MONITORING REPORT



MAY 2020 - APRIL 2021

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THE ANTISEMITISM IN THE STREET

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PREAMBLE

Internationally, online antisemitic, xenophobic manifestations and hate speech have been on the rise in recent years. The crisis generated in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has only provided fertile ground for the development and promotion of new conspiracy theories or the revival of old anti-Semitic theories.



During the period of reference for this report, there has been an increase in the number of incidents in Romania which display anti-Semitic symbolism and other elements. On the other hand, the survey conducted in April 2021 on Romanians' perception of the Holocaust and minority groups (https://bit.ly/3r84eHZ) does not show any alarm signals regarding the level of acceptance of Jews in the Romanian society (only 5% of respondents would not like to have a Jewish neighbor).

However, periodically, at key moments (election campaign, Jewish holidays), in the online environment or in the speeches of representatives of state institutions, there are displays that show us the existence of

stereotypes and prejudices that can be seen as (latent) anti-Semitism, which is widespread and can degenerate at any time. And yet, something new has happened: the anti-Semitic or Holocaust denying message has reappeared IN THE PARLIAMENT and a leading representative of the Romanian theatre, whose Jewish identity is notorious, has become the target of antisemitic threats.

A recent article in the written press highlighted the paradox of honoring the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and, at the same time, the existence and development of anti-Semitic manifestations, making a comprehensive description of the phenomenon in Romania: while, in the National Cathedral in Washington, the memory of Elie Wiesel is honored for his contribution to the struggle for the defense of human rights, in his native country there are streets, statues and institutions named after war criminals, authorities who think that the enforcement of the law is optional, death threats against representatives of the Jewish community, eulogies of the far-right Legionary Movement in the plenum of the decision-making forum (the Chamber of Deputies), the teaching of the Holocaust in schools is optional and sometimes incomplete, all these contributing to an insufficient knowledge of this part of history (<u>https://bit.ly/3hVBuOm</u>).

The analysis we made in 2020 presented an inventory of anti-Semitic manifestations in the public space, attempts to deny and relativize the Holocaust or to promote the cult of war criminals who were convicted of crimes against humanity. These actions were recorded between June 2019 and April 2020.

As a follow-up to the monitoring carried out in 2020, this report includes an analysis of the evolution of anti-Semitic manifestations, hate speech and Holocaust denial over the last year (May 2020-April 2021).



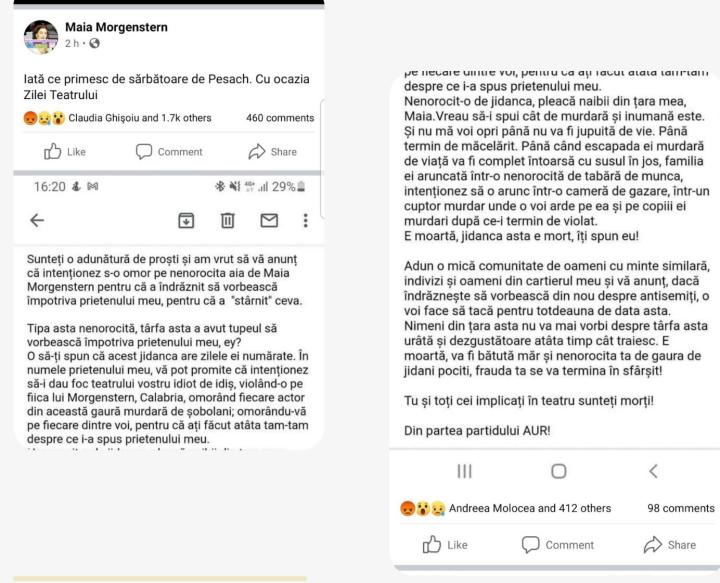
ACTS OF VANDALISM AND VERBAL AGRESSION



Picture: Suceava County. Building vandalized during the election campaign

The recent period has brought to public attention acts of vandalism and verbal aggression manifested with premeditation, also at times that underline the depth of anti-Semitic actions:

- September 2020, during the election campaign for local government representatives, a building in Dorneşti commune, Suceava County, was vandalized by writing the message: "Furman, baptized Kike" and the drawing of a swastika. The building belongs to a relative of one of the candidates for the position of Mayor in the commune. The message highlights one of the recurrent anti-Semitic themes ("Jews rule the world/Romania") and is most likely intended to fuel the disapproval of the local community and to prevent an individual (considered to be an outsider in terms of religion) from winning the office of Mayor.
- September 2020, in Târgu Mureş, the monument erected in memory of the local Jews deported in 1944 to Auschwitz was vandalized. The perpetrators are still unidentified. <u>https://www.jta.org/quick-reads</u>
- □ **February 2021,** the logo of the Institute for the Investigation of the Crimes of Communism and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (IICCMER), on the façade of the building that houses the institution, bears anti-Semitic inscriptions. IICCMER representatives issued a press release condemning the instance of vandalism and removed the writing. https://www.iiccmer.ro/carusel-stiri/2021/iiccmer-condamna-actele-de-vandalism-cu-caracter-anti-Semit/



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On March 27, 2021, on the evening of Pesach, an instance of verbal aggression attracted public attention. **Actress Maia Morgenstern, a member of Romania's Jewish community and head of the State Jewish Theatre, received a death threat.** The message was signed by a person who introduced himself as a member of the AUR party, a political organization which was voted into the Parliament in 2020 and which promotes far-right politics, focusing on anti-Semitism, homophobia and xenophobic nationalism

The leadership of the AUR party has denied that the author of the message is a member of the party, condemning his action. A few days later, on the very day that the Romanian Parliament adopted a declaration against anti-Semitic manifestations, one of the leaders of the AUR party, George Simion, declared in a press conference that "the culprit has been found, he has been identified, some sources say he is an ethnic Jew". The authorities' investigation identified the perpetrator as a mentally ill man, thus downplaying (or denying) the anti-Semitic nature of his action.

