

Antisemitism: A Persistent Threat to Human Rights

A Six-Month Review of Antisemitism's Global Impact following the UN's 'Historic' Report

ANNEX

Recent Antisemitic Incidents related to COVID-19

April 2020

North America

- **Canada**

- On April 19, an online prayer service by the the Shaarei Shomayim synagogue in Toronto was 'Zoombombed' by a number of individuals who yelled antisemitic insults at participants and used their screens to show pornography. Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino has condemned the incident saying anti-Semitism, hatred and division have no place anywhere in Canada. A Toronto police spokesperson said the incident was being investigated as a possible hate crime.¹

- **United States**

- **Colorado:** On November 1, 2019, the FBI arrested a 27 year-old man with white supremacist beliefs who had expressed antisemitic hatred on Facebook for attempting to bomb a synagogue in Pueblo, Colorado.²
- **Massachusetts:** On April 2, police discovered a homemade incendiary device at Ruth's House, a Jewish assisted living residence in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. On April 15, police arrested John Michael Rathbun and charged him with two counts of attempted arson. It has been reported that a white supremacist organization operating on two unnamed social media platforms had specified Ruth's House as one of two possible locations for committing a mass killing, with one user referring to it as "that jew nursing home in longmeadow massachusetts," and that a calendar event potentially created by the same user listed April 3, 2020 as "jew killing day."³
- **Missouri:** Timothy Wilson, a white supremacist who was active on two neo-Nazi channels on Telegram and had very recently posted that the COVID-19 pandemic "was engineered by Jews as a power grab,"⁴ was shot and killed on March 24 as FBI agents attempted to arrest him for plotting to blow up a hospital treating patients of the virus.
- **New Jersey:** Members of the Orthodox Jewish community in Lakewood, NJ have been subjected to antisemitic threats and attacks on social media following incidents in which Jewish

¹ Desmond Brown, *Toronto synagogue's Zoom prayer service hijacked by trolls screaming derogatory slurs*, CBC (Apr 26, 2020), <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/zoom-church-service-hijacked-toronto-synagogue-hate-crime-1.5545776>.

² Julie Turkewitz, *White Supremacist Plotted to Bomb Colorado Synagogue, F.B.I. Says*, New York Times (Nov. 4, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/04/us/pueblo-colorado-synagogue-richard-holzer.html>.

³ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *East Longmeadow Man Charged with Attempted Arson at Longmeadow Assisted Living Residential Facility* (Apr. 15, 2020), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/east-longmeadow-man-charged-attempted-arson-longmeadow-assisted-living-residential>.

⁴ *FBI Foils Neo-Nazi Plot to Blow Up Missouri Hospital*, Homeland Security News Wire (Mar. 27, 2020), <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20200327-fbi-foils-neo-nazi-plot-to-blow-up-missouri-hospital>; Nick R. Martin, *Heartland Terror*, The Informant (Mar. 25, 2020), <https://www.informant.news/p/heartland-terror>.

men were arrested for holding weddings in violation of the State-level ban on gatherings of more than 50 people to prevent the spread of COVID-19.⁵

- Howell, NJ resident Anthony Lodespoto allegedly sent threats on Facebook messenger that he was going to harm members of the Orthodox Jewish community of Lakewood, NJ with a baseball bat; on March 28th, Lakewood police arrested Lodespoto and charged him with making terroristic threats during a state of emergency.⁶
- An Ocean County Fire Marshall reportedly posted on Facebook that Orthodox Jews in Lakewood, NJ were “trash,” “dirty ones,” and “filth.”⁷ On March 30, the Ocean County Administrator confirmed that he had asked prosecutors to determine if the posts violated state law.⁸

○ **New York**

- On March 23rd the FBI’s New York office released a report to local law enforcement noting that online extremist groups are encouraging members who become infected with COVID-19 to spread the virus to police and Jews in New York.⁹
- Johnston’s Toyota dealership in Goshen, NY repeatedly denied service to a Hasidic Jewish man on March 23 by falsely telling him that they were closed due to the coronavirus and saying “you are spreading the virus.”¹⁰ The New York Attorney General and Orange County District Attorney are investigating this allegation.¹¹

○ **Maryland**

⁵*Hosts of Jewish Weddings Arrested in New Jersey for Violating Coronavirus Rules*, Haaretz (Mar. 23, 2020), <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/hosts-of-jewish-weddings-arrested-in-new-jersey-for-violating-coronavirus-rules-1.8702295>.

⁶ Dan Alexander, *Man Arrested over Facebook Threat Against Jews in Lakewood*, New Jersey 101.5 (Mar. 28, 2020), <https://nj1015.com/man-arrested-after-facebook-threat-against-jews-in-lakewood/>; Erik Larsen, *Coronavirus in NJ: Howell man charged with ‘terroristic threats’ against Lakewood Community*, Asbury Park Press NJ (Mar. 27, 2020), <https://www.app.com/story/news/local/jackson-lakewood/2020/03/27/coronavirus-nj-howell-man-charged-terroristic-threats-against-lakewood-community/2931255001/>.

