

Forum: Human Rights Council Sub-Commission 2

Issue: The question of the rise of anti-Semitic incidents

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Introduction

Anti-semitism is a hostile behavior or discrimination towards the Jewish community. The hostility may come in the form of teaching others the belief that Jewish are inferior and can be as a political effort to isolate and oppress them as well as physically punishing them. This hatred towards the Jewish community poses risks.

Anti-semitism has been around for a very long time, there has been record that the Jewish community has suffered attacks during the years of BC. The most famous case of anti-semitism was during Nazi Germany was still in place, propaganda was used to turn people against the Jewish Community. The Holocaust was the example of how much hatred towards a community can lead to a genocide. After the Holocaust, anti-semitism reduced but was still around. Some modern day anti-semitism are conspiracy theories that the Jewish people have major control over the financial system, verbal attacks, social media attacks and synagogue attacks. There has also been an increase of the denial that the Holocaust happened.

In the last five years, there has been a significant increase in hate crimes towards the Jewish community caused by the Neo-Nazis, white supremacist and members of radical Islamist groups. Anti-semitism shows that it is hard to enjoy freedom of religion. In 2018, there were more killings of Jewish people than in any other year in the last decade. The Jewish community in Europe fears that the problem will get out of hand and that they can be attacked at any moment.

Definition of Key Terms

Discrimination

According to UNESCO, discrimination is “*any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.*” In this case, there is discrimination against the Jewish people.

Prejudice

Prejudice is when there is an unreasonable dislike for someone due to their race, religion, sex. The opinion is formed beforehand without knowledge about a group or person.

Hate crime

Hate crime is most of the time an act of violent, physical assault, damage to property harassment and bullying which is motivated by prejudice and discrimination towards a certain group, sex, religion. In many countries they have implemented Hate crime laws which penalize someone when such acts happen.

Anti-semitism

Anti-semitism is a hostile behavior or discrimination towards the Jewish community. Anti-semitism has been around for centuries but in recent years the indices of attacks against the Jewish communities has increased drastically.

Arson

Arson is the deliberately and intentional act of setting a place on fire in order to damage or destroy. The sites that this happens usually are buildings. The act of Arson has been happening to many synagogues as a form of a hate crime.

Neo-Nazis

Neo-Nazis are individuals that wish to revive the political movement as well as the ideology of the Nazis. Which includes hatred towards ‘minorities’. Neo-nazis has recently increased its popularity and is now represented in many countries. Some countries in Europe and Latin America have laws that prohibit the expression of pro-Nazi and anti-semitic.

Zionism

Zionism is a political movement that began in the 19th century that wanted to create a Jewish state in the Middle East. In the Hebrew bible ‘Zion’ refers to Jerusalem. Some say that “Zion” can be coded for attack

on Jewish people. The Jewish community sees the term of 'Zionist' as offensive and that it increases the discrimination towards the Jewish.

The Working definition

The working definition of anti-semitism is being used by government and non-governmental agencies to train schools, police, judges and prosecutors on how to deal with a case of anti-semitism. It is also about how to inform society on it.

Background Information

Anti-semitic incidents in the past

Nazi Germany

The most famous and extreme case of anti-semitic incidents was during the period of the Nazi regime in Germany. When Adolph Hitler rose to power, he blamed the Jewish people for Germany's defeat in WW1 as well as the social and economic decline. Aryanization, was the expulsion of Jewish people from having business as well as working. They had no more job and no more clients. The street violence against the Jewish community was allowed and sometimes encouraged by the Nazi government. The Nuremberg laws stated that the Jewish people were no longer citizens and did not have the right to vote anymore.

Synagogues were burned down in the night of broken glass and 30,000 men were sent to concentration camps the day after. The Holocaust began with the stereotype ideas, discriminatory cartoons and the hatred started. The ideas of the Nazis were taken to the extreme and led to the Holocaust, a genocide of Jewish.

Anti-semitism in Christianity

Anti-semitism that was religiously motivated became very prevalent during the middle ages. In much of Europe, Jewish people were denied citizenship, excluded from local government and guilds, and prohibited from joining the military. This antisemitism manifested itself in a variety of ways and included unfounded allegations against Jews that resulted in their death.

The leaders of European Christian churches spread the idea that the Jewish community was responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus. The Jewish community due to the hierarchy of the Christian church was only allowed to enter some countries. With the rise of Christianity, anti-semitism started to

spread around through Europe. They accused the Jewish people of committing acts like 'blood libel'- was the act of killing Christian children and using their blood to make the passover bread.

Russian Empire

In the Russian empire, there was a lot of manifestations against the Jewish, which was called Pogroms (to demolish violently). The first incident to be recorded was in Odessa 1821. Sometimes the manifestations was organized with the involvement of the police and government. They would rape and kill the Jewish as well as destroy their homes. In the Bolshevik revolution, Polish officers, nationalities and Red Army soldiers killed around ten thousand Jewish people between 1918 to 1920.

