



Comprehensive Three-Dimensional Index on anti-Semitism in Europe

The need for an integrated indicator

In the shadow of a resurgence of Anti-Semitism in Europe, and in the light of EU governments' efforts to eradicate the phenomenon, there is a need for an integrative anti-Semitism Index that will provide Israeli policy-makers and world Jewry leaders with a policy tool to monitor developments, ease decision-making and assess efficacy of implemented interventions.

Existing measurement tools only provide partial perspectives, a single piece of anti-Semitism jigsaw puzzle. Some only examine public opinion. Others only check the number of incidents of violence or harassment against Jews. Occasionally, field studies examine how Jews themselves perceive anti-Semitism.

A three-dimensional indicator

JPPI's anti-Semitism Index, presented here for the second year. This year we focus on Europe – aiming to measure the discomfort and threat levels of European Jewry. This integrated indicator, meant to be a tool for policy makers, relates to three complementary dimensions of anti-Semitism affecting individual Jews and communal Jewish life. Our integrative index utilizes the existing **Attitudes Toward Jews** Index compiled from data collected by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in cooperation with various research institutes, **anti-Semitic harassment** figures collected by local Jewish organizations entrusted with security (such as CST in UK, and SPCJ in France) ¹, and findings regarding **perceptions among Jews** of anti-Semitism

Table 1. Anti-Semitism in Western Europe 2015-2016	Trend	Europe average	France	UK	Germany
PUBLIC OPINION TOWARDS JEWS					
Harbor anti-Semitic attitudes (%) ²	▼	24 (26)	17 (37)	12 (8)	16 (27)
-- as above, among Muslims (%) ³	▼	62 (55)	49 (83)	54	54 (62)
ANTI-SEMITIC BEHAVIOR (number of incidents; only as reported to official agencies) ⁴					
Extreme violence (including terrorism)	▼▲		32 (2)	4 (41)	3 (4)
Assault	▼		66 (108)	82 (80)	18 (25)
Damage to property	▼		109 (131)	65 (81)	N/A
Total incidents (extreme violence, assaults, damages, desecrations and threats)	▼		1,015 (1,092)	912 (1,189)	740 (864)
Number of physical attacks per 1,000 Jews	▼		4 (5)	6 (8)	6 (7)
Per cent of attacks that are not reported ⁵		77	72	73	72
ANTI-SEMITISM AS PERCEIVED BY JEWS ⁶					
Have been personally assaulted (%)			11	5	
Anti-Semitism is a very or fairly big problem (%)		(67)	(86)	(48)	(25)
Have considered emigration because they do not feel safe in their country (%)	▲	(32)	80 (49)	(19)	(26)
Avoid places in their neighborhood because they would not feel safe there as a Jew (%)		(27)	(20)	(35)	(28)

Note: Most recent data available. Numbers in parenthesis are 2014 scores

1. European Jewish communities are at risk of further terror attacks

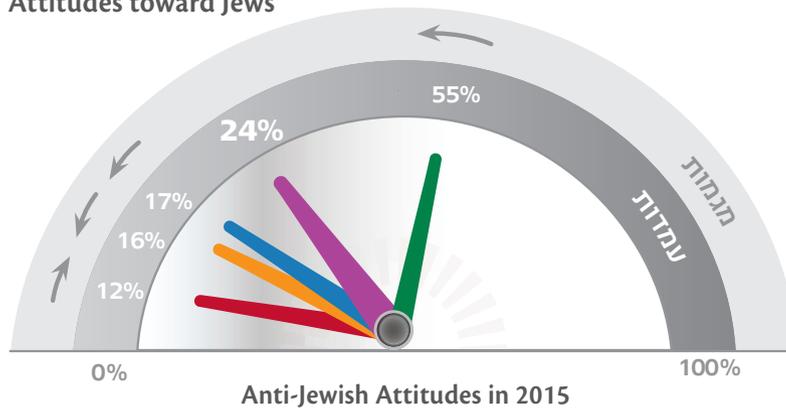
Thousands of Europe-born jihadists have fought in the Syrian civil war, and hundreds of them have returned to Europe. Moreover, among the million migrants who have arrived in Europe recently, it is suspected that there are several hundreds of trained jihadists who are setting up sleeping terror cells. On June 2016, the U.S. State Department warned Americans of the risk of potential terrorist attacks throughout Europe.⁷ It is clear that in

recent terror attacks throughout Europe, Jews have been specifically targeted by jihadists. Security services put in place in several European Jewish communities were not designed to safeguard the many thousands of Jewish residences against terror, and do not have the capacity to do so.

