



Summary of Several Polls and Studies on anti-Semitism in Germany and Europe

April 2002

According to the study, "Political Attitudes in Germany", conducted by the Sigmund-Freud-Institut in Frankfurt, anti-Semitic tendencies have increased since 1999.

The statement "I can understand well that some people feel unpleasant about Jews" was confirmed by 36% of the respondents. (1999: 20%)

April 2002

The study "Extreme Right Attitudes in Germany"¹, included three statements on anti-Semitism:

"Even today, Jews have too much influence";

"Jews simply have something particular and peculiar about them and are not really suited to us";

"More than others, Jews use dirty tricks to achieve what they want".

The study showed that in comparison to 1994 and 2000, there was a strong increase in the number of negative answers.

May 2002

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) released a study², conducted by the Linguistic and Social Research Institute in Duisburg, which concluded that reporting on the Middle East conflict in the newspapers and magazines examined, was biased and showed anti-Semitic elements which would often be liable to (re)produce existing anti-Semitic and racial prejudice. The reporting also used terms to describe the behaviour of Israeli troops, which lead readers to associate IDF action with genocide and suggest similarities to fascism (e.g. "massacre").³ Generally speaking, the media was criticised for its anti-Semitic allusions and stereotypes. According to the study, there is profound latent anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist prejudice in the German public, usually hidden behind "concealed" and "vague allusions".⁴

June 2002

A poll conducted by NfO Infratest⁵ showed that anti-Semitic resentments are widespread in the German Society.

29% of the respondents confirmed the statement: "The Jews are partly responsible for being hated and persecuted";

29% of the respondents confirmed the statement: "Jews have too much influence on the world".

June 2002

Surveys commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in New York⁶ between May 16 and June 4 and September 9-29 respectively were conducted in ten European countries, including Germany. The study indicates that 30% of European respondents to some degree harbour traditional anti-Jewish views. Among those surveyed, Belgian, German and French respondents are most likely to hold prejudiced views on Jews. 39% of European respondents believe that Jews still talk too much about the Holocaust.

21% of German respondents (16% of European respondents) believe that Jews are more willing to use dubious means to get what they want.

32% of German respondents (30% of European respondents) believe that Jews have too much power in the business world.

24% of German respondents (19% of European respondents) believe that Jews do not care what happens to anyone but their own sort.

26% of European respondents are „fairly unconcerned“ or „not concerned at all“ about the recent outbreak of violence against Jews.

44% of French respondents believe (despite the recent spate of anti-Jewish violence in France) that anti-Jewish sentiments are about the same as they were five years ago.

November 2002

23% of the Germans harbour anti-Semitic views according to a study released by the German magazine „Stern“ (conducted by the Opinion Research Institute Forsa⁷).

December 2003

German Newspaper „Die Frankfurter Rundschau“ published a study conducted by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Conflict and Violence Research at the University of Bielefeld⁸, showing an increase of anti-Semitic attitudes in Germany. In 2003 14.6% (2002 12.7%) of the respondents were classified as „obviously anti-Semitic“.

In 2003 23.4% (2002 21.7%) of the respondents confirmed the statement: „Jews have too much influence in Germany.“

In 2003 17.9% (2002 16.6%) of the respondents confirmed the statement: „Their behaviour makes Jews contribute to their persecution.“

In 2003 54.5% (2002 51.8%) of the respondents confirmed the statement: „Many Jews try to take advantage of the "Third Reich" history.“

In 2003 69.9% of the respondents confirmed the statement: „I am angry that even today the Germans are still accused of the crimes against the Jews“.

¹ Elmär Brähler/Oskar Niedermayer, Rechtsextreme Einstellungen in Deutschland, Arbeitshefte aus dem Otto-Stammer-Zentrum Nr. 6, Berlin Leipzig 2002

² Duisburger Institut für Sprach- und Sozialforschung (DISS), (on behalf of the American Jewish Committee), Der Nahost-Konflikt in deutschen Printmedien. Analyse diskursiver Ereignisse seit dem Beginn der Intifada im September 2000, Duisburg May 2002.

³ Die Zeit, 29 May 2002.

⁴ Spiegel online, 30 May 2002; see also Frankfurter Rundschau 1 June 2002.

⁵ Der Spiegel, 11 June 2002.

⁶ Anti-Defamation League, European Attitudes Towards Jews, Israel and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, 27 June 2002.

⁷ Meinungsforschungsinstitut Forsa

⁸ Institut für interdisziplinäre Konflikt- und Gewaltforschung an der Universität Bielefeld



Recommendations of the EUMC-report¹

The upsurge of anti-Semitic criminal offences and verbal assaults against Jewish citizens and institutions, but also against Muslims, indicates that joint action has to be initiated. This action should not be restricted to one area of society, but has to deal with a multitude of combined activities. Actions on the political level should be backed by sound data and information about the phenomena in question. The civil society has to be mobilized to establish dialogues, the press, TV and the Internet has to be addressed to report about ethnic and cultural groups in a responsible way. Also for large-scale sporting events, preventive measures fighting racist attacks have to be implemented.

We recommend that the EUMC requests state authorities to acknowledge at the highest level the extraordinary dangers posed by anti-Semitic violence in the European context.

Legal

- The EUMC should propose to the Member States to adopt the proposed framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia (COM 2001/664) as soon as possible and call on the Council of Ministers to ensure that it is amended to be as effective as possible to deal with reported incidents of anti-Semitism.
- The EUMC should propose to the European Commission and to the Member States that they consider a decision for police cooperation according to Article 34 of the Treaty of European Union, which shall bind all Member States to collect and disseminate data on anti-Semitic offences. This decision should also involve EUROPOL and EUROJUST.
- To achieve effective regulation of the Internet concerning racist propaganda, it is essential to extend the jurisdiction of European courts to include detailed provisions on the responsibility of Internet service providers.

Registering anti-Semitic incidents

State institutions must assume responsibility for monitoring anti-Semitism in the individual EU Member States. These institutions should work in accordance with well-defined categories enabling them to recognise an anti-Semitic element within any politically motivated criminal offences they register, and to then incorporate them into their statistics.

In some Member States racist attacks are not identified separately in crime statistics while others have at their disposal state-sponsored instruments which monitor and pursue anti-Semitic incidents. We recommend joint strategies for action to be developed, whereby those countries possessing years of experience in this regard should pass this on to the other Member States.

In those countries in which racist and anti-Semitic incidents are already registered by the security authorities, a swifter processing and publication of the results must be ensured and not first presented – as in current practice – in the middle of the following year.

There is a need to distinguish clearly in reporting between acts of violence, threatening behaviour, and offensive speech, and to make transparent government norms and procedures for registering and acting upon crimes and offences motivated by anti-Semitism. Only in this way can a genuinely comparative basis for incidents be attained for European countries.

Education and sport

We recommend that the governments of the EU Member States still absent should undertake initiatives to become members of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research, whose purpose is to mobilise the support of political and social leaders to foster Holocaust education, remembrance and research.

¹ *Manifestations of anti-Semitism in the European Union* (First Semester 2002, Draft 20 February 2003) by the „Center for Research on Anti-Semitism“ at the Technische Universität Berlin, Germany, on behalf of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC)

Compilation by: Honestly-Concerned - a group of concerned individuals willing to stand up for fair and unbiased media reporting, especially about the Middle-East conflict, and who are fighting hard against anti-semitic rhetoric.
For more information, please see <http://www.honestly-concerned.org/>
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