

ANNUAL REPORT
ON ANTISEMITISM
IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC
FOR 2023



FEDERATION
OF JEWISH
COMMUNITIES,
CZECH REPUBLIC

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Have you become a victim or a witness to an antisemitic incident?

Don't keep it to yourself; write to us.

Contact email: antisemitismus@fzo.cz.

Antisemitic Incident Report Form: nahlasincident.cz.

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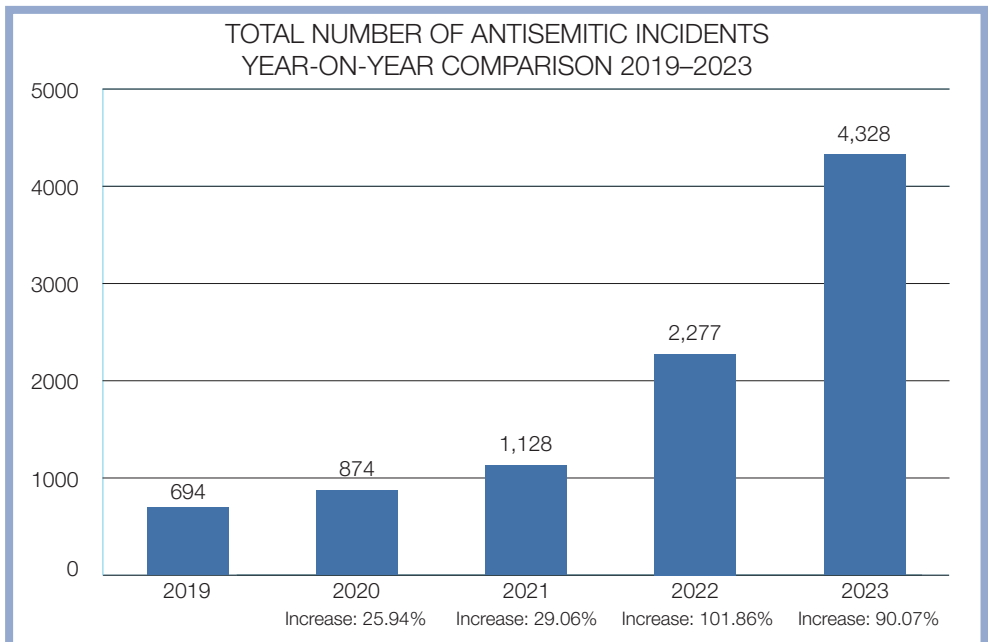
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1 | SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic (FJC) recorded a total of 4,328 antisemitic incidents in 2023, compared to 2022, when 2,277 incidents were registered, representing an increase of 90%. 2023 has once again confirmed the constant trend of a dramatic increase in antisemitism.



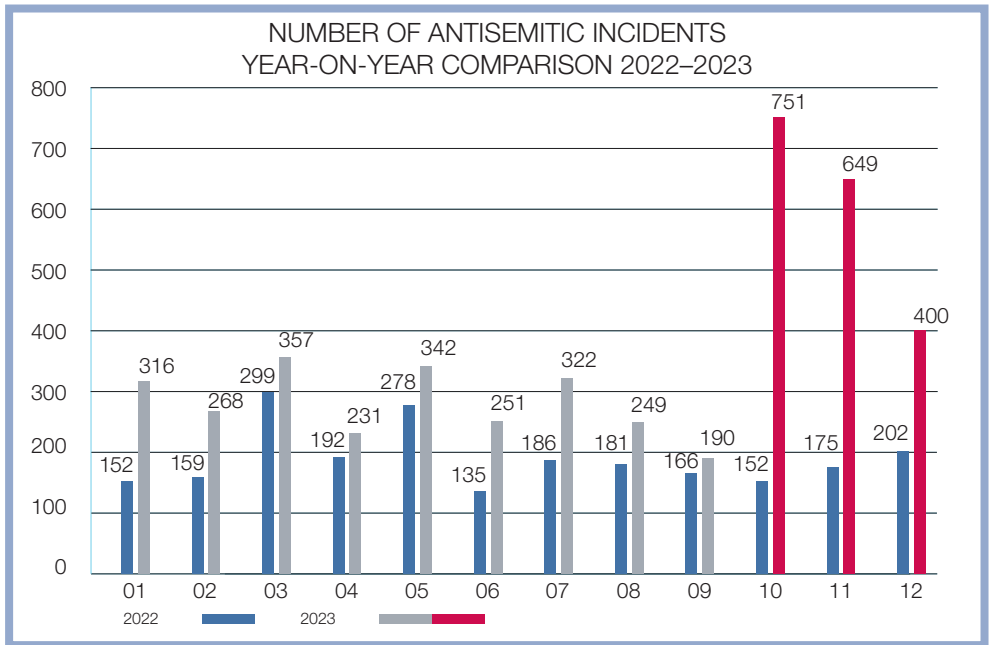
The collected data does not offer a complete statistical overview of all antisemitic incidents for 2023. The FJC draws information exclusively from open sources, representing a small segment of the described reality. The number of registered incidents also depends on the willingness and ability of victims and witnesses to report antisemitic incidents. In the Czech Republic, as in other countries, hate crimes continue to be underreported, often due to stigmatisation, mistrust of institutions or concerns about personal safety. The FJC statistics cannot answer the question of what proportion of the Czech population thinks or acts antisemitic. Still, they do tell us about trends and the social climate concerning anti-Jewish hatred.

Antisemitic-motivated physical violence occurs only exceptionally in the Czech Republic. In the last five years, two violent attacks were reported to the FJC (2020 and 2021). No attacks were recorded in 2023. Regarding personal security, the Czech Republic remained a safe country for the Jewish community in 2023.

Many domestic and foreign events influenced the themes, motives and speed of the spread of antisemitism. Until the very end of 2023, antisemitic narratives were connected with Russian military aggression against Ukraine and the fading COVID-19 pandemic. A turning point was 7 October 2023. Palestinian terrorist organisations led by Hamas attacked civilian and military targets in southern Israel from the Gaza Strip. The unprecedented attack started a war between Israel and Hamas. Immediately after the 7 October attack, an intensive wave of worldwide antisemitism followed, which also had a profound effect on the Czech Republic.

Monthly statistics demonstrate a substantial increase in antisemitism in the last quarter of 2023. Whereas 2,528 incidents were registered in

January–September, i.e. 58.41%, a further 1,800 incidents were registered in October–December, representing 41.59%. For January–September 2023, the average monthly increase compared to 2022 was 50.03%. In the period October–December, the average increase was 254.32%.



The 7 October terrorist attack and subsequent war between Israel and Hamas led to deeply concerning trends:

- In 2023, 18 cases of threats, insults or harassment were recorded; this is the highest number since 2019 and almost double compared to 2022. In the period until 7 October, ten incidents were recorded, and by the end of the year, a further eight incidents were recorded.

- In 2023, 72 targeted incidents directed against a specific person, property or institution were registered, compared to 2022, when 24 incidents were recorded, an increase of 200%. In the period up to 7 October, 40 incidents were recorded, and by the end of the year, a further 32 incidents were recorded.
- In terms of the content of antisemitic incidents, a category of false, dehumanising, demonising, vulgar or stereotypical statements and conspiracy theories was dominant in 2023. The FJC recorded 2,915 incidents in this category. The second most numerous category consists of incidents of 'New Anti-Semitism', i.e. anti-Jewish hatred directed against the State of Israel. The FJC recorded 1,242 incidents, i.e. almost a third of the total of all registered incidents. Compared to 2022, this is an increase of 208%. In the period up to 7 October, 371 incidents were registered, and by the end of the year, a further 871 incidents, i.e. more than 70%.
- Antisemitism has predominantly existed in the virtual environment for a considerable time. In 2023, 4,242 incidents originated from the online space, i.e. 98.01% of all recorded incidents. The main platform for spreading antisemitism on the Internet remains social media, on which the FJC recorded 3,019 incidents.
- In addition to social media, the impact of the events of 7 October was most evident in the number of online articles and discussion posts. In the period up to 7 October, 368 antisemitic articles were registered, i.e. 54.2%, and by the end of the year, a further 311 articles, i.e. 45.8%. The dramatic increase in the number of articles was caused by intensive activity on disinformation platforms. Antisemitic discussion posts were

most often found in articles in mainstream media. In the period up to 7 October, 231 articles with hateful comments were recorded, i.e. 47.53%, and, by the end of the year, there were a further 255 articles, i.e. 52.47%.

- A statistically significant trend is associated with antisemitism in public space. The number of such incidents reached its all-time high in 2023. The FJC recorded 57 cases, representing an increase of 25% compared to 2022. The largest number of incidents of antisemitism occurred during demonstrations, gatherings, protests, debates, lectures, etc. In 2019–2022, the FJC registered very few incidents. In 2023, incidents of antisemitism were recorded at 24 demonstrations and other public events; almost all were held in response to the events of 7 October.
- In terms of the ideological background or motivation of antisemitism, the most numerous category was incidents on disinformation platforms. The FJC registered 1,422 incidents, representing 32.86%, compared to 2022, an increase of almost 155%. Until early 2019, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim narratives dominated disinformation conspiracies. In 2020–2021, the COVID-19 epidemic became the main topic. Soon after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the disinformation environment shifted to open pro-Kremlin propaganda. After the events of 7 October, disinformation platforms began extensively spreading lies and deception directed against the State of Israel. In the period up to 7 October, 759 incidents were registered, i.e. 53.38%, and by the end of the year, a further 663 incidents, i.e. 46.62%.
- The number of incidents in which a specific ideological motivation cannot be determined is comparable to those from disinformation platforms. The FJC registered 1,413 incidents in which a specific ideological

motivation cannot be determined, representing 32.65%. Compared to 2022, this is an increase of 87.4%. In the period up to 7 October, 908 incidents were recorded, i.e. 64.26%, and by the end of the year, a further 505 incidents, i.e. 35.74%.

- In 2023, the FJC registered 885 incidents associated with the far-right, compared to 2022, when 798 incidents were registered, an increase of nearly 11%. Far-right antisemitism most often used classic anti-Jewish stereotypes, conspiracy myths and Holocaust denial. The events of 7 October did not manifest in the statistics related to the activities of the far-right. In relation to the war between Israel and Hamas, the far-right has adopted the Islamist and leftist narrative of the 'New Anti-Semitism'.
- Antisemitism associated with the far-left has been statistically insignificant in recent years. 2023 marked a radical change in this regard. The FJC registered 287 incidents, compared to 2022, an increase of 226.14%. The content of all hate speech was 'New Anti-Semitism'. In the period up to 7 October, 85 incidents were recorded, i.e. 29.62%, and by the end of the year, a further 202 incidents, i.e. 70.38%.
- The number of antisemitic incidents stemming from Islamism in 2019–2021 was in the order of single digits. In 2023, the FJC registered 212 incidents, compared to 2022, an increase of 381.82%. Islamism was thus the fastest-growing ideological motivation for anti-Jewish hatred. In terms of content, the demonisation and delegitimisation of the State of Israel were most often represented. In the period up to 7 October, 74 incidents were recorded, i.e. 34.9%, and by the end of the year, a further 138 incidents, i.e. 65.1%.

Regarding the spread of antisemitism, all major ideologies have become active in the last five years. Until 2019, the biggest threat to the Jewish community was posed by far-right extremism. In the years 2020–2023, in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian aggression against Ukraine, the influence of disinformation platforms significantly strengthened. After the 7 October terrorist attack, the activities of the far-left and Islamism accelerated. Anti-Jewish hatred in the form of demonisation and delegitimation of the State of Israel made a significant entry into the public domain in 2023 and became a socially acceptable attitude. The aggressiveness of antisemitic incidents, which were increasingly targeted at specific persons or institutions, intensified. Anti-Jewish attitudes were adopted and spread by more and more individuals who otherwise showed no sympathy for political or ideological extremism. The end of 2023 thus brought a completely new trend of normalising antisemitism.

2 | INTRODUCTION

2.1 | THE AIM OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON ANTISEMITISM

Annual reports on antisemitism in the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as AR) are prepared by the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic (FJC) for the internal needs of Jewish communities in the Czech Republic and other domestic and foreign institutions that process data on antisemitism. The goal of the report is to provide, within the scope of the information obtained, a comprehensive picture of antisemitism, trends and the social climate concerning anti-Jewish hatred.

Antisemitism poses a danger not only for the Jewish community but also for the whole of Czech society, as it significantly contributes to its polarisation. The availability of relevant data is a basic condition for effectively preventing socially pathological phenomena. The FJC is aware of its social responsibility and submits its annual report to state institutions responsible for combating bias-motivated hatred.

2.2 | METHODOLOGY OF MONITORING ANTISEMITISM

DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

The FJC classifies an antisemitic incident as any intentional act or expression

with demonstrably antisemitic motivation or content as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA; see chapter 2.3). Antisemitic incidents take place in physical and online spaces and can take various forms, i.e., physical or verbal attacks, vandalism of property, threats, harassing behaviour, discrimination, hate mail, posts on social media, offensive flyers or posters, etc. Anti-Jewish hatred can be directed against Jews or persons who are considered to be Jews or against institutions and property that are actually or supposedly connected to the Jewish community.

At least two qualified analysts assess each incident. In cases where there is doubt about whether an incident can be classified as antisemitic, further experts are consulted. If it is not possible to reach a unanimous agreement, the incident is not included in the database. Likewise, all incidents that could not be fully verified are excluded from the database.

DATA SOURCES AND RELEVANCE

The FJC collects data from victims and witnesses of antisemitic incidents, Czech Jewish organisations and communities, the general public, the Police of the Czech Republic and open sources, which include renowned news servers, disinformation platforms, the press, websites, social media, etc.

The FJC provides an online form for reporting antisemitic incidents at www.nahlasincident.cz. A link is placed in the form of a banner on the websites of many Czech Jewish institutions. Individuals and organisations also contact the FJC in person, by phone or in writing. The number of reported incidents is increasing year-on-year, but it still constitutes a statistically marginal part of the collected data. At the same time, whistleblowers usually report incidents involving more serious crimes or content.

Data collection has many operational and logistical limitations. Regarding the methodology of specific forms of monitoring, we think it is necessary to highlight the following:

- The number of antisemitic incidents recorded through the communication channels of the FJC depends on, among other things, the willingness and ability of victims and witnesses to report antisemitic incidents. Several Jewish and European institutions¹ have long drawn attention to the insufficient reporting of antisemitic incidents, often due to stigmatisation, mistrust of institutions or concerns about personal safety. Therefore, the statistical overview presented in the AR does not reflect the full number of incidents that occurred in the last year.
- There are currently dozens of social media and communication platforms that allow their users to engage in more or less hidden activity. Aware of this fact, the FJC has long been actively monitoring the profiles of selected individuals and groups on the social networks Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, VKontakte, Gloria.tv, Gab and X (formerly Twitter). Antisemitic incidents from other platforms are included in the database only if they have been reported to the FJC. Monitoring is focused exclusively on contributions by authors who publish without limiting the sharing or visibility of

¹ E.g.: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. *Antisemitism in 2022. Overview of Antisemitic Incidents Recorded in the EU*. Online. 2023, pp. 6, 8–9, 13, 17, 19, 33, 35–36. https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2023-antisemitism-update-2012-2022_en.pdf. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Martino, Antonio-Maria. „European Conference on Antisemitism“. *The recording of antisemitic incidents in a national and European context*. Online. In *SIAC-Journal – Journal for Police Science and Practice. International Edition* Vol. 13, 2023, pp. 69–70, 75–76. https://www.bmi.gv.at/104/Wissenschaft_und_Forschung/SIAC-Journal/internationalEdition/files/Martino_IE_2023.pdf. [accessed 2024-03-30].

European Commission. *Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council: No place for hate: a Europe united against hatred*. Online. https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-12/JOIN_2023_51_1_EN_ACT_part1_v8.pdf. [accessed 2024-03-30].

European Commission. *Combating antisemitism*. Online. <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/items/topic/19842>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

their posts. The collected data thus represents only a fraction of the actual number of antisemitic incidents in the social media environment.

- Each antisemitic post on social media is included in the database as one incident, regardless of the number of shares.
- Antisemitic posts appear in online media below articles reporting on Jews, Israel and the Middle East, as well as in articles that are not thematically related to the Jewish community. The number of hate comments increases gradually, often several months after the publication of a particular article. Monitoring is carried out manually without the use of specialised software or AI. Therefore, the FJC monitors discussion posts below thematically relevant articles only for seven days after publication. Regardless of the number of antisemitic comments below a single article, the entire discussion is included in the database as one incident.
- At demonstrations, public meetings, lectures, debates, cultural and social events, several antisemitic incidents often appear simultaneously, e.g. speakers' statements, banners, and chants, etc. Regardless of the number of these incidents, each public event is included in the database as one incident.

The FJC draws information on antisemitism exclusively from open sources. Considering the above monitoring limits, it is important to emphasise that the data collected in this report is not a complete statistical overview. The AR captures only a small segment of the described reality and cannot answer the question of what proportion of the Czech population thinks or acts antisemitic. However, the FJC methodology has been consistent and unchanging for a long time, thus making it possible to identify and name trends in anti-Jewish hatred. Based on year-on-year comparisons, quantitative data sets allow relevant qualitative observations.

All resource URLs to which the AR refers were accessible as of 30/3/2024.

