

Press Release

Annual Report on Antisemitic Incidents in Germany 2023 Released

Highest Number of Antisemitic Incidents in Germany

Berlin (6/25/2024) – *In 2023, the Bundesverband RIAS (Federal Association of Research and Information Centers on Antisemitism) documented 4,782 antisemitic incidents nationwide. This represents an increase of over 80% compared to the previous year. On average, 13 antisemitic incidents were recorded per day. The Hamas terror attacks in Israel on October 7 led to a sharp increase in antisemitic incidents in Germany.*

Significant Increase in Violent Antisemitic Incidents

There was a notable increase in violent incidents, particularly towards the end of the year: around two-thirds of all cases of extreme violence, assaults, and threats occurred after October 7. In Berlin, two unknown individuals threw Molotov cocktails at a Jewish community center in mid-October 2023. A few days later, flares were thrown at a Jewish family's home in North Rhine-Westphalia. Additionally, threats of extermination against Jewish institutions and individuals increased after October 7.

Antisemitism Impacts Everyday Life of Jews in Germany

Following the Hamas terror attacks, antisemitic incidents increased abruptly: RIAS reporting offices were made aware of 2,787 antisemitic incidents from October 7 through the end of the year alone. This means that in the nearly three months following October 7, RIAS documented more incidents than in the entire previous year. Jews increasingly experienced antisemitism in their immediate surroundings: at work, in educational institutions, and on social media platforms. Danger for Jews has objectively increased since October 7. Jewish life in Germany is now even more heavily restricted than before.

Anti-Israel Activism Particularly Prominent

In 2023, the majority of attributable incidents were related to the political context of anti-Israel activism. This was especially evident at antisemitic gatherings. Rejection of the Jewish state mobilized various political spectrums. In this context, the Holocaust was often relativized or denied. For example, at a gathering in Düsseldorf in early November, a placard read, "Dear Zionists, stop doing what was done to you in World War III!"



The annual report “Antisemitic Incidents in Germany 2023” can be accessed at <https://report-antisemitism.de/en/publications/>

For inquiries or interview requests, please contact Marco Siegmund, Press and Public Relations Speaker, at: presse@report-antisemitism.de or +49 176 – 345 451 55.

Bundesverband RIAS e.V. (Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Antisemitism) is the umbrella organization of the RIAS reporting offices. It aims to provide consistent documentation of antisemitic incidents based on the IHRA working definition of antisemitism. RIAS reporting offices record antisemitic incidents nationwide and offer support to those affected. The report includes incidents from across the country and from reporting offices in eleven federal states.

Comments on this release:

Benjamin Steinitz, Managing Director of the Bundesverband RIAS e. V.

“Basic rights apply to everyone, including Jews. We have seen this principle threatened since October 7, 2023. In all areas of life, Jews are being harassed, threatened, and attacked. Since October 7 threats against open Jewish life have become more acute. The unprecedented rise in antisemitic incidents must be understood as a wake-up call: the state has the responsibility to ensure that Jews can safely participate in civic life. Last but not least, it is up to all of us to put a stop to the normalization of antisemitism.”

Bianca Loy, Co-author and Research Associate at the Bundesverband RIAS e. V.

“The antisemitic massacres and terrorist attacks in Israel motivate people in Germany to engage in antisemitic behavior. Many well-known antisemitic stereotypes have been updated and applied to the Hamas massacres and the war in Israel and Gaza. With this, violence against Jews has been justified, trivialized, or denied. Antisemitism shapes the daily lives of Jews, forcing many to conceal their Jewish identity. This situation is alarming and unacceptable.”



Dr. Felix Klein, Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism

“The numerous measures taken to suppress anti-Jewish violence show that the federal government has been treating the rampant antisemitism since October 7, 2023, with the highest priority. We will continue our fight against Jew-hatred tirelessly until there can be a RIAS annual report in which there are hardly any, or no antisemitic incidents recorded at all.”

Daniel Botmann, Managing Director of the Central Council of Jews in Germany

“Hostility, assault, and a feeling of constant threat are a reality for many Jews. Many are also worried about whether a free and safe life as Jews in Germany will be possible in the future. Jewish community life can only take place under conditions of maximum security. Anti-Semitic ideology spans from the far left to the far right and into the middle of society. Only if we name this with complete clarity can we fight against it. The work of RIAS makes an important contribution to this.”

Marina Chernivsky, Managing Director, OFEK e.V. Counselling and Support After Antisemitic Incidents

“Immediately after the attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, numerous anti-Zionist (and antisemitic) gatherings, demonstrations, and calls for violence against Jews and Jewish institutions took place in Germany. Jews who turn to OFEK describe the profound changes that the attack has brought to their lives here in Germany. Instead of solidarity, there is an increasing number of antisemitic incidents and crimes. Occupied lecture halls, antisemitic graffiti, verbal, and even physical assaults have become part of everyday life for Jewish students. Jewish (and Israeli) heritage, language, and visible Jewish symbols have thus become security risks. Mourning and pain, alongside the concern about further escalation, are intensified by the antisemitic atmosphere and the lack of protection. The annual report of the Federal Association RIAS underscores the importance of the perspective of those affected and points to the urgent need to expand sustainable structures for protection, counseling, and prevention.”