION, HATE SPEECH AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS JEWS

- A survey of national newspapers for the month May 15 – June 15 showed no verbal attacks on Jews in public discourse or by Irish politicians.
- The NCCRI logged one call in relation to Irish media coverage of events in the Middle East, but, when pressed, the caller did not maintain that the coverage was in essence antisemitic.
- The Israeli embassy has received a number of hate telephone calls but has not logged the exact number. The embassy also received a piece of hate mail on June 10, written on a brown paper bag.
- Amnesty International ran an advertising campaign in regard to Israel and the Occupied Territories. A copy of the advertisement was returned to its offices with the words “Hitler Was Right” written over it.
- The Garda Racial and Intercultural Office reports that there have been a few threatening and abusive phone calls to Jewish residents in the Terenure district of Dublin, where the synagogue is located that were dealt with by the local police.
- A website, called ‘National Socialist Are Us’³⁶ contained a section called The New Folk where white supremacist and “Aryan” ideology is expressed. The website also contained links to other similar sites including Stormfront.

C. STUDIES, OPINION POLLS OR OTHER REPORTS ON CHANGES IN ANTISEMITIC SENTIMENTS

No such reports or studies are reported by the NFP.

D. GOOD PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION BY NGOS

No such examples are reported by the NFP.

E. REACTIONS BY POLITICIANS AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS

No such reactions are reported by the NFP.

³⁶ At <http://www.nsrus.ie> (National Socialist Are Us) – no longer active.

IV. ANTISEMITISM IN 2003

The data presented below on the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 do not point to any discernible increase in antisemitism in Ireland during 2003.

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS (as defined in by the EUMC guidelines)	2001	2002	2003
1. Extreme Violence: Any attack potentially causing loss of life	0	0	0
2. Assault: Any physical attack against people, which is not a threat to life	0	0	0
3. Damage and Desecration of Property: Any physical attack directed against Jewish property, which is not life threatening	0	0	0
4. Threats: Includes only clear threats, whether verbal or written	0	0	0
5. Abusive Behaviour: Face-to-face, telephone and targeted abusive/antisemitic letters	2	12	2
6. Antisemitic Literature	0	0	1 possibly +1
7. Changes in attitude towards Jews, their communities, organisations or their property	0	0	0
8. Research Studies, reports on antisemitic Violence or opinions?	0	0	0
9. Good practices	0	0	1
10. Reactions by politicians and other opinion leaders including initiatives to reduce polarisation and counteract negative national trends			

Source: Jewish Representative Council (2003) Report on Antisemitism & Antisemitic Incidents in Ireland for the NCCRI, p. 6

Given the anecdotal nature of the data on antisemitism in Ireland this report does not represent a comprehensive analysis of all such activities in 2003, but rather gives an indication of the nature of such incidents.

A. EXTREME VIOLENCE: ANY ATTACK POTENTIALLY CAUSING LOSS OF LIFE

The Garda PULSE System has not recorded any antisemitic crimes in 2003. In addition to a motive category on 'racism' the PULSE system also has an option to record antisemitic crime. Other sources did not report any incidences of violence or assaults, which were motivated by antisemitism.

B. ASSAULT: ANY PHYSICAL ATTACK DIRECTED AGAINST PEOPLE, WHICH IS NOT A THREAT TO LIFE

No such incidents were reported by the NFP.

C. DAMAGE AND DESECRATION OF PROPERTY

According the Jewish Representative Council in recent years there have been a few reported incidents of 'suspicious activity' around Jewish Community buildings and such incidents are reported to the police.

D. THREATS, VERBAL OR WRITTEN

- **21 June 2003** a letter to the Israeli Ambassador, discussed below, states "keep your head down. We will be watching you and your murderous mossad thugs. Stay in your 'compounds'."
- Another anonymous letter received by the Israeli Ambassador included references to, "we will be watching you as one watches VERMIN".

E. ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR

- **14 April 2003** and **31 May 2003** two letters were received by a high profile academic at Trinity College Dublin enclosing an excerpt from Andrea Dworkin's book 'Life and Death'. The letters described Talmudic Judaism as 'teaching filth' and quotes from the article "The Brown-Shirted Christ Killers" which "educates the world to the fact that four Christians to every one Jew were murdered by the Nazis in the concentration camps". This individual also received an unsigned letter saying, "If you don't like our treatment of 'refugees' why don't you fuck off to somewhere more congenial, like Belsen".
- **21 June 2003** a letter to the Israeli Ambassador included the reference to "your vicious, murderous, savage, inhuman race" and refers to Israelis as a "criminal race". The letter states that for diplomatic reasons "we" have to tolerate the Embassy's presence but that "we will be watching you". This letter is similar in language and tone to an earlier one dated **26 March 2003**.
- **In June 2003** the Jewish Representative Council recorded an incident where a group of Jews were harassed when entering a cemetery by a number of youths.

- **In October 2003** a man shouted abuse at a group of Jews entering a synagogue.
- The Israeli Embassy receives, on average, about four or five phone calls per month, which it classifies as abusive. These are normally after hours or left on their answering machine anonymously.
- A letter purportedly from the Hebrew Congregation in Limerick, to the Editor of a major newspaper was copied to the Israeli Embassy. The letter suggests that as part of the Talmudic religion Jews are allowed to enjoy pederasty/child sexual abuse. The letter included an editorial from the same newspaper on a recent clampdown on child pornography and an extract from Andrea Dworkin's Book 'Life and Death' which refers to the use of 'Holocaust pornography' in Israel.
- In an unsigned open letter to the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland the author states: "I do not think you should be made welcome in our country... The Zionist Reich will not last 1000 years, just like the Nazi Reich did not last 1000 years. Both were built on a bad foundation."
- Another correspondence received by the Embassy in 2003 compared Israelis to the Nazi regime, and included a copy of a newspaper article with a picture of Palestinian victims of the Middle East's conflict with the word 'Israeli Justice' written on top of the article. A further letter stated that the Israeli government's behaviour towards Palestinians made it 'regrettable Hitler didn't complete his program'.
- **2 November 2003** a signed letter to the Israeli Ambassador refers to a BBC television programme 'When Killing is Easy'. The letter describes the State of Israel and its people as "a pox on the world and should be treated as such. A people and a nation to be shunned and avoided at all cost".

F. ANTISEMITIC LITERATURE

- The 'Aryan Nation' website, <http://www.skadi.net/forum.htm>, under the subheading 'The Celtic Realm,' included antisemitic material targeted at a specific individual.
- In 2003 the Jewish Representative Council noted the launch of Al Muhajirounf Islamic Groups, which has expressed anti-Jewish statements (<http://www.muhaajiroun.com>). The organization does not have an Irish website, though references to its Irish representative/contact person can easily be found on the Internet.
- The Jewish Representative Council in its report on antisemitism in 2003 noted a cartoon in an Irish published magazine depicting a negative image of an orthodox Jew.
- The Israeli Embassy forwarded to the NCCRI a leaflet, which was circulated in Cork. This leaflet suggests that the Holocaust did not happen, and provides an email address for an Irish contact.

G. CHANGES IN THE EU POPULATION ATTITUDES TOWARDS JEWS

While it is not possible to assess changes in attitudes amongst the general population with regard to antisemitism, since no such studies have been conducted in the period in question it has been acknowledged that a range of external factors impact the context of racism and xenophobia in Ireland.