Revival of anti-semitic incidents

Anti-semitic incidents have been around for centuries. The most famous case, is the Jewish community being persecuted by the Nazis during the Holocaust. However, today the cases recorded in the last few years has rapidly increased and now has been come an alarming topic. Governments have been slowly recognizing these incidents as anti-semitism as they were usually dismissed as Middle-Eastern conflict.

Jewish people also suffer from stereotypes ideas which have been the most persistent over the years, for example: "Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the countries they live in", "Jews think they are better than us", "Jews are responsible for most of the world's war", "Jews don't care what happens to anyone but their kind" and "Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust." These are old stereotypes and people are now once again believing them. A survey conducted in 2009 by the ADL showed that most of the people responded "probably true" to the stereotypical view that the Jewish community have too much control over the financial system.

Terrorism against synagogues

Terrorism against synagogues has always been around. In 1981, a Vienna synagogue was attacked by two Arabic men, they entered with grenades, automatic pistols. They ended up wounding 16 people.

In 2017, the Jewish assembly synagogue was firebombed in Gothenburg, Sweden by ten Israel police men. The synagogue did not catch fire and nobody was hurt. The attack happened hours after President Trump announced that he recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Two days later, burning items were thrown at a chapel located inside a Jewish Cemetery. This was an attempt of Arson. The same Chapel was the target of another attempt of Arson in 2009 when a bottles with flammable liquid were thrown at the chapel. There was only little damage as the firefighters were able to control the fire.

Countries in Europe have been experiencing terrorism against synagogues. There was a shooting in a German synagogue in the city of Halle in October 2019. The suspect filmed his livestream and around 2000 people watched it. In France, the synagogue of Noisy-le-Grand of the Seine-Saint-Denis was vandalised three times in a period of 10 days in 2012. The perpetrators threw prayer books to the floor and shattered the windows on the second floor. They also vandalized, the furniture and stole the drawers where all the Tallitot (prayer shawls) are kept.

October 27th 2018, a shooting happened in a Pittsburgh's Tree of life synagogue, during a shabbat service. A gunman entered the synagogue and killed 11 worshippers. The victims ranged between the ages of 54 to 97. After the tragedy in Pittsburgh, white nationalists marched the streets of Charlottesville while shouting that "Jews will not replace us" and they also did the Nazi salute. They were holding semi-automatic weapons. According to the Virginia governor they were more heavily armed than the police. They brutally beat others with poles and shot others. None of the protesters were arrested. Another attack in the United States happened on the 17th of April 2019 at the Poway synagogue when a gunman entered the building. The gunman shot around 10 people, which included Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein and killed one person.

Europe

The rise of anti-semitism today is more evident in Europe. In a study done in 2018 by the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency, found out that "found 89% of Jews living in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the UK feel anti-Semitism has increased in their country over the past decade, while 85% believed it to be a serious problem" They fear, that they will be insulted in the street or even attacked due to the fact of them being Jewish. Hate crimes in Europe are underreported so the real figures on the severity of anti-semitism are likely to be higher. Out of the 331,968,674 adults that contributed to the survey provided by ADL, 79,000,000 of them had anti-semitism characteristics and attitudes.

24th of May 2019, the Jewish Cemetery in the city of Bordeaux, France was vandalised. Then in the 26th, the German government anti-Semitism commissioner incident warned the Jewish to not wear the kippah in public as there were many attacks happening lately.

In France, there have been several attacks recorded towards the Jewish community. It was reported that an eight year old boy while coming back from school was wearing a Kippah and it resulted in him being attacked, two teenage boys jumped on him, pushed him to the ground and beat him. In Paris, a girl was attacked by a man returning back home. A kosher grocery store was defaced with Nazi swastikas and after was destroyed. In 2017, a family was taken hostage and beaten. While being held hostage they

were asked by the kidnappers “you’re Jews, so where’s the money?”. Which reflects the conspiracy theory that the Jewish community has control of the financial system. In April 2017, an orthodox Jewish man was killed by his Muslim neighbour. A Jewish cemetery was defaced with Nazi swastikas. There have been a number of recorded attacks against Jewish schools. In 2012, 3 children and one adult were killed after a man from a radical Islamist group entered a school in Toulouse, France. The famous case of the mass shooting in the office of the weekly newspaper ‘*Charlie Hebdo*’ in Paris at the beginning of 2015. Twelve people were killed and eleven were injured. The magazine itself always attracted too much attention due to their constant controversial cartoons of Muhammed so a hatred towards the newspaper began. One day later, four Jewish hostages were killed and another after in a Kosher grocery store. In 2018, French Prime Minister Édouard Philippe said that anti-semitic cases rose 80% between 2017 and 2018. A shocking percentage raise in a period of only one year.

