

Holocaust Memorial Day - Antisemitism Overview

April 2026

Executive Summary

- This report provides a comprehensive analysis of global antisemitic activity over the past year, drawing from a dataset of 958 reported incidents spanning 72 countries.
- The findings reveal a sustained global baseline of activity characterized by episodic surges and an increasing severity in targeted violence.

Core Quantitative Findings

- **Geographic Concentration:** The **United States** recorded the highest volume of incidents (301), followed by **Britain** (140) and **France** (58).
- **Incident Frequency:** Global activity averaged **74 incidents per month**. Notable peaks occurred in **April 2025** (118 incidents) and **August 2025** (110 incidents), the latter driven largely by a wave of vandalism