2. Strong condemnations of anti-Semitism by top-level political leaders matter

We observe an increase of anti-Jewish sentiment in United Kingdom, while anti-Jewish attitudes

Attitudes toward Jews



- Europe's Muslims
- Average Europe
- France
- Germany
- UK

Sources: ADL, Fondapol, CAA, WZB

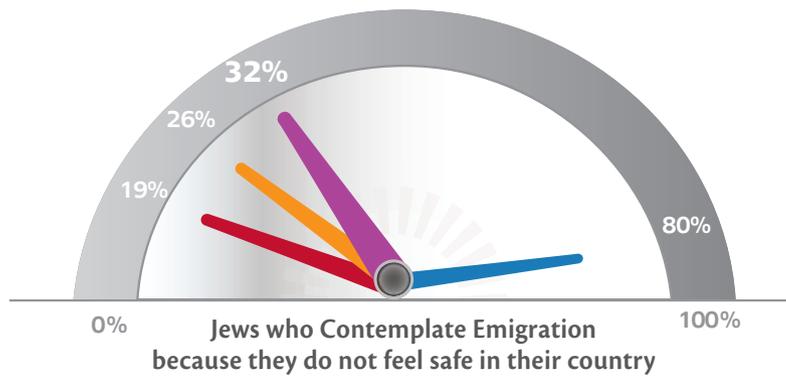
Incidents



- Average Europe
- France
- Germany
- UK

Sources: Kantor Center, SPCJ, CST

Perceptions among Jews



- Average Europe
- France
- Germany
- UK

Source: FRA European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, IPSOS, IFOP

and harassment dropped significantly in France and Germany.

There is no doubt that high-profile violence against Jews has fostered a sense of solidarity with the Jewish community. Strong condemnations of anti-Semitism by French PM Manuel Valls and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have been highly effective in their respective countries.

Israeli diplomats and political figures should encourage European political and top-level civic leaders to take a clear stand against anti-Semitism and demonstrate their commitment to the security of Jews. Declarations backed by visible acts are useful with respect to the three components of the index: (1) Anti-Semites get the message that expressing anti-Semitism is not acceptable; (2) Commitment to stand by the Jews and to vigorously pursue perpetrators deters

anti-Semitic acts; (3) Jews regain trust in their country's commitment to their security and feel comfortable as full citizens.

3. Despite the fact that there was no armed conflict in 2015, the level of anti-Jewish incidents remained similar to those of 2014

If until recently, anti-Semitic harassments were seen to spike mainly during Middle East armed conflicts with a subsequent sharp decline, today anti-Jewishness in Europe remains high even during years (such as 2015) without any armed conflict involving Israel and Palestinians. Beyond the fluctuations linked to external triggers, the trend line of anti-Semitic incidents, as illustrated in Figure 1, shows an overall ascent during the last 15 years. This is due to the fact that anti-Jewish violence, coming mainly from Europe-born Muslims, is now home-grown and endogenous.