In Malmö, Sweden around 200 protesters gathered to protest against the Jewish community as well as threatening them. The protesters were shouting that they want their freedom back and that they will kill the Jewish.

Messages like “Hitler was not wrong”, “Kill all Jews” and “No Jews” are becoming frequent around synagogues, Jewish graveyards and Jewish schools. There is also the restriction of wearing religious symbols.

Media

Where the people get the information is important to understand how people harbour anti-semitic traits. For example, ADL/ Global 100 stated that information from Muslim newspapers are more likely to harbour anti-semitic traits. Social media platforms, Twitter, Facebook and has the power of influencing people. As well, social media helps the Neo-Nazi ideology is able to spread around the world and influence people to be against the Jewish community. Social media has made it easier for people to connect and plan their attacks against synagogues. Social media has also made it easier for verbal attacks not to be traced back to a specific person.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United States of America

In the last decade, the Jewish community was relatively safe in the USA while they watched their fellow Jewish in Europe suffering from physical attacks due to prejudice. But from 2014 to 2015 there was an increase from 21,000,000 people to 24,000,000 people having anti-semitism characteristics.

The anti-defamation League have announced that there were at least 50 cases in which white supremacist targeted Jewish properties. 12 of those cases were counted as vandalism with white supremacist symbols and 35 cases were then counted as white supremacist propaganda.

United Kingdom

In Britain, a charity called CST said that there was 892 reported cases of anti-semitic between the period of January and June 2019, a 10% increase from 2018. Most of these cases happen through social media and spreads the problem to other countries. The recorded cases mostly happened in Greater London and Greater Manchester, which is where there are two large communities of Jewish people. CST provides shelter and safety for the Jewish community.

The adult population is 51,679,449 in the United Kingdom. 5,684,411 people have ideas against the Jewish community, have anti-semitic characteristics.

Germany

Germany will now ask teachers to combat anti-semitism in school. It has been recorded that anti-semitism in German schools is a big problem. In June 2019, Germans were shocked when a 15 year old boy was bullied by his colleagues due to him being Jewish. To resolve this issue Germany will send 170 anti-bullying specialist into certain schools.

Germany is still recovering from the mass murder of Jewish done by the Nazis in 1933 to 1945. The government is worried because anti-semitism is something that is now becoming socially acceptable, many cases are not reported and it's continuously growing in the country.

In 2017, RIAS documented 947 anti-semitism cases, 18 cases were physical attacks. While in 2016, RIAS documented 590 anti-semitism cases. In one year there has been a drastic increase. For Germany, resolving and decreasing the amount of anti-semitism cases is one of their priorities.

Netherlands

The Netherlands is the country with the second highest incidence of anti-semitic incidence in the European Union. There has been a recent increase in the number of incidents in the past decade, ranging from verbal assaults to incidents that have resulted in deaths. There are about 52,000 Dutch

Jews in the Netherlands. The country is also a curious case because the issue is more prevalent with the 23-27 age group; far younger than in the vast majority of countries in the European Union.

Sweden

The number of antisemitic incidents have also been rising in Sweden. In 2018b there were 280 attacks against Swedish Jews. This was a 53% increase from the incidents reported in 2016. This was the highest recorded number since 2006. It is clear that antisemitism is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Due to the rise of attacks in Sweden, the Swedish police have tightened their security around Jewish sites.

Austria

Austria is another country where antisemitic attitudes are very pevelant. In a survey, 22% of people said that they believed that Jews have too much control over global media and 19% of people said that they believe that they are better than other people. There have also been a number of antisemitic incidents in recent years, in 2014 three were 54 recorded anti-semitic incidents.

Tunisia

Tunisia is one country where antisemitic incidents are an issue, but the government isn't actively trying to do much to combat it. In fact, the current president has said that he regards any relation with Israel as high treason. In addition, Tunisia has a history of antisemitism. In the 13th century, Jews were forced out of their homes and pushed into ghettos. During World War II, Tunisia was under Nazi control so it was subject to the antisemitic measures taken in Nazi Gemany during the Holocaust.

Brazil

There has been a jewish community in Brazil since the Europeans arrived. From 1940 to 1945, Getulio Vargas government prohibited the teaching and the publication of newspaper to be in another language. The Jewish community adapted to these new laws but continued to teach Hebrew in the schools. Vargas government made it difficult for Jewish people to migrate to Brazil, the government created barriers by denying them the grant of having a visa .