It should be noted that, on this occasion, Maia Morgenstern received numerous messages of support and solidarity from people who belong to the civil society, as well as from opinion leaders and politicians. On 31 March 2021, the Chamber of Deputies adopted a declaration on certain anti-Semitic manifestations in Romania, as well as on attempts to rehabilitate war criminals. All AUR MEPs abstained from voting in favor of the declaration.

There were also voices in the public space, some belonging to established journalists or well-known persons (Ion Cristoiu, Cozmin Gusa) who tried to downplay the seriousness of the attack and even to point the blame at the victim, accusing Maia Morgenstern of being part of a scenario in which obscure forces aim to discredit Romania by attaching the label of "anti-Semitic country" to it.



ANTISEMITIC MESSAGES IN THE ROMANIAN PARLIAMENT

- On February 24, 2021, Senator Sorin Lavric (AUR), while making political statements in the Romanian Senate, paid tribute to Valeriu Gafencu, a former active member of the far-right Legionary Movement, who, during the January 1941 rebellion, urged high school students in Iaşi to join the coup attempt. In 1941, after the Legionary Movement was banned, he was sentenced to prison for having campaigned for the reactivation of the mentioned fascist movement. Other parliamentary statements of the senator followed, including messages that promoted the memory of Legionary leaders and war criminals (Radu Gyr, Mircea Vulcănescu).
- □ **On March 3, 2021,** MP Daniel Gheorghe (PNL) saw it fit to eulogize Mircea Vulcănescu, a war criminal. It should be noted that the same MEP published on his own Facebook page, on 27 January 2021, which is the International Day of Commemoration of the Victims of the Holocaust, an ambiguous message which makes the reader think that the only state responsible for the Holocaust was Nazi Germany.

After such interventions, there was no reaction against them. Only a statement was issued on March 8, 2021 by MEP Silviu Vexler, the representative of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania in the Parliament, who made an appeal to the members of the Senate to be responsible and keep the memory of Holocaust victims. The statement was followed by one intervention. Senator S. Lavric, among other statements, replied, using an anti-Semitic tone: "This is Romania, this is not the Gaza Strip..." At the same time, he made reference, unrelated to the subject of MEP Vexler's statement, to the classic theme of post-communist anti-Semitism in which Jews are accused of bringing communism to Romania. Also unrelated to the subject, he mentioned the bombing of the Romanian Senate in 1920, trying to suggest that the ethnic identity of the (Jewish) bombers was relevant to the subject under discussion (Vexler's statement called for responsibility and he disavowed the apology of war criminals from the stands of the Parliament) <u>https://bit.ly/3qxp150</u>

ANTISEMITIC MESSAGES IN THE ROMANIAN PARLIAMENT

This theme of the AUR Senator's parliamentary speeches is present in his other public interventions. On March 1, 2021, he published a text on his Facebook page deploring the fact that the Spanish state discontinued any form of keeping the memory of fascist General Franco. The senator also gives an ethnic explanation to this problem, talking about "Marxist Masoretes" (an expression he often uses – a Masorete being a Jewish exegete who critically examines biblical texts) who are presumably taking revenge on Franco.

He concludes his post with a political battle statement in which the opponent is identified in ethnic terms: "The AUR Party will spoil the Marxist Masoretes: we will oppose the diabolical plan under which they seek planetary hegemony. You can no longer fool us, you can no longer stop us. We are in the Parliament and, from its benches, we will give you a hard time, defending the Romanians from the egalitarian scourge under which you want to destroy European culture".

In a radio broadcast from the beginning of April 2021, he said, "Jews have become accustomed to being always listened to. A lot of intellectuals play along with their agenda, they pledge their vows to them and then, in this climate in which they have become accustomed to being privileged, if they encounter a reaction of resistance, as it happened in my case, they suddenly feel persecuted, fallen from privilege, hence all this lamentation that we know so well, with this psychological trick of always invoking anti-Semitism when someone has a totally different opinion from theirs."



PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND MEMORIAL LEGISLATION In GEO 31/2002, amended by Law 217/2015 on the prohibition of fascist, legionary, racist or xenophobic organizations, symbols and deeds, and the promotion of the memory of persons found guilty of having committed crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes, there is a chapter about "obligations of public administration authorities".

- It mentions that, in public places, it is forbidden to erect monuments dedicated to persons who were executed for genocide or war crimes.
- It is also forbidden to name streets or other public places after these categories of persons, as well as to name organizations after them.
- The chapter prohibits the public apologia of war criminals or of people who were convicted of genocide, as well as the public promotion of fascist, legionary, racist or xenophobic ideas and concepts.

However, there are local administrations for which compliance with the law is optional.

□ August 2020: Courts of law and prosecutors do not consider the promotion of the memory of war criminals to be a serious matter that justifies the costs involved in conducting a criminal trial.



Tricou Ion Antonescu. Intrati pe shop-ul nostru pentru mai multe modele de tricouri istorice



2018, **INSHR-EW** filed In а complaint with the police, reporting that an online shop sells products with fascist, legionary or war criminal propaganda, which is prohibited by law. During the ensuing criminal investigation, the shop manager admitted that he had sold such items without knowing they were banned. Since 2018, on multiple occasions, the judicial authorities have proposed that the prosecution be halted.

having taken into consideration the opinion of the investigated person and neglecting the data presented by the Institute. They ignored the fact that the suspect promoted the products by using the advertising service of the Facebook platform and that users did warn him he was breaking the law. It also did not matter to the investigators that, when a Facebook user suggested to the suspect to make a T-shirt "with silhouettes of Jews hanging on poles, just like in Odessa", he complied and posted such a T-shirt on the site.