⁷ G. Sonnenfeld, *SHOCKING: Ocean County Fire Marshall John Pasola Calls for Jews to be Wiped Out; Lakewood Vaad Calls For His Immediate Dismissal*, The Lakewood Scoop (Mar. 27, 2020), <https://www.thelakewoodscoop.com/news/2020/03/shocking-ocean-county-fire-marshall-john-pasola-calls-for-jews-to-be-wiped-out-lakewood-vaad-calls-for-his-immediate-dismissal-g-sonnenfeld.html>.

⁸ Erik Larsen, *Ocean County deputy fire marshal under investigation for Lakewood rant on Facebook*, Asbury Park Press NJ (Mar. 30, 2020), <https://www.app.com/story/news/local/ocean-county/2020/03/30/ocean-county-investigating-deputy-fire-marshall-lakewood-facebook/2936861001/>.

⁹ Josh Margolin, *White supremacists encouraging their members to spread coronavirus to cops, Jews, FBI says*, ABC News (Mar. 23, 2020), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/white-supremacists-encouraging-members-spread-coronavirus-cops-jews/story?id=69737522>.

¹⁰ *Jewish Man Told “You Are Spreading the Virus” at New York Toyota Dealership*, StopAntisemitism.org (Mar. 24, 2020), <https://www.stopantisemitism.org/antisemitic-incidents-30/jewish-man-told-you-are-spreading-the-virus-at-new-york-toyota-dealership>; Itamar Eichner and Amir Bogan, *Haredi Jews in NY accused of ‘spreading the virus’*, Ynetnews (Mar. 24, 2020), <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/BkcT93PIU>; StopAntisemitism.org (@StopAntisemitism), Twitter (Mar. 23, 2020), <https://twitter.com/StopAntisemitism/status/1242114781848440837>; Ari Feldman, *Hasidic man refused service by Toyota dealership ‘because you’re spreading the virus’*, The Forward (Mar. 23, 2020), <https://forward.com/fast-forward/442216/coronavirus-hasidic-toyota/>.

¹¹ Daniel Axelrod, *Authorities investigate allegations of anti-Semitism at car dealership*, Times Herald-Record (Mar. 24, 2020), <https://www.recordonline.com/news/20200324/authorities-investigate-allegations-of-anti-semitism-at-car-dealership>.

- A Baltimore radio host, George Mitchell, made comments on his show “The Heights” on April 13 suggesting that the Jewish community was responsible for spreading coronavirus, saying that “There are a lot of Jewish people moving down here from New York City.”¹²
- **Ohio**
 - On April 18, at a protest of the stay-at-home in Columbus, Ohio, a protester was photographed holding an antisemitic sign, which had a picture of a rodent next to a Star of David, with the words “The Real Plague.”¹³
- **National**
 - The Daily Stormer, the far-right, neo-Nazi website, posted an article on March 16 entitled “Jews Panic Over Accusations that the Coronavirus Pandemic is a Jewish Plot.” The article suggests that the virus is a bioweapon created by the United States or Israel.¹⁴
 - The fundamentalist Christian website TruNews (<https://www.trunews.com/>), which reportedly regularly publishes anti-semitic content,¹⁵ has advanced conspiracy theories linking the Jewish community and the spread of coronavirus in the United States. ¹⁶ On March 10, its founder, Pastor Rick Wiles, blamed attendees of the AIPAC conference for spreading coronavirus.¹⁷ He posted a video on the TruNews website on March 25th claiming that God is punishing Jewish people for opposing Jesus Christ by allowing coronavirus to spread in synagogues.¹⁸
 - On March 10, Philip Giraldi published an article on the far-right website Strategic Culture Foundation in which he claims that, if the US manufactured coronavirus, “it is very likely that Israel was a partner in the project. Helping to develop the virus would also explain how Israeli scientists have been able to claim success at creating a vaccine so quickly, possibly because the virus and a treatment for it were developed simultaneously.” He also noted that, “It is difficult to explain why coronavirus has hit one country in particular other than

¹² Jeff Abell, *COVID-19 sparks new round of blame*, Fox News Baltimore (Apr. 13, 2020), <https://foxbaltimore.com/news/coronavirus/covid-19-sparks-new-round-of-blame>.

¹³ Laura Hancock, *Some Ohio coronavirus protesters using anti-Semitic symbolism*, Cleveland.com (Apr. 21, 2020), <https://www.cleveland.com/open/2020/04/some-ohio-coronavirus-protesters-using-anti-semitism-symbolism.html>.

¹⁴ Lee Rogers, *Jews Panic Over Accusations that the Coronavirus Pandemic is a Jewish Plot*, The Daily Stormer (Mar. 16, 2020), <https://dailystormer.su/jews-panic-over-accusations-that-the-coronavirus-pandemic-is-a-jewish-plot/>.

¹⁵ *Far-right ‘Jew coup’ media outlet TruNews banned from YouTube*, The Times of Israel (Feb. 22, 2020), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/anti-semitic-media-outlet-trunews-banned-from-youtube-for-hate-speech/>.

¹⁶ Irene Connelly, *Online anti-Semitism thrives around coronavirus, even on mainstream platforms*, The Forward (Mar. 11, 2020), <https://forward.com/news/441421/anti-semitic-coronavirus-response-thrives-online-even-on-mainstream/>.

