SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER

TOP TEN WORST GLOBAL

2020 ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS
From the earliest stages of the pandemic in February 2020, far-right extremists across social media platforms blamed Jews and Asian Americans for the virus. A fake Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warning suggested anyone infected visit a local synagogue or mosque to spread the deadly virus. Another posting with an image titled “Holocough” urged, “If you have the bug, give a hug. Spread the flu to every Jew.” Anti-Semites have blamed Jews for the medieval Black Plague to the WWI Spanish Flu. In the 1930s, Nazi propaganda compared Jews to vermin who spread disease. Potential vaccines brought anti-vaxxers to the streets in Germany which included anti-Semitic signs from far-right protesters. And as vaccines begin to be distributed globally in December, a UK Government report indicates that some anti-vaxxer online forums are “rife with anti-Semitism.”
During the Coronavirus pandemic, social media has served as the lifeline for families, friends, schools, and businesses. Under pressure from SWC and other activists, Facebook and other media giants increasingly restricted access to hate groups. As a result, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and many others turn to Telegram, a platform with little or no rules or content moderation. The murderous Atomwaffen Division, its successor, the National Socialist Order, extremist The Base, the Boogaloo Movement, the violent Nordic Resistance Movement that targeted Jewish institutions on Yom Kippur in four Scandinavian countries, have all found a home on Telegram. Hamas and other Islamist terrorists with hate and violence agendas also have active feeds targeting their enemies.
GODFATHER OF HATE SPREADS JEW-HATRED TO NEW GENERATIONS

In his July 4th address, Nation of Islam leader, Louis Farrakhan, continued his over 35-year-long hate campaign against Jews and Judaism alleging at one point that Jews tried to kill him with “radiated seeds” and referring to Jewish attorney Alan Dershowitz as Satan masquerading as a lawyer. In the racially-charged atmosphere after the killing of George Floyd, Farrakhan’s Jew-hatred inspired Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver DeSean Jackson, retired NBA star Stephen Jackson and other cultural and sports figures to declare their admiration for him and to spout or repost some of his anti-Semitic tropes.

And Farrakhan’s advice about life-saving Covid vaccines? “The virus is a pestilence from Heaven. The only way to stop it is going to heaven… They’re plotting to give 7 billion, 500 million people a vaccination. Dr. Fauci, Bill [and Melinda] Gates, you want to depopulate the earth…” adding that if you take the shot, “You’re sure to die now. They [just] want a quicker death.”

The most powerful retort to the litany of anti-Semitism came from an iconic sports superstar, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar whose op-ed in The Hollywood Reporter challenged the bigotry and deafening silence.

DESECRATIONS, ARSON, VIOLENT ATTACKS AGAINST SYNAGOGUES AS AMERICA REELS FROM TURMOIL AFTER GEORGE FLOYD’S DEATH

Last year, the FBI reported nearly 62% of all religious-based hate crimes in the US targeted Jews. Not even the forced closures of houses of worship and other stringent restrictions on everyday life in America brought respite from history’s oldest hate. Synagogues in Los Angeles and Oakland, California and Kenosha, Wisconsin were targeted in the aftermath of Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests, George Floyd’s and Jake Blake’s killings. Chabad Houses in Portland, Oregon, and Newark, Delaware were destroyed by arson. On the third night of Chanukah, a member of the Jewish community attending an outdoor menorah lighting ceremony in Kentucky was injured by an anti-Semite driving an SUV. American Jews continue to be demonized by extremists from the far-right and far-left.
AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI: DEPLOY ‘FINAL SOLUTION’ ON 6 MILLION+ LIVING JEWS; IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS JEWS “KIKES”

In celebration of Al Quds (Jerusalem) Day, a holiday invented by Iran, its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei’s website, invoked the Nazis’ “Final Solution.” In defending the Supreme Leader, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif used an anti-Semitic slur as recorded by MEMRI: “…what is our solution? The Honorable Leader [Khamenei] has expressed the solution. We’re not talking about throwing the Kikes (Johood in Persian) into the sea, or about a military attack, or about suicide operations. The Leader has said what the solution is, and it has been presented to the United Nations. Our solution is a popular referendum...“Meanwhile, Germany and other major European countries with strong economic ties with Iran remain stoically silent in the wake of Khamenei’s Holocaust denial and continuing genocidal threats against Jewish people.
IN MOVE REMINISCENT OF NAZI-ERA, EU COURT OF JUSTICE ENDORSES SHECHITA BAN AS ANTI-SEMITISM APPROACHES LEVELS NOT SEEN SINCE BEFORE WWII

