

# Quarterly Antisemitism Update

Prepared Especially for Members of Parliaments

Sept.-Nov. 2009



*Founded in 2008, the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism (ICCA) assembles parliamentarians from around the world who share a common concern about the dangers of antisemitism, and a determination to confront this historic hatred. Its principal purpose is to share knowledge, experiences, best practices, and recommendations among these key parliamentarians and encourage their dissemination.*

*The ICCA gratefully acknowledges the assistance of The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism and AJC (American Jewish Committee) in the preparation of this publication.*

## **Canadian Parliamentary Coalition Begins Hearings on Antisemitism**

In light of the rise of antisemitism both domestically and internationally, the Canadian Parliamentary Coalition to Combat Antisemitism (CPCCA) began a series of domestic hearings on November 2, 2009, in Ottawa, with two inquiry panels of international parliamentarians and experts. Some Canadian left-wing circles are saying this Inquiry is “fixed,” that antisemitism really is not a problem deserving such attention, and that the CPCCA is really a vehicle to equate criticism of Israeli policy with antisemitism.

See:

<http://www.cnw.ca/en/releases/archive/October2009/29/c4149.html>

<http://www.cpcca.ca/inquiry.htm>

<http://theyee.ca/Opinion/2009/11/19/Antisemitism/>

<http://www.ajc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=ijlTI2PHKoG&b=1531915&ct=7685805>

## **Norwegian Attempt to Boycott Israeli Universities Fails**

On November 12, 2009, following a resolution presented by Rector Torbjørn Digernes, the board of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway's second-largest university, voted unanimously not to support an academic boycott of Israel. The boycott had been initiated by 34 lecturers at NTNU and the University College of Sør-Trøndelag, in Trondheim. Approval of the proposal would have meant the first formal boycott of Israeli academic institutions by a European university. NTNU professor Bjørn Alsberg led the fight against the proposed boycott.

See:

[http://www.itk.ntnu.no/ansatte/Andresen\\_Trond/dwnl3/brev-fra-israel.html](http://www.itk.ntnu.no/ansatte/Andresen_Trond/dwnl3/brev-fra-israel.html)

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1257770035024&pagename=JPArticle/ShowFull>

<http://www.ntnu.no/news/NTNU-says-no-to-Israel-boycott>

<http://tundratabloid.blogspot.com/2009/09/academic-friends-of-israel-call-on-ntnu.html>

<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/newsroom/Highlights/ntnuboycott.htm>

## **German Anti-Israel Activists Try to Disrupt Movie on Israel**

On October 25, 2009, a group of extreme left-wing activists tried to disrupt screening of the movie *Pourquoi Israël?* (Why Israel?), directed by French Jewish filmmaker Claude Lanzmann, in St. Pauli, Hamburg. By imitating an Israeli checkpoint, the boycotters tried to prevent the visitors from entering the theater and insulted them with antisemitic abuse such as *Judenschweine* (Jewish pigs). Branding this “an unacceptable action,” the left-wing party *Die Linke* said the movie was not about “justifying Israeli politics” but about “the existence of Israel.” Lanzmann commented, “they call it anti-Zionism, but it’s antisemitism.”

See:

[http://blog.zeit.de/stoerungsmelder/2009/11/04/antisemiten-verhindern-lanzmann-film-auf-st-pauli\\_1776](http://blog.zeit.de/stoerungsmelder/2009/11/04/antisemiten-verhindern-lanzmann-film-auf-st-pauli_1776)

<http://info.interactivist.net/node/13362>

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1258705154390&pagename=JPArticle/ShowFull>

<http://www.spiegel.de/kultur/gesellschaft/0,1518,661980,00.html>

## **Disagreement over Question of Antisemitism in France**

Jacques Attali, a French Jewish intellectual and economist and a former advisor of President Francois Mitterrand, denies there is a problem of antisemitism in France. He claims that France is not an antisemitic country and there is no problem of antisemitism among the Muslim community. In response, Richard Prasquier, head of CRIF, the representative council of Jewish institutions in France, said that although the government was fighting antisemitism, the climate of hate and physical aggression against Jews was increasing. On October 21, CRIF published a list of antisemitic acts in France from 1998 to 2008. In 2008, for example, 397 antisemitic acts were recorded. In October, the SPCJ, the organization for protecting the Jewish community in France, reported 631 acts during the first half of 2009. In January 2009 alone, during Israel’s War in Gaza, 360 antisemitic acts took place in France.