In August 2020, while confirming the decision to halt the prosecution, the judge stated that "the deed caused minimal damage to the social values that protect property, taking into account that the suspect pursued exclusively commercial purposes and had a sincere and regretful attitude, having cooperated with the prosecution, (...)), as well as the concrete circumstances of the crime, the efforts of the prosecution necessary for the conduct of the time that passed since the deed was done, as well as the existence of a clear disproportion between the expenses that the criminal proceedings would entail and the seriousness of the crime in terms of consequences".

□ **February 2021:** there still are, in Romania, streets named after Ion Antonescu and local administrations consider the enforcement of the law that prohibits the apologia of war criminals, by erecting busts or naming localities/streets in their honor, is optional or interpretable.

An example in this sense is the case of the Mayor of Constanța, who argues that the name of the Ion Antonescu Street should be kept because "about the figure and the role played by Ion Antonescu in the history of Romania there are various, even contradictory assessments, polemics and controversies".

Since 2014, the "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania (INSHR-EW) sent several memos about the illegal situation in which the members of the Constanța administration find themselves in. Also, in the spring of this year, INSHR-EW resumed cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which has been involved in the effort to remove from the public space names of streets, of institutions, as well as of monuments that do not comply with GEO no. 31/2002. In this context, Alexandru Muraru, Special Representative of the Government for the Promotion of Memorial Policies, Fight against Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia, stated he would support local authorities in changing the names of streets bearing the names of war criminals. We are still waiting for reactions from local administrations.¹

¹In June 2021, the Local Council of Constanța adopted a decision to change the name of the "Mareșal Ion Antonescu" street. Also in June, the Harghita prefecture communicated to the INSHR-EW that the monument of the Wandering Szekler (Secuiul rătăcitor) in Odorheiu Secuiesc was not about Albert Wass, although there are many pieces of information suggesting that the statue actually represents Wass.

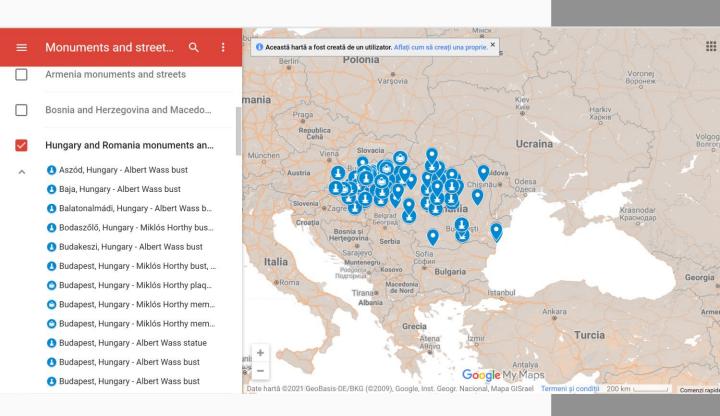


□ April 2021- in Iași, the local administration unveiled the bust of Octavian Goga, former Prime Minister and promoter of fascist policies.

Octavian Goga is known and is being promoted, in the Romanian culture and public space, as one of the poets who did a lot for the national culture. Octavian Goga, however, was also a politician and dignitary of the Romanian state who led a pro-fascist policy in which anti-Semitism was at the forefront. In 1938, as Prime Minister, he issued a law under which a third of the Jewish population would lose their citizenship and, therefore, they lost protection from the state. The "Elie Wiesel" Institute has recommended to the local administration of Iași to make a minimal gesture in memory of the victims of the 1941 Pogrom and to mention Octavian Goga's political profile.²

²In June 2021 a plaque was placed on the side of Goga's bust, reading the following: "Unfortunately, his political activity is a regrettable page in the history of Romania, as he was a fascist and anti-Semitic militant". The solution chosen by the authorities led to several critical reactions. The placement of Goga's bust by the Iaşi authorities is at odds with their effort, in recent years, to mark the city's Jewish past and the memory of the victims of the Iaşi Pogrom.





□ The Nazi Monuments Map – in February 2021, a project of the Forward magazine presented the sad reality of the glorification of perpetrators and people responsible for the Holocaust: 320 monuments erected, as well as street names given in 16 countries, on three continents.

More than 45 such monuments and street names can be found just in Romania: :

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1sW6RPe7rwDKl FNa7micTeQezCpomKof3&ll=44.39698425124402%2C40.506437319 34439&z=5&fbclid=IwAR0QkkwYk817V1WFa3CHMYKvCK4VWDpnk7 QfGspe6Ip_avB04sx0xGi9myc

Although we have the example of local administrations that, for years, refused to change the names of streets or remove busts, there are exceptions showing that the enforcement of the law is not impossible: in the commune of 1 Decembrie, following the meeting of the Local Council dated January 29, 2021, local authorities decided to change the name of the Ion Antonescu Street. The resolution was adopted with nine votes in favor, five against and one abstention.

The enforcement of the memorial legislation also encounters a major halt in terms of prosecuting suspects of Holocaust denial or the dissemination of fascist, legionary, racist and xenophobic symbols and insignia. However, the period under review witnessed a noteworthy first: **in February 2021, a court handed down the very first conviction for Holocaust denial.** The decision was handed down by a first instance court and the appeal phase is due to be heard this autumn.

Almost 98% of complaints filed on the basis of Ordinance 31 are closed at the investigation stage.

A survey conducted by RFI Romania in April 2021, based on data provided by the Public Ministry, shows that most of the offences that GEO 31/2002 refers to, pertaining to anti-Semitism, are still unsolved and, of the solved ones, only one case was sent to a court of law³.