¹⁷ TruNews (@TruNews), Twitter (Mar. 10, 2020), <https://twitter.com/TruNews/status/1237488678642921472>.

¹⁸ Marcy Oster, *Conservative pastor says coronavirus spread in synagogues is punishment from God*, The Times of Israel (Mar. 30, 2020), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/conservative-pastor-says-coronavirus-spread-in-synagogues-is-punishment-from-god/>;

Aila Slisco, *Conservative Pastor Says Coronavirus Spreading in Synagogues is God’s Punishment to Jews for ‘Opposing’ Jesus Christ*, Newsweek (Mar. 26, 2020), <https://www.newsweek.com/conservative-pastor-says-coronavirus-spreading-synagogues-gods-punishment-jews-opposing-1494578>;

Jackson Richman, *Anti-Semitic broadcaster: COVID-19 blamed on Jews for not following Jesus*, Jewish News Syndicate (Mar. 27, 2020), <https://www.jns.org/anti-semitic-broadcaster-covid-19-blamed-on-jews-for-not-following-jesus/>.

China very severely. That country is Iran, the often-cited enemy of both the U.S. and Israel.”¹⁹

- David Duke, the former KKK leader, tweeted on March 12, “Does president Donald Trump have coronavirus? Are Israel and the Global Zionist elite up to their old tricks?”²⁰ Twitter has not removed the post.
- In January, white supremacist and former Congressional candidate Paul Nehlen said on Telegram that Israel had targeted China with a bioweapon “meant to teach you that they control your destiny as well,” and asking “You gonna let those jealous, vindictive Jews get away with it?”²¹
- On March 15, former Milwaukee County, Wisconsin sheriff David Clarke, Jr. tweeted that the Jewish billionaire George Soros was involved in the spread of hysteria surrounding coronavirus. Twitter removed these posts for violating its policies.²²
- On March 16, the Nation of Islam Research Group sent a tweet which implied that Israel was involved in the development of coronavirus: “Haaretz reports that the Israel Biological Research Institute is about to announce it has a corona "vaccine"... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Institute_for_Biological_Research... The work of IBRI "is a closely guarded secret. It is suspected of developing biological & chemical weapons & toxins for use...in assassinations."²³
- Numerous anonymous persons have posted comments on social media platforms (including on Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, and Gab) advancing conspiracy theories about Jews manufacturing the coronavirus, profiting off of it, or otherwise blaming Jewish communities or Israel for the spread of the virus.²⁴
- There has been a noted rise in antisemitic “zoombombing,” wherein uninvited people break into meetings on the video-teleconferencing platform Zoom and disrupt the meeting with antisemitic messages or imagery.²⁵ In the U.S., an online class for students at a private

¹⁹ Philip Giraldi, *Who Made Coronavirus? Was It the U.S., Israel or China Itself?*, Strategic Culture Foundation (Mar. 5, 2020), https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2020/03/05/who-made-coronavirus-was-it-us-israel-or-china-itself/?fbclid=IwAR166QxGYk7JIsIj40coqjkzWCvUOSGFxOxYnYkWjiIqMKYO7Fi32beK_c.

²⁰ David Duke (@DrDavidDuke), Twitter (Mar. 12, 2020), <https://twitter.com/DrDavidDuke/status/1238138234414211075>.

²¹ Uncle Paul (@Uncle_Paul_GTKRWN), Telegram (Jan. 31, 2020), https://t.me/s/Uncle_Paul_GTKRWN?before=2263.

Jeremy Sharon, *Classic antisemitic allegations arise over coronavirus, says gov't report*, The Jerusalem Post (Mar. 25, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/classic-antisemitic-allegations-arise-over-coronavirus-says-govt-report-621921>.

²² Eric Litke, *Former Sheriff David Clarke rants coronavirus is just “the damn flue” (it’s not)*, PolitiFact (Mar. 19, 2020), <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/mar/19/david-clarke-jr/former-sheriff-david-clarke-rants-coronavirus-just/>; *Lauder: National Guard must protect Jews from neo-Nazi coronavirus threat*, The Jerusalem Post (Mar. 25, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/International/FBI-Neo-Nazi-groups-encouraging-spread-coronavirus-to-police-and-Jews-622006>.

²³ NOI Research Group (@NOIRResearch), Twitter (Mar. 16, 2020), <https://twitter.com/NOIRResearch/status/1239577530002296833>.

²⁴ Community Security Trust, *Coronavirus and the Plague of Antisemitism* (2020), <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/d/9/Coronavirus%20and%20the%20plague%20of%20antisemitism.1586276450.pdf>.
Coronavirus Crisis Elevates Antisemitic, Racist Tropes, ADL (Mar. 17, 2020), <https://www.adl.org/blog/coronavirus-crisis-elevates-antisemitic-racist-tropes>.

²⁵ Molly Boigon, *Anti-Semitic hackers are exploiting quarantine to infiltrate Jewish online meetings*, The Forward (Mar. 27, 2020), <https://forward.com/news/442568/anti-semites-zoom-hackers-video-swastikas-zoombombing/>.