See:

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1121392.html>

[http://www.eurojewcong.org/ejc/news.php?id\\_article=4582](http://www.eurojewcong.org/ejc/news.php?id_article=4582)

<http://www.france24.com/en/node/4909079>

<http://www.spcj.org/index.php?action=antisemitisme>

<http://www.spcj.org/publications/rapport2008.pdf>

### **Molotov Cocktails Thrown at French Jewish School**

On September 8, 2009, aerosol cans soaked with flammable liquid (Molotov cocktails) were thrown at the Jewish ORT Bramson High School in Marseille, France. Nearly 400 students were present but no one was injured. Damage was caused to the fence and to nearby cars.

See:

<http://www.ort.org/asp/article.asp?ID=852>

### **Antisemitic Series on Turkish TV**

On October 14, 2009, the Turkish state-controlled television station TRT 1 screened the first episode of the series *Ayrilik* (Separation), which depicts Israeli soldiers as murderers of innocent Palestinian children. Purporting to tell the story of the Palestinian people through a love and war story, it includes scenes imputing that Israelis consider themselves a “superior race.” The Israel Foreign Ministry summoned the Turkish attaché in Israel to protest the series.

See:

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull&cid=1255547732000>

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1121602.html>

<http://wwwtmp-origin.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1255547726093&pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull>

### **Alleged Organ Harvesting Racket Linked to Jews**

Seemingly based on the old antisemitic blood libel, the Algerian daily *al-Khabar* reported on September 6, 2009, that Interpol had arrested an international gang which abducted Algerian children into Morocco and sold them to Israelis and American Jews for harvesting and selling of their organs.

See:

<http://www.presstv.ir/classic/Detail.aspx?id=106466&sectionid=351020506>

<http://jta.org/news/article/2009/09/17/1007961/conspiracy-theory-of-jewish-organ-harvesting-spreads>

[http://www.adl.org/main\\_Anti\\_Semitism\\_International/blood\\_libel\\_algeria.htm](http://www.adl.org/main_Anti_Semitism_International/blood_libel_algeria.htm)

[http://www.adl.org/anti\\_semitism\\_arab/as\\_cartoons\\_harvest.asp](http://www.adl.org/anti_semitism_arab/as_cartoons_harvest.asp)

### **Irish Comic Performs Antisemitic Skit**

At the Electric Picnic Arts Festival held in Ireland on 5 September 2009, Irish comedian Tommy Tiernan performed an antisemitic skit during which he called Jews “f...ing Christ-killing bastards” and said that he would have killed twice as many in the Holocaust as the Nazis did. The Catholic Archbishop of Dublin said that Tiernan’s rant was “offensive to all who feel revulsion concerning the Holocaust.”

See:

<http://www.irishcentral.com/news/Irish-comic-Tommy-Tiernan-in-furore-over-kill-Jews-remark-at-festival-59937862.html>

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1253804298054&pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull>

<http://www.tribune.ie/news/article/2009/sep/20/six-million-i-would-have-got-10-or-12-million-out-/>

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/frontpage/2009/0923/1224255064144.html>

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/opinion/2009/0924/1224255125020.html>

### **Antisemitic Ad in Harvard University Paper**

An ad questioning the Holocaust and paid for by Holocaust-denier Bradley R. Smith was published in the Harvard University paper Harvard Crimson in early September 2009. Crimson president Maxwell L. Child said that the ad was run in error. According to the ADL, Bradley Smith had placed ads in about 15 US college newspapers during 2009.