Statistical data regarding the crimes provided by GEO 31/2022 Total cases of Public Ministry in 2020

DATE STATISTICE PRIVIND INFRACTIUNILE PREV. DE O.U.G. NR. 31/2002

INFRACȚIUNEA	NR. CAUZE DE SOLUTIONAT DIN CARE:	NR. CAUZE SOLUȚIONATE, DIN CARE:	PRIN TRIMITERE ÎN JUDECATĂ ³	PRIN NETRIMITERE ÎN JUDECATĂ ⁴	NR. CAUZE REUNITE, DECLINATE	NR. CAUZE RĂMASE NESOLUȚIONATE
00	1	2	3	4	5	6
Infracțiuni prev. de O.U.G. nr. 31/2002 având ca mobil antisemitismul	27	9	1	8	1	17
Alte infracțiuni prev. <u>de</u> O.U.G. nr. 31/2002	38	14	0	14	7	17
TOTAL INFRACȚIUNI	65	23	1	22	8	34

PE TOTAL MINISTER PUBLIC, ÎN ANUL 2020

³ Rechizitorii şi acorduri de recunoaştere a vinovăției

⁴ Renunțări la urmărirea penală și clasări

 3 It is not at all clear what is the methodology and criteria according to which the Public Ministry classified certain deeds as "offences under GEO 31/2002, where anti-Semitism is the motive".

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION



Encouragement or acceptance of extremist, anti-Semitic attitudes, Holocaust denial or promotion of hate speech may be based on insufficient knowledge of history.

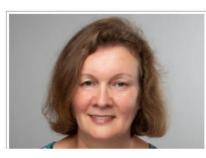
The importance and need of Holocaust education in Romania, as well as the current gaps, are highlighted when we are confronted with the misuse of memorial legislation, of complaints about Holocaust denial or when we witness hate speech by people who, in theory, should have a key role in education and training.

At the end of 2020, two such cases came to public attention in the media.

USR-PLUS despre romi: "Totusi, mentalitatea aceasta de sclav nu cumva exista in mentalul romilor?"

de Teodora Munteanu

Like Share 26 people like this. Be the first of your



Vineri, 04 Decembrie 2020, ora 19:26

Tweet

Candidata Mandita Baias, aflata pe pozitia a doua pe listele USR-PLUS Maramures pentru Senat, a declarat intr-o dezbatere pe tema educatiei ca persoanele de etnie roma au o "mentalitate de sclav".

"Cred ca, totusi, mentalitatea aceasta de - o pun in ghilimele - "sclav" nu cumva exista in mentalul romilor? Nu cumva trebuje sa lucram aici un pic

During the same period, an inspector general of the Ministry of Education, attending a conference for national minorities in Romania, addressed racist remarks to representatives of the Roma community.

This reaction, although described as an isolated incident caused by a pressing situation, reveals, in fact, the attitude towards minorities of an inspector who should understand the discriminatory situations of social inequality and segregation faced by students from Roma communities and who should be the one to provide solutions.

<u>Home</u> / <u>Educativ</u> / Despre naționalismul românesc și A.U.R. – Sterie Ciumetti în dialog cu profesorul Corvin Lupu [I]

DESPRE NAȚIONALISMUL ROMÂNESC ȘI A.U.R. — STERIE CIUMETTI ÎN Dialog cu profesorul corvin lupu (1)

Sterie Ciumetti Incorect Politic Februarie 9, 2021



Despre naționalismul românesc și A.U.R.

Sterie Ciumetti în dialog cu profesorul Corvin Lupu

In Maramureş, a teacher, a candidate on the USR-PLUS party list for the Senate, said that the Roma communities had "a slave-like mentality":

"I believe, nevertheless, this mentality – let me put it in quotation marks – "of a slave" isn't it present inside the Roma mindset? Shouldn't we work here a bit more? So that they will no longer feel like slaves?"



ZIARE.COM

Inspector al Ministerului Educatiei, acuzat ca a folosit o injuratura rasista in timpul unei conferinte despre romi

In February 2021, INSHR-EW informed the steering committee of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu (ULBS) about public anti-Semitic statements made by a person who was referred to as a professor at the institution (https://bit.ly/3AFLLXL)

The answer received by the Institute is indicative of the lack of seriousness and responsibility when such situations are encountered. The Rector of ULSB replied that:

"The assertions and ideas expressed in the article are complex and require a closer look, therefore a thorough analysis will be made in case the professor will request, for the next academic year, to teach in hourly-paid classes [...]. The curricula of the subject in question does not include topics related to the above mentioned statements. As far as we are aware, there are no complaints about the use of similar statements during the class in question. "

History lessons about the Holocaust



In 2020, for the first time ever, **the 8th grade history textbook** referred to the Holocaust in Romania in the form of a Case Study lesson. Of the three textbooks we consulted, the one coordinated by Stan Stoica and published by CD Press aimed to provide students with information about the Iaşi Pogrom taken from Acad. Florin Costantiniu's book **"A sincere History of the Romanian People**" (2008). According to the academician, the Jews attacked two military columns (!), which is why "*the Romanian authorities quickly evacuated the Jews from Iaşi, in inhumane conditions (...). The number of the dead in the overcrowded trains full of evacuees meant that, in the end, several thousand Jews lost their lives in what was called the 'pogrom of Iaşi*".

But the events were quite different, and current works on the Holocaust in Romania say it with sincerity and clarity. It would not be impossible for the authors of the textbook to update their bibliographical choice.



Recently, the Romanian Academy published a volume, coordinated by Carol Iancu, called "One Hundred Years after the Treaty of National Minorities (1919); Aspects pertaining to the History and Civilization of the lews in Romania". Without being a central subject, the tragedy of the Jews in Romania, the Shoah, says Acad. Carol Iancu in the Introduction, "led, under the pressure of Nazi Germany, to the disappearance hundreds of thousands Romanian Iews (...), of but. fortunately, the majority of Jews in this geographical area survived!"