Figure 1: Anti-Semitic incidents in Britain and France

Ascending trend line despite lack of warfare between Israel and Palestinians

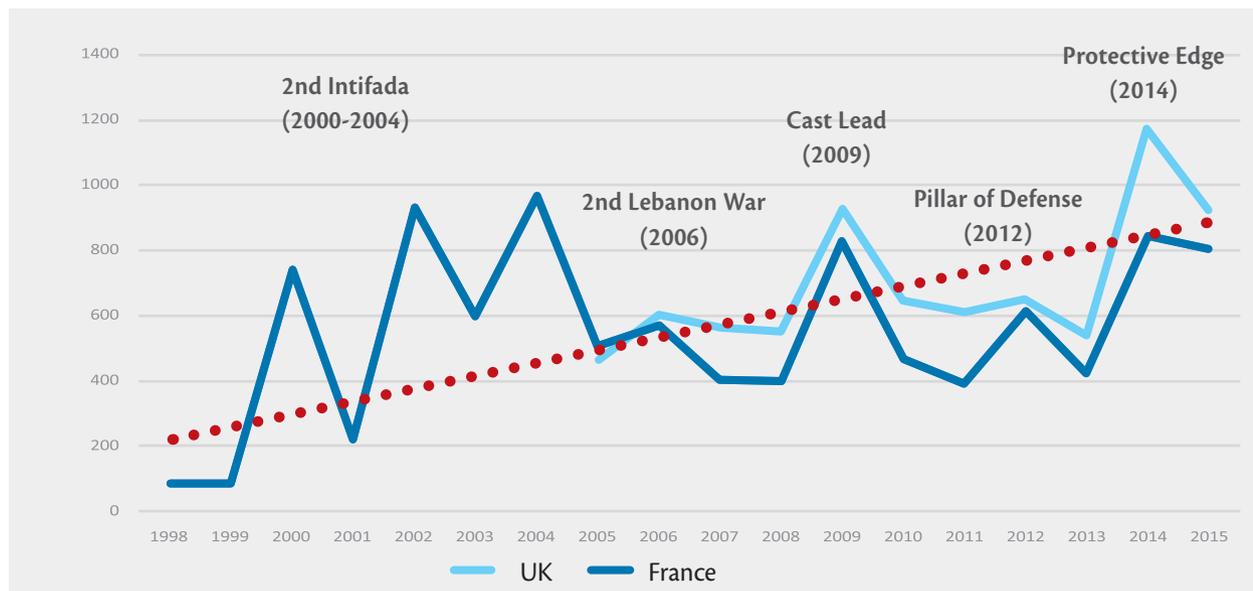
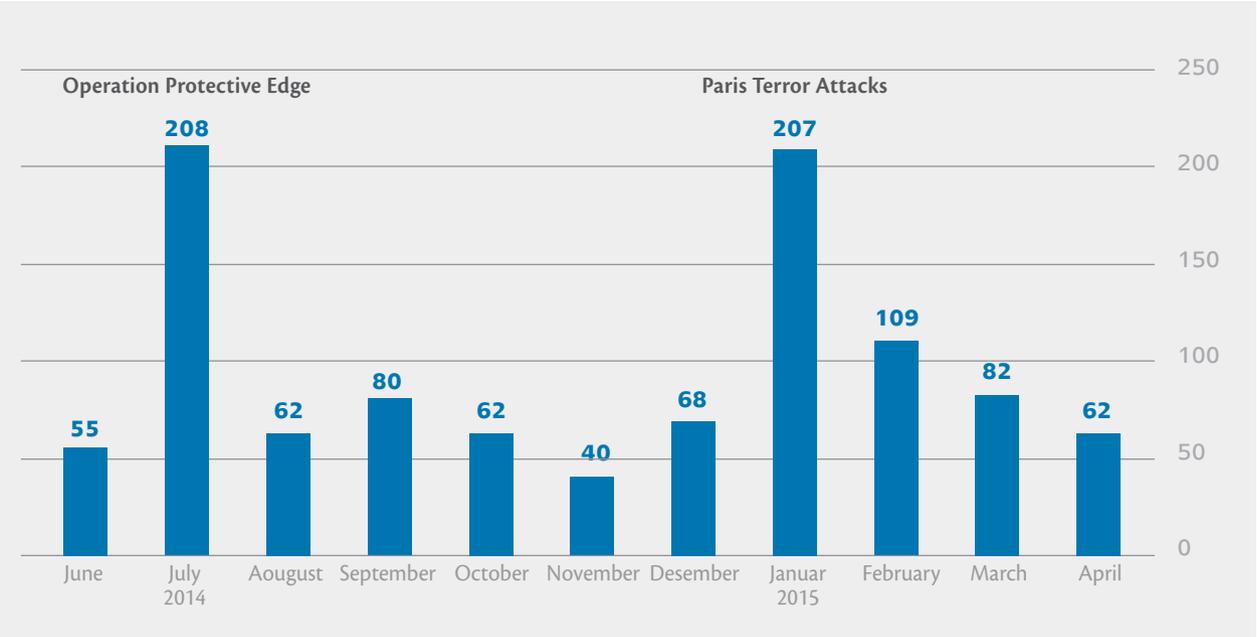