ANONYMISATION OF DATA

The AR contains only a general representation of antisemitic incidents and texts that the FJC registered in 2023. In the illustrative examples published in the AR, the names and profile photos of the authors have been removed or intentionally made illegible to comply with personal data protection. Similarly, with the safety of victims and witnesses in mind, details enabling identification are excluded in cases of targeted incidents. Only in the case of personally targeted attacks, published by those who have become the target of such an attack, does the AR keep the identification data in full. Online incidents in visual form are reprinted as images in the AR. Online incidents in the form of text have been transcribed from screenshots for clarity and readability, including typos and stylistic and grammatical errors.

2.3 | WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

When compiling this report, we have been guided by the working definition of antisemitism issued by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).² The Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic adopted a resolution agreeing to the IHRA definition on 25 January 2019.³ The Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic also adopted the resolution on 30 January 2019.⁴

² International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. *Working definition of antisemitism*. Online. <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

³ The Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. *Den památky obětí holokaustu*. Online. <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/cms.sqw?z=12305>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

⁴ The Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. *81. usnesení Senátu z 5. schůze, konané dne 30. ledna 2019*. Online. <https://www.senat.cz/xqw/webdav/pssenat/original/90463/75783>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Among other things, the working definition of antisemitism aims to provide practical guidance on identifying incidents and data collection. It also contains specific illustrative examples of antisemitism.

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for 'why things go wrong'. It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonising, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective – such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.

- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.”⁵

2.4 | THE 'NEW ANTI-SEMITISM', '3D' TEST AND BDS

The AR also uses the term 'New Anti-Semitism'.⁶ This term is not codified in the Czech legal system. From a methodological point of view, however, it is a useful tool, as it captures the essence of illegitimate criticism of the State of Israel as defined by the above working definition of antisemitism. The concept of 'New Anti-Semitism' refers to the so-called '3D' test, the author of which is Natan Sharansky.⁷ According to this test, an incident that contains at least one of the so-called '3Ds' is considered antisemitic.

The first 'D' represents the 'Demonisation' of Israel, i.e. the identification of Israel with evil, aggression, the source of world crises, etc. An example can be comparing the policy of the State of Israel to Nazi Germany or the Palestinian refugee camps to concentration camps, etc.

The second 'D' stands for 'Double Standards', which are selectively applied to the State of Israel when assessing its foreign policy or internal affairs. Israel is the target of many unilateral condemning statements and resolutions, especially by the UN, while other states, often undemocratic, author-

⁵ The Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. *Usnesení PS č. 463 k návrhu usnesení Poslanecké sněmovny ke Dni památky obětí holocaustu a předcházení zločinům proti lidskosti /sněmovní dokument 2076/ (25. ledna 2019)*. Online. [https://www.psp.cz/sqw/text/text2.sqw?idd=154253&fbclid=IwAR31Kha856GxRCyg0de4grlWVKlJAY8-tj01esQXol4X\]73wnCa7DrPPD5o](https://www.psp.cz/sqw/text/text2.sqw?idd=154253&fbclid=IwAR31Kha856GxRCyg0de4grlWVKlJAY8-tj01esQXol4X]73wnCa7DrPPD5o). [accessed 2024-03-30].

⁶ The term "Israel-related antisemitism" is also used.

⁷ Sharansky, Natan. *3D Test of Anti-Semitism: Demonization, Double Standards, Delegitimization*. In *Jewish Political Studies Review* 16: 3-4, Fall 2004. Online. <https://jcpa.org/article/3d-test-of-anti-semitism-demonization-double-standards-delegitimization/>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

itarian and totalitarian, are not subjected to comparable criticism. In addition, these states often act as arbiters of compliance with international laws and human rights regarding the State of Israel.⁸ In the current discourse, the double standard is widely applied, for example, compared to Ukraine's conflict. People who fully support Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression often question Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas and other terrorist organisations.

The third 'D' symbolises the 'Delegitimation' of the State of Israel. Expressions that deny the right of the State of Israel to exist can be defined as antisemitic.

A specific manifestation of the New Anti-Semitism is the global movement known by the acronym BDS,⁹ which stands for "Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions". The BDS movement denies the right of the Jewish people to self-determination and seeks to delegitimise Israel through its diplomatic, political, economic, academic, professional and cultural isolation. The international campaign is organised and coordinated by the Palestinian BDS National Committee and is strongly linked to terrorist organisations, including Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.¹⁰ Since the campaign was launched in 2005, many left-wing progressive groups have joined the movement.

⁸ UN Watch Database. *Is the UN living up to its founding principles?* Online. <https://unwatch.org/database/>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

⁹ See: <https://bdsmovement.net/>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

¹⁰ More on the topic, e.g.:

State of Israel. Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy. *Terrorists in Suits. The Ties Between NGOs promoting BDS and Terrorist Organizations. 2019*. Online. https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists_in_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf. [accessed 2024-03-30].

ADL. *FAQs on the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Movement on Campus*. Online. <https://notoleranceforantisemitism.adl.org/resources/blog/faqs-boycott-divestment-sanctions-bds-movement-campus>. [accessed 2024-05-17].

At this point, we consider it necessary to emphasise that criticism of Israel itself is not antisemitic. However, denying the right of the Jewish people to self-determination and the legitimacy of the State of Israel is undoubtedly antisemitism, and it takes many forms:

- labelling Israel as an illegal colonialist entity
- revisionist historical analogies between German National Socialism and the current situation in Israel, Gaza or the West Bank
- identifying Zionism with racism
- using terms such as "genocide", "apartheid", "ethnic cleansing", or "holocaust" to describe Israeli policy towards the Palestinians, etc.



December, Facebook

Especially in connection with the rise of antisemitism after 7 October, there has been an increase in incidents, which the IHRA defines as "holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel". E.g. although a poster demanding the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza is not in itself an antisemitic incident, the same poster deliberately placed on Jewish property in Prague is an antisemitic act because it holds the Czech Jewish community responsible for Israeli policy.

3 | CATEGORISATION OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

In 2023, the FJC registered a total of 4,328 antisemitic incidents, which are classified in the following chapters according to type, target, content, ideology, and medium. The boundaries between categories can be blurred, and classifying an incident into more than one category would often be possible. For example, vulgar statements are often accompanied by physical aggression or threats. Similarly, New Anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial can be combined. In such cases, the dominant category is always selected based on analysis.

When describing the ideological motivation or background of antisemitic incidents, the AR works with terms that have not yet been codified in Czech law. The definitions of terms such as "extremism",¹¹ "disinformation", and "prejudiced hatred" are therefore taken from the methodology of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic.¹²

Categorisation makes it possible to identify current trends in anti-Jewish hatred through quantitative analysis and year-on-year comparison.

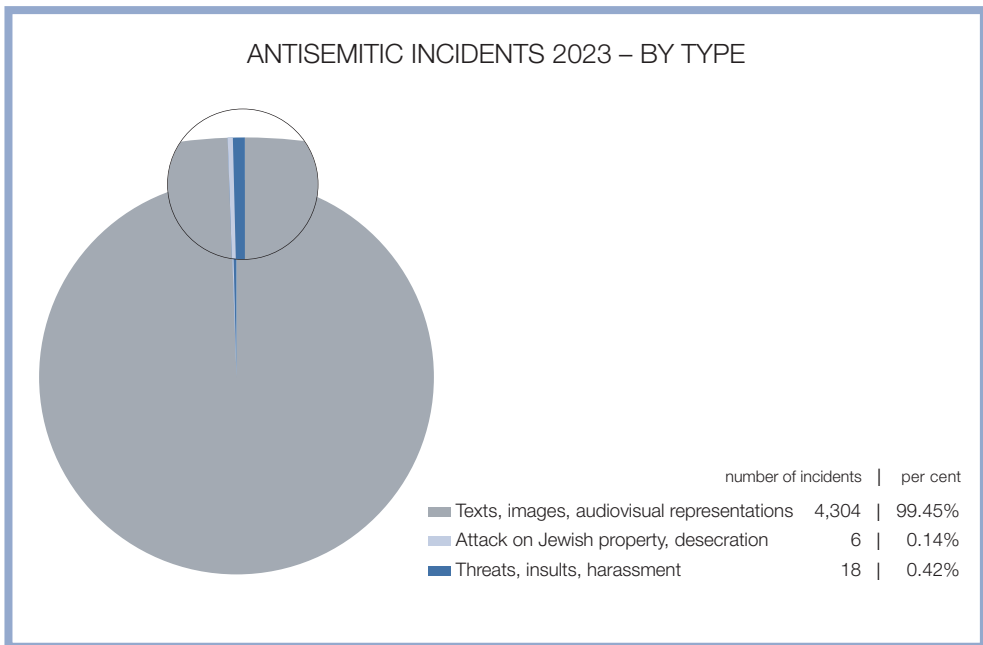
¹¹ Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. *Co je extremismus*. Online. <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/co-je-extremismus.aspx>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

¹² Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. *Definice dezinformací a propagandy*. Online. <https://www.mvcr.cz/cthh/clanek/definice-dezinformaci-a-propagandy.aspx>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

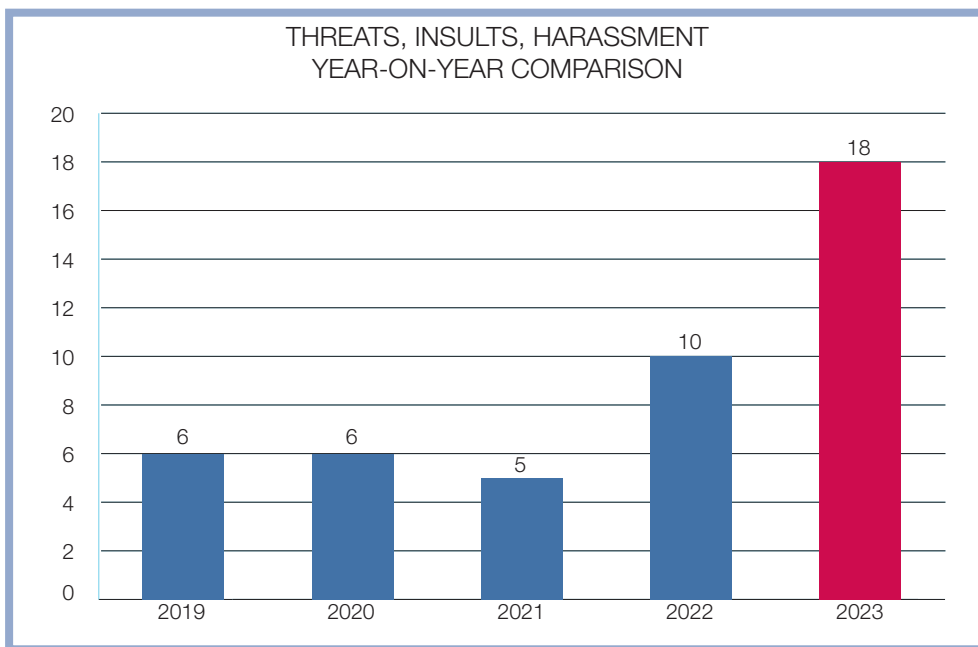
The limited scope of this report does not allow for comparative graphs in all categories. Therefore, only tables and graphs that illustrate key findings are selected in the following sections.

TOTAL NUMBER OF RECORDED ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS FOR 2023	4,328
BY TYPE	
Physical attack on persons	0
Texts, images, audiovisual representations	4,304
Attack on Jewish property, desecration	6
Threats, insults, harassment	18
ACCORDING TO TARGET	
Targeted	72
General	4,256
BY CONTENT	
Physical aggression	6
Threatening, endorsing, justifying or inciting physical attack	82
False, dehumanising, demonising, vulgar or stereotypical claims and conspiracy theories	2,915
Denial of the fact, scope and mechanism of the Holocaust	83
The New Anti-Semitism and BDS	1,242
ACCORDING TO IDEOLOGY	
Right-wing extremism	885
Left-wing extremism	287
Islamism	212
Ultra-conservative Christian fundamentalism	109
Disinformation platforms	1,422
Unspecified	1,413
ACCORDING TO MEDIUM	
Personal confrontation and interaction	10
Public space	57
Letters and emails	11
Printed media	8
Internet	4,242

4 | ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS BY TYPE



Antisemitic-motivated violence occurs only exceptionally in the Czech Republic. Two violent attacks have been recorded in the last five years (2020 and 2021). No physical assault was recorded in 2023. The dominant type of antisemitism remains in a category of texts, images and audiovisual expressions.



In 2023, 18 cases of threats, insults or harassment were recorded, i.e. 0.42% of all incidents. This figure is the highest since 2019 and almost double the number recorded in 2022. Although cases of this type were statistically insignificant, their incidence increased. In the period up to 7 October, ten incidents were recorded, and by the end of the year, a further eight incidents were recorded.

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS 2023 – BY TYPE

	01.01.–06.10.2023	07.10.–31.12.2023
Physical attack on persons	0	0
Texts, images, audiovisual representations	2,547	1,757
Attack on Jewish property, desecration	3	3
Threats, insults, harassment	10	8

A physical attack on a person is an attack that leads to bodily harm or an attack where the goal is to inflict bodily harm.

Attack on Jewish property, desecration. An attack on Jewish property or property perceived to be Jewish-related is a type of incident committed to damage, desecrate, or symbolically deface property, which includes, for example, the destruction of Jewish sacred buildings, cemeteries or monuments, the painting of Nazi symbols on Jewish objects and other acts of vandalism.



The inscription "ISRAEL IS A NAZI STATE" on the fence of a Jewish cemetery, July, Brno.



Damage to tombstones in a Jewish forest cemetery, August, Markvarec.

Threats, insults and harassment are any written or verbal expressions directed against the Jewish community, Jews or those perceived to be Jews. These incidents may occur during personal interaction, by telephone, mail, email, social media, and other communication platforms.

"You Jews like to shoot at Palestinians".
Statement addressed to a female university student, March, Prague

IN-PERSON
COMMUNICA-
TION

Verbal harassment of a Hebrew-speaking woman who
was called a "terrorist" and "scum of Europe".
By an unknown man on the street, November, Olomouc

IN-PERSON
COMMUNICA-
TION

"We need to kill morons like you. Fucking Zionist. Fucking slacker".
Message sent to an individual, May, Facebook

SOCIAL
MEDIA

Texts, images, audiovisual representations. This category includes expressions of antisemitism that are not addressed to a specific person, institution or Jewish property. This includes, for example, publicly uttered statements, chants and banners at demonstrations, posters, graffiti, videos, articles, publications and all manifestations of antisemitism on the Internet, social media and communication platforms.

DISCUSSION
POST

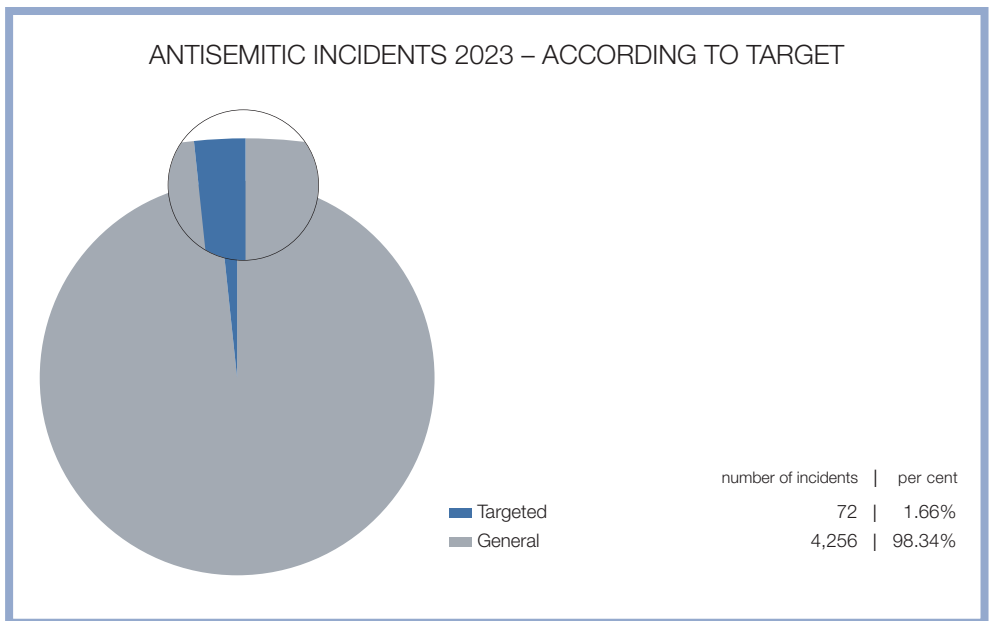
"I'm just surprised that the Kike Zelensky, after all the massacres, isn't put down by his own people as a vermin monster."