Carol Iancu practices a form of deflective Holocaust denial which aims to put the blame exclusively on Nazi Germany and he mentions nothing about the responsibility and contribution of the Romanian authorities to the Holocaust. Historian Ladislau Gyemant, points out that a pogrom took place in Iași "with thousands of victims in the so-called death trains", but he omits to mention the rest of the violence in the city that claimed thousands of victims.

Textbooks and popularization books, as well as summaries dealing with topics related to the history of the Holocaust need to update their bibliography, otherwise they simply come to trivialize the Holocaust.

Given such studies and lessons that deny recent documents and historiography through distortion and omission, we are still far from assuming history as a lesson of civic education. "To know so as not to repeat" is still a motto we invoke at every commemoration event.

ANTI-RESTRICTIONS PROTESTS

Between free speech and trivializing the memory of the Holocaust victims



Throughout the period under review, several protests were organized and statements were made on the restrictions imposed by the medical situation. Given the context of these rallies, there were multiple episodes in which the symbols, comparisons and analogies that were used actually degraded the memory of the Holocaust victims.

In May 2020, a group of citizens went to the bust of Elie Wiesel in Bucharest and put a protective mask on the statue. In the videos they shared on social media, they said that "this personality [Elie Wiesel] transmitted a virus which is much more dangerous than the Wuhan virus for Romanian society [...] we all have to assume this attitude of limiting the effects of this virus in Romanian society and even worldwide, because it is a virus that destroys lives". The protesters are trying to instill the idea that the fight against anti-Semitism, the defense of human rights and the memory of the Holocaust, the fight against intolerance and the condemnation of genocide, ideas for which Elie Wiesel fought throughout his life, were like a virus. INSHR-EW filed a complaint at the CNCD against the people who took part in the event and CNCD fined them.





In March 2021, several messages were displayed at the protests against restrictions and vaccination, which induced the idea that Romania was a Nazi camp where vaccination is mandatory.

In this context, people who enjoy a large audience appear and introduce, in their critical discourse on pandemic restrictions and vaccination against Covid-19, references that trivialize the drama of the Holocaust victims. For example, a plastic surgeon who was very vocal on social media during the pandemic period and has a very large following compared the medical realities of the current pandemic context to *"experiments carried out directly on humans in Nazi concentration camps [which] were like 'manna from heaven' from the scientific point of view".*

In March 2021, the AUR party joined the protests against the pandemic restrictions and urged citizens to rally in the streets. During the very next evenings, protests took place in several towns across the country and xenophobic outbursts were witnessed on several occasions. In Timişoara, protesters marched in the middle of the night in front of Mayor Dominic Fritz's house and their chants about the mayor's ethnic identity included: **"Don't forget Mr. Fritz: Timişoara is not Auschwitz" or "A member of the USR party is a Hitler baby".**

Analize și opinii

CA

"Să nu uiți, Herr Fritz / Timișoara nu-i Auschwitz!" .

gandeste.org/analize-si-opinii/sa-nu-uiti-herr-fritz-timisoara-nu-i-auschwitz/119965/





Hate speech is continuously present in the online environment, with surges during election campaigns or at key moments in the medical crisis management process (the launch of the anti-COVID-19 vaccine, the launch of the vaccination campaign, etc.) ONLINE ANTISEMITISM AND HOLOCAUST DENIAL

The analysis undertaken by the researchers of the Elie Wiesel Institute in 2020 continued with a monitoring of online hate speech from May 2020 to April 2021. The following indicators were tracked: identification and observation of systematic creators, as well as sharers of hate narratives and anti-Semitic discourses. Websites / blogs, Facebook accounts / pages / groups, where instigating and intolerant messages are constantly shared, were monitored.

The analysis is not representative in terms of the statistical data, as our observations focus on quality, not on quantity.



The authors of materials published on the websites and blogs monitored by us can only be identified to a small extent. Most of the articles published and analyzed in the period 2020-2021 are still collectively authored at editorial level and not by an individual author. Exceptions can be noticed in the blog of author Ion Coja or in the Incorect Politic publication.

Compared to the period 2019-2020, in the last analysis we made for the period 2020-2021, the identification of the author is possible to a greater extent. However, the higher percentage may also be due to the higher number of articles published on the two mentioned websites. Many of the signatures at the Politically Incorect publication are pennames or false.

Furthermore, no detailed contact data of the authors are given and, most often, the "contact" section is a form that can be filled in by visitors or sometimes an e-mail address used by the entire editorial team/site.

We did not find any disclaimers, in the reviewed publications, that limit the authors' liability for certain articles or set out the status of certain materials. In the case of the sites "nationalisti.ro" and "incorectpolitic.com", there are mentions according to which the materials and user comments are the opinions of the authors and not of the editors.





The articles we identified as hate speech were largely published on the same websites we monitored for our 2020 report. However, some changes can be noticed: some of those websites can no longer be accessed in 2021 (10%), while others have not published anti-Semitic or racist content in the last year (27%), and yet the number of articles we identified and analyzed is significantly larger than the number we reported in the 2020 analysis, which indicates an increase in the manifestation of hate speech in publications that continued in this direction (> 60%).

The publications we monitored continue to share predominantly nationalistic content (both about history and the current times), information referring to spirituality, mysticism, but also to culture and politics. The idea of conspiracies and the rejection of the values of Western and progressive civilization are suggested on a continuous basis.