Just after becoming German Chancellor in 1933, Hitler banned Jewish ritual slaughter of animals (shechita) without prior stunning. Now in 2020, the European Court of Justice set the stage for all Europeans to do the same. Israel’s ambassador to Belgium, Emmanuel Nachson, said the ruling is “catastrophic and a blow to Jewish life in Europe,” JTA reported. Mainstream anti-Semitism is approaching levels not seen since before the Holocaust. French Jews fear the next violent attack from Islamists and confront a judicial system that has let murderers of French Jews off the hook. This bus shelter ad (below right) reminiscent of the anti-Semitic medieval Blood Libel was posted in the city of Toulouse, where in 2012 a young rabbi and three children were murdered on the grounds of a Jewish school by an Islamist terrorist...“Uncle Hitler forgot to exterminate you Miss Provence.” France’s national beauty pageant was marred by ugly hate when Miss Provence, April Benayoum 21, who placed second in the 2020 Miss France, was targeted with anti-Semitic invective on Twitter when she mentioned her father was Israeli (bottom left). Chief of Germany’s Domestic Security Service warns anti-Semitism “sharply rising” while the country’s cultural elite seeks to reinstate the anti-Semitic, Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS). Traditional anti-Semitic “carnivals” in Belgium and Spain openly mock Jews – dead and live; anti-Covid rallies in the UK target Jews; Poland’s President Andrzej Duda’s campaign used anti-Semitism to win votes. A 16-country poll found 20% of respondents believe a secret cabal of Jews influences global political and economic affairs. A new report by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) found Jews were the targets of one-quarter of hate crimes in Europe.
GERMAN ELITE LAUNCH ALL-OUT ASSAULT TO RE-LEGITIMIZE ANTI-SEMITIC BDS

German officials acknowledge that anti-Semitic hate crimes from neo-Nazis to Islamists, continue their alarming rise. Almost a year to the day of the Halle synagogue attack, a religious student was gravely wounded by a neo-Nazi outside a Hamburg Synagogue. But none of those hate crimes or the growing embrace of mutual peace, trade, and cultural ties between Israel and Arab states stopped key elites seeking to overturn the Bundestag’s vote that labeled BDS as anti-Semitic. Meeting secretly for a year, the so-called Union of Cultural Institutions comprising over two dozen of Germany’s Who’s Who—including the Goethe Institute, the Federal Cultural Foundation, the Berlin Deutsches Theater, the German Academic Artists Exchange, the Berliner Festspiele, and the Einstein Forum, attacked the Bundestag’s BDS vote as violating free speech. The signees specifically thanked Andreas Görgen, Foreign Ministry Director-General for Cultural Affairs and Communication, “for advice and discussion contributions.” The SWC criticized Görgen earlier for defending a leading proponent of BDS in South Africa. A similar call followed from nine hundred artists, academics, writers, and other cultural figures who called the anti-BDS-resolution “dangerous” and “detrimental to the democratic public sphere.”

“Nonsense,” countered chief commentator of Die Welt, Jacques Schuster. With its BDS-resolution, Schuster explained, the Bundestag became one of the first parliaments in the western world to make it clear that anti-Zionism is a form of anti-Semitism and, “This is precisely what this union cultural institutions is opposed to,” adding, “In truth, the initiative is not concerned with impingement on the freedom of speech; it does not want its own world view to be destroyed.”

All this may help explain why three MPs continue their support for the anti-Semitic German-Palestine Society (GPS) which also promotes BDS. Social Democratic MP Aydan Özogus, and Green Party MP Omid Nouripour, co-sponsored a parliamentary initiative in 2013 to label Jewish products from the West Bank and is pro Iranian regime, along with Left party’s MP Christine Buchholz, who has defended Hezbollah’s “resistance” against Israel. They all turned a deaf ear to protests from German Jewish Holocaust survivors and community leaders. Their support continues even after a GPS traveling “art” exhibition including the terrorist mantra calling for an end to Israel, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”

Meanwhile, the prestigious Jusos — the Socialist Youth Movement of Germany’s SPD party passed a solidarity resolution with the youth wing of Fatah, the main faction of the PLO, as a “sister organization.” Bild reported that some protesters at a Fatah Youth demonstration in 2018, wore fake explosive belts and chanted slogans calling for Israel’s destruction.
THE NEW LITMUS TEST ON AMERICAN CAMPUSES: ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A ZIONIST?