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1921-1925	Outbreak of anti-semitism in the United states done by the KKK
1933-1945	

1941	Persecution of the Jewish community in Germany, their rights were taken away and were considered inferior by the Nazis.
27th of July 1980	Nazis kill 33, 771 Jewish at Babi Yar
October 3rd, 1980	Antwerp attack- a group of 40 families were bombed while waiting for a bus to take them to a summer camp.
August 29, 1981	Bombing of Paris synagogue
20th October, 1981	Vienna synagogue attack
9th October 1982	Antwerp synagogue bombing
13th October 2000	Great synagogue of Rome attack took place
2000	The Temple Beth El building was damaged
2017	Firebombing of a synagogue in New York
October 27th 2018	Firebombing of two Jewish religious site in Sweden
17th of April 2019	Shooting in the Pittsburgh's Tree of life synagogue Shooting at the Poway synagogue in San Diego
May 24th 2019	Jewish Cemetery in the city of Bordeaux, France was vandalised

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Elimination of all forms of Religious Intolerance September 23, 2019 **A/74/358**
- Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination November 10, 1975 **A/10320**
- Freedom of Religion or Belief March 22nd 2019 **A/HRC/Res/40/10**
- Combating terrorism and other acts of violence based on religion or belief March 28th, 2019 **A/73/L.79**
- Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, person based on religion or belief **A/HRC/34/35**

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

There have been many past attempts to solve the issue. In various parts of the world, including Germany and the United States, synagogues and other places of worship for Jewish people are guarded

by police officers, especially in areas where anti-semitic attitudes are common. Another measure that has been put into place is harsh jail sentences for people who do commit crimes rooted in anti-semitism. This is done to show that there is no tolerance for anti-semitism in the country.

These solutions have been effective to a certain extent but have not been successful in completely eliminating anti-semitic incidents. One reason is because they are only useful in preventing incidents. The root of the problem is the anti-semitic mindsets of the large amount of people causing the various incidents to occur. Perhaps the most efficient way to prevent further incidents is to prevent anti-semitic attitudes as that is what inclines a person to commit such heinous crimes. Furthermore, these solutions need to be implemented in countries where anti-semitic incidents are most common.

There has been past attempts of educating and training people. RIAS Berlin trained judiciary officials on how to identify an anti-semitic crime. It started with Berlin, United Kingdom and Austria implementing the working definition so that their authorities and society is informed on what a anti-semitic case is and how to resolve it. As of April 2019, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom have adopted the IHRA working definition of Antisemitism.

Possible Solutions

A Possible solution is to have educational programs. To teach children about the Jewish history and culture. How the Jewish suffered during the holocaust, how they were persecuted by the Nazis. This will educate children that anti-semitism should not happen in schools. It also helps to reduce anti-semitic attitudes; the true root of the problem. It is also important to further protect religious sites. If officers are placed in the entrance of synagogues this will make it harder for armed men to enter the synagogue and attack the Jewish community inside.

Furthermore, this problem can also be addressed by including Jewish representatives in government so that Jewish people are given a voice regarding the actions taken by the government. This will also help to develop policies that directly address the issue. They hold an important perspective on the issue as it directly impacts Jewish community. In addition, this also allows the perspective to be taken into account when looking at legislation that affects the Jewish community. More generally, the reduction of inequalities will also help to solve this issue as it promotes the mindset of everyone being equal. This directly impacts the attitude that Jewish people are lesser in some way prompting action against them, this is the cause of the issue.

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In Europe, various human rights standards and mechanisms are upheld by the Council of Europe, the continent's human rights watchdog. Its role, notably through the European Convention and the European Court of Human Rights, will be further elaborated below. Alongside the Council of Europe, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) also play important roles. European Union. The coming into force of the Charter and its monitoring mechanisms – the Arab Human Rights Committee and the Arab Sub-Commission on Human Rights – have been welcomed as hopeful signs for the advancement of human rights in the region. Sub-Commission to be important, but whose relationship to human rights is less direct than the issues already noted. This category includes mechanisms – mandate and expertise of the Human Rights Council? Special mechanisms should not consider tangential issues, no matter how important, that are better dealt with by other UN or regional bodies or in more. Human Rights Council (2006 - present). Commission on Human Rights (until 2006). Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (until 2006). Human Rights Council. Overview. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, all mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights, including the Sub-Commission, were assumed, as of 19 June 2006, by the Human Rights Council. Since its creation, the Council has considered reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights related to violence against women, and adopted a resolution on t The United Nations Commission on Human Rights was established in 1946 to weave the international legal fabric that protects our fundamental rights and freedoms. Composed of 53 States members, its brief expanded over time to allow it to respond to the whole range of human rights problems and it set standards to govern the conduct of States. It also acted as a forum where countries large and small, non-governmental groups and human rights defenders from around the world voiced their concerns. Human Rights Council is an INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY, composed of governments – Every reason that it will be just as political as other bodies such as UN Security Council. Inevitably, decisions/outcomes will be based on the political. – politically motivated are not considered. Sub-Commission on Human Rights. Set up in 1947 with initial mandate to recommend standards for protection of. minorities and prevention of discrimination.