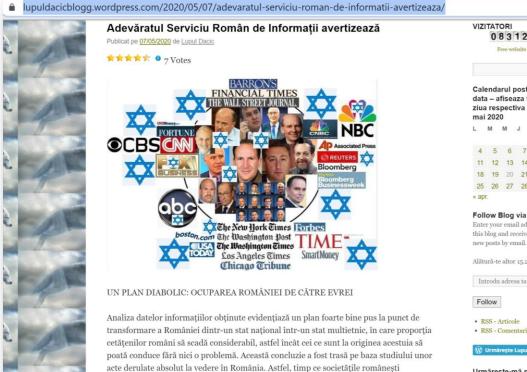


They share a critical discourse about any kind of minority (especially ethnic and sexual minorities), being both Eurosceptic and anti-globalist. Anti-Semitic narratives are not their exclusive topic. Of the websites we monitored, incorectpolitic.com systematically publishes anti-Semitic materials and it even has a dedicated section: "The Jewish Question".









disponibilizează zeci de mii de salariați, firme specializate care au în spate finanțatori de origine evreiască se înghesuie să aducă pe teritoriul României muncitori din zona Asiei, în principal din China și Pakistan, care să înlocuiască forța de muncă autohtonă nevoită în



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Caută

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buciumul.ro/2021/04/06/cum-au-manjit-parlamentarii-obrazul-romaniei/

Declarația a avut ca punct de pornire recentul atac îndreptat împotriva Teatrului Evreiesc și actriței Maia Morgenstern. Și asta în ciuda faptului că Poliția a dovedit deja că autorul violentelor mesaje semnate "partidul AUR" nu este decât un biet bolnav psihic. Si atunci, care este antisemitismul?

Demersul adoptat docil de deputați vine după repetate declarații de aceeași natură, susținute de consilierul guvernamental responsabil cu combaterea antisemitismului și fascismului, Alexandru Muraru, de premierul Cîtu și chiar de președintele Iohannis. Și după un șir neîntrerupt de incidente scornite sau provocate inabil, precum așa numitele discursuri pro-legionare din Parlament, destituirea lui Octav Bjoza din funcția de subsecretar de stat, amenințările unui psihopat la adresa Maiei Morgenstern sau dezvelirea unui bust al poetului Octavian Goga la lași.

Este cât se poat<mark>e de evident că există interesul – al cui oare? – de a se acredita teza existenței u</mark> facere bănoasă oriunde în lume, dar mai ales într-o țară ca România. A lupta împotriva fasciștilor – rea le la diferitele instituții internaționale evreiești. Pentru frații Muraru, în cârdășie, cu Alexandru Florian d n toată afacerea, România va ieși cel mai prost.

Așa cum arăta jurnalistul Bogdan Tiberiu Iacob, Comisia Europeană a stabilit recent, ca o condiție esențială a acordării de fonduri europene, respectarea normelor statului de drept în țările membre UE. La Bruxelles, antisemitismul, xenofobia și discriminările de orice fel constituie elemente care sunt considerate indicatori ai precarității statului de drept și democrației. Nu degeaba Parlamentul European insistă de ani buni pentru înființarea unui mecanism de supraveghere a discriminării și a drepturilor minoritătilor, după modelul binecunoscutului MCV.

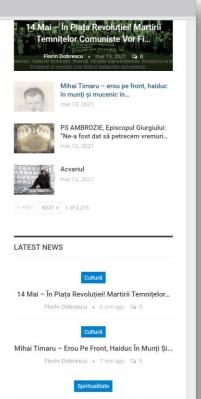
Este greu de crezut că o țară ai cărei reprezentanți oficiali consimte că are mari problem legate de antisemitism, xenofobie, discriminări, mai are șanse să își primească integral banii europeni cuveniți.

Si poate că sunt cercuri externe interesate ca România să pătească asa ceva. Dar cât de imbecil poti fi, ca demnitar român, să deteriorezi tu însuți în asemenea măsură, imaginea propriei țări?!



Florin Dobrescu





PS AMBROZIE, Episcopul Giurgiului: "Ne-A Fost Dat Să...





Our analysis of anti-Semitic materials show there is a conspiracy-type content. There is an increase (73%, compared to 70% in 2020) of the topic according to which "the Jews rule the world or Romania".

The topic "the Jews rule the world" is also visible in articles published towards the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, which focus on the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer or Moderna. Of the articles we monitored, 13% develop this topic, while the messages they convey support the idea of the presumed international control the world by Jewish communities.

Here are some of the messages they communicate: Jews fund companies that produce the serum and encourage vaccination in order to gain control, as well as for economic gain; Jews encourage vaccination, but the serum administered to them and that given to non-Jews is different, the latter having harmful effects; Jews encourage discrimination and segregation of the ones who refuse vaccination. The evolution of messages in this direction is predictable to some extent, considering the similar content that appeared at the beginning of the pandemic period, when Jews were considered "guilty" of the medical crisis. The emergence of such messages is common in times of crisis, when certain message carriers look for easy solutions or culprits in order to explain complicated issues.









The stereotype of "Judeo-Bolshevism" is found in 11% of the analyzed articles (down from 25% in 2020) and equates Jewishness with communist ideology. Often, Judeo-Bolshevism makes its way into the same material where narratives that deny or relativize the Holocaust are developed.

To a much lesser extent, economic or religious anti-Semitism is found in the analyzed materials.





Most of the anti-Semitic messages continue to be directed at a collective target of hate, at all Jews, who are perceived as a whole and not as individuals. There are also individual targets who appear recurrently (George Soros, Liviu Beris, etc.), but also newly, falsely identified targets (Dominic Fritz), who are referred to precisely because they symbolize Jewishness, thus becoming central actors in the manifestation of anti-Semitism.