Orthodox girls high school in New York and a Passover address by Dr. Ari Berman, the president of New York City's Yeshiva University were among the first reported meetings to have been disrupted in this way.²⁶ Jewish religious and educational programs in **Israel**²⁷ and the **United Kingdom**²⁸ have been similarly interrupted by antisemitic hecklers.

South America

- **Brazil**
 - On April 8, Allan dos Santos, a well-known blogger, wrote on Twitter that “To omit the use of chloroquine is the same as leaving Jews in doubt between a shower and a gas chamber.”²⁹ On April 8, Marcos de Moraes, the host of a news show on the SBT television station, said that people with coronavirus should be taken to “concentration camps of health care, with more sophisticated equipment, with the best professionals.”³⁰
 - A cartoon by well-known satirist Carlos Latuff which he published on platforms including his Twitter page on March 30 depicts an Israeli soldier deliberately locking Palestinians into a coronavirus-ridden Gaza.³¹
 - On March 14, the manager of a Facebook page on Sigmund Freud, Luís Olímpio Ferraz Melo, published a Facebook post which denied the Holocaust, blamed Jews for the plague in the Middle Ages, and claimed that no Jew had been documented as having coronavirus anywhere in the world.³²
- **Venezuela:** Aporrea, a left-leaning Venezuelan website, has promoted the conspiracy that coronavirus is a method of biological warfare created by the US and Israel, for example in an article published on March 15 claiming that the coronavirus was developed by the US and Israel as a bioweapon to be used against China, with the aim of affecting its economic growth.³³

²⁵ Christopher Mathlas, *Anti-Semitic Trolls Disrupt Jewish University's Gathering on Zoom*, Huffington Post (Apr. 1, 2020), https://www.huffpost.com/entry/nazi-zoombombing-jewish-yeshiva-university_n_5e84f704c5b692780506d519; Molly Meisels, *Antisemitic Trolls Send Swastikas, Holocaust Memes to President Berman Zoom Shiur*, The Yeshiva University Observer (Apr. 1, 2020), <https://yuobserver.org/2020/04/antisemitic-trolls-send-swastikas-holocaust-memes-to-president-berman-zoom-shiur/>; Aaron Bandler, *'Ask the Rabbi' Online Class Zoombombed with Anti-Semitic Remarks, Nudity*, Jewish Journal (Apr. 3, 2020), <https://jewishjournal.com/news/united-states/313559/online-class-zoombombed-with-anti-semitic-remarks-nudity/>.

²⁷ Jordan Moshe, *'Zoombombing' takes on an anti-Semitic twist*, South African Jewish Report (Apr. 2, 2020), <https://sajr.co.za/news-and-articles//2020/04/02/zoombombing-takes-on-an-anti-semitic-twist>.

²⁸ Lee Harpin, *Far-right activists infiltrate London shul's online service with antisemitic messages*, The Jewish Chronicle (Mar. 30, 2020), <https://www.thejc.com/community/community-news/far-right-activists-infiltrate-london-shul-s-online-service-with-antisemitic-messages-1.498597>.

²⁹ Eduardo Campos Lima, *Amid coronavirus, Brazilian Jews face rising anti-Semitism*, The Forward (Apr. 15, 2020), <https://forward.com/news/longform/444047/letter-from-sao-paolo-amid-coronavirus-brazilian-jews-face-rising-anti/>.

³⁰ Ibid. Following his comments, he was suspended for 15 days.

³¹ Carlos Latuff (@LatuffCartoons), Twitter (Mar. 30, 2020), <https://twitter.com/LatuffCartoons/status/1244618294214230016>.

³² Eduardo Campos Lima, *Amid coronavirus, Brazilian Jews face rising anti-Semitism*, The Forward (Apr. 15, 2020), <https://forward.com/news/longform/444047/letter-from-sao-paolo-amid-coronavirus-brazilian-jews-face-rising-anti/>.

³³ Esmeralda García Ramírez, *The crown of the empire staggers its own demon*, Aporrea (Mar. 15, 2020), <https://www.aporrea.org/actualidad/a288093.html>.

Eastern Europe

○ Bulgaria

- Krassimir Ivandjiiski, the editor-in-chief of the Bulgarian newspaper Strogo Sekretno, published an article on February 10 entitled “Coronavirus Bio-attack Carried out by the Zio-Anglo-American Axis,” in which he posits that coronavirus was engineered as a means to sabotage China’s economy, and notes that “The bottom line to the ‘Cio bono?’ question is that Zionism always wins, while everyone always loses. China and Russia both lose. So does Iran. The US and UK will ultimately lose even though they might look like winners. India and Pakistan both lose. The entire Middle East loses again except Israel. Just watch how this pandemic evolves across the planet and we shall see who really started it from their safe haven.”³⁴

○ Russia

- A video which originated on the Russian social media website Vkontakte entitled ‘Coronavirus for goyim’ claims that Jews developed the coronavirus.³⁵
- A synagogue in the northwestern city of Arkhangelsk was subjected to an arson attack on April 13.³⁶

