

Belgium – Arson Attack in Antwerp’s Jewish Quarter– March 23, 2026 (Issued on March 25, 2026)

Name/Description of incident	Arson attack targeting vehicles in Antwerp’s Jewish Quarter (car torched)
Type of Incident	Physical Attack (Threat) ▾
Location	Antwerp, Belgium (Jewish Quarter - Appelmansstraat/Vestingstraat)

- **On March 23**, at least one vehicle (with reports indicating **two vehicles**) was **deliberately set on fire overnight** at the intersection of **Appelmansstraat and Vestingstraat**, on the edge of Antwerp’s Jewish Quarter.¹²³⁴
 - **Video footage circulating online confirmed the fire was the result of intentional arson.**
 - **Police responded quickly and arrested two minors at the scene** suspected of involvement.
 - The suspects are being investigated for **intentional arson**, with additional consideration of **possible links to terrorist-related activity.**
- The incident occurred in a **central area of Antwerp’s Jewish neighborhood**, near **Antwerp Central Station**, contributing to its classification as a **suspected antisemitic attack.**
 - **Authorities have not confirmed that the targeted vehicles were Jewish-owned.**
 - **The exact motive remains under investigation.**
- A group linked to **recent antisemitic incidents across Europe claimed responsibility for the attack**, but **law enforcement has not verified the claim** and continues to assess its credibility.⁵
 - The incident occurs amid a **broader wave of attacks targeting Jewish communities across Belgium and Europe**, with multiple incidents **attributed by authorities to the Iran-aligned extremist network “Ashab al Yamin,”** which is assessed to **operate through locally recruited individuals**, including:
 - **March 9:** Explosion at a Chabad house in The Hague.
 - **March 11:** Vandalism of a Jewish site in The Hague.
 - **March 13:** Arson attack on a synagogue in Rotterdam.
 - **March 14:** Explosion at a Jewish primary school in Amsterdam.
 - **March 15:** Explosion near an Israeli-owned restaurant in Amsterdam.
 - **March 23:** Dutch authorities foiled a planned bombing attack near a synagogue in Heemstede.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/two-minors-arrested-connection-suspected-antisemitic-arson-antwerp-belgian-2026-03-24/>

² <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/en/2026/03/24/car-torched-in-antwerps-jewish-quarter/>

³ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/europe-antisemitism-attacks-group-threatens-us-israel-interests-worldwide/>

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/mar/24/a-tangled-web-leads-from-golders-green-ambulance-attack-to-tehran>

⁵ <https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2026/03/iran-linked-group-claims-arson-attacks-in-antwerp-and-london.php>

DISCLAIMER: The information provided in the report is based on reports and information received through network monitoring with the assistance of a technological system. The Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and combating Antisemitism makes every effort to ensure that the information is accurate, relevant and up-to-date. However, it will be clarified that the information in the report is presented "As Is" and the Ministry cannot be responsible for the completeness of the information or its suitability for a particular purpose or use. If, despite these efforts, you believe that an error has occurred involving the accuracy of the information or any rights, please e-mail us at: diaspora@pmo.gov.il



The torched vehicle

Target Card

The city of Antwerp in Belgium is one of the most important European cities, distinguished by its strategic location and significant economic role, particularly in the diamond trade. It also has a large Zionist community, which has given it a special religious and cultural significance for some Jews, and it is sometimes called the "Jerusalem of the North." The most important street in the city, Appelmansstraat, was targeted. Operations will continue to escalate and intensify until the liberation of our occupied lands in beloved Palestine and revenge for the blood of the Palestinians, Lebanese, and all Muslims

بطاقة الهدف

تعد مدينة أنتويرب في بلجيكا واحدة من أهم المدن الأوروبية، حيث تتميز بموقعها الاستراتيجي ودورها الاقتصادي الكبير، خاصة في تجارة الألماس. كما تضم جالية يهودية كبيرة، مما جعل لها مكانة دينية وثقافية خاصة لدى بعض اليهود، ويطلق عليها أحيانا اسم "قدس الشمال". تم استهداف أهم شارع في المدينة شارع Appelmansstraat سوف تستمر العمليات بشكل متعاقد و كبير حتى تحرير أراضينا المحتلة في فلسطين الحبيبة و الانتقام لدماء الفلسطينيين و لبنانيين و كافة المسلمين

כרטיס מטרה

העיר אנטוורפן בבלגיה היא אחת הערים האירופיות החשובות ביותר, המאופיינת במיקומה האסטרטגי ובתפקידה הכלכלי המשמעותי, במיוחד בסחר היהלומים. יש בה גם קהילה ציונית גדולה, מה שהעניק לה משמעות דתית ותרבותית מיוחדת עבור חלק מהיהודים, והיא מכונה לעיתים "ירושלים של הצפון". הרחוב החשוב ביותר בעיר, רחוב אפלמנס, היה מטרה. הפעולות ימשיכו להסלים ולהתעצם עד לשחרור אדמותינו הכבושות בפלסטין האהובה ולנקמה על דמם של הפלסטינים, הלבנונים וכל המוסלמים

حركة اشداب اليمين الإسلامية

Ashab al Yamin's statement following the attack