Hate Speech



There is no directly visible incitement against Jews in the text of the articles (sometimes, the comments posted about the articles are more virulent). Most of the times, anti-Semitism is conveyed at the level of information reported in the articles, but there is no direct instigation or incitement to hatred. Such articles could be associated with a call for resistance, even if it is not directly expressed.

Of the articles we identified, 25% use foul language when conveying anti-Semitic messages.

The aggressiveness of the language or of the personal attacks that can be found in many articles clearly make them eligible for the analysis of the investigative bodies of the state, under GEO 31/2002 or under the Law for the fight against anti-Semitism.



The degree of popularization of the information we identified in websites and blogs is difficult to measure, as not all publications display a counter with the number of views/readers on their page. It is important to note that more than half of the entities we analyzed have social media pages associated to them which share the content published on their website. Also, some articles are periodically re-shared to specific communities with similar interests. If the link to such a material is posted, for example, on a Facebook group with several thousand members, there is a chance that it will be read by a large number among them.



Facebook continues to be, by far, the most popular social network in Romania, despite a substantial growth enjoyed by other networks. Facebook hosts a number of communities with an extremely rich dynamics of anti-Semitic content.

In the last few years, the mentioned platform significantly improved the reporting of content that breaches the "Facebook community standards" (the set of rules that users must follow). Among the options for reporting posts, comments or accounts, "hate speech" regarding race or ethnicity is explicitly mentioned. There has been a major improvement in the way in which Facebook responds after hateful content has been reported.

The network reacts very quickly by removing graphical symbols or photos that belong to fascist or far-right iconography in general. In the case of text content, especially in the case of comments, the response time can take a few days after the reporting has been done and removal of reported content is much rarer.

f

FACEBOOK

Despite the progress Facebook has made in recent years, there still are entire online communities formed around groups or pages where hateful anti-Jewish content is systematically shared.

Assuming Identity and Responsibility



In the case of the Facebook network, there is a much greater dynamics among the senders of anti-Semitic messages than in the case of websites. Their accounts are suspended or deleted by the network or are made inactive for certain periods of time. Compared to the previous report, the number of groups and pages permanently removed by the network is higher. **Around 70% of the anti-Semitic messages we identified are sent by users whose identity appears to be real.** The conclusion according to which they provide their real identity is supported by the personal nature of some of the photos or videos uploaded on their profile or by the existence of information which is also personal (family connections with other people, information about their job, education, presence at certain events, etc.)

Many of the anti-Semitic messages were identified in groups or pages that do not give information about their administrators. Even if the administrators are not posting anti-Semitic content, they are responsible for hosting such messages. It is increasingly common for administrators of such communities to disclaim responsibility by stating this in the description of the group/page.

It is interesting to note that users who are notified and restricted by the Facebook network for their anti-Semitic behavior show no sign of regret and continue to openly express their prejudices. However, they look for ways to camouflage the content by altering words, as well as by using symbols or codes. Coded language is designed to shield users from automatic moderation mechanisms and it often proves effective. They claim violations of free speech and construct conspiracy theories according to which Facebook is controlled by Jews, often referring to the ethnic identity of Mark Zuckerberg, the network's founder.

Anti-Semitic discourse continues to be visible on Facebook in a variety of ways, and most of the posts we identified do not have explicit constructs. The anti-Semitic nature of the posts is context-driven, which makes it difficult for artificial intelligence systems and even for people who are not sufficiently trained and prepared to identify them as such.

It is extremely common that links to news stories about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, or information about current issues involving Jews or people perceived to be Jewish, become part of anti-Semitic posts because they are attached to inciting narrative constructs. This type of content is more frequent when episodes of conflict are presented in the media. When analyzed separately, the links and accompanying texts on Facebook have nothing provocative, but, when put in the same context, the result is an anti-Semitic narrative construct.

It should be noted that many of the anti-Semitic articles we identified on sites end up being shared on Facebook. The platform fails to effectively address this situation and continues to host anti-Semitic narratives resulting from externally produced materials shared on Facebook. Thus, by using the social network, anti-Semitic content is being disseminated and the audience is thus sent to external sources which publish such materials.

Most of the identified messages have as subject (or target) the entire Jewish community. About 20% of the incidents are targeted against Jewish individuals or people who are identified as Jewish by anti-Semites.



Pe perciunatul ăsta nu-l lăsa Cahalul să-și vadă de morții mă-sii....



ACTIVENEWS.RO

Fostul președinte, Emil Constantinescu, va demara un proiect de cercetare asupra Fenomenului Piața Universității 1990

About 65-70% of hate messages against Jews induce the idea that "Jews rule the world or Romania". There are many similar messages that do not fit the type of established anti-Semitism, these being insults or licentious constructs that convey disapproval and resistance to anything related to the Jewish identity.

Similarly to the websites and blogs we analyzed, there are very few instances where the anti-Semitic discourse is clearly instigating or calling for certain actions against Jews. The general idea emanating from these narratives is a call for resistance against Jews and their exposure as such.

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2 iunie 2020 · 🕲		
Pentru toți frații mei crestini		
de obarsie iafetica si nicidecum s ILLUMINATI, BILDERBERG, COMIS VATICANUL, CASELE REGALE, GU Scopul lor final Noua Dez-Ordir	emitica, avand tentacule precun SIA TRILATERALA, CFRELATION, S VERNUL MONDIAL (comitetul co ne Mondiala Nimrodiana, in care ingur lider mondial anticristic ce	elor 300 de calai) etc. e toata planeta va devenii un e-si are sediul actual la Londra, dar
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Cele mai relevante 👻

Content



21 decembrie la 15:09 ·

Acestia fauresc istoria de secole....