June, Pokec24.cz



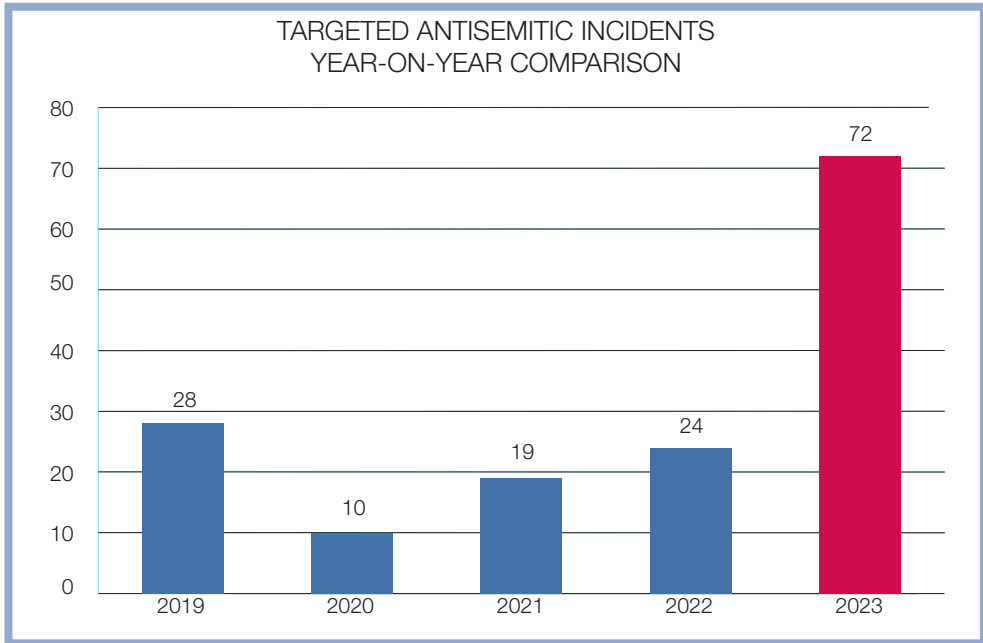
December, Telegram

5 | ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS ACCORDING TO TARGET



The ratio of targeted and general incidents has not changed significantly in the last five years. Higher figures in both categories proportionally correspond to an increase in the number of antisemitic incidents. In 2023, 72 targeted incidents were registered, i.e. 1.66%, compared to 2022, when 24 incidents were recorded, an increase of 200%. Although targeted incidents remained a statistically marginal category, their incidence increased

after 7 October. In the period up to 7 October, 40 incidents were registered, i.e. 55.6%, and by the end of the year, there were a further 32 incidents, i.e. 44.4%.



ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS – ACCORDING TO TARGET

	01.01.–06.10.2023	07.10.–31.12.2023
Targeted	40	32
General	2,520	1,736

Targeted incidents are those directed against a specific person, object or institution. This category also includes attacks on Jewish property or on property that is perceived to be connected to Jews, intending to deface the property in real or symbolic terms.

The category of **general** incidents includes all antisemitic incidents that do not have a specific victim or target.

"Fuck you, fuck all the fucking Jews. Don't try anything, or I'll find you."

Statement addressed to an employee of the Prague Jewish Museum, January

IN-PERSON
COMMUNICA-
TION

"And you're an ultra-Khazar bastard who should be in a prison!"

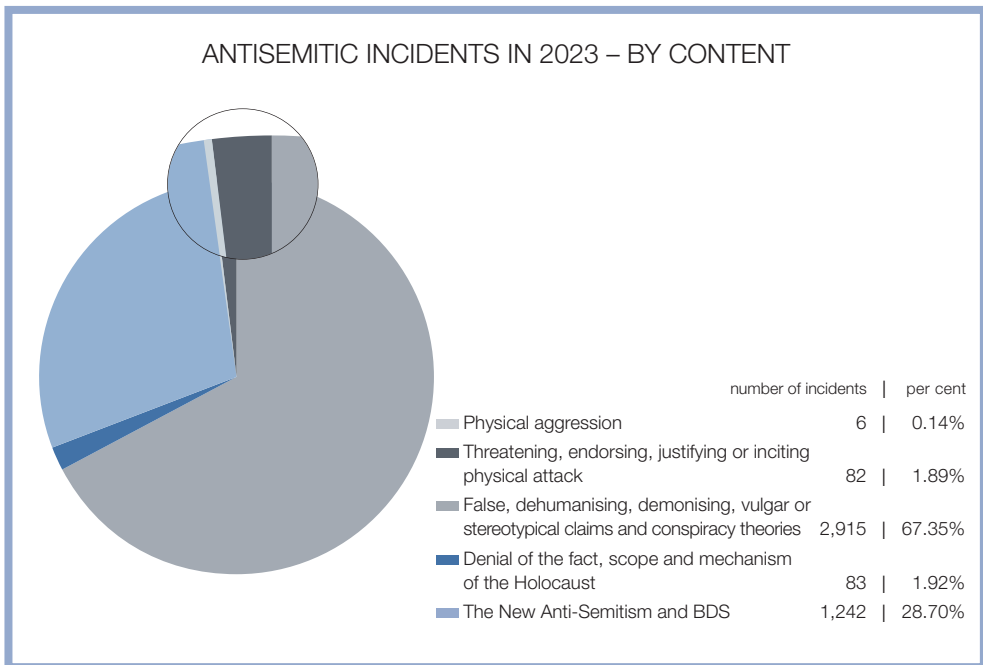
Statement addressed to Pavel Novotný, mayor of the Prague-Řeporyje district, August, social network X

SOCIAL
MEDIA

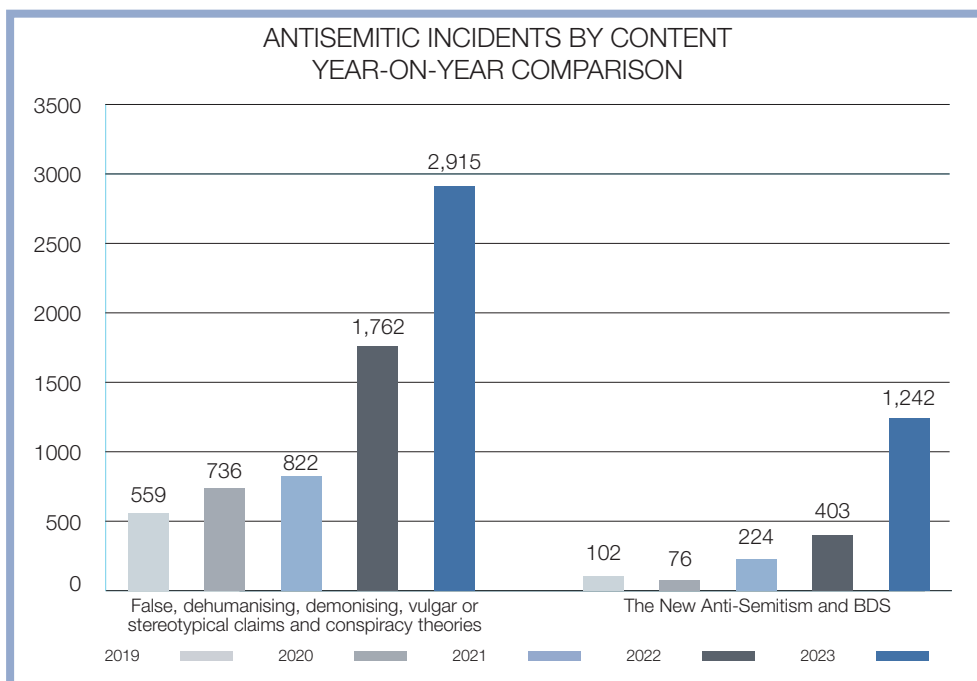


A leaflet was placed on the entrance door of Lauder schools (Jewish schools in Prague founded by the Prague Jewish Community). The leaflet calls for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and an end to "Israeli genocide" (see chapter 2.4). November, Prague.

6 | ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS BY CONTENT



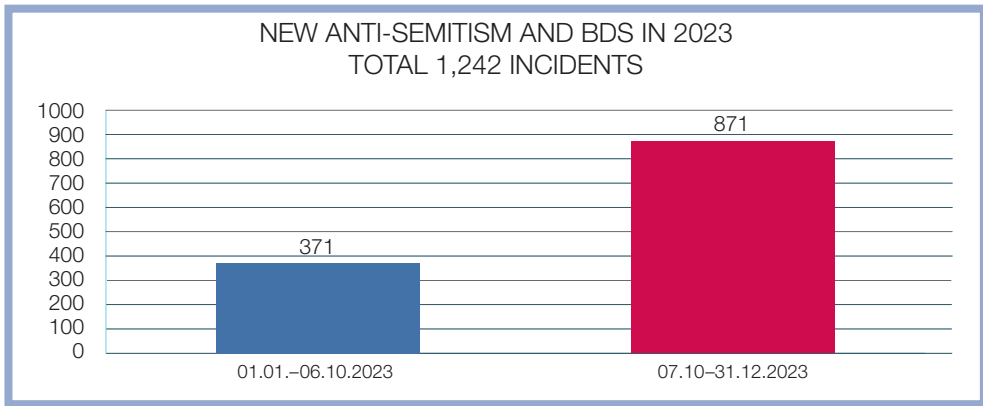
In terms of the content of antisemitic incidents, the category of false, dehumanising, demonising, vulgar or stereotypical statements and conspiracy theories was dominant in 2023. The FJC recorded 2,915 incidents in this category, i.e. 67% of the total number of incidents.



The second most numerous category consists of incidents of New Anti-Semitism. The FJC registered 1,242 incidents, i.e. almost 29%, compared to 2022, when 403 incidents were registered, an increase of 208%.

The striking year-on-year increase in both categories accelerated significantly after 7 October. To the greatest extent, this trend was manifested in the group of expressions of antisemitism directed against the State of Israel. In the period up to 7 October, 371 incidents were recorded, and by the end of the year, there were a further 871 incidents, i.e. more than 70%.

The increasing social acceptability of antisemitism in the form of hatred towards the State of Israel is an extremely disturbing trend.



Physical aggression includes cases of physical attack on individuals and attacks on Jewish property, its vandalism or desecration.



An unknown arsonist set fire to the information posters on the entrance door of a former Jewish school. July, Jičín.



Posters with photographs of kidnapped Israelis torn from the wall of the Old Jewish Cemetery. November, Prague.

Threats, endorsements, justifications or incitements to physical attack can be directed against individuals, institutions and the State of Israel in a targeted or general form.



A sticker with the text "Jews not wanted here" was placed on the front door of a private home. January, Olomouc.



January, Gab

False, dehumanising, demonising, vulgar or stereotypical claims and conspiracy theories. This category includes both traditional and modern myths about Jewish characteristics, a Jewish world conspiracy and accusations of Jews for being more loyal to the State of Israel rather than their own countries.

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"Communism and today's capitalism of financial elites are run by Jews (...) now they want to connect both 'supersystems'!"

February, VKontakte



September, VKontakte

Denial of the fact, scope and mechanism of the Holocaust. This category includes incidents that deny or trivialise historical facts about the deliberate genocide of the Jewish people by Nazi Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II, for example, questioning the existence of gas chambers, mocking and belittling the number of Jewish victims, or accusing Israel or the Jews of inventing the Holocaust or exaggerating it. This also includes accusations that the Jews themselves are to blame for their genocide or that they are abusing its historical legacy. The trivialisation of the Holocaust can also be manifested by using the term itself and its symbolism for events in contexts that have nothing to do with the Holocaust.

"Czech Televisions holohoax campaign is a prime example of how a lie repeated 100 times becomes the truth."

January, Makrofagblog.Wordpress.com

ONLINE
ARTICLE



November, Telegram

HELLO, I WOULD LIKE 6 MILLION PIZZAS.
SIR, THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH OVENS FOR IT.
I KNOW.



May, VKontakte

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"The Jewish cult is pulling us by the nose (...) 6 million was invented before Adolf Hitler was born."

February, social network X

The New Anti-Semitism and BDS refer to a category of incidents that deny the right of the Jewish people to self-determination and question the legitimacy of the State of Israel, applying double standards by requiring a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic state or collectively blaming Jews for the policies of the State of Israel. These are, for example, claims that the existence of the State of Israel is based on racism or apartheid, comparing the current actions of the State of Israel to Nazi policy, etc. At this point, it is necessary to emphasise once again that antisemitic incidents do not include criticism of the State of Israel if it does not meet the criteria set by the IHRA definition of antisemitism.



Demonstration in support of Palestine, Prague, November. Source: A2Iarm.cz



Demonstration in support of Palestine, Prague, November. Source: Prahain.cz

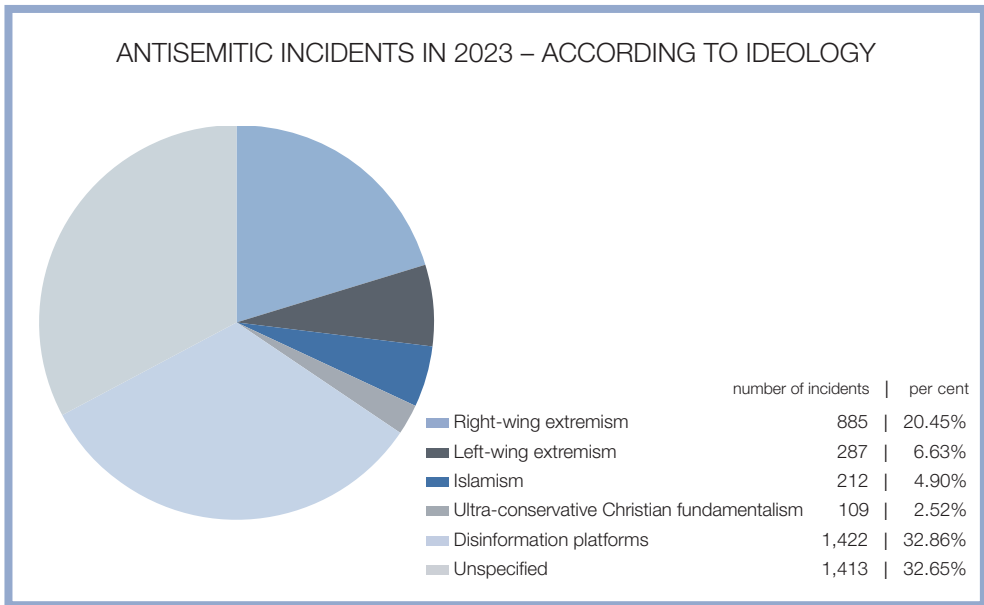


May, Facebook

SAME COUNTRY,
SAME PAIN,
SAME KILLER

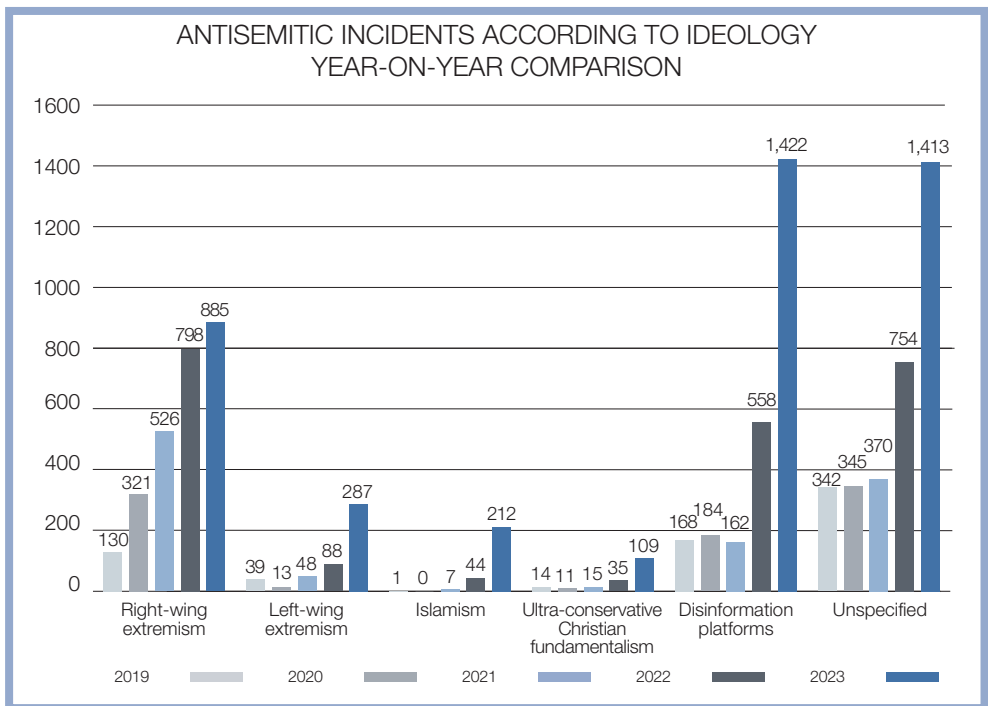
November, Telegram

7 | ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS ACCORDING TO IDEOLOGY



Antisemitism is a phenomenon that permeates the entire political and social spectrum in varying degrees of intensity. The FJC has long been monitoring incidents of anti-Jewish hatred from the ideological positions of the far-right and far-left, Islamism and ultra-conservative Christian fundamentalism. Disinformation platforms are a separate category that draws on all extremist ideologies. These platforms include websites, social media, and

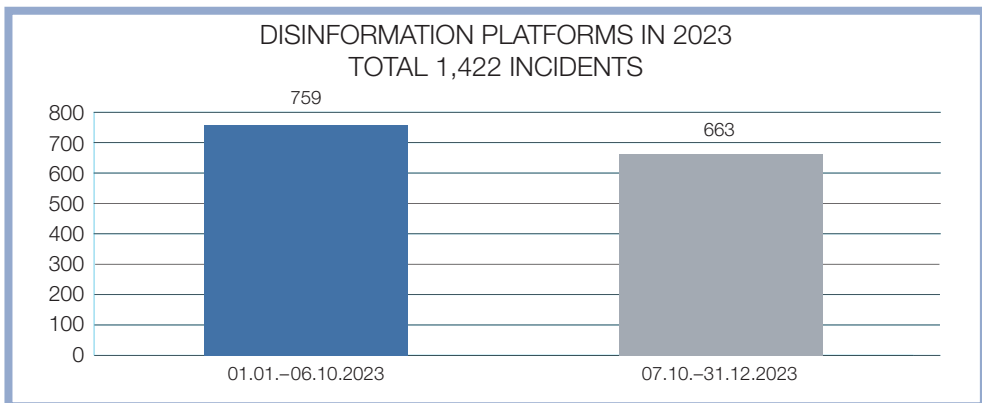
chain emails. Disinformation media are very often pro-Kremlin and linked to anti-systemic movements.¹³ The ideological motivation of an antisemitic incident can only be determined if it occurs on an unambiguously leaning source or if the author or attacker themselves subscribe to some ideology or religious extremism. All incidents where determination of ideological origin is not possible are classified as 'unspecified'.