See:

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/09/09/massachusetts.harvard.holocaust/index.html>

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2009/9/9/obligations-of-the-press-in-tuesdays/#comment-16396385>

### **Trade Union Congress in Britain Calls to Boycott Israel**

On September 17, 2009, Britain’s 6.5 million strong labor federation the Trade Union Congress (TUC) adopted a resolution calling for a consumer-led boycott and sanctions campaign against Israel. The Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council condemned the move.

See:

<http://www.workersliberty.org/print/13076>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/sep/17/tuc-back-boycott-israel-goods>

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6838456.ece>

[http://www.boardofdeputies.org.uk/page.php/RESPONSE\\_TO\\_TUC\\_STATEMENTS\\_ON\\_THE\\_MIDDLE\\_EAST/311/103/3](http://www.boardofdeputies.org.uk/page.php/RESPONSE_TO_TUC_STATEMENTS_ON_THE_MIDDLE_EAST/311/103/3)

### **EasyJet Withdraws In-flight Magazine due to Controversial Pictures**

The budget airline easyJet withdrew almost 300,000 copies of the November 2009 edition of its in-flight magazine because of protests over its use of the Central Holocaust Memorial site in Berlin/Germany as a backdrop for a fashion feature.

See:

<http://www.wadinet.de/blog/?p=2323>

<http://www.newstatesman.com/2009/11/holocaust-memorial-easyjet-magazine>

### **Desecration of Jewish Gravestones in Russia**

About 60 gravestones were broken, on the night of 23-24 September 2009, in the Jewish section of the Dmitrovo-Cherkasskoe cemetery in the Tver region, Russia. The cemetery was desecrated twice previously in the year, in April and July.

See:

<http://www.ucsj.org/news/vandals-again-strike-jewish-graves-tver-cemetery>

<http://jta.org/news/article/2009/09/27/1008179/vandals-desecrate-jewish-gravestones-in-russia>

<http://www.antisemitism.org.il/eng/events/42109/Russia-Jewishgravesdesecrated>

### **Yemeni Assassination Attempt Foiled**

An assassination attempt on Yahya Ben-Yousef, leader of the tiny Jewish community in San'a, was foiled by Yemeni security forces on November 20, 2009. They arrested three armed Shi'i rebels, reportedly belonging to Islamic extremist organizations, who had entered the Jewish area.

See:

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1258705147565&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FPrinter>

### **Iranian Holocaust Denier Appointed Deputy Minister**

Iranian Holocaust denier Muhammad `Ali Ramin was appointed by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as deputy minister of culture in early November 2009. Ramin, who organized the denial conference in Tehran in December 2006 and became secretary general of the Iranian World Foundation for Holocaust Studies, is considered the driving force behind Ahmadinejad's Holocaust denial notions.

See:

[http://www.khorasannews.com/news.aspx?12\\_17404\\_15\\_2500.XML](http://www.khorasannews.com/news.aspx?12_17404_15_2500.XML)

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1867427.html>

### **Teaching of Anne Frank Diary Arouses Controversy in Lebanon**

A reporter of Hizballah's al-Manar television station aroused controversy in Lebanon when he discovered in early November 2009 that a private English-language school in western Beirut was teaching a textbook that included chapters from Anne Frank's Diary. As a result, Hizballah MP Husayn Hajj Hasan criticized the school for teaching the "so-called tragedy" of this girl instead of the tragedy of the Palestinian people. Teaching such a book, said chairman of the Authority for Banning Zionist Products, is a criminal offense and tantamount to a process of normalization. Lebanese Parliamentary Deputy Sami Jumayyil, as well as journalists Hazim Saghiya and Muhammad Ali al-Atasi, strongly condemned Hizballah's call to censor the diary.

See:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5itf1-VAct-8J9HM60sa5sFwpqWBg>

[www.nowlebanon.com/Print.aspx?ID=127151](http://www.nowlebanon.com/Print.aspx?ID=127151)

[www.nowlebanon.com/Print.aspx?ID=126312](http://www.nowlebanon.com/Print.aspx?ID=126312)

<http://www.projetaladin.org/en/newsletters/lebanese-mp-all-schools-in-lebanon-should-have-the-right-to-teach-anne-franks-diary.html>