The Jewish Representative Council identified a number of factors, which led to increased apprehension amongst the Irish Jewish Community in 2003, including:

- A reported increase in the number of antisemitic events across Europe.
- A recent report that the British Jewish Community has been warned by British Police of an imminent terrorist attack on synagogues or community centres.³⁷
- The complex situation in Israel, Israel's reaction to terrorist incidents, increased hostility to Israel, the 'de-legitimisation' of the State of Israel, comparison of Israeli policies to those of Nazis, etc.
- The recent speech by Malaysia's Prime Minister in which he urged Muslims to unite against "Jews" who, he said, ruled the world by "proxy". Many Jewish leaders view such statements as an invitation to violence³⁸.
- Posts on Internet websites and newspaper discussion forums where Israeli Security Forces are often referred to as "Jewish criminals" and "Zionist war criminals".³⁹
- Media coverage of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians that is perceived to be biased, unfair, and inaccurate bordering on antisemitic.
- The double suicide car bomb attack on two Synagogues in Istanbul, Turkey.⁴⁰
- Difficulty in assessing where anti-Israel sentiment ends and antisemitism begins.

³⁷ The Irish Times (13.10.03)

³⁸ Speech by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the opening of the 10th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference on Oct 16, 2003. There was widespread condemnation of these comments in Ireland.

³⁹ Indymedia Ireland Website, available at:
http://www.indymedia.ie/newswire.php?search_text=zionazis&type_id=all

⁴⁰ The Irish Times (17.11.03)

H. RESEARCH STUDIES OR OPINION POLLS REPORTING ANTISEMITIC VIOLENCE OR ATTITUDES

The NFP did not report of any such studies conducted or published in Ireland during 2003.

I. GOOD PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION BY NGOS

In terms of positive actions/practices that assist in the efforts to combat antisemitism there was positive feedback by Jewish and non-Jewish parties following the first official annual commemoration of the Holocaust at City Hall in Dublin in January 2003 attended by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. He stated that Ireland had betrayed its own Constitution by failing to protect Jews during the Second World War and that it was appropriate to “formally acknowledge the wrongs that were covertly done, by act and omission” to fail to offer refuge to those who sought it and by the failure to confront those who offered justification for the racial hatred and prejudice that led to the Holocaust.⁴¹

The Jewish Community is currently implementing mechanisms of reporting antisemitic incidents, both to its members and to all the appropriate authorities in Ireland.

J. REACTIONS BY POLITICIANS AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS INCLUDING INITIATIVES TO REDUCE POLARISATION AND COUNTERACT NEGATIVE NATIONAL TRENDS

Political reaction and debate concerning antisemitism in Ireland focuses either on the domestic historical context, or on international affairs.

- Ireland traditionally sponsors a resolution on religious Intolerance at the United Nations. The resolution condemns ‘all intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic or religious belief’. Over the last twenty years the Irish Government has received many proposals to include a reference to specific instances of religious intolerance, which it has resisted on the grounds that once such a reference is included it could not, in logic, refuse other references. The Irish Government has been concerned to maintain the consensus, which underpins the value of this resolution. At the Third Committee of the General Assembly in 2003 it was proposed to include a reference to antisemitism in the religious intolerance resolution. Notwithstanding the Irish Government’s concern not to accept an amendment to the

⁴¹ O’Halloran, M (2003) McDowell says Wartime Jews let Down, in the Irish Times, available at <http://www.ireland.com>.

resolution on the elimination of all forms of religious discrimination, it is concerned that the UN should give adequate expression to its opposition to all manifestations of antisemitism. Therefore the Irish Government was seeking support for a specific resolution on antisemitism to be tabled in the General Assembly. The motion co-sponsored, by the EU 25, Romania and Bulgaria was finally withdrawn in December 2003.

- **18 November** in a meeting with the Israeli Foreign Minister the Irish Foreign Minister assured him that Ireland is not antisemitic and promised to take an even handed approach to the Middle East crisis.⁴²

CONCLUSIONS

Official sources in Ireland have not recorded any antisemitic incidents, and most of the information comes from Jewish organisations in Ireland. In general there is no discernable evidence of an increase in antisemitic violence or rhetoric over the period 2002 - 2003, and no evidence of systematic targeting of the Jewish community in Ireland. There were no recorded incidents of extreme violence, physical assaults, or damage to property. The bulk of the incidents in 2003 were categorised as 'abusive behaviour' - mainly abusive and aggressive letters and phone calls, totalling around 16 (although there may have also been unreported cases), with some further instances of antisemitic literature in the form of leaflets or on websites. As elsewhere, the discourse on antisemitism in Ireland is coloured by events in the Middle East.