¹³ The FJC adopts the definition of terms associated with extremism from the methodology of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. *Výroční zpráva o extremismu a koncepcie boje proti extremismu*. Online. <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/extremismus-vyrocní-zprava-o-extremismu-a-strategie-boje-proti-extremismu.aspx>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Based on the analysis of data from 2023, we can identify six main trends:

- The greatest number of incidents recorded involved the expression of antisemitism on disinformation platforms. The FJC registered 1,422 incidents, i.e. 32.86%, compared to 2022, when 558 incidents were registered, an increase of almost 155%. There have been several changes in the last five years in terms of ideology. In 2019 and 2020, the most frequent antisemitic incidents were without an obvious ideological motivation. In 2021 and 2022, the far-right dominated. In 2023, for the first time, incidents related to the disinformation scene occurred most often. Until early 2019, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim narratives dominated disinformation conspiracies. In 2020–2021, the main topic was the COVID-19 epidemic in all its contexts and consequences. Soon after the Russian invasion of the territory of Ukraine, the disinformation environment shifted to open pro-Kremlin propaganda. After the events of 7 October, disinformation platforms began extensively spreading lies and manipulations directed against the State of Israel. In terms of content, anti-Jewish conspiracy theories and expressions of New Anti-Semitism prevailed in the incidents in 2023. The number of incidents accelerated



significantly after the events of 7 October. In the period up to 7 October, 759 incidents were recorded, i.e. 53.38%, and, by the end of the year, there were a further 663 incidents, i.e. 46.62%.

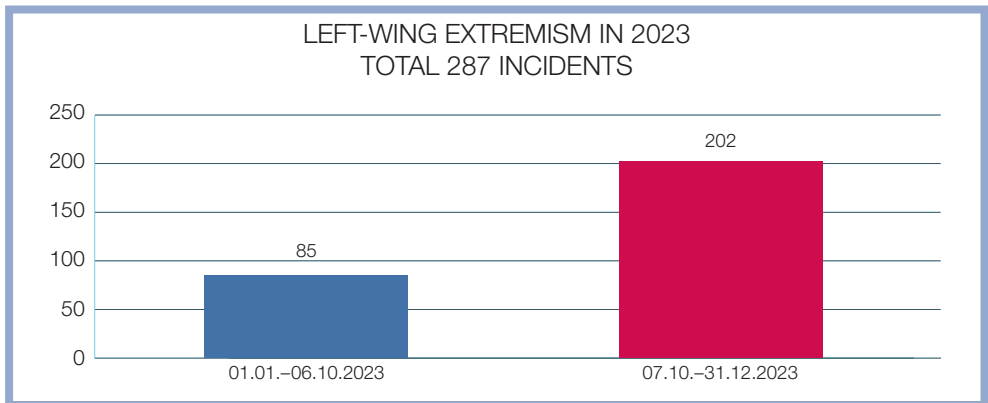
■ The second most numerous incidents are those that were antisemitic without a clear ideological context. The FJC registered 1,413 incidents, i.e. 32.65%, compared to 2022, when 754 incidents were registered, an increase of 87.4%. Cases of general anti-Jewish hatred have traditionally appeared mainly on social networks and in discussions on news servers. The posts took the form of vulgar, hateful or stereotypical statements. However, these were isolated incidents; their authors and spreaders showed no long-term antisemitic activity. In the period up to 7 October, 908 incidents were recorded, i.e. 64.26%, and, by the end of the year, there were a further 505 incidents, i.e. 35.74%. The more intense frequency of antisemitic incidents without ideological motivation demonstrates that more and more individuals are adopting anti-Jewish attitudes after 7 October.

■ The third most numerous are antisemitic incidents associated with the far-right. The FJC registered 885 incidents, i.e. 20.45%, compared to 2022, when 798 incidents were registered, an increase of nearly 11%. The far-right dominated the statistics in 2021 and 2022 but did not significantly increase activity last year. Extremists advocating Nazism, fascism or militant nationalism expressed national, racial and ethnic hatred. They spoke out against immigration, the Roma minority, the LGBTQ+, European institutions, etc. In the period before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, right-wing extremist activists focused mainly on topics related to the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic. They attacked anti-epidemic measures and joined the so-called anti-vaccination movement. After the outbreak of Russian aggression against Ukraine, a significant part of the far-right adopted the pro-Kremlin disinformation narrative. In relation

to the war between Israel and Hamas, the far-right has adopted the Islamist and left-wing narrative of the New Anti-Semitism. Far-right expressions of antisemitism in 2023 were most often based on classic stereotypes, conspiracy theories and Holocaust denial. The influence of 7 October did not manifest statistically on the activity of the far-right.

- Incidents originating from ultra-conservative Christian fundamentalists must be seen as private initiatives, often contrary to the conclusions of the Second Vatican Council. The authors of these incidents radically diverge in opinion from the official positions of the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations, which actively oppose antisemitism. In terms of content, incidents in this category are often full of myths and stereotypical claims based on religiously motivated hatred or conspiracy theories. Although the number of antisemitic incidents from the ideological positions of ultra-conservative Christian fundamentalism increased by 211% year-on-year, statistically, they remained a marginal phenomenon. In 2023, the FJC registered 109 incidents, compared to 35 in 2022. In this category, the influence of 7 October did not materialise.
- Antisemitism associated with the far-left was statistically insignificant in recent years. In the Czech environment, the far-left was mainly associated with orthodox communism, the anarchist movement and a small number of activist organisations connected to the BDS movement. 2023 marked a radical change in this regard. The FJC registered 287 incidents, i.e. 6.63%, compared to 2022, when 88 incidents were registered, an increase of 226.14%. The New Anti-Semitism dominated the content. The events of 7 October resulted in a distinct increase in the frequency of incidents. In the period up to 7 October, 85 incidents were recorded, i.e. 29.62%, and, by the end of the year, there were a further 202 incidents, i.e. 70.38%. In direct connection with the situation in the Middle East,

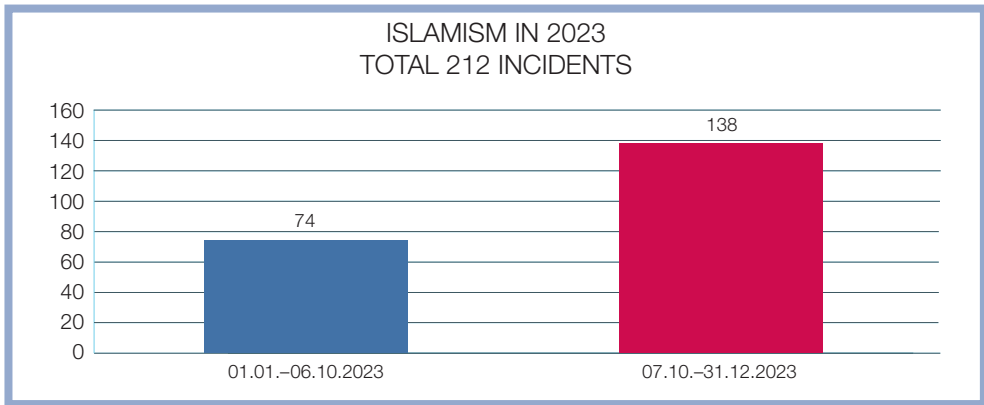
antisemitic narratives began to be intensively spread by many left-oriented groups operating in various areas and fields. The hateful rhetoric was adopted by some human rights and humanitarian organisations, environmental initiatives, feminist and gender movements, academic and artistic associations, etc.



■ The number of antisemitic incidents based on Islamism in 2019–2021 was in the order of single digits. There was a slight increase in 2022 in connection with the death of Shireen Abu Aklah, an American-Palestinian reporter for the Qatari television station Al Jazeera.¹⁴ In 2023, there was a jump in the number of Islamist anti-Jewish incidents. The FJC registered 212 incidents, i.e. 4.9%, compared to 2022, when 44 incidents were registered, an increase of 381.82%. Islamism became the fastest-growing ideological motivation for anti-Jewish hatred. In terms of content, the demonisation and delegitimisation of the State of Israel were most often represented. The events of 7 October resulted in a clear in-

¹⁴ Shireen Abu Aklah was shot and killed on 5/11/2022 during clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinian radical militants in the West Bank. Further riots occurred in connection with the funeral of Shireen Abu Aklah in Jerusalem.

crease in the frequency of incidents. In the period up to 7 October, 74 incidents were recorded, i.e. 34.9%, and by the end of the year, there were a further 138 incidents, i.e. 65.1%.



Regarding the spread of antisemitism, all major ideologies have become active in the last five years. Until 2019, the biggest threat to the Jewish community was posed by right-wing extremism. In the years 2020–2023, in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian aggression against Ukraine, the influence of disinformation platforms significantly strengthened. After the 7 October terrorist attack, the activities of the far-left and Islamism accelerated. Despite differences in the worldview of these ideologies, there is an unprecedented symbiosis in the spread of anti-Jewish hatred. All extremist ideologies share the same antisemitic rhetoric, the same arguments, stereotypes and themes. The considerable increase in the number of incidents without a specific ideological background testifies to the progressive normalisation of antisemitic attitudes.

Right-wing extremism

"Die Kikes!"
February, Facebook

SOCIAL MEDIA



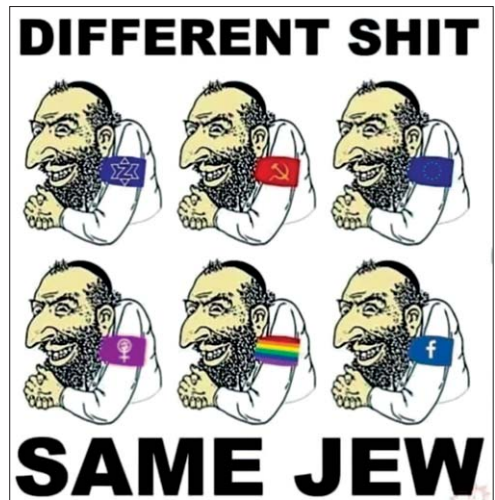
January, VKontakte



May, Vkontakte



January, VKontakte



March, Vkontakte

SOCIAL MEDIA

"The revolution will sweep away all communists, Jews and traitors... How many of you do we have to shoot??? A lot... 😊😊😊😊"

March, Facebook

Left-wing extremism



May, VKontakte



October, social network X



May, Facebook



Solidarity
The peace process according to Israel:
Ethnic cleansing of Palestine
War crimes
Apartheid
Illegal settlements

Banner at a demonstration, November, Prague. Source: Facebook

Islamism

"If you're a white European Jew, it's okay to steal Palestinian land and commit genocide..."

November, Facebook

SOCIAL
MEDIA

Our patient, brave and steadfast people in Gaza and occupied Palestine are being subjected to extreme aggression (...) for people to be driven from their land, to be deprived of their right to their land, these are heinous crimes..."

Excerpt from the Friday sermon of the Muslim community in Prague on November 3.¹⁵

ONLINE
ARTICLE

"God is great, death to Israel, long live Islam!"

October, Facebook

SOCIAL
MEDIA

Ultra-conservative Christian fundamentalism

"Another billboard appeared today attacking Mr. Pavel, the representative of the Zionists behind the curtain."

Commentary on the presidential election, January, World-eyesbible.com

ONLINE
ARTICLE

"The 'big-noses' plan to eliminate the goyim...they must not wait like sheep to be slaughtered."

March, Gloria.tv

SOCIAL
MEDIA

¹⁵ Muslim Community in Prague. *Láska k vlasti a její obrana. Kázání ze dne 3. 11. 2023*. Online. <https://www.muslimskaobec.cz/2023/11/05/kazani-ze-dne-3-11-2023/>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Disinformation platforms



March, Protiproud.info



January, VKontakte



November, VKontakte

Unspecified

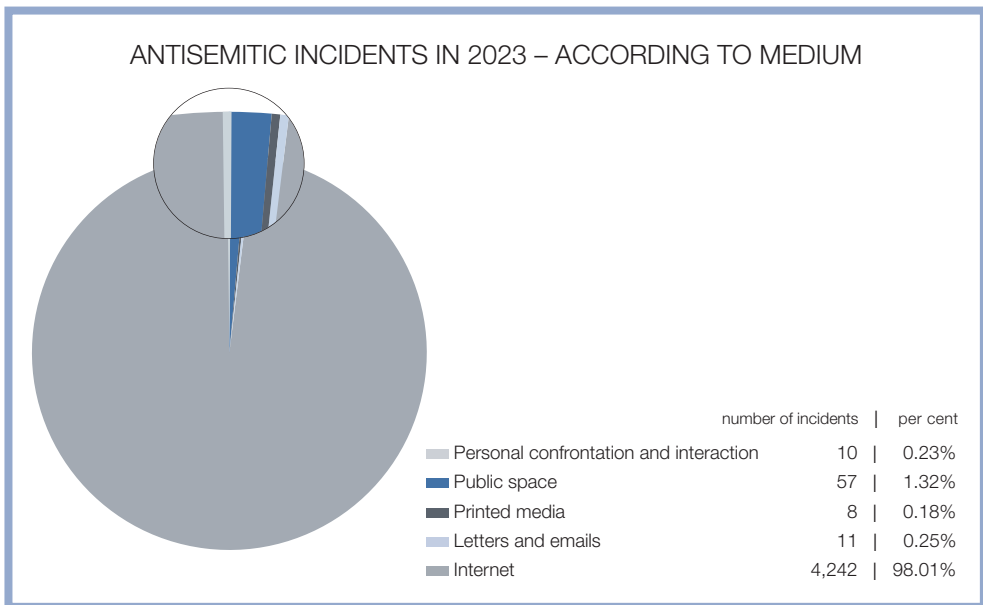
"Look, you Jewish sons of a bitch, do you realise that we work
for this money?"
March, Facebook

SOCIAL
MEDIA



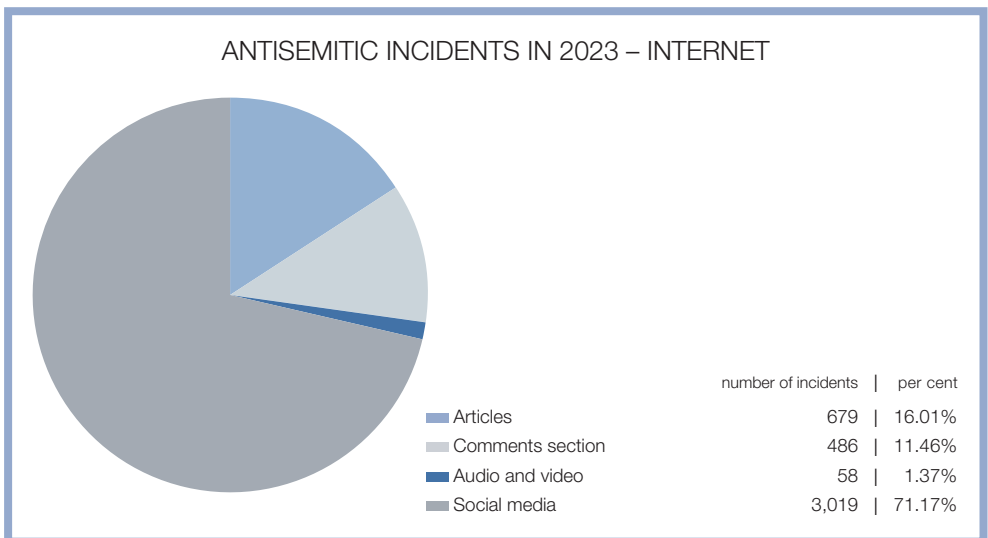
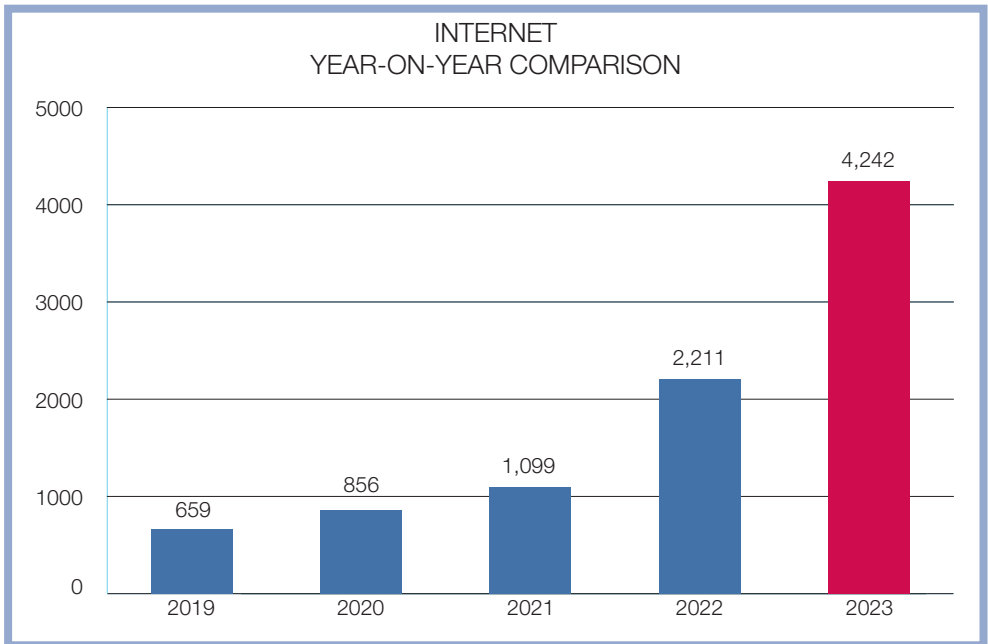
December; social network X

