EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

AKVAH: Antisemitic Incidents in Denmark in 2023

AKVAH is the Jewish Community's Department for Mapping and Sharing Knowledge of Antisemitic Incidents. This Executive Summary gathers the main figures and trends from the final report on antisemitic incidents in 2023, which will be released on March 7th, 2023, on www.mosaiske.dk.

Key Findings

- **In 2023, AKVAH registered 121 antisemitic incidents**. This is the highest number of antisemitic incidents ever recorded by AKVAH, that has been registering and publishing the results of antisemitic incidents in annual reports since 2012.

- The number of antisemitic incidents for 2023 represents **an increase of 112 incidents** from the previous year, 2022, when AKVAH registered 9 antisemitic incidents. This corresponds to an **increase of 1244%.** The second-highest number of incidents AKVAH has recorded was in 2014 with 53 incidents. Thus, the number for 2023 represents an increase of 128% compared to the second-highest number of incidents for a year.

- **101 out of the 121 incidents (83%) occurred after Hamas' terrorist attack** on Israel on October 7, 2023. In 88 of the 101 incidents on or after October 7, the content or context of the incident can be directly linked to the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas.

- **November had the highest number of incidents** with 42, followed by 39 in October and 22 in December.

- **63 out of 121 antisemitic incidents occurred online**. This corresponds to more than half (52%) of the total number of incidents. The online incidents are classified as follows:

- o 18 incidents (29%) on Facebook,
- o 20 incidents (32%) via email,
- o 9 incidents (14%) on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), and
- o 16 incidents (25%) on Instagram.

Analysis and Trends

- The 121 incidents are classified into the following categories: **1)** Threats, **2)** Antisemitic expressions, **3)** Vandalism, **4)** Text material.

  The incidents are classified as follows:

  - o 20 cases of threats,
  - o 88 cases of antisemitic expressions,
  - o 2 cases of vandalism, and
  - o 11 cases of text material.

- **AKVAH recorded the highest number of threats for a single year in 2023 with 20 incidents**. All 20 threats either contain concrete death threats directed at individuals or express a desire for the death or eradication of Jews. 14 threats were expressed on social media, 5 were directed at Jewish individuals in public spaces, and 1 threat was vandalism at a Jewish person's residence.

- **17 (14%) of the 121 antisemitic incidents involve children**, either as recipients or senders of antisemitism. Of the 17 incidents, 2 occurred before October 7 and the remaining 15 after October 7. The terrorist attack on Israel on October 7 and the subsequent war in Gaza have thus had noticeable consequences in the areas of children and education in Denmark.

  Of the antisemitic incidents in the children and education sector, there are particularly two recurring trends:

  1) Normalization of symbols, gestures, and rhetoric associated with Nazism, and
  2) Harassment, intimidation, and bullying of Jewish children and young people based on the war in the Middle East.

- **In 32 (26%) of the 121 incidents, Jewish individuals or Jewish institutions in Denmark are held responsible for the actions of the state of Israel.** This may occur, for example, by accusing Jews in Denmark of acting on behalf of the Israeli state or publicly demanding that Jews distance themselves from the actions of the Israeli state. Holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the state of Israel solely because they are Jews is an antisemitic act according to the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism.

- **35 (29%) of the 121 incidents contain references to Nazism**, such as Nazi symbols or gestures, such as the swastika and the Nazi salute "Heil," or by statements referring to the Holocaust (such as the extermination of Jews in gas chambers in concentration camps, Auschwitz, glorification of Hitler and the Nazis), or by accusing Jewish individuals or institutions of being Nazis.

- **Of the 88 incidents directly related to current events in the Middle East, 16 incidents contain Nazi symbols or references to the Holocaust.** There is an identifiable pattern in the use of Nazi symbols, rhetoric, and references to the Holocaust when discussing the war in Israel and Gaza. It involves the exploitation of the most traumatic part of the collective Jewish history, actively used against Jews in Denmark in connection with debates about the current war in the Middle East.

- **15 (12%) of the 121 antisemitic incidents for 2023 contain antisemitic conspiracy theories about Jews.** Examples of this include antisemitic conspiracies about Jewish power and influence in society, that Jews were behind Covid-19 or Holocaust denial.

- **7 (6%) of the 121 incidents contain classic antisemitic stereotypes** about Jews as greedy, miserly, or dishonest or have caricatures of Jews with grotesquely distorted and exaggerated facial features.

- **42 (35%) of the 121 incidents contain hate speech or derogatory language** about and towards Jews. This can include the use of words such as "Jewish pigs," "Zionist pigs," the use of derogatory terms in reference to Jews, or descriptions of Jews as animals.

The significance of the "Preliminary Status Report on Reports to AKVAH in the Period from October 7, 2023 - November 7, 2023"

On November 8, 2023, AKVAH published a status report that tallied the number of reports of antisemitism received by AKVAH in the first month after Hamas' terrorist attack in Israel on October 7.

The status report provided a snapshot intended to illustrate the overwhelming increase in reports of antisemitism in the period immediately following October 7.

During this period, AKVAH received 80 reports of antisemitic incidents, which represented an overwhelming increase in the number of reports to AKVAH by 2300% compared to the average monthly number of reports in the preceding 9 months of 2023.

The reported data were not yet fully processed or independently analysed by AKVAH based on the methodically stringent analysis, mapping, and sorting procedures that AKVAH uses to determine whether a reported incident can be categorized as an antisemitic incident.

The number of reports is an objective figure that solely indicates the quantity of reports of antisemitism received by AKVAH during the period in question. It neither reflects nor is identical to the final number of antisemitic incidents in that period.