Peace has broken out between Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan. Bahrain has affirmed the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism which includes virulent anti-Zionism. But there is no peace or even cease-fire on US campuses where Jewish students continue to be demonized and ostracized because of their support for the Jewish State. The extreme anti-peace and anti-Semitic BDS campaign is the main weapon.

The University of Illinois' failure to confront the hate and defend Jewish students dates back five years. A top university official removed a Jewish student from a Student Election Commission because she was, “Jewish, I had to remove her because she is biased.” Last year, mandatory diversity training included “Palestine & Great Return March: Palestinian Resistance to 70 years of Israeli Terror.”

• In September of 2020, the Illinois Student Government’s (“ISG”) resolution in support of BLM also had a BDS component. During one of these ISG meetings, a senator suggested that a Jewish student could be allowed on the committee but could not be affiliated with a Jewish organization like Chabad or Hillel. A faculty member was present and said nothing.

• On October 14, 2020, a Jewish and pro-Israel ISG Senator resigned after persistent harassment based on her identity. She was called a genocide supporter and a white supremacist. Another student who ran for president of the student body was called a Nazi because he was Jewish and supported Israel. All this has led the Brandeis Center for Human Rights to file a Title VI Complaint with the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights.

USC student led an aggressive campaign to “IMPEACH MY ZIONIST **S” - ROSE RITCH

Jewish faculty did not rally for embattled Jewish students at UI, but the purging of three Jewish students from top student government leadership at the University of Southern California (USC) spurred dozens of Jewish faculty to publicly defend Zionists and Zionism. (Read their protest here).

Rose Ritch suffered anti-Semitic bullying and threats and ultimately resigned as Vice President of the student government. USC has failed to deal effectively with endemic anti-Semitism dating back decades.
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY QUESTIONNAIRE EMBEDS ANTI-SEMITIC BDS AND A BAN ON TRAVEL TO JEWISH STATE

Even as the US Secretary of State labeled BDS anti-Semitic, and hate crimes against American Jews—especially Jewish New Yorkers (See #4) - soared to record heights, the New York City Democratic Socialist Party (DSA) submitted a 2021 questionnaire to all prospective candidates for Municipal offices, certain to ignite more mainstream hate against democratic Israel and her Zionist supporters. DSA expects its candidates to endorse BDS and to commit that they will not travel to Israel. A growing political force in New York, DSA has already helped to defeat the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and numerous state-wide office holders. New York is home to 1.1 million Jews, the largest Jewish community in the world. No word if DSA is seeking a travel ban against China, Iran, or Venezuela.
CHILE: A MAN WHO MAY LEAD THE NATION

Chile, a beautiful country in South America, is home to the third-largest Jewish community (est. 20,000) on the continent. It also home to the largest Palestinian community outside the Arab world (approx. 300,000, whose Christian ancestors came to Chile around 1920). In recent years, its leadership has become radicalized and aligned with the ideology of Hamas.

Architect Daniel Jadue is the mayor of Recoleta, part of Santiago, the capital. Jadue, a member of the Communist Party, is a national figure and mentioned as a potential future President. Using municipal funds to finance pro-BDS and anti-Israel activities, Mayor Jadue targets the Jewish community with pernicious smears echoing *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.*

He charges Jews control of the media and dual loyalty: “It is an insult that the State of Israel through its agents here in Chile wants to import the strife” ... “they have to learn and define if they are Chilean citizens.” Last year, Recoleta’s Municipal Council passed a resolution stating, “Palestinian people have been the victim of a deliberate plan of violence and terror by armed Zionist groups ...” Jadue insists, “… The leaders of the Jewish community in Chile act on behalf of the State of Israel in Chile …,” adding, “I get along very well with the Jews, with the Zionist I have certain problems.” Jadue is always referring to Chile’s Jews as the “Zionist” community of Chile.

At a time of soaring global anti-Semitism and Islamist terrorism striking from France to the Philippines, Jadue insults three Abrahamic Faiths: “If you are born into a Jewish family, you can legitimately believe that you are part of the Chosen People and you can kill the Palestinians to stay with their lands’ possession… If you are born into a Muslim family, you can legitimately believe that a war can be Holy… If you are born into a Christian family, you can come to think that the poor are blessed and that after death they will be rewarded.”

All this from a man who would lead a nation…