Western Europe

○ France

- A Jewish former Minister of Health, Agnes Buzyn, has become the subject of an antisemitic campaign on social media. A YouTube video viewed 170,000 times before it was deleted accused her and her husband, who is also Jewish, of withholding chloroquine, rumored to be an effective treatment for victims of the virus, from the French public, for financial gain;³⁷ images with her face superimposed over the antisemitic “happy merchant” meme³⁸ or depicting her poisoning a well,³⁹ a classic antisemitic stereotype, have been widely shared on social media.
- Alain Soral, a far-right conspiracy theorist who has previously been convicted of Holocaust denial said in video on his YouTube channel that has viewed more than 400,000 times that the virus is being used by “the luminary community, which we are forbidden to name” that “wants to cash in on the backs of the French to weaken French people by the sheer weight of the death toll.”⁴⁰

³⁴ Krassimir Ivandjiiski, *Coronavirus Bio-attack Carried Out by the Zio-Anglo-American Axis*, Strogo Sekretno, (Feb. 10, 2020), <https://strogosekretno.com/index.php?p=newsroom&nid=9498>.

³⁵ Cécile Guerin, Opinion, *Coronavirus, the ‘Soros Bio-weapon’: How Far Right anti-Semitic Conspiracy Theories Are Infecting Mainstream Politics*, Haaretz (Apr. 1, 2020), <https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/.premium-soros-bio-weapon-anti-semitic-far-right-coronavirus-theories-go-mainstream-1.8732195>.

³⁶ *Arsonists Attack Synagogue In Russia’s Northwestern City of Arkhangelsk*, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (Apr. 14, 2020), <https://www.rferl.org/a/arsonists-attack-synagogue-in-russia-s-northwestern-city-of-arkhangelsk/30552610.html>.

³⁷ Cnaan Liphshiz, *An unwanted symptom of the coronavirus crisis in France: Anti-Semitic conspiracy theories*, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (Apr. 2, 2020), <https://www.jta.org/2020/04/02/global/an-unwanted-symptom-of-the-coronavirus-crisis-in-france-anti-semitic-conspiracy-theories>.

³⁸ Laurent Alexandre (@dr_1_alexandre), Twitter (Mar. 26, 2020), https://twitter.com/dr_1_alexandre/status/1243216703204536320/photo/1.

³⁹ Éric Hazan, *Haine du Juif sur Internet : Agnès Buzyn victime d’odieuses caricatures antisémites*, Le Monde Juif (Mar. 24, 2020), <https://www.lemondejuif.info/2020/03/haine-du-juif-sur-internet-agnes-buzyn-victime-dodieuses-caricatures-antisemites/>.

⁴⁰ Kontre Kulture, *Soral a (presque toujours) raison – Réflexions sur le couillonavirus*, YouTube (Mar. 28, 2020), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7239B52Y-EQ&t=2274s>.

○ **Germany**

- Felix Klein, the German government’s antisemitism commissioner, said on April 7 that online expressions of hatred against Jews had spiked in Germany with the spread of the new coronavirus.⁴¹
- A meeting held by the Embassy of Israel in Berlin on the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day was Zoombombed by a group of people who posted pictures of Hitler and made antisemitic and anti-Israel comments.⁴²

○ **Spain**

- Herritar Batsuna, a far-left Basque political party, published a statement “that the coronavirus is an instrument of the Third World War that has unleashed Yankee Zionist imperialism. The Anglo-Saxon capitalist and Zionist elite that is the enemy of all Humanity has taken a further step in its criminal and genocidal offensive.”⁴³

○ **Switzerland**

- Ivo Sasek, a Swiss Holocaust denier, posted a video linking Jewish American George Soros to the creation and spread of coronavirus by claiming that there is a laboratory in Wuhan financed by Soros and speculating that the virus could have originated in that lab.⁴⁴

Middle East and North Africa

• **Algeria**

- On March 2, the Algerian news outlet Al Masdar published an article linking Zionists to the creation of the coronavirus and noting the suspicious speed with which Israel was developing a vaccine. It also linked Agnez Bousin, the former French Health Minister to the pro-Zionist association developing the vaccine.⁴⁵

• **Egypt**

⁴¹ *Germany warns of spike in anti-Semitism linked to coronavirus*, The Local (Apr. 7, 2020), <https://www.thelocal.de/20200407/germany-warns-of-spike-in-anti-semitism-linked-to-coronavirus>.

⁴² *Germany condemns anti-Semitic disruption of memorial on Zoom*, AP News (Apr. 22, 2020), <https://apnews.com/c8adf48fe7f0f840155f0878c16f8d4f>.

⁴³ *Herritar Batasuna. El coronavirus es un arma de Guerra del imperialismo*, Insurgente (Mar. 15, 2020), <https://insurgente.org/herritar-batasuna-el-coronavirus-es-un-arma-de-guerra-del-imperialismo/>; *International Scapegoating of Israel and Jews for Spreading COVID-19*, ADL (Mar. 25, 2020), <https://www.adl.org/blog/international-scapegoating-of-israel-and-jews-for-spreading-covid-19>.

⁴⁴ *The Coronavirus: “a coincidence” or deliberately used as a bioweapon?*, Klagemauer (Mar. 5, 2020), <https://www.klagemauer.tv/Coronavirus-en/15818>; *International Scapegoating of Israel and Jews for Spreading COVID-19*, ADL (Mar. 25, 2020), <https://www.adl.org/blog/international-scapegoating-of-israel-and-jews-for-spreading-covid-19>.