Dark figures

AKVAH exclusively deals with actively reported cases of antisemitism. We know that most antisemitic incidents are never reported. In a survey conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on discrimination and hate crimes against Jews in 13 EU countries in 2018, it was found that over 80% of Jews in Denmark who had experienced antisemitic harassment in the previous five years had not reported it to authorities or other institutions.

Additionally, AKVAH does not collect data on antisemitism reported to other institutions, such as the police, workplaces, or other organizations. Therefore, these figures are also not included in AKVAH's reporting figures. The actual occurrence of antisemitism in Denmark must thus be assumed to be significantly higher than AKVAH's records and incident statistics can show. The recorded antisemitic incidents for 2023 provide an insight

into the occurrence of antisemitism in Denmark in 2023 but do NOT provide a comprehensive picture of antisemitism in Denmark.

Finally, it is important to emphasize that most Danish Jews rarely display their religious affiliation publicly. In a survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on Jews' experiences of antisemitism in EU member states in 2018, it was found that 56% of Jews in Denmark never wear visible Jewish symbols or Jewish religious garments, such as the Star of David or kippah, and that 80% of Jews in Denmark occasionally refrain from wearing symbols that visibly indicate affiliation with Judaism. The occurrence of antisemitism in Denmark must therefore be presumed to be significantly higher if Danish Jews were more visible as Jews.

Antisemitism in the UK and France

Abroad, there has also been an increase in the number of antisemitic incidents, which is also linked to events in Israel. AKVAH's equivalent in **the UK**, Community Security Trust (CST), **recorded the highest number of antisemitic incidents ever in 2023** with 4103 incidents. This was an increase of 147% compared to 2022 and 81% higher than the second-highest number in 2021 of 2261 incidents. Of the 4103 incidents in the UK in 2023, 2699 (66%) occurred on or after October 7. It is estimated that around 292,000 Jews live in the UK.

AKVAH's equivalent in **France**, Service de Protection de la Communaute Juive (SPCJ), recorded 1676 antisemitic incidents for 2023. **This is almost four times as high as the previous year, 2022**, where SPCJ recorded 436 incidents. SPCJ recorded as many antisemitic incidents in the last 3 months of 2023 as in the preceding 3 years combined. According to SPCJ, the increase began on October 7, 2023, when the number of antisemitic incidents reported on a single day increased by 700% compared to the daily average across years. It is estimated that there are around 442,000 Jews in France.

Extracts of Antisemitic Incidents from the Upcoming AKVAH Report for 2023:

Yesterday at 17:52

Vi rammer jer i aften!

Jeg håber du dør

Din fucking jødetamp

06:24

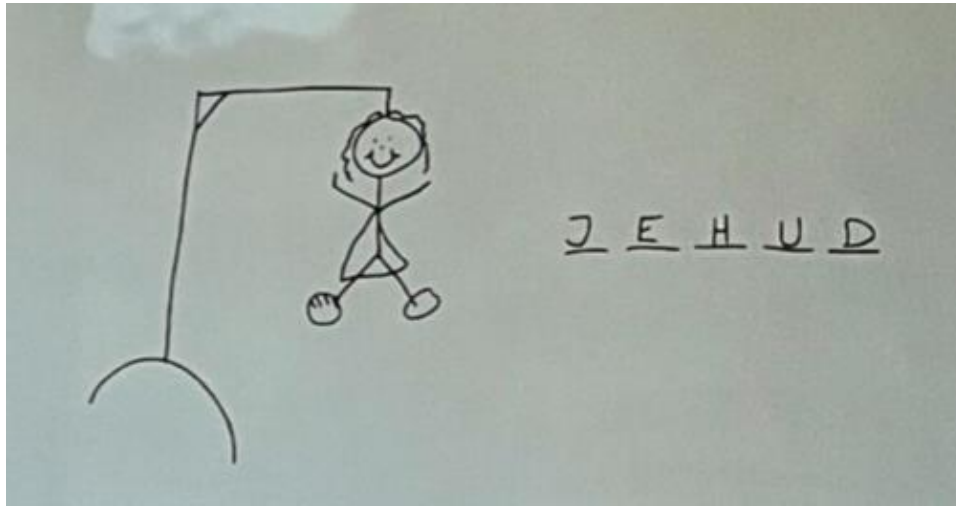Er du bange eller hvad din fucking rotte?

Usle lille møgdyr

Death threat and antisemitic hate message sent to a Jewish woman on Instagram, 10.10.2023:

"We will hit you tonight!"

"I hope you die"

"Are you scared or what you fucking rat?"

"Pathetic little vermin"

A matchstick figure hangs in a noose with the text "JEHUD" next to it. "Jehud" is the Arabic word for Jew. Whiteboard at the University of Southern Denmark, 13.10.2023.

Swastika and death threat written on a Jewish woman's front door, 15.10.2023.

SS flag hanging from a lamppost in Frederiksberg, 8.11.2023.

"Jews are one of the dirtiest people, the damned people." Sticker seen at Grøndal Station in Copenhagen, 20.11.2023.

VIS PROFIL

09.41

Fuck jøderne og fuck Israel.
beskidte luder mennesker

Kære ████████████
Tak for din besked. Vi tjekker
ikke denne indbakke. Skriv i
stedet til Det Jødiske Samfunds
hovedmail: mt@mosaiske.dk
Mvh
Det Jødiske Samfund

bomb hele Israel

hverdag ser jeg nye kvinder mænd
og børn blive dræbt af beskidte
jødiske nazi Svin I Israel

🤢🤢🤮🤮💩💩🗑️🗑️ = jøderne

Message sent to the Jewish Community in Denmark on Facebook, 4.12.2023.