Figure 2 provides further insight into the emerging endogenous nature of anti-Jewish violence, in this case in France. After the end of the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict in 2014 and its spike in incidents, the level sloped steeply away from that high level. When compared to the level of incidents at the time of the Paris terror attacks in January 2015, a moderately high level of incidents continued for the two following months. This may be a harbinger of a growing difference not only between the number but also the nature and impacts of

endogenous and exogenous triggers. The decline was slower in returning to a baseline level after the January 2015 terror attack in a Parisian kosher supermarket than after Operation Protective Edge. The Paris massacre was perpetrated by French-born Jihadists and their action – especially after being celebrated as a glorious victory by global Jihadists – inspired local radicals. Without the French government’s steadfast reaction this wave of anti-Jewish harassments may have been prolonged even more.

Figure 2: Anti-Semitic Incidents in France

Comparing reactions to endogenous and exogenous triggers June 2014 - July 2015



Implications – comparing French Jewry’s discomfort with British Jewry’s confidence

As we integrate the data of the three dimensions, an aggregating picture emerges. Despite a larger number of annual incidents per 1000 Jews in UK than in France, French Jews feel more anxiety than British Jews. Unlike British Jews, French Jews feel that anti-Semitic discourse has spread into the national mainstream public sphere and have lost confidence in the ability of the national government to control the Muslim minority. Indeed, following Manuel Valls’ unambiguous statements and concrete actions, French Jews started regaining confidence in the French government’s commitment to protect them. Nevertheless, they are worried about the persistence of anti-Semitic violence and are still cautious about the capability of the police and security to contain social and violent manifestations of anti-Semitism.⁸ This discomfort fits with additional field survey findings. Following the 2015 terror attacks in Paris and Brussels, national surveys confirmed the spread of feelings of deep discomfort among French Jews and their heightened motivation to leave the country: 61 percent feel they “they would be more secure in Israel than in France” (for 40 percent of the general French population – Jews and non-Jews – expressed that “Jews are not safe in France”), while 80 percent of them “contemplate leaving the country” and half of them “consider Israel as their preferred destination.”⁹

Endnotes

1 France: <http://www.antisemitisme.fr/dl/2015-EN.pdf>; UK : <https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2016/02/04/cst-antisemitic-incidents-report-2015-published-today>; Germany : <http://kantorcenter.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/Report2015-080516.pdf>; harassments in internet and literature are not included. They are reflected in the ADL index (attitudes toward Jews).

2 ADL Global 100 (2014) and update about 19 countries (2015), Anti-Defamation League, An Index of Anti-Semitism, Executive Summary. <http://global100.adl.org/>

3 Figures for 2015 taken from ADL, Op. cit.; figures for 2014 taken from Koopmans (Germany and France) and Raynié (France). Reynié, Dominique. L’antisémitisme dans l’opinion publique française. Nouveaux éclairages, Fondapol, November 2014. <http://www.fondapol.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/CONF2press-Antisemitisme-DOC-6-web11h51.pdf>, Koopmans, Ruud. “Fundamentalism and out-group hostility Muslim immigrants and Christian natives in Western Europe.” WZB Berlin Social Science Center, WZB Mitteilungen, December 2013. http://www.wzb.eu/sites/default/files/u6/koopmans_english_ed.pdf. See also “Türkische Migranten hoffen auf muslimische Mehrheit,” Die Welt, August 2012, <http://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article108659406/Tuerkische-Migranten-hoffen-auf-muslimische-Mehrheit.html>

4 France: <http://www.antisemitisme.fr/dl/2015-EN.pdf>; UK : <https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2016/02/04/cst-antisemitic-incidents-report-2015-published-today>; Germany : <http://kantorcenter.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/Report2015-080516.pdf>; harassments in internet and literature not included.

5 FRA: “Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU: experiences and perceptions of antisemitism”, Fundamental Rights Agency, November 2013, European Union. <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and>

resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-discrimination-and-hate-crime-against

6 FRA, op. cit.

7 CNN, "State Department warns Americans about European travel," June 1, 2016.

8 IFOP : "83% of French Jews trust the French government and French security forces." http://www.ifop.fr/media/pressdocument/883-1-document_file.pdf

9 IPSOS: <http://www.fondationjudaisme.org/wp-content/uploads/PRESENTATION-GLOBALE-ENQUETE.pdf>