⁴⁵ *A Zionist organization behind the “Corona” virus and the entity government claims to discover the vaccine*, Al Masdar (Mar. 2, 2020), <https://almasdar-dz.com/?p=103657>; Ronald Lauder, *Opinion, Coronavirus fight should bring us all together, not divide us by promoting hatred*, Fox News (Mar. 27, 2020), <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/fight-against-coronavirus-together-ronald-lauder>.

- On January 27, journalist Ahmad Rif⁴⁶ claimed that coronavirus was created by the US, and alleged that Jews would profit from it, by alleging that the medicines developed for its treatment would be manufactured by an Israeli company.⁴⁶

- **Iran**

- Following a March 23 speech in which Iran’s Supreme Leader Khamenei suggested the US had manufactured the coronavirus and that “demons” were assisting the enemies of Iran, the online magazine Negar, which is produced and published by the Supreme Leader’s official website, and the Telegram channel of the Cyber Division of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) posted explanatory remarks by a cleric who said “There is no doubt that the Jews and especially the Zionists previously have a long history of supernatural affairs and matters such as a relationship with the devil and genies” and “Israel’s spy agencies also undoubtedly take advantage of these matters.”⁴⁷
- On March 5, Press TV, Iran’s English news network, quoted James Fetzer, a former professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth, who suggested that “Zionist elements” from the US or Israel were spreading a deadlier form of coronavirus in Iran.⁴⁸ On March 6th and 7th, the network published articles suggesting that the US and Israel may have worked together to engineer coronavirus as a form of biological warfare against Iran and China.⁴⁹ The Iran-backed Spanish language news network HispanTV has promoted numerous antisemitic conspiracies about the origin of the coronavirus.⁵⁰
- On March 10, Iran’s Ofogh TV featured a discussion about the theory that COVID-19 is a biological weapon, during which Dr. Ali Karami, a lecturer in medicine, said that “the Americans and the Zionists” had sequenced the genome of Iranians in order to develop weapons that would be particularly effective against them, and which had resulted in the especially high COVID-19 mortality rate in Iran, and that Israel had long been using such “ethnic weapons” against Palestinians.⁵¹
- In April, Iran’s Art Bureau, in collaboration with the Health Ministry and Culture Ministry, organized a ‘We Defeat Coronavirus International Cartoon Contest’, which, as of April 12, had

⁴⁶ Arab Writers: The Coronavirus Is Part Of Biological Warfare Waged By The U.S. Against China, MEMRI (Feb. 6, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/reports/arab-writers-coronavirus-part-biological-warfare-waged-us-against-china>.

⁴⁷ Shaya Lerner and David Andrew Weinberg, Guest Blog, *Battling COVID, Iran Regime Makes Jews its Bogeyman*, Iran Wire (Apr. 3, 2020), <https://iranwire.com/en/blogs/26/6884>; <http://farsi.khamenei.ir/video-content?id=45246>; Negar Online Magazine, *Issue 7: Statements of the leader of the Revolution on the Day of Eid al-Fitr*. Available at <http://farsi.khamenei.ir/video-content?id=45246>; IRGC Cyber Division confirms Khamenei’s claim that ‘demons’ are assisting Iran’s enemies, Jewish News Syndicate (Mar. 29, 2020), <https://www.jns.org/irgc-cyber-division-confirms-khameneis-assertion-that-demons-are-assisting-the-enemies/>.

⁴⁸ James Henry Fetzer, *Zionist elements developed deadlier strain of coronavirus against Iran: Academic*, PressTV (Mar. 5, 2020), <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2020/03/05/620217/US-coronavirus-James-Henry-Fetzer>.

⁴⁹ Kevin Barrett, *US, Israel waging biological warfare on massive scale*, PressTV (Mar. 7, 2020), <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2020/03/07/620357/US,-Israel-waging-biological-warfare-on-massive-scale>; *Coronavirus was produced in a laboratory: Former CIA intel officer*, PressTV (Mar. 6, 2020), <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2020/03/05/620213/Coronavirus-was-produced-in-a-laboratory>.

⁵⁰ *International Scapegoating of Israel and Jews for Spreading COVID-19*, ADL (Mar. 25, 2020), <https://www.adl.org/blog/international-scapegoating-of-israel-and-jews-for-spreading-covid-19>; *Informe: El nuevo coronavirus es resultado de un complot sionista*, HispanTV (Mar. 19, 2020), <https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/oriente-medio/451932/coronavirus-covid19-sionismo-israel>.