Summitul de la Yalta din februarie 1945 cu (de la stânga la dreapta) Winston Churchill , Franklin Roosevelt și Iosif Stalin . De asemenea, sunt prezenți ministrul de externe al URSS Vyacheslav Molotov (extremă dreapta); Mareșalul de câmp Alan Brooke , amiralul flotei Sir Andrew Cunningham, RN , mareșalul RAF Sir Charles Portal , (în spatele lui Churchill); George Marshall, șeful Statului Major al Armatei și amiralul flotei William D. Leahy, USN , (în spatele lui Roosevelt).





OCULTA/ELITA ÎŞI SCHIMBĂ PIESELE PE TABLA DE ŞAH LA FIECARE 4-5 ANI AŞA CUM FIECARE MUNCITOR ÎN CONSTRUCȚII ÎŞI SCHIMBĂ MĂNUŞILE DUPĂ CE S-AU RUPT: "Cu cât guvernele se schimbă mai des, cu atât slăbeşte mai mult puterea de a conduce şi de această slăbiciune nu profită decât francmasonul. De aceea, citim atât de des chiar şi în presa de la noi că e nevoie totdeauna de schimbări de guvern. De aceea francmasonul din Protocoale mărturiseşte că puterea lor creşte foarte mult mai ales atunci când creştinului îi merge tot mai rău, astfel ne apare evident că puterea francmasonilor stă ascunsă în foametea creştinului, în nefericirea sa, în slăbirea tot mai mare a muncitorilor noştri."

https://deconspirareafrancmasoneriei.wordpress.com/...



Content



4 iunie 2020 · 🕄

...

Prin America, sionismul internațional a reușit să cucerească 98% din statele lumii. Acum ceea ce se întîmplă în America cu protestele negrilor, e pur și simplu un teatru pentru a arăta lumii că fără o dictaură=ura dictează lumea nu va avea liniște și pace!

"Toate Statele, în urma acestor uneltiri abile, cer liniște, sunt gata să jertfească totul pentru pace, dar noi nu le vom da pace atâta timp cât ele nu vor recunoaște deschis și cu umilință Guvernul nostru Suprem." AL IX-LEA PROTOCOL SECRET FRANCMASONIC https://deconspirareafrancmasoneriei.wordpress.com/...

"Noua Ordine Mondiala s-a construit, se construiește și se va construi impotriva statelor demo(no)cratice, pe ruinele statelor demo(no)cratice și pe cheltuiala statelor demo(no)cratice." Zbigniew Brzezinski



As in other countries, the QAnon movement has witnessed a surge on Facebook, in Romania, throughout 2020. Many of the communities developed around it share conspiracy theories, myths and stereotypes of an anti-Semitic nature. At the end of the period analyzed by us, probably as a result of an intense effort by the Facebook network, mainly in the United States, accounts, groups and communities that promote the QAnon movement are increasingly difficult to identify and their audience is incomparably smaller than in the summer and autumn of 2020.







The way in which Facebook uses automatic moderation tools developed by them often leads to situations where the reporting of anti-Semitic or fascist advocacy narratives is considered to be a content that violates Facebook's rules and is removed. This situation frustrates well-intended users and discourages those who wish to speak out on the issue. The effort made by the network to refine its algorithms in order to identify illegal content must be followed up by investment in human resources who know the particularities of local situations and understand the difference between the harmful or, on the contrary, the civic nature of various types of content.



The number of followers of the pages and accounts we analyzed varies greatly. The same is true for the number of members of the groups we monitored. There is significant volatility among those who post and share anti-Semitic messages on Facebook. Most likely, this dynamics is due to the network's efforts to remove illegal or inappropriate content.

The way in which Facebook works makes it impossible for us to present data on the audience of the posts we analyzed. Given the ratings some posts or comments get, we are concerned about anti-Semitic manifestations in social media. The fact that anti-Semitic posts find an audience, that people are often willing to contribute to and spread such messages, indicates the need for additional measures to remove anti-Semitic content more effectively and quickly.





At the end of last year's report that covers the year 2019 and the first months of 2020, we showed that the trend of radical manifestations and the possibility of political movements that promote extremist values and empower anti-democratic forces in Romania was not developed. A year later, the situation is quite different. The last parliamentary elections welcomed into the Parliament a party that seems to be willing to harness ultranationalist and illiberal frustrations and energies, as well as to encourage chauvinistic and xenophobic behavior.

Over the past year, public space has witnessed a growing dynamics of anti-Semitic language and symbolism. Even if it is a singular case, the threats made against Maia Morgenstern show us that both the Jewish community in Romania and the larger society entered a phase that forces us to have a common approach on the issue of anti-Semitism. In less than a month, a cemetery and a synagogue were vandalized in two different cities, Ploiești and Orăștie. The symbolic anti-Semitic violence in the online environment seems to have come to the streets.

During the period covered by this report, the Government of Romania approved the National Strategy for the Prevention and Fight against anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech, and the Prime Minister appointed a special representative of the Government for the promotion of memorial policies and the fight against anti-Semitism and xenophobia. It is also worth mentioning that a court of law decided to enforce a law passed some 19 years ago, meaning that, for the first time ever in Romania, a person was found guilty of Holocaust denial.

Even if the central institutions of the Romanian state improved their tools and declared their willingness to build a framework so as to increase resilience against far-right manifestations, the appraisal of the last year shows that a lot is still to be done.

REPORT MADE BY:

"ELIE WIESEL" NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE HOLOCAUST IN ROMANIA

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During the last 15 years, The "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania has been publicly reacted and promoted the principles of democratic societies.

The identification, collection, archiving, research, publication of documents, of scientific solutions to questions pertaining to the Holocaust, the promotion of the memory of Holocaust victims and intercultural dialogue, are the main activities of the Institute being implemented by the use of scientific research and cultural-educational programs.



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