⁴² Stuanton, D (2003) Ireland not Antisemitic, says Cowen, in the Irish Times (19.11.03). Ireland has secured the agreement of the EU member states to co-sponsor a UN General Assembly resolution condemning antisemitism.

ANNEX I ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS, WEB PAGES, AND LITERATURE ON ANTISEMITISM

DIVERSE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

- Dr. Jeffrey Kaplan: “Racism, Anti-Semitism and Violence: The Local Studies Perspective.” The Stockholm International Forum 2001.
- Lawyers Committee for Human Rights: “Fire and Broken Glass - The Rise of Anti-Semitism in Europe.” Washington D.C. 2002.
- Union des Etudiants Juifs de France, SOS-Racisme: Les Antifeujs. Paris : Calmann-Lévy, 2002.
- Anti-Defamation League: European Attitudes Towards Jews, Israel and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. June 2002.
- Anti-Defamation League: European Attitudes Towards Jews: A Five Country Survey. October 2002.
- CNCDDH (Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l’Homme): La lutte contre le racisme et la Xénophobie. Rapport d’activité 2002, Paris 2003.

WEB PAGES⁴³

Not country specific

*The American Jewish Committee: <http://www.ajc.org/german/ueber.asp>

*The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University: <http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/>

*BBC NEWS Europe: Viewpoints Anti-Semitism and Europe:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3234264.stm>

*Centre Européen Juif d’Information (CEJI): <http://www.ceji.org/index2.html>

*International Network Against Cyber Hate: <http://www.inach.net/>

*The Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism:
<http://www.antisemitism.org.il/>

⁴³ Only those Web sites marked with a star * were consulted for the present report.

France

*L'Agence pour le développement des relations interculturelles (Adri):
<http://www.adri.fr/>

*C.R.I.F Conseil Représentatif des Institutions juives de France:
<http://www.crif.org/>

*SOS-racisme: <http://www.sos-racisme.org>

ANNEX II EUMC GUIDELINES - CATEGORISATION OF DATA ON ANTISEMITISM

EUMC GUIDELINES IN 2002:

Since the recent wave of violence in Israel the EUMC is increasingly worried about the increase of antisemitic acts in several European Member States. It would like to use the RAXEN Rapid Response Function to get solid information about antisemitic violence. We would like you to answer the following questions:

- A. PHYSICAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS JEWS, THEIR COMMUNITIES, ORGANISATIONS OR THEIR PROPERTY (CEMETERIES, SYNAGOGUES, RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS ETC) AND ALSO ANY MEASURES SEEN AS RETALIATION TO OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS, OR ETHNIC, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, OR NEW TYPES OF VICTIMS:

Have any physical attacks (harassment, verbal abuse, violent acts, etc.) against Jews (or other people related to them) been reported (in the media, by Jewish organizations, by human right/anti-discrimination NGOs, by the police etc.)? Please use the following categories as headlines:

Arson; throwing objects and/or tear gas; physical aggression; theft and burglary; vandalism and disparagement; threatening intrusion; physical threat

- B. VERBAL AGGRESSION/HATE SPEECH AND OTHER, SUBTLER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS JEWS:

Have there been any verbal attacks against Jews in the media, in the public discourse, in politics? Are there any cases of incitement to hatred? Are there court cases to be reported? What about hate speech on

the Internet? Please use the following categories as headlines: direct verbal threat; threats by telephone; insults; graffiti and antisemitic inscriptions; publicly distributed leaflets

- C. CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE EU POPULATION TOWARDS JEWS, THEIR COMMUNITIES, ORGANISATIONS OR THEIR PROPERTY (CEMETERIES, SYNAGOGUES, OTHER RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SYMBOLS ETC):

- D. ARE THERE STUDIES OR OTHER REPORTS DEALING WITH CHANGES IN ANTISEMITIC SENTIMENTS?