⁵¹ *Experts on Iranian TV: COVID-19 May Be an American “Ethnic Weapon” Targeting the Genome of Iranians, Chinese*, MEMRI (Mar. 10, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/tv/iranian-discussion-coronavirus-ethnic-bioterrorism-weapon-america-target-iranians-chinese>.

received over 4200 submissions from 88 countries.⁵² It has been reported that many of the 2000 submissions showcased on their website are antisemitic, with one depicting Israeli scientists spreading the virus and others blaming the US and Jews for the spread of the virus.⁵³

- **Iraq**

- An Iraqi political analyst, Muhammad Sadeq Al-Hashemi, said on Iraq's Al Ayam TV on February 26 that the coronavirus was an "American and Jewish plot to reduce the world's population."⁵⁴

- **Jordan**

- On April 9, Kafa Al-Zou'bi, an author and journalist, wrote an article for Al-Awal News comparing the coronavirus epidemic to Jose Saramago's novel *Blindness*. The novel involves a global epidemic wherein everyone goes blind, causing the collapse of morality and culture. Implying that the world is in a similar state, Al-Zou'bi writes that the source of the problem is capitalism, which is "Jewish" and that "It is Judaism in particular that made capitalism so barbaric and established a [religious] source of authority that sanctifies the worst kind of evil, taking it to its most far-reaching extremes. Judaism permits to kill the non-Jewish other, and regards [the non-Jew] as a different kind of creature, detested by God, because the Jews are the one and only chosen people."⁵⁵

- **Lebanon**

- On March 29th, Seif Da'na, a Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, was interviewed on the Hezbollah-affiliated Al-Manar satellite television station. He noted that more people die from other diseases and Western economic policies every year than from coronavirus, and that "This is exactly like what happened with Hitler. Hitler did not do anything out of the ordinary. He did not do anything that had not been done by the Europeans before. In the colonial days, in the countries of the [global] south, they would kill hundreds of thousands and even millions of people. Hitler came to be viewed as Satan just because he did what he did in Europe."⁵⁶

⁵² *Iran's coronavirus cartoon contest receives 4,200 submissions from 88 countries*, Iran Daily (Apr. 12, 2020), <http://www.iran-daily.com/News/267603.html?catid=3&title=267603>.

⁵³ See e.g. Amir Hossein Jafari Nejadian, Iran Cartoon, <https://www.irancartoon.com/site/gallery/gallery-of-intl-cartoon-contest-we-defeat-coronavirus#&gid=1&pid=572>; Aryeh Savir, 'Sadly Unsurprisingly Anti-Semitic': Israel Slams Iran for its State-Sponsored Anti-Semitic Coronavirus Cartoon Contest, Jewish Press (Apr. 19, 2020), <https://www.jewishpress.com/news/breaking-news/sadly-unsurprisingly-anti-semitic-israel-slams-iran-for-its-state-sponsored-anti-semitic-coronavirus-cartoon-contest/2020/04/19/>; Iran: Anti-Semitic drawings submitted to coronavirus cartoon contest, i24 News (Apr. 14, 2020), <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/middle-east/1586891278-iran-anti-semitic-drawings-submitted-to-coronavirus-cartoon-contest>.

⁵⁴ *Iraqi Political Analyst Muhammad Sadeq Al-Hashemi: Coronavirus Is an American, Jewish Plot to Reduce World Population; Rothschilds Paid for the Annihilation of Native Americans and Scots*, MEMRI (Feb. 26, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/tv/iraqi-analyst-sadeq-hashemi-dean-koontz-american-zionist-plot-coronavirus-world-population>.

⁵⁵ *Jordanian Journalist: Judaism Is A Cancer That Harms Humanity; Barbaric Capitalism Is Rooted In Jewish Ideas*, MEMRI (Apr. 9, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/reports/jordanian-journalist-judaism-cancer-harms-humanity-barbaric-capitalism-rooted-jewish-ideas>.

⁵⁶ *Palestinian-American Academic Seif Da'na on Hizbullah TV: Coronavirus May Have Leaked from U.S. Lab; Western Economic Policies Kill More People than COVID-19; Hitler Did Not Do Anything "Out of the Ordinary" But Is Viewed as Satan Because He Did It in Europe*, MEMRI (Mar. 29, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/tv/palestinian-ameircan-academic-seif-dana-western-economic-policies-kill-more-than-coronavirus-hitler-ordinary>.

- **Palestinian Authority**

- An antisemitic cartoon published in the official *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* daily on March 16 depicts an Israeli tank as a coronavirus particle aiming at a Palestinian man holding an infant⁵⁷
- An antisemitic cartoon published in *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* daily on March 23 depicts an Israeli soldier as a coronavirus particle leading a Palestinian prisoner.⁵⁸
- An article published in the daily *Al-Quds* on March 17 asked “Did the U.S. and Israel choose the option of [waging] biological warfare by spreading the coronavirus, which can deliver a decisive blow to China and Iran, on the assumption that this would lead to China's economic retreat and collapse and also undermine Iran while destabilizing its domestic economy and security, enabling to defeat it from within?”⁵⁹

- **Saudi Arabia**

- On February 6, the Saudi daily paper *Al-Watan* published an article by Sa’ud Al-Shehry which claimed that coronavirus was a plot by American and Israeli drug companies to increase their profits, and that it would not affect the US or Israel.⁶⁰

- **Turkey**

- Fatih Erbakan, head of the Refah Party, an Islamist party in Turkey, implied on March 6th that Zionism may be behind coronavirus, noting that “Though we do not have certain evidence, this virus serves Zionism's goals of decreasing the number of people and preventing it from increasing, and important research expresses this.”⁶¹
- An expert who was interviewed on Turkish TV station A Haber stated that “Whoever spread the virus, will find the cure. Israel already made a statement that they found a vaccine,” implying that Israel spread coronavirus.⁶²

⁵⁷ *Palestinian Writers: The Coronavirus Is a Biological Weapon Employed by U.S., Israel Against Their Enemies*, MEMRI (Mar. 24, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/reports/palestinian-writers-coronavirus-biological-weapon-employed-us-israel-against-their-enemies>.