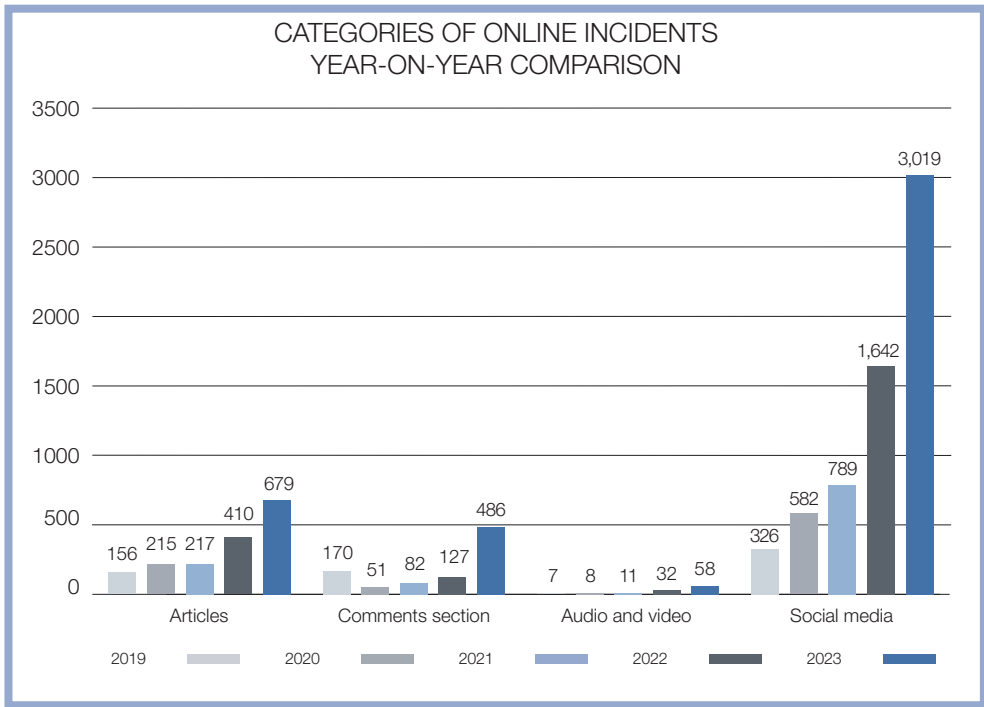
8 | ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS ACCORDING TO MEDIUM



The term "medium" in the title of this chapter refers to the communication channel through which the antisemitic incident occurred.

The virtual environment has clearly played a key role in the spread of antisemitic incidents for a long time. In 2023, 4,242 incidents originated online, i.e. 98.01%. In 2022, this figure was 97.01%; in 2021, 97.4%.





The ratio of the number of online incidents in individual categories has not changed significantly in recent years. Traditionally, the largest number of incidents were expressions of anti-Jewish hatred on social media. The FJC registered 3,019 incidents, i.e. 71.17%. Thus, social media remains the primary tool for spreading antisemitism. In terms of content, the registered incidents included the entire spectrum of antisemitism. Czech users often share and repost comments and graphic materials originating from foreign-language posts. Hateful content was spread by both individuals on their personal profiles and by like-minded groups. For some, anti-Jewish rhetoric is a stable part of their virtual identity and long-term cultivated image.

In addition to social media, the impact of the events of 7 October was most evident in the number of online articles and discussion posts. In the period up to 7 October, 368 antisemitic articles were registered, i.e. 54.2%, and, by the end of the year, a further 311 articles, i.e. 45.8%. The dramatic increase in the number of articles was caused by intensive activity on disinformation platforms. Antisemitic discussion posts were most often found in articles in mainstream media. In the period up to 7 October, 231 articles with hateful comments were recorded, i.e. 47.53%, and, by the end of the year, there were a further 255 articles, i.e. 52.47%.

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS 2023 – INTERNET		
	01.01.–06.10.2023	07.10.–31.12.2023
Social media	1,887	1,132
Articles	368	311
Comments section	231	255

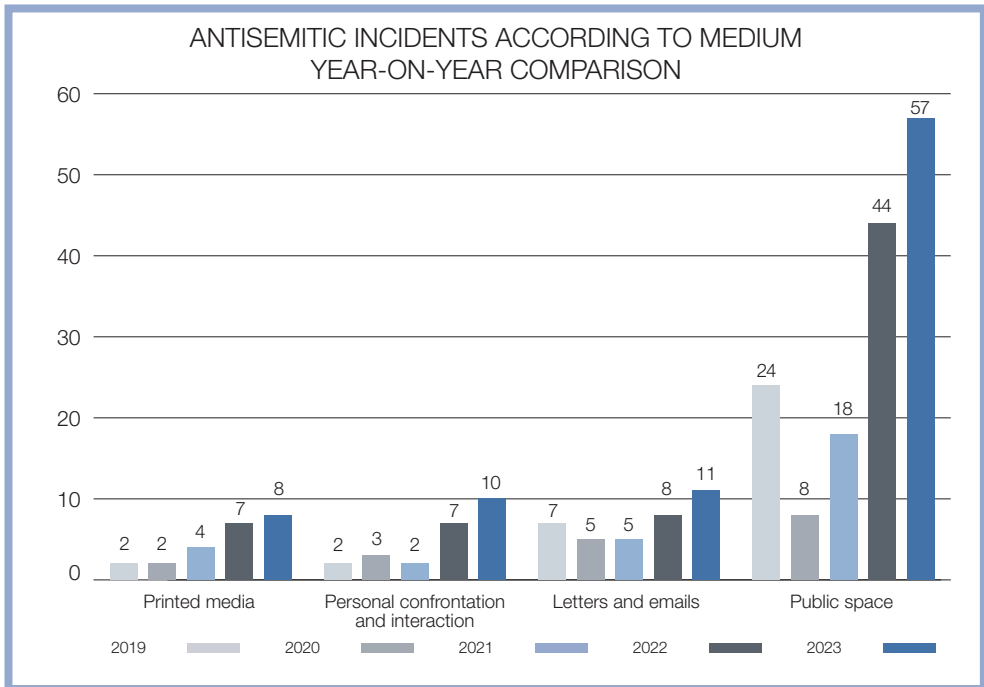
In addition to anti-Jewish hatred on the Internet, the FJC monitors four other possible ways in which antisemitic incidents occur:

- in personal confrontation and interaction
- through letters, emails and phone calls
- in printed media
- in public space

There was a slight year-on-year increase in all monitored categories, especially in connection with 7 October. The FJC recorded ten verbal attacks during personal confrontations between a perpetrator and the victim.

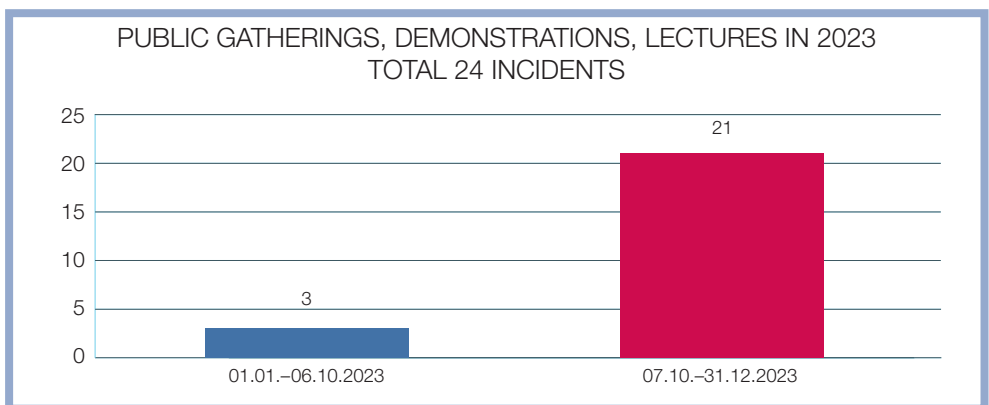
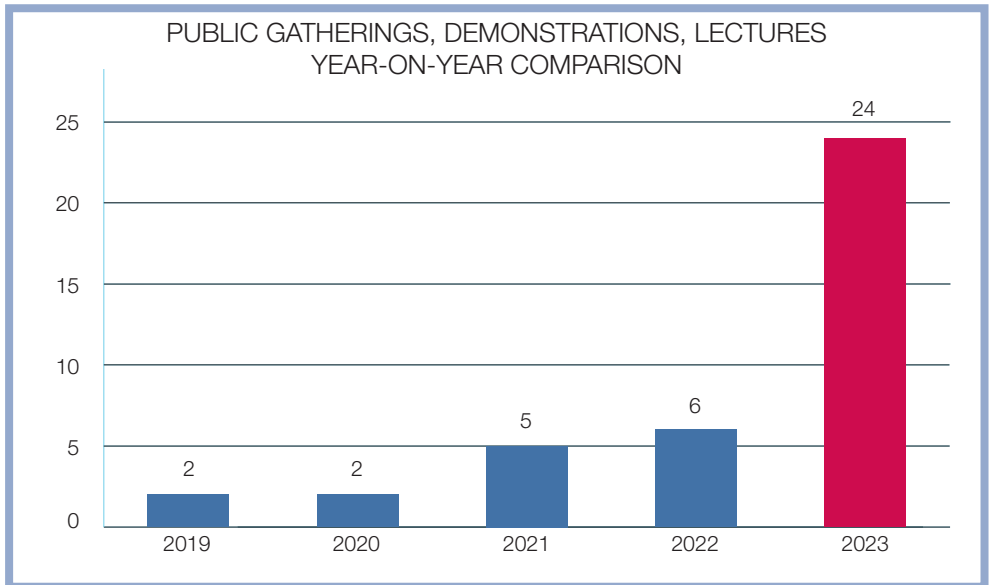
A statistically significant trend is primarily associated with antisemitism in public spaces. This category includes, for example, lectures, demonstra-

tions, graffiti, and entries in the visitor books of properties related to the Jewish community, etc. Anti-epidemic measures and the transfer of most activities to the online environment caused a noticeable decrease in incidents during the COVID-19 epidemic in 2020 and 2021. As expected, there was an increase in incidents in 2022 when the social distancing rules were abolished. The number of incidents in public spaces reached a historical maximum in 2023. The FJC recorded 57 antisemitic incidents in public, which represents an increase of 25% compared to 2022.



Most of these incidents were expressions of antisemitism during public meetings, demonstrations, protests, debates, lectures and cultural events. These include chants, slogans, banners and statements by speakers. Between 2019–2022, the FJC registered very few incidents; however, in 2023,

there were 24 demonstrations and other public events displaying anti-semitism. Almost all were called in response to the events of 7 October. Anti-Jewish hatred in the form of demonisation and delegitimation of the State of Israel dramatically entered the public space at the end of 2023.



Social media



December, Facebook



August, VKontakte

Online articles

ONLINE
ARTICLE

Israeli planes attack Gaza! Jewish aggression
and genocide in full swing
January, a headline on Infokuryr.cz

ONLINE
ARTICLE

Hoaxes and Fake news about CO2 and global warming.
Green Deal pig-nosed chutzpah...guess who
July, headline on Cz24.news

ONLINE
ARTICLE

Khazar-Arab war about to happen, will the provocation
turn out like in 9.11.?
October, a headline on Tydenikobcanskepravo.cz

Discussion posts

"Everything is controlled by the Jews and no one dares to point a finger at them. Study the Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

May, Pokec24

DISCUSSION
POST

"What else to expect from the Kikes, it was also the Jews who had Jesus crucified on the cross."

March, Necenzurovanapravda.cz

DISCUSSION
POST

"Hitler would be astonished what the Jews learned from him and brought to near perfection".

October, Blesk.cz

DISCUSSION
POST

Audio and video

"For Israel to tell the Palestinians they have 24 hours to evacuate the north of the Gaza Strip is not adequate (...) This is ethnic cleansing."

October, statements by Mariana Ahmadová in an interview for DTV

AUDIO-VIDEO

Personal confrontation and interaction

Verbal attack on a Jewish university student, during which she was called a "Nazi Zionist".

October, Prague

IN-PERSON
COMMUNICA-
TION

Printed media

PRINTED
MEDIA

"I and other people of Palestinian or Arab origin, and many people around the world, who have seen this injustice for decades, we see what can only be called state terrorism (...)."

November, printed edition of the weekly Naše Pravda

Letters, emails and phone calls

PHONE CALL

"You Jews are murdering and kidnapping Palestinian children (...)
You fucking bitch."

Statement from an anonymous phone call, July, Prague

EMAIL

"The way I see it is that fascism, no matter how vile it was, was just a response and a reaction to long-term financial oppression by the Jews."

Email sent to a staff member of the Prague Jewish Community, March

Public space

VISITOR
BOOK

"Long live free Palestine, long live Arab nationalism."

Entry in the visitor book of the Terezín Memorial, June



Banner at a demonstration, November, Prague. Source: PrahaIn.cz

9 | OLD PREJUDICES IN A NEW FORM

A characteristic feature of modern antisemitism is its ability to exploit any current context. Traditional stereotypes, prejudices and myths take on ever-changing forms, but in their essence, they remain the same. When a particular topic loses its social or cultural relevance, it is immediately replaced by a new one.

The manifestations of anti-Jewish hatred occurred in the Czech Republic with connection to many events in public life; for example, in January 2023, when the presidential elections were taking place, there were personal attacks on individual candidates.

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"Hang them all up (...) Khazarian filth is spreading here (...)"

Commentary on the presidential candidacy of Petr Pavel, January, social network X

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"Does that Khazarian puppet already know what she wants to prepare the Czech Republic for?"

Commentary on the presidential candidacy of Danuše Nerudová, January, social network X

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"Never again a Jew for president."

Commentary on the presidential candidacy of Andrej Babiš, January, social network X

On 6 and 7 July, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited the Czech Republic. During his visit, he met with President Petr Pavel, Prime Minister Petr Fiala, Chairman of the Senate Miloš Vystrčil and Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Markéta Pekarová Adamová. The state visit did not escape the attention of the extremists:



July, Facebook

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"That Kike will soon sell the whole UA!"
July, social network X

On Thursday, 21 December, there was a mass shooting at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. Local student David Kozák killed 14 people, injured another 25 and committed suicide when the police intervened. Immediately after this tragic event, many conspiratorial comments about the perpetrator appeared online:

"Either Jewkrainians trained him, or he himself was a Jewkrainian from Israel."

December, social network X

SOCIAL
MEDIA

SOCIAL
MEDIA

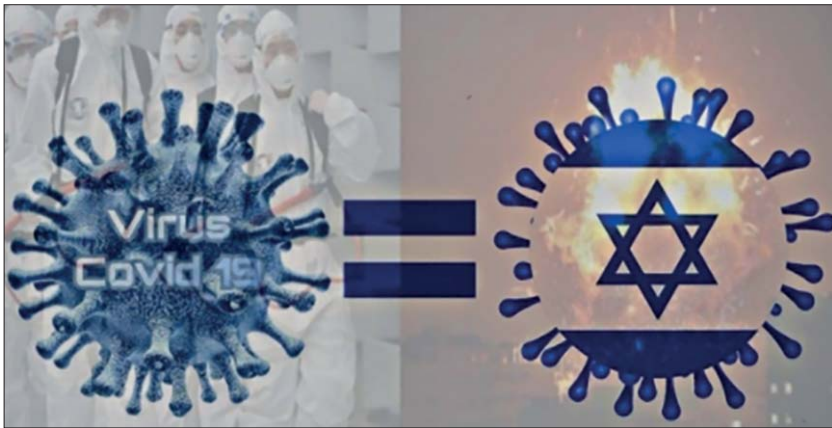
"I think some Kike went shooting."

December, social network X

The themes and motives of antisemitism in the Czech Republic were also influenced by events in Europe and around the world. Regional and global inspiration manifested itself mainly in various affiliated conspiracy theories. The following selection is not a complete list; it offers only representative examples:

COVID-19

Until the very end of 2023, conspiracy theories were dominated by claims that the SARS-CoV-2 virus was a "Jewish creation" or a tool for global manipulation by "Zionists".¹⁶



January, VKontakte

¹⁶ A case study on antisemitism during the coronavirus epidemic in the Czech Republic is available here: Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic. *Annual Report on Manifestations of Antisemitism in the Czech Republic 2022*. Pp. 191-227. Online. <https://www.fzo.cz/en/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Report-on-Manifestations-of-Antisemitism-in-2022.pdf>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

"... children's 'mandatory Jew-vaccine' proven to cause autism (...)
and now those people are contributing to this Jewish fraud (...)
THE JEW JUST LAUGHING AT THE STUPID GOYIM!"