What are the results? Are there any other changes in attitudes linked to the increase in antisemitism?

- E. RESEARCH STUDIES REPORTING ANTISEMITIC VIOLENCE OR OPINION POLLS ON CHANGED ATTITUDES TOWARDS JEWS:

Are there any new or recent report done on antisemitic aggression or attitudes?

- F. GOOD PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION BY NGOS:

Can you report of any good practice that has been successful in avoiding the increase of prejudice and violence towards Jewish people and other groups?

- G. REACTIONS BY POLITICIANS AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS INCLUDING INITIATIVES TO REDUCE POLARIZATION AND COUNTERACT NEGATIVE NATIONAL TRENDS:

How has the Government reacted to increased antisemitic violence? What have been the reactions of the politicians and other opinion leaders? Are there any institutionalized proposals and implementations to be observed?

The information provided should be of a factual character. Sources should always be quoted; there should be a balanced mix of sources (state organizations, organizations related to Jewish communities; other NGOs; mass media; Internet) to get as far as possible an “objective, reliable and comparable” picture of the situation in the Member State. Please indicate if the articles are reported as news or as the opinion of an opinion leader (politicians, representatives of religious communities, other people of public interest like movie stars or sport champions etc), or even as opinions expressed in the “reader’s pages”. Any original material to which reference is made in the report should be attached (newspaper articles, etc.).

IMPORTANT NOTE:

“Non-events” should also be reported. The report shall not include personal data. Please try to follow as closely as possible the recommendations attached.

EUMC GUIDELINES IN 2003:

The EUMC ask you to present the data and information **related to antisemitic incidents in a separate text.**

This separate document should be structured **as far as possible** along the following categories and definitions on antisemitism established by Michael Whine (For Categories 1 to 6 see: <http://www.axt.org.uk/essays/Whine.htm>).

A. EXTREME VIOLENCE:

Any attack potentially causing loss of life.

B. ASSAULT:

Any physical attack directed against people, which is not a threat to life.

C. DAMAGE AND DESECRATION OF PROPERTY:

Any physical attack against Jewish property, which is not life threatening.

D. THREATS:

Includes only clear threats, whether verbal or written.

E. ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR:

Face -to-face, telephone and targeted abusive/antisemitic letters (i.e. those aimed at and sent to a specific individual) as opposed to a mail shot of antisemitic literature, which will be included under Category 4. Antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property is also included in this category.

F. LITERATURE:

Includes distribution of antisemitic literature, based on the following criteria:

- the content must be antisemitic (except see (d) below)
- the recipient may be either Jewish or non-Jewish

- the literature must be part of a mass distribution, as opposed to the directed at a specific individual
- Racist literature that is not antisemitic is included when it is clear that Jews are being deliberately targeted for recipient because they are Jews (implying an antisemitic motive behind the distribution)
- It should be noted that the statistics for this category give no indication of the extent of distribution. Mass mailings of propaganda are only counted as one incident, although antisemitic leaflets have been circulated to hundreds and possibly thousands of Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and organizations.

G. CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE EU POPULATION TOWARDS JEWS, THEIR COMMUNITIES, ORGANISATIONS OR THEIR PROPERTY (CEMETERIES, SYNAGOGUES, OTHER RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SYMBOLS ETC):

Are there studies or other reports dealing with changes in antisemitic sentiments? What are the results? Are there any other changes in attitudes linked to the increase in antisemitism?

H. RESEARCH STUDIES REPORTING ANTISEMITIC VIOLENCE OR OPINION POLLS ON CHANGED ATTITUDES TOWARDS JEWS:

Are there any new or recent report done on antisemitic aggression or attitudes?

I. GOOD PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION BY NGOS:

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EUMC Mission Statement

The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) is a thinking, acting and challenging network organisation, working in all sectors of society for equality and diversity, and against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in the European Union - as a network of knowledge, a bridge-builder and a service organisation.

EUMC

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