⁵⁸ Oved Lobel, *Palestinian incitement escalates despite coronavirus crisis*, AIJAC (Apr. 2, 2020), <https://aijac.org.au/featured/palestinian-incitement-escalates-despite-coronavirus-crisis/>.

⁵⁹ *Palestinian Writers: The Coronavirus Is a Biological Weapon Employed by U.S., Israel Against Their Enemies*, MEMRI (Mar. 24, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/reports/palestinian-writers-coronavirus-biological-weapon-employed-us-israel-against-their-enemies>.

⁶⁰ *Arab Writers: The Coronavirus Is Part Of Biological Warfare Waged By The U.S. Against China*, MEMRI (Feb. 6, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/reports/arab-writers-coronavirus-part-biological-warfare-waged-us-against-china>.

⁶¹ Taha Emre Özdemir, *Coronavirus waring from Fatih Erbakan: They may be behind them*, *Yeni Akit* (Mar. 6, 2020), <https://www.yeniakit.com.tr/haber/fatih-erbakandan-dikkat-ceken-koronavirus-uyarisi-arkasinda-onlar-olabilir-1106972.html>; Donna Rachel Edmunds, *Coronavirus is a Zionist plot, say Turkish politicians, media, public*, *The Jerusalem Post* (Mar. 18, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Antisemitism/Coronavirus-is-a-Zionist-plot-say-Turkish-politicians-media-public-621393>; *Turkish Politicians, Press, Public React to Coronavirus: ‘This Virus Serves Zionism’s Goals Of Decreasing The Number Of People’*, MEMRI (Mar. 16, 2020), https://www.memri.org/reports/turkish-politicians-press-public-react-coronavirus-virus-serves-zionisms-goals-decreasing#_edn2.

⁶² Louis Fishman, *Opinion, As Coronavirus Cases Spike in Turkey, So Does anti-Semitism*, *Haaretz* (Mar. 19, 2020), <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/premium-as-coronavirus-cases-spike-in-turkey-so-does-anti-semitism-1.8682725>; Louis Fishman (@Istqanbultelaviv), *Twitter* (Mar. 13, 2020), <https://twitter.com/Istqanbultelaviv/status/1238463787428167682?s=20>.

- **Yemen**

- On March 13, Ibrahim Al-Ubeidi, a Yemeni scholar, claimed on Al-Eman TV that US and Jews were spreading coronavirus, while claiming Hussein Badreddin Al Houthi had foretold that the Jews, Israel and America would create pandemics in order to shut down the two holy mosques in Mecca and Medina.⁶³

Asia

- **Pakistan**

- A widely-shared post was published on Facebook on March 13, 2020 featuring an image of the Israeli flag alongside an Urdu caption which translates to English as: “In all countries of the world there is presence of coronavirus and strategies are being devised to prevent it, but only in Israel, neither there is any patient of coronavirus, nor any activity is being seen to safeguard from it. So it will not be wrong to say that this virus is created by Israel and its cure is also with Israel. What is your opinion?”⁶⁴

⁶³ *Friday Sermon by Yemeni Scholar Ibrahim Al-Ubeidi: Coronavirus Is Part of a Plan by the Jews, Israel, U.S. to Control Mecca, Medina; The Suad Clan Is a Jewish Family Brought into Power in Order to Judaize These Cities*, MEMRI (Mar. 16, 2020), <https://www.memri.org/tv/friday-sermon-yemeni-scholar-ibrahim-ubeidi-coronavirus-jewish-plan-control-mecca-medina>.

⁶⁴ Sheikh Qasim, Facebook (Mar. 13, 2020), <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2543262879334881&set=gm.551826792116408&type=3&theater> [<https://perma.cc/BNZ9-LAKR>]. Similar claims have also been shared on Facebook and on Twitter. Mohammad Nasir, Facebook (Mar. 16, 2020), <https://www.facebook.com/mohammad.nasir.12576/posts/10158153805935948> [<https://perma.cc/TB7Z-QIZ8>]. @Qurat_ul_ain, Twitter (Mar. 13, 2020), https://twitter.com/Qurat_ul_ain/status/1238536511877976065 [<https://perma.cc/Y9XB-AVPG>]; Mustaghees ur Rahman (@MUsTaGheess), Twitter (Mar. 12, 2020), <https://twitter.com/MUsTaGheess/status/1238333792949088256?s=20> [<https://perma.cc/XXS5-KHKY>]. *Hoax claim circulates online that Israel has no COVID-19 cases after it developed a ‘cure’*, AFP Fact Check (Mar. 17, 2020), https://factcheck.afp.com/hoax-claim-circulates-online-israel-has-no-covid-19-cases-after-it-developed-cure?fbclid=IwAR2YwId4vlylTfcIcwDQrCL6j9xkEIJmEZ_12tWfitQyUtlmuX3z-0-iYB0.