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Report on Antisemitism 2024 – Summary

The number of antisemitic incidents in the real world remained markedly high in 2024. Although there was no return to the peak levels of October and early 2024 the number was consistently far higher than before the Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel of 7 October 2023. 221 incidents were registered (2023: 155), which corresponds to an increase of 42.5%. Compared to 2022, this represents an increase of 287% (2022: 57). During the whole of the year under review, there were 11 physical assaults (2023: 10), including a stabbing in Zurich in March, which the victim was lucky to survive. The number of incidents of verbal abuse fell slightly to 42 (2023: 47). A massive increase can be observed in the category of antisemitic comments. While there were 38 in 2023, 103 were registered in the year under review. The amount of offensive graffiti remained stable at 44 incidents (2023: 42), as did the number of public acts (2024: 10, 2023: 8) and posters/banners (2024: 9, 2023: 10). Another two cases of damage to property were reported to the SIG in 2024, the first in some time.

The war in the Middle East also triggered a high number of antisemitic incidents in 2024. In 45% of the incidents in the real world, a direct connection to the war in the Middle East was evident. The real percentage is likely to be much higher, but the perpetrators' motives are not known in all cases. Above all, the verbal abuse and comments reveal the strikingly persistent narrative that Swiss Jews are responsible for the war and the actions and the policies of Israel. This also includes the demand for Jews to justify themselves for these policies or distance them. Furthermore, it was very often stated that "the Jews" should not be surprised by rising antisemitism if they do not distance themselves from Israel. In other words, they themselves are to blame for anti-

semitism through their behaviour. All of these statements are demonstrably false and represent enduring antisemitic narratives.

The recorded incidents (real world and online) are divided into four categories: general antisemitism (562 incidents), Shoah denial/trivialization (96), antisemitism related to Israel (268) and current antisemitic conspiracy theories (670).

In the year under review, 1,596 online incidents were recorded, largely through internal monitoring but also through reports. By far the largest proportion of this, 890 incidents, is attributable to the Telegram messenger app. Telegram continues to be the platform in Switzerland on which open antisemitism is possible without posts being deleted and users blocked. The second highest number of antisemitic incidents in the digital world occur in the comment sections of online newspapers. 300 incidents, spread across 16 different publications, were registered there. This number is remarkably high compared to previous years and was only discovered through the use of search software. It was not possible to view all online comments in previous years. There is therefore an urgent need for action when it comes to moderating comment sections. This becomes even more apparent when analyzing the content. Many cases are by no means merely hidden antisemitism. Open accusations that "the Jews" rule the world and denials of the Shoah were also published.

Antisemitic posts and comments from Switzerland could also be found on almost all well-known social media channels: TikTok (103 incidents), X (94), Instagram (51) and Facebook (40), but also in comments on YouTube videos (34) and on various websites (81), with the latter mainly in articles from "alternative media".



In previous years, antisemitic incidents often occurred due to “triggers”. Triggers are international or national events, including media reports, that cause a spike in the number of antisemitic incidents for a limited period (usually a few days). For some years now, however, long-term triggers have dominated: first the coronavirus pandemic and then the war in Ukraine. Since 7 October 2023, the Hamas attack and the escalated war in the Middle East have been the predominant triggers. These are constant sources of antisemitic incidents, either directly or indirectly.

In 28.3% of the antisemitic posts and comments, a direct reference was made to the war in the Middle East. In view of the mood that has been heated by this war in Switzerland too, it must be assumed that even more incidents are indirectly related to this issue. 7% had a direct link to the war in Ukraine. Although this conflict was not as widely covered in the media as it was at the beginning of the war, it continued to fuel antisemitic conspiracy theories in particular. The topic of the coronavirus pandemic had become nearly irrelevant. Only 1% of incidents were directly related to it.

The most serious incidents in 2024 were:

- In March, a radicalized Islamist youth attacked a visibly Jewish man with a knife in Zurich. He was seriously injured and was lucky to survive.
- In December, one person attacked six Jewish people in Zurich over the course of a weekend. He hit some of them, snatched things from them and insulted them.
- In August, there was an attempted arson attack on a synagogue in Zurich.
- In Basel in January, a woman wearing a Star of David necklace was shouted at and told: “Hitler should have finished his job” and “Free Palestine”.
- In May, a Jewish student in Basel was called a “fucking Jew”.
- In January, a man on a tram in Zurich said loudly enough for everyone to hear: “Hitler should have won the war” and “The Nazis didn’t do everything wrong”.
- In September, a woman on an express train from Zurich to Bern said on the phone loudly enough for all bystanders to hear: “I regret that Hitler didn’t finish his job with the Jews back then – getting rid of the Jews.”

- A Jewish community in Zurich received a letter in March fantasizing about the continuation of the Shoah. Jews were likened to leeches to be destroyed, and Jewish women were to be sold into prostitution.
- In May, a Star of David and the words “Symbol of Satan” were sprayed onto the wall of Zurich’s Letzigrund stadium.
- In June, several art galleries in Zurich with Jewish owners were vandalized with anti-Israeli/pro-Palestinian slogans.
- At pro-Palestinian demonstrations in various cities, the slogan “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” was displayed on banners and signs. Comparisons were also made with the Nazis and the Shoah. Someone also displayed an Israeli flag in which the Star of David had been replaced by a swastika.

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