November, Blog.tomanek.com

DISCUSSION
POST

WAR IN UKRAINE

In connection with the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, the Czech disinformation environment has focused on openly pro-Kremlin propaganda. Extremists used Russian military aggression against Ukraine to intensively spread antisemitic conspiracy narratives: accusing Jews and Israel of starting or financing the war, attacking President V. Zelensky because of his Jewish heritage and theories about "Jewish control of global affairs", etc.

"The war for Ukraine is actually a war between Jews; it is a war between their London and Moscow headquarters. That is why Jews are leaders of Ukraine as well as of Russia."

April, Infokuryr.cz

ONLINE
ARTICLE



March, social network X



January, VKontakte

THEORY OF "WHITE GENOCIDE"

The theory of "white genocide" is based on the extreme far-right myth of the so-called 'Great Replacement'. It operates with a conspiracy theory about a plot to replace the original European population with waves of immigrants from non-European countries with the aim of creating a racially homogeneous and easy-to-manage society. The supposed effort to depopulate the white race is attributed to Israel or the Jews, who seek to destroy and dominate the world through their ideologies. Jews are portrayed as initiators and promoters of both capitalism and communism, multiculturalism, the Islamisation of Europe, diversity, LGBTQ+, inclusion, globalisation and transgender movements, etc. Democratic society and liberal values are viewed as a purposeful manipulation of "Jewish elites".



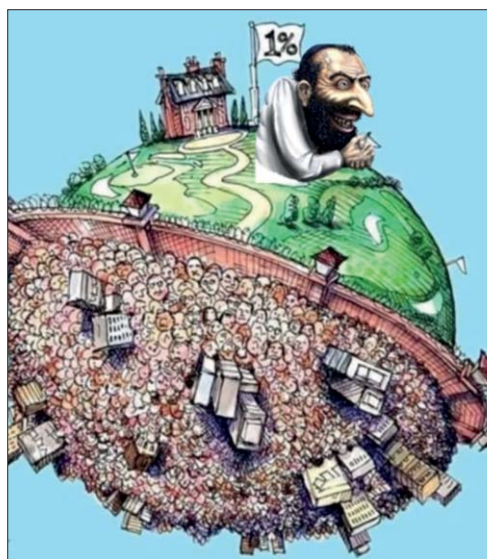
October, Gab



October, Telegram



January, VKontakte



February, VKontakte

JEWISH WORLD DOMINATION

Modern variants of the myth of Jewish world domination are linked to the New World Order conspiracy theory (NWO). This theory is built on the fabrication that a small group of so-called 'international elites' rule the entire world because they control the banking sector, industry, media, public opinion and politics. Jews are portrayed as puppeteers who deliberately cause global crises and unleash war and conflicts.

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"Jew Pigs are screwing up national governments,
and you can clearly see it..."

November, VKontakte

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"You know what Jews are like, they drag the whole world
into misfortunes and wars because of their greediness."

February, social network X



September, VKontakte



October, social network X

10 | 7 OCTOBER 2023

Early on the morning of Saturday, 7 October, on the holiday of Simchat Torah, Palestinian terrorist organisations led by Hamas attacked civilians and military targets in southern Israel. During the carefully planned invasion, the terrorists killed more than 1,200 adults and children, Israelis and foreigners; regardless of gender, age or religious belief, at least 5,000 people were also injured. More than 240 people were kidnapped and taken to the Gaza Strip as hostages. Thousands of rockets were fired into Israeli territory. The terrorist attack was shocking because of its extreme brutality. Armed commandos committed organised sexual violence, murder, torture and the mutilation of bodies. The unprecedented terrorist attack led from the Gaza Strip has started a war between Israel and Hamas, a war that is still going on today.

Any escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict always leads to a global increase in anti-Jewish hatred. However, the massacre of 7 October has no comparison in this regard. An intense wave of worldwide antisemitism immediately followed the terrorist attack; it was unleashed and is sustained by Arab-Islamic organisations together with Western progressives. Consequently, traditional antisemitism disguises itself as anti-Zionism, losing none of its discriminatory and irrational hatred.

A detailed analysis of Czech antisemitism in connection with the war between Israel and Hamas has yet to be written.¹⁷ The presented AR can, therefore, only offer an indicative overview of the most common narratives, misinformation and conspiracy theories that began to appear in the domestic environment after 7 October:

- Denying the attack as "Zionist propaganda" and claiming all information is false and photos and videos are artificially manipulated.

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"The whole war is just a staged Judeo-Masonic psychotic game..."

December, social network X

- Justifying the terrorist attack as a form of "legitimate resistance", denying civilian casualties, organised sexual violence and the scale of the massacre.

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"The whole world knows where the truth is and who is the aggressor and the occupier. Shame on Israel!!!"

October, Facebook

DISCUSSION
POST

"Israel is an occupying and terrorist state. Gaza is a modern-day concentration camp that the Jews created for the Palestinians, and it was only a matter of time before it erupted."

October, pravyprostor.net

¹⁷ See: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. *Reakce kvazi-mediální a extremistické scény na teroristický útok proti Izraeli v roce 2023*. Online. <https://www.mvcr.cz/chh/clanek/reakce-kvazi-mediální-a-extremistické-scény-na-teroristický-útok-proti-izraeli-v-roce-2023.aspx>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

- The attack was organised by Israel as a so-called 'False Flag Operation' to obtain a pretext either for the occupation of Gaza or for launching a third world war and mass migration. The "Zionists" seek to obtain "total world domination" or to "establish a new world order".

"It won't be long before Izrahell ignites the 3rd world war.
However, they will, of course, blame it on terrorists (...)
All they want to do is destroy the old world and prepare the survivors
for the antichrist – the false Jewish messiah."

December, Telegram

SOCIAL
MEDIA

"The entire attack on Israel was a false flag from the beginning;
well, the Jews did not disguise themselves as Palestinians,
but let them do what they did."

December, VKontakte

SOCIAL
MEDIA



October, Telegram

■ Demonising Israel and comparing its policies to Nazi Germany.



December, Facebook



November, social network X

The alarming increase in antisemitism after 7 October should in no way overshadow the extraordinary solidarity that the overwhelming majority of Czech society and its political representatives expressed and continue to express to Israel.¹⁸ The FJC repeatedly offered thanks for all the expres-

¹⁸ E.g. Resolution of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic from October 10, 2023: Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. *Usnesení PS č. 774 k návrhu usnesení Poslanecké sněmovny k nedávné teroristické agresi hnutí Hamás proti Státu Izrael (10. října 2023)*. Online. <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/text/text2.sqw?idd=236516>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

sions of support from the public and for the firm stance of politicians in defending Israel's right to exist, and for the assistance provided in the fight against antisemitism.¹⁹ We feel it is also important for us to express our gratitude in the presented annual report.

¹⁹ E.g. Resolution of the Government Council for National Minorities from December 1, 2023: Government of the Czech Republic. *Usnesení Rady vlády pro národnostní menšiny č. 8, ze dne 1. prosince 2023 k nárůstu antisemitismu*. Online. <https://vlada.gov.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/aktuality/usneseni-rady-vlady-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-c-8--ze-dne-1--prosince-2023-k-narustu-antisemitismu--210734/>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

11 | MEDIA CASES RELATED TO ANTISEMITISM

CASES RELATED TO PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES

'NAŠE VOJSKO' PUBLISHING HOUSE

In May 2020, a criminal complaint was filed against the publishing house 'Naše vojsko', which published a calendar with portraits of persons associated with the Third Reich and other Nazi-themed items.²⁰ In June of the same year, the police accused the publishing house and its director, Emerich Drtina, of supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms and rioting. In January 2021, the police closed the investigation and filed a motion for indictment.²¹ In April 2021, the District Court for Prague 5 returned the case for further investigation. The supervising public prosecutor filed a complaint against this decision. In May 2021, the Court of Appeal confirmed the decision to return the case for further investigation. The public prosecutor's office filed the indictment again in September 2021. In March 2023, the Supreme Court upheld the complaint of Minister of Justice Pavel Blažek and stated that the

²⁰ ČTK. *Nakladatelství Naše vojsko čelí trestnímu oznámení kvůli kalendáři s nacisty*. Online. Lidovky.cz. 20. 5. 2020. https://www.lidovky.cz/domov/nakladatelstvi-nase-vojsko-celi-trestnimu-oznameni-kvuli-kalendari-s-nacisty.A200525_124145_in_domov_ele. [accessed 2024-03-30].

²¹ ČTK; Jadrný, Petr. *Policie podala návrh na obžalobu v kauze kalendářů s nacisty od nakladatelství Naše vojsko*. Online. iROZHLAS.cz. 15. 1. 2021. https://www.irozhlas.cz/zpravy-domov/kalendar-nase-vojsko-nacismus-navrh-na-obzalobu_2101151114_kro. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Circuit Court should have ruled on the matter.²² Subsequently, in June 2023, the public prosecutor filed an indictment in the case for the third time.²³ In October, the District Court for Prague 5 reopened the case.²⁴

'GUIDEMEDIA ETC' PUBLISHING HOUSE

In June 2021, the police launched a criminal prosecution against the 'Guidemedia etc' publishing house, which in 2016 published Germar Rudolf's book *Holocaust pod lupou* (published in German as *Der Holocaust auf dem Sezirtisch*, in English as *Dissecting the Holocaust*). According to the police findings, the book questions and belittles the Holocaust. The accusation of denying, questioning, approving and justifying genocide also concerned the distribution company 'Náš směr s.r.o.' and four individuals.²⁵ Based on a complaint, the charge was subsequently dropped. In May 2023, the police

²² Rogner, Šimon. *Nejvyšší soud zasáhl do kauzy předmětů s nacistickou tematikou. Vyhověl stížnosti Blažka*. Online. ČT 24. 22. 3. 2023. <https://ct24.ceskatelevize.cz/clanek/domaci/nejvyssi-soud-zasahl-do-kauzy-predmetu-s-nacistickou-tematikou-vyhovestiznosti-blazka-8959>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

See also: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. *Zpráva o extremismu a předsudečné nenávisti na území České republiky v roce 2023*. Online. Praha 2024, p. 20. <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/extremismus-vyrocnni-zpravy-o-extremismu-a-strategie-boje-proti-extremismu.aspx>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

²³ ČTK. *Státní zástupce potřetí obžaloval nakladatelství Naše vojsko za prodej předmětů s nacistickou tematikou*. Online. iROZHLAS.cz. 23. 6. 2023. https://www.irozhlas.cz/zpravodomov/nase-vojsko-soud-nacismus_2306231505_mst. [accessed 2024-03-30].

²⁴ Prchalová, Barbora. *Je to jen pár hrníčků, bránil ředitel nakladatelství věci s nacistickými motivy*. Online. iDNES.cz. 6. 10. 2023. https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/domaci/nase-vojsko-emerich-drtina-soud-nacismus.A231005_150545_domaci_prch. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Pánek, Jiří. *Hrnky i trička s Hitlerem mi přišly přes čáru, vypověděl u soudu autor portrétů*. Online. iDNES.cz. 5. 12. 2023. https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/cerna-kronika/prodej-predmety-nacismus-nase-vojsko-adolf-hitler-soud.A231205_102215_krimi_iri. [accessed 2024-03-30]

²⁵ ČTK. *Policie obvinila čtyři lidi a dvě firmy kvůli knize popírající holokaust*. Online. iDNES. 28. 6. 2021. https://www.idnes.cz/brno/zpravy/obvineni-stihani-vydavatelstvi-guidemedia-kniha-holokaust.A210628_155547_brno-zpravy_krut. [accessed 2024-03-30].

ČTK. *Policie obvinila čtyři lidi a dvě firmy v kauze vydavatelství Guidemedia, které vydávalo knihy popírající holokaust*. Online. Lidovky.cz. 28. 6. 2021. https://www.lidovky.cz/domov/policie-obvinila-ctyri-lidi-a-dve-firmy-v-kauze-vydavatelstvi-guidemedia-ktere.A210628_154919_in_domov_lihem. [accessed 2024-03-30].

reopened the prosecution, which expanded to include more than twenty other titles. A total of four individuals and three legal entities are being prosecuted, who are accused, among other things, of participating in a criminal organisation.²⁶

'BODYART PRESS' PUBLISHING HOUSE

In September 2023, the Supreme Court issued a ground-breaking decision regarding extremist publications. The decision was related to the case of 'Bodyart Press' publishing house, which in 2016 published David L. Hoggan's book *The Myth of the Six Million*, one of the most famous Holocaust-denying publications.²⁷ In January 2022, the court in Žďár nad Sázavou found the 'Bodyart Press' publishing house and its manager, Hedvika Fiksová, guilty of the crime of denying, questioning, approving and justifying genocide and imposed a monetary penalty in the total amount of CZK 60,000. In June 2022, the Regional Court in Brno confirmed the sentence.²⁸ In July 2023, H. Fiksová filed an appeal with the Supreme Court, which rejected the appeal on September 20. In the resolution, the Supreme Court Senate stated that the offence of denying, questioning, approving and justifying genocide is also committed by anyone who, without indicating the historical context, makes publicly available a work that fulfils the constituent elements of a criminal act. To fulfil the subjective side of the facts, no other so-called optional feature is required, i.e. the goal, motive, or the perpetrator's intention. The pepe-

²⁶ Schröderová, Simona. *Policie obnovila stíhání v případě knihy popírající holocaust. Obvinila čtyři lidi a tři firmy*. Online. ČT 24. 9. 8. 2023. <https://ct24.ceskatelevize.cz/clanek/domaci/police-obnovila-stihani-v-pripadu-knihy-popirajici-holocaust-obvinila-ctyri-lidi-a-tri-firmy-3793>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

²⁷ ČTK. *Nakladatelství Bodyart Press čelí obžalobě za knihu popírající holocaust*. Online. iDNES. 15. 11. 2021. https://www.idnes.cz/jihlava/zpravy/bodyart-press-obzaloba-kniha-popirani-holocaust-soud.A211115_184203_jihlava-zpravy_pp. [accessed 2024-03-30].

²⁸ ČTK. *Soud potvrdil peněžité tresty za vydání knihy ‚Mýtus šesti milionů‘ popírající holocaust*. Online. iROZHLAS.cz. 14. 6. 2022. https://www.irozhlas.cz/zpravy-domov/mytus-sesti-milionu-holocaust_2206141145_pj. [accessed 2024-03-30].

trator's motive, e.g. personal gain, is not essential for fulfilling the criteria of the said criminal offence.²⁹

AN APOLOGY FROM COUNSEL OF PRAGUE 11 TO COUNSELLOR MARTIN FARMAČKA

In March 2023, the counsel of the Municipal District of Prague 11 published an apology to counsellor Martin Farmačka for an accusation of anti-semitism that took place in June 2021. In a new press release, the counsel stated that based on the unabridged minutes of the 20th meeting of the Municipal Council of Prague 11 held on 10 June 2021, it cannot be declared that the statement of representative Martin Farmačka showed signs of antisemitic behaviour.³⁰

²⁹ The Supreme Court. *Přečinu popírání, zpochybňování, schvalování a ospravedlňování genocidia se dopustí i ten, kdo bez dalšího vydá, rozšiřuje, případně jinak veřejně zpřístupňuje cizí dílo naplňující znaky uvedené skutkové podstaty*. Online. 4. 1. 2024. https://www.nsoud.cz/Judikatura/ns_web.nsf/web/Proverejnostamedia~TiskovezpravyNejvyssihosoudu~Precinu_popirani_zpochybnovani_schvalovani_a_ospravedlnovani_genocidia_se_dopusti_i_ten_kdo_bez_dalsiho_vyda_rozsiruje_pripadne_jinak_verejne_zpristupnuje_cizi_dilo_naplnujici_znaky_uvedene_skutkove_podstaty_~ [accessed 2024-03-30].

See also: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. *Zpráva o extremismu a předsudečné nenávisti na území České republiky v roce 2023*. Online. Praha 2024, pp. 19–20. <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/extremismus-vyrocní-zpravy-o-extremismu-a-strategie-boje-proti-extremismu.aspx>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

³⁰ In a press release published on 30 June 2021, the Municipal Council of Prague 11 mentioned that counsellor Martin Farmačka said, "Judeo-Bolshevik is a normal expression". The press release was later edited in March 2023 with an apology and clarification that the statement was interpreted in the wrong context. See: Municipal Council of Prague 11. *Tisková zpráva RMČ Praha 11 k antisemitským výrokům proneseným na posledním jednání zastupitelstva*. Online. 23. 3. 2023. <https://www.praha11.cz/cs/media/aktuality-z-prahy-11/tiskova-zprava-rmc-praha-11-k-antisemitskym-vyrokum-pronesenym-na-poslednim-jednani-zastupitelstva.html>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

THE WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS

ANTI-JEWISH LEAFLETS IN PILSEN

At the end of October, several media outlets reported on anti-Jewish posters in the Sultan Kebab Bistro in Pilsen.³¹ Its owner, Turkish citizen Müjdat Keskin, placed colourful, handwritten leaflets in the window of the establishment: "These Jews are people who killed even the prophets like sheep. For this reason, God cursed them. These Jews are the ones who call the pure Virgin Mary, praised by God, unchaste. These Jews are the ones who wanted to kill the prophet Jesus." On Wednesday, 25 October, the police began investigating the incident. M. Keskin gave several interviews to the media, in which he stated that the inscriptions are quotations from the Koran. He explained his motivation by saying: "I don't think Hamas is bad, I think Israel is bad, Israel is constantly bad, it's been bad for 70 years".³² Investigators accused him of committing the offence of defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons.³³ On Friday, 3 November, the District Attorney's

³¹ Dračková, Sabina; Polatová Pavlína; Bartošová Michaela. *Antisemitismus v Plzni. Židé chtějí zabít Ježíše, hlásaly plakáty na prodejně kebabu*. Online. CNN Prima News. 25. 10. 2023. <https://cnn.iprima.cz/skandal-v-plzni-zide-chteji-zabit-jezise-hlasaly-plakaty-vyvesene-majitelem-kebabu-415841>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

ČTK. *Hanobení národa. Policie stíhá prodavače, který na kebab v Plzni vylepil antisemitský plakát*. Online. CNN Prima News. 27. 10. 2023. <https://cnn.iprima.cz/hanobeni-naroda-policie-stiha-prodavace-ktery-na-kebab-v-plzni-vylepil-antisemitsky-plakat-416040>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Mrázová, Klára. *Tureckého majitele kebabu v Plzni vyšetřuje policie za protizidovské nápisy*. Online. Novinky.cz. 25. 10. 2023. <https://www.novinky.cz/clanek/krimi-tureckeho-majitele-kebabu-v-plzni-vysetruje-policie-na-podnik-vyvesil-protizidovske-napisy-40448297>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Bílá, Valentýna; Kubíková Šrámková Jitka; ČTK. *Prodavač kebabu v Plzni vyvěsil nápisy proti Židům. Hamás není špatný, říká*. Online. iDNES. 25. 10. 2023. https://www.idnes.cz/plzen/zpravy/kebab-protizidovska-hesla-cedule-izrael-palestina-muslim-policie.A231025_141634_plzen-zpravy_vb. [accessed 2024-03-30].

³² Echo 24; ČTK. *„Napsal jsem pravdu, je to v koránu.“ Protizidovskými texty v prodejně kebabu se zabývá policie*. Online. Echo 24.cz. 25. 10. 2023. <https://www.echo24.cz/a/Hq9Cm/zpravy-domaci-napsal-jsem-pravdu-je-to-v-koranu-protizidovskymi-texty-se-zabyva-policie>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

³³ Třeček, Čeněk. *Policie obvinila za antisemitské texty cizince z plzeňského stánku Sultan Kebab*.

Office of Plzeň-město cancelled the criminal prosecution.³⁴ In the justification of this decision, the public prosecutor stated that "in the context of our



Source: Krimi-plzen.cz

Online. iROZHLAS.cz. 27. 10. 2023. https://www.irozhlas.cz/zpravy-domov/policie-obivneni-antisemitismus-stanek-kebab-plzen_2310271524_cen. [accessed 2024-03-30].

³⁴ Bílá, Valentýna; ČTK. *Žalobce zrušil stíhání prodáváče kebabu z Plzně kvůli protizidovským nápisům*. Online. Impuls.cz. 3. 11. 2023. https://www.impuls.cz/regiony/plzensky-kraj/kebab-prodejna-protizidovske-napisy-zastupitelstvi-stihani-zastaveni.A231103_144605_imp-plzensky_air. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Biskup, Patrik; Mrázová, Klára. *„Specifická výzdoba provozovny.“ Žalobce zrušil stíhání tureckého majitele kebabu v Plzni za nápisy o Židech*. Online. Novinky.cz. 3. 11. 2023. <https://www.novinky.cz/clanek/krimi-zalobce-zrusil-stihani-tureckeho-majitele-kebabu-v-plzni-za-provokativni-napisy-o-zidech-40449511>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

time, this is just a peculiar 'decoration' of the establishment", and in the actions of the accused, "neither a prosecutable crime nor any other criminal offence according to the criminal code can be identified."³⁵ In December, the media reported that the kebab shop ceased operations.³⁶

REFERENCE TO THE 1972 MUNICH MASSACRE

On Wednesday, 1 November, a demonstration "for objective reporting on Palestine and Israel" took place on Wenceslas Square in Prague. About 200 people participated in the demonstration organised by pro-Palestinian initiatives. One of the participants was wearing a sweatshirt stained with red paint with the inscription '1972 OLYMPICS'. Several media outlets and individuals suspected that the inscription on the sweatshirt referred to the massacre of the Israeli team at the Munich Olympics in 1972. Five athletes and six other members of the Israeli delegation died during the attack by the Palestinian terrorist group Black September. The day after the demonstration, the media reported that the police had begun an investigation into the incident.³⁷ The

³⁵ Okresní státní zastupitelství Plzeň- město. *Tisková zpráva*. Online. 3. 11. 2023. <https://verejnazaloba.cz/osz-plzen-mesto/tiskova-zprava-4/>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

³⁶ Bílá, Valentýna; Kubíková Šrámková, Jitka. *V Plzni zavřela prodejna kebabu, jejíž majitel vylepil protizidovské nápisy*. Online. iDNES. 19. 12. 2023. https://www.idnes.cz/plzen/zpravy/kebab-prodejna-protizidovske-napisy-uzavreni-plzen.A231219_110019_plzen-zpravy_vb. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Bouda, Pavel. *Kebab s protizidovskými nápisy zmizel. Provozovna je zavřená*. Online. Plzeňský deník.cz. 20. 12. 2023. https://plzensky.denik.cz/zpravy_region/kebab-s-protizidovskymi-napisy-zmizel-provozovna-je-zavrena-20231220.html. [accessed 2024-03-30].
ČTK. *Vyklizené místnosti, mříž na dveřích. Bistro s kebabem, kde visely protizidovské nápisy, je zavřené*. Online. iROZHLAS.cz. 19. 12. 2023. https://www.irozhlas.cz/zpravy-domov/plzen-sultan-kebab-antisemitismus-protizidovske-konec-zavreno_2312191526_kac. [accessed 2024-03-30].

³⁷ Ratner, Tomáš; ČTK. *Na demonstraci měla triko s rokem a místem masakru Izraelců, případ šetří policie*. Online. iDNES.cz. 2. 11. 2023. https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/domaci/extremismus-terorismus-vysetrovani-palestina-praha-police-vrazdeni-zidu.A231102_094359_domaci_rtn. [accessed 2024-03-30].

ČT 24; ČTK. *Policie kvůli nápisu na oblečení prověřuje ženu z propalestinské demonstrace*. Online. ČT 24. 2. 11. 2023. <https://ct24.ceskatelevize.cz/clanek/domaci/police-kvuli-napisu-na-obleceni-proveruje-zenu-z-propalestinske-demonstrace-544>. [accessed 2024-03-30].
ČTK. *Policie prověřuje palestinskou příznavkyni kvůli nápisu na tričku na střední pražské*



Source: Seznamzpravy.cz

accused woman, originally from Morocco, refused to communicate with the media. However, she released a statement on her social media, explaining that the sweatshirt was part of a Halloween costume from the previous day and that she had never heard of the Munich massacre.³⁸ The outcome of the investigation has not been made public at the time of this report.

demonstraci. Online. Novinky.cz. 2. 11. 2023. <https://www.novinky.cz/clanek/krimi-policie-proveruje-palestinskou-priznivkyni-kvuli-napisu-na-tricku-na-stredelni-prazske-demonstraci-40449310>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

³⁸ Novák, Jan. *O hrůzných událostech jsem nevěděla, kaje se žena v kontroverzní mikině*. Online. Seznam Zprávy. 2. 11. 2023. <https://www.seznamzpravy.cz/clanek/domaci-zivot-v-cesku-o-hruznych-udalostech-jsem-nevedela-kaje-se-zena-v-kontroverzni-mikine-239265>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Novosad, Lukáš. *Mikina, která v Praze oslavovala masakr*. Online. Echo 24.cz. 5. 11. 2023. <https://echo24.cz/a/HKhC3/komentar-novosad-propalestinska-demonstrace-mikina>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

Ratner, Tomáš; ČTK. *Na demonstraci měla triko s rokem a místem masakru Izraelců, případ šetří policie*. Online. iDNES.cz. 2. 11. 2023. https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/domaci/extremismus-terorismus-vysetrovani-palestina-praha-police-vrazdeni-zidu.A231102_094359_domaci_rtn. [accessed 2024-03-30].

FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA, PALESTINE WILL BE FREE

The slogan 'From the River to the Sea, Palestine Will Be Free', which is historically associated with calls for the physical liquidation of the State of Israel and its Jewish inhabitants, was heard in 2023 in the Czech Republic at most pro-Palestinian demonstrations. On Wednesday, 15 November, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the police and the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office agreed that using this slogan can fulfil the characteristics of a criminal offence.³⁹ In response to this decision, pro-Palestinian activists attempted to organise a demonstration in support of the slogan. On Monday, 27 November, the organiser filed a request at the Prague City Hall to hold the demonstration on 5 December. On Thursday, 30 November, City Hall, referring to the decision of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the police and the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office,⁴⁰ denied permission for the event.⁴¹ The demonstration organiser subsequently contested Prague City Hall's decision with a lawsuit. On Monday, 18 December, the Municipal Court in Prague annulled the ban on the demonstration as illegal. In an extensive justification, the court stated that the slogan "can have multiple

³⁹ Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. *Použití hesla „From the River to the Sea“ může být za určitých okolností trestným činem*. Online. <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/pouziti-hesla-from-the-river-to-the-sea-muze-byt-za-urcitych-okolnosti-trestnym-cinem.aspx>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

⁴⁰ On Friday, 1 December, The Prosecutor General's Office published an opinion on the possibilities of legal assessment of hate speech in connection with the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel and the subsequent Israeli-Palestinian armed conflict on its website: https://verejnazaloba.cz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/1_sl_732_2023_14_male_stanovisko.pdf. [accessed 2024-03-30].

⁴¹ Decision of the Prague City Hall is available here: https://eud.praha.eu/pub/deska/6000004/4/6000003%23MHMPAW00A020%23MHMP0BRDQQQH%230/6000003%23MHMPAW00A020%23MHMP0BRDQQQH/MHMP_2503664_2023.pdf. [accessed 2024-03-30].



Source: Idnes.cz

meanings" and that "in the Czech environment, it cannot be determined whether the meaning is predominantly hateful, radical or even genocidal".⁴² Prague City Hall filed an appeal against this decision at the beginning of 2024.⁴³

The FJC considers the mentioned slogan to be clearly anti-Jewish hatred.

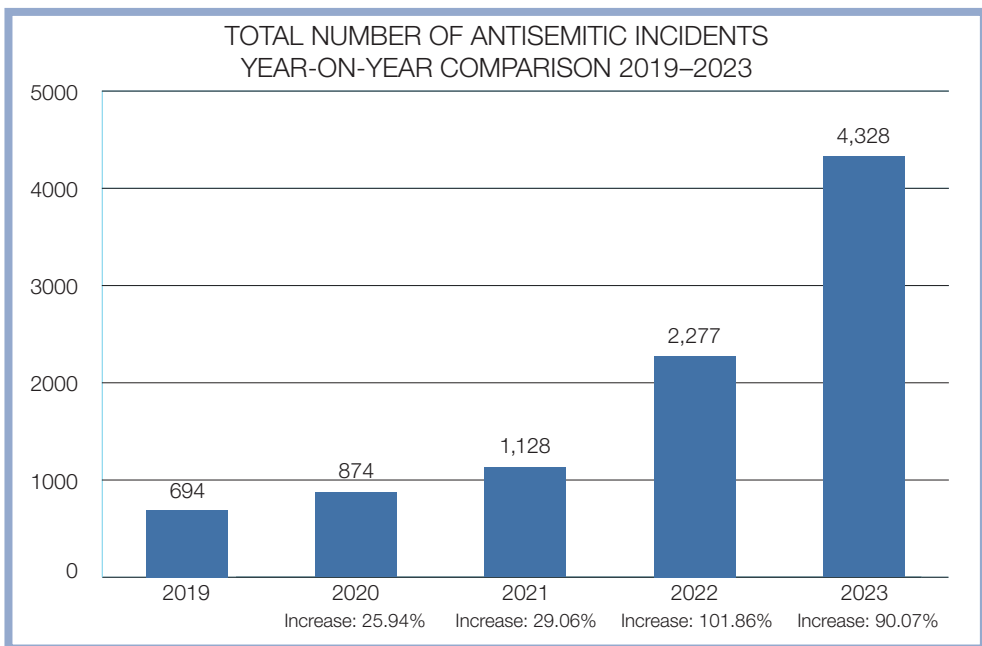
⁴² The judgment is available here: <https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/judikat/msph/14-a-166-2023-84>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

⁴³ Dimun, Petr. *Pražský magistrát trvá na škodlivosti hesla o svobodné Palestině, podal kasační stížnost*. Online. 27. 2. 2024. <https://www.ceska-justice.cz/2024/02/prazsky-magistrat-trva-na-skodlivosti-hesla-o-svobodne-palestine-podal-kasacni-stiznost/>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

12 | STATISTICAL DATA ON ANTISEMITISM

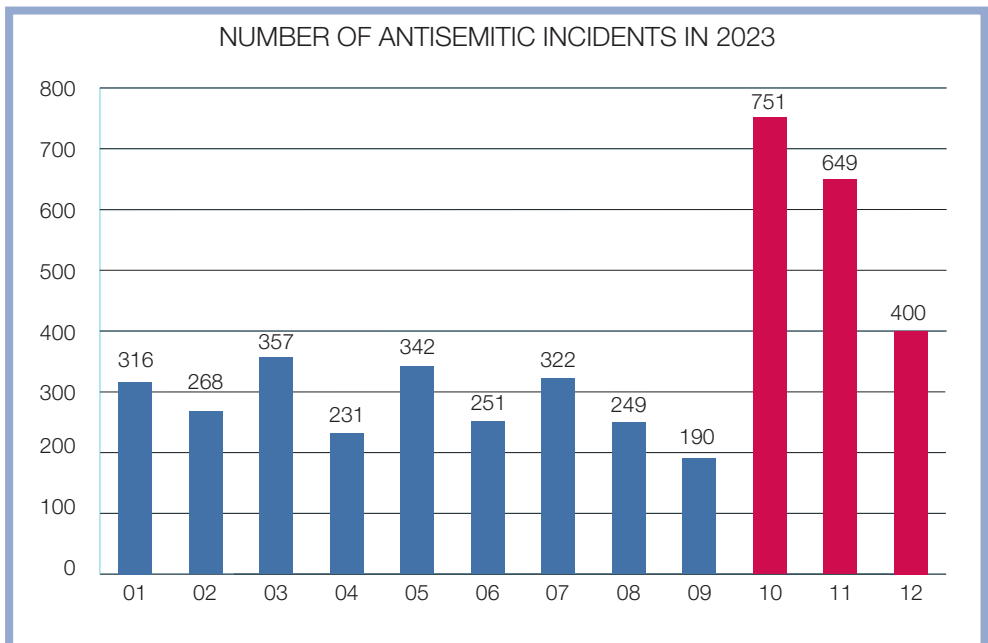
12.1 | ANTISEMITISM ACCORDING TO THE FJC STATISTICS

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic recorded a total of 4,328 antisemitic incidents in 2023, compared to 2022, when 2,277 incidents were registered, an increase of 90%. The sizable increase

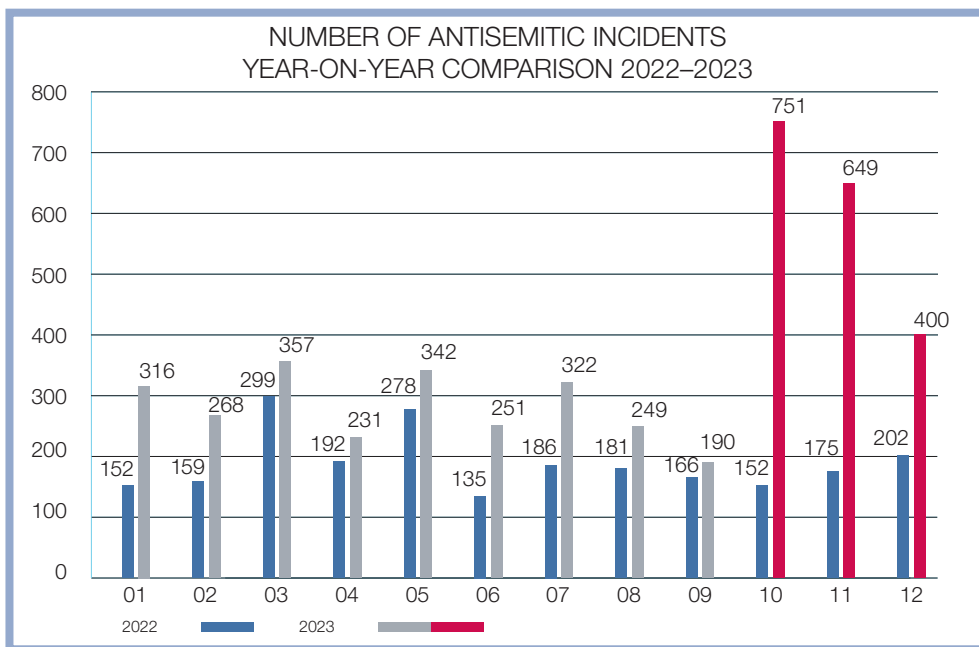


in the number of antisemitic incidents, visible in the previously monitored periods, continued in 2023.

The annual data set divided by month clearly shows a substantial increase in the number of antisemitic incidents in the last quarter, in an apparent connection with the events following the terrorist attack by Hamas on 7 October 2023. In the period January–September, 2,528 incidents were registered, i.e. 58.41%. A further 1,800 incidents were recorded between October and December, i.e. 41.59%.



In the period January–September 2023, the average monthly increase compared to the previous year was 50.03%. In the period October–December, the average increase was 254.32%.



MONTH	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN 2022	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN 2023	INCREASE	AVERAGE INCREASE
January	152	316	107.89%	
February	159	268	68.55%	
March	299	357	19.40%	
April	192	231	20.31%	
May	278	342	23.02%	50.03%
June	135	251	85.93%	
July	186	322	73.12%	
August	181	249	37.57%	
September	166	190	14.46%	
October	152	751	394.07%	
November	175	649	270.86%	254.32%
December	202	400	98.02%	

12.2 | ANTISEMITISM ACCORDING TO POLICE STATISTICS

The Police of the Czech Republic regularly publishes statistical reports⁴⁴ to analyse the current state of crimes and their trends. To process data on criminal activity, the police use the so-called 'Tactical and Statistical Classification' (TSC) with its coding of individual crimes (and their combination) and classify them with a specific designation. For better clarity, the statistics cited in this chapter are arranged according to the relevant sections of the Czech Criminal Code (Act No. 40/2009 Coll.).

Using the published data, the FJC monitors the number of registered criminal acts with an antisemitic motive or undertone for each of the following eight selected crimes:⁴⁵

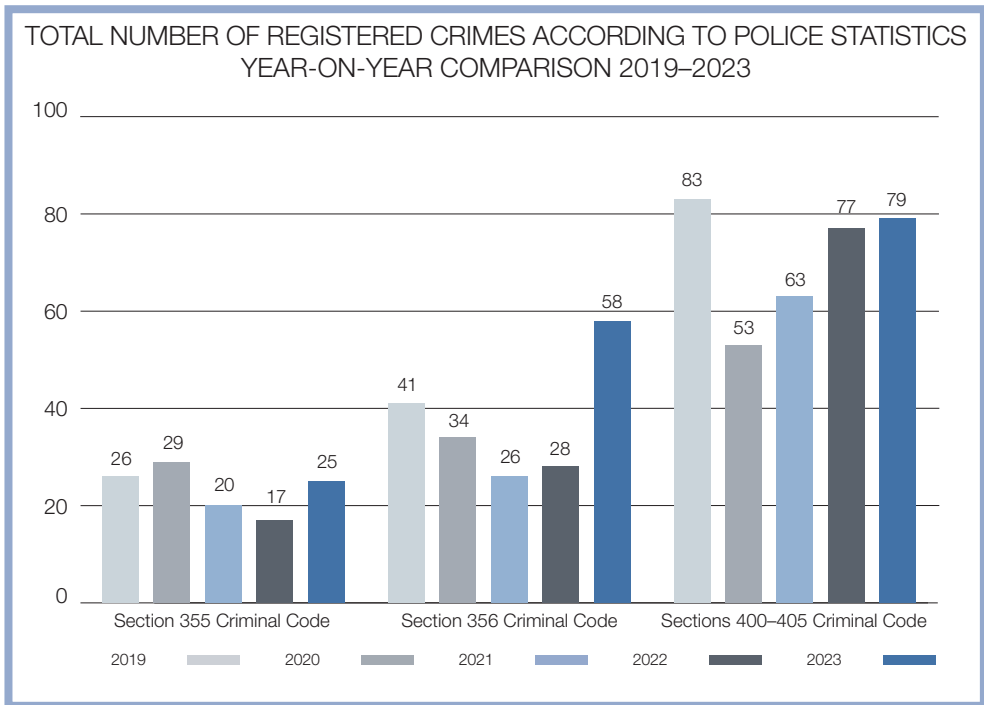
- Section 355 – Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or other Group of People
- Section 356 – Instigation of Hatred towards a Group of People or Suppression of their Rights and Freedoms
- Section 400 – Genocide
- Section 401 – Attack Against Humanity
- Section 402 – Apartheid and Discrimination against a Group of People
- Section 403 – Establishment, Support and Promotion of Movements Aimed at Suppression of Human Rights and Freedoms

⁴⁴ The total number of registered acts according to the TSC for 2023 can be found here: Police of the Czech Republic. *Statistické přehledy kriminality za rok 2023*. Online. <https://www.policie.cz/clanek/statisticke-prehledy-kriminality-za-rok-2023.aspx>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

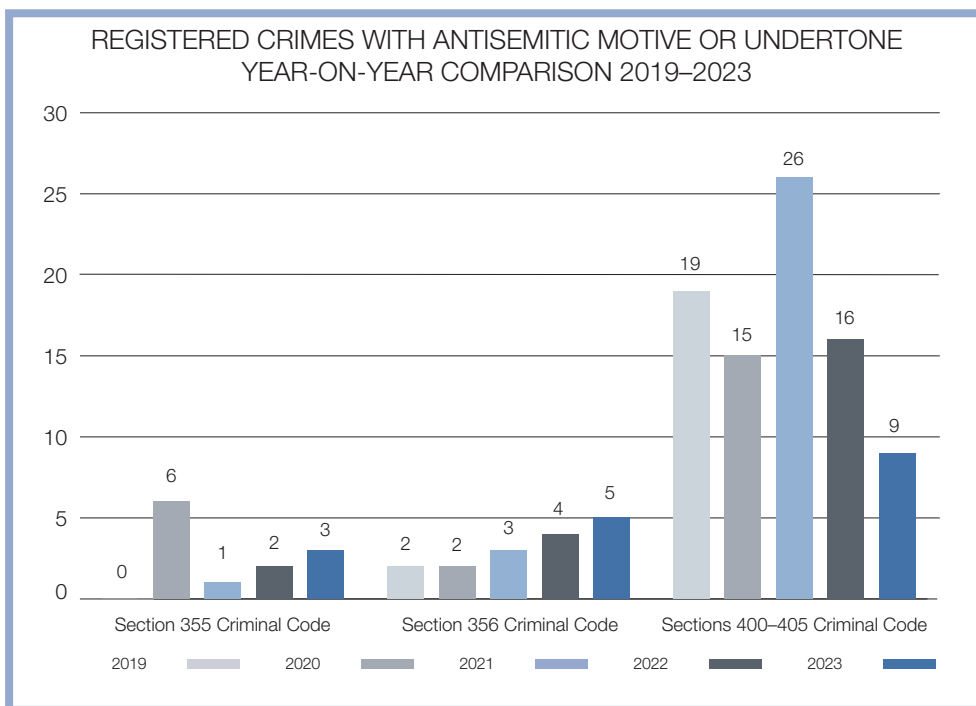
⁴⁵ Additional information on the number of registered criminal acts with an antisemitic motive was provided by the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic upon request.

- Section 404 – Expressing Sympathies for Movements Seeking to Suppress Human Rights and Freedoms
- Section 405 – Denial, Impugnation, Approval and Justification of Genocide

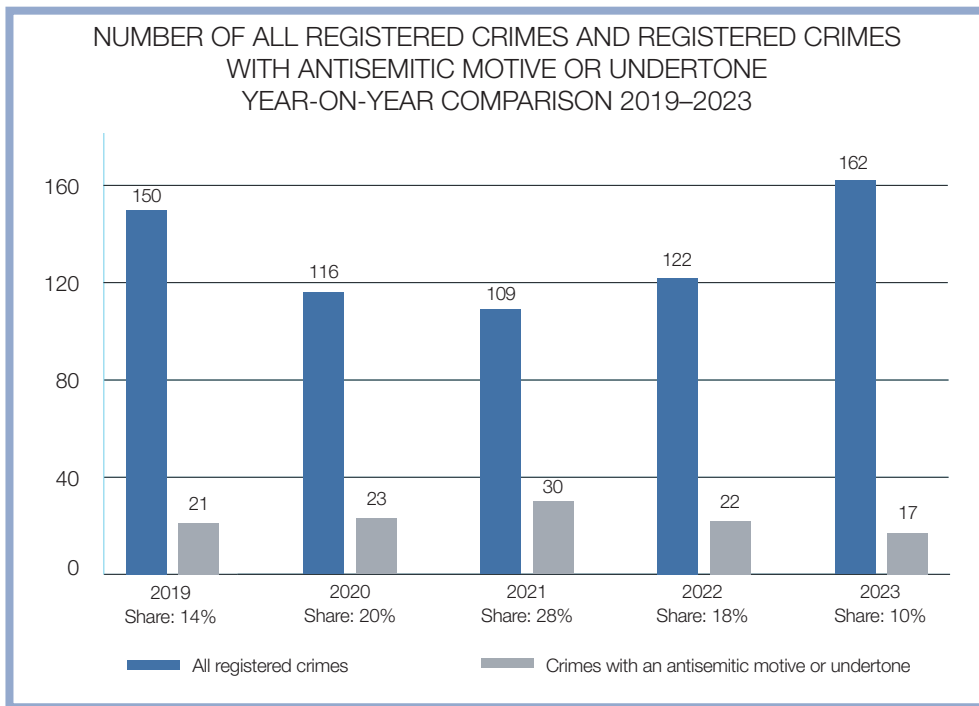
A relatively stable trend is evident in most monitored categories, with deviations in the order of single digits. A statistically significant increase occurred only in the case of criminal offences under Section 356 (Instigation of Hatred towards a Group of People or Suppression of their Rights and Freedoms). In 2023, 58 criminal acts were registered, approximately twice as many as in 2021 and 2022.



In the case of crimes, according to Sections 355 and 356, with an anti-semitic motive or undertone, a relatively stable trend is maintained without significant fluctuations. On the contrary, the decrease in the number of offences under Sections 400–405 is very surprising. In 2023, only nine criminal offences in this category were registered. In the context of the last five years, this number represents a historical minimum.



The number of all monitored crimes in 2021–2023 increased. On the contrary, the number of antisemitic crimes and their share in total hate crimes decreased in the same period.



For the interpretation of the collected data, it is important to remember that most hate crimes go unreported, and it is often not possible to confirm the motive with any certainty.

12.3 | ANTISEMITISM ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Nationwide police crime statistics are also analysed by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (MI), which regularly compiles data overviews of hate crimes:⁴⁶

- Sections 145–146a - Grievous Bodily Harm
- Section 228 – Damage to a Thing of Another
- Section 228/2 – Spraying, covering with drawing or text by paint or another substance
- Section 352 – Violence Against a Group of People and Individuals
- Section 353 – Dangerous Threatening
- Section 355 – Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or other Group of People
- Section 356 – Instigation of Hatred towards a Group of People or Suppression of their Rights and Freedoms
- Section 358 – Disorderly Conduct (at sports and public events)
- Section 403 – Establishment, Support and Promotion of Movements Aimed at Suppression of Human Rights and Freedoms
- Section 404 – Expressing Sympathies for Movements Seeking to Suppress Human Rights and Freedoms
- Section 405 – Denial, Impugnation, Approval and Justification of Genocide

⁴⁶ All data in this chapter are taken from the Annual Reports on extremism and prejudicial hatred in the Czech Republic from 2019 – 2023. All Annual Reports for the mentioned period are available here: <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/extremismus-vyrocní-zpravy-o-extremismu-a-strategie-boje-proti-extremismu.aspx>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

In 2023, a total of 181,417 crimes were registered in the Czech Republic, of which 181 were hate crimes. In a year-on-year comparison (2022–2023), there was an increase in detected hate crimes of 32.

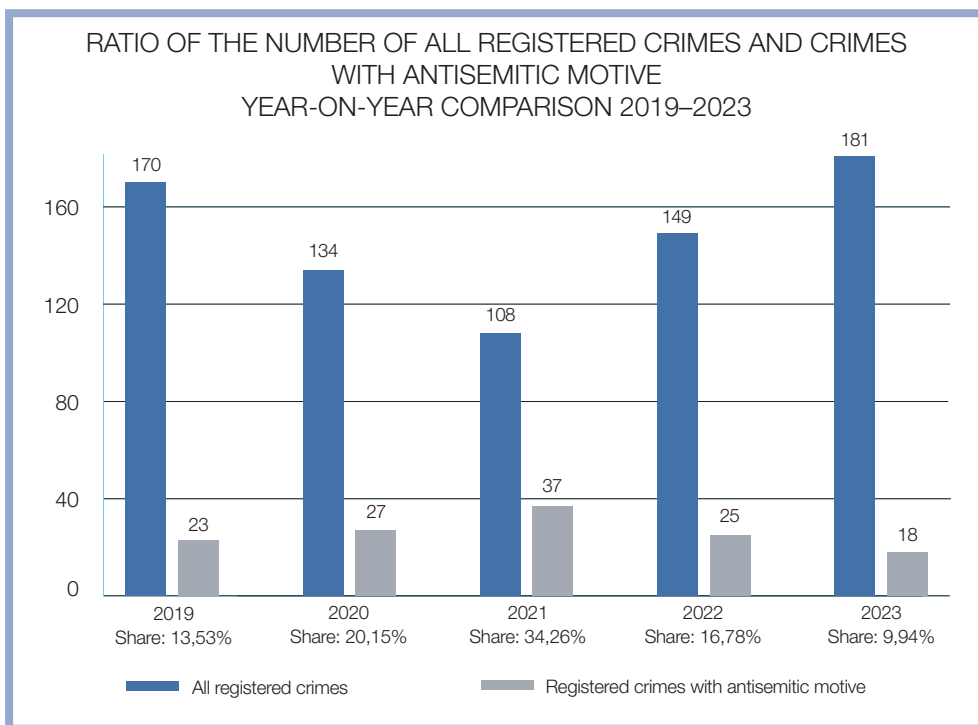
HATE CRIMES	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sections 145–146a of the Criminal Code	5	3	2	9	16
Section 228 of the Criminal Code	0	0	0	15	7
Section 228/2 of the Criminal Code	6	5	9	22	14
Section 352 of the Criminal Code	27	23	35	46	42
Section 353 of the Criminal Code	1	0	16	10	17
Section 355 of the Criminal Code	26	29	20	17	25
Section 356 of the Criminal Code	41	34	26	28	58
Section 358 of the Criminal Code	3	1	0	2	2
Sections 403–405 of the Criminal Code	61	39	0	0	0
Total	170	134	108	149	181

In the overall data set, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic monitors the statistics of criminal activity motivated by hatred towards specific groups or individuals. In 2023, 18 crimes with an antisemitic motive were registered; compared to 2022, there was a decrease of 7 criminal acts.

In a year-on-year comparison over the past three years, it is clear that the number of hate crimes is continuously increasing: 2021: 108, 2022: 149,

HATE CRIMES AGAINST SPECIFIC GROUPS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
In total	170	134	108	149	181
Jews	23	27	37	25	18
Roma	43	19	33	20	25
LGBT+	not available	not available	11	13	13

and 2023: 181. However, the number of registered cases with an antisemitic motive decreased simultaneously: 2021: 37, 2022: 25, and 2023: 18.



The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic states every year that the "collected data does not reflect latent criminality and does not take into account crimes that, for various reasons, were not detected, reported, and thus recorded".⁴⁷

⁴⁷ E.g.: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. *Zpráva o extremismu a předsudečné nenávisti na území České republiky v roce 2023*. Online. Praha 2024, p. 21. <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/extremismus-vyrocní-zpravy-o-extremismu-a-strategie-boje-proti-extremismu.aspx>. [accessed 2024-03-30].

12.4 | COMPARISON OF STATISTICAL DATA

From the data of the Police of the Czech Republic, it is clearly evident that the number of hate crimes increased in the years 2021–2023. At the same time, however, the number of criminal acts motivated by hatred towards Jews decreased. The FJC data for the same period, on the contrary, show a dramatic increase in the number of antisemitic incidents.

Our working hypothesis, with regards to the sharp increase in anti-Jewish hatred after 7 October, assumes a correlation between the findings of the FJC and the statistics of the Police of the Czech Republic. However, analysis of the data revealed completely opposite tendencies. There are three possible reasons to explain this discrepancy:

- Nationwide, police crime statistics include only cases that fulfil the factual nature of the crime. The published data, therefore, does not include less socially harmful illegal acts, such as, for example, misdemeanours that are dealt with in administrative proceedings by municipal authorities. Whereas the FJC registers all incidents regardless of their degree of social harm.
- The police predominately record incidents reported by victims or witnesses. The FJC, on the other hand, actively seeks out manifestations of anti-Jewish hatred. The number of reported antisemitic incidents has long been a statistically marginal part of monitoring. In 2023, the FJC received 67 notifications which could be verified, documented and added to the database. Thus, reported incidents account for 1.55%. At the same time, however, the reported incidents are usually among the most serious.

- The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, as well as many European institutions, draws attention to the underreporting of antisemitic and hate crimes, especially in the online environment.

The completeness of the TSC data can also be influenced, for example, by the degree to which the criteria of the non-legally binding IHRA definition of antisemitism are applied in common practice. However, a definitive explanation of the data analyses is beyond the capabilities of the FJC and this report.

13 | LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AR	Annual Report on Antisemitism in the Czech Republic
BDS	Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions
FJC	Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic
IHRA	International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
MI	Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
NWO	New World Order
TSC	Tactical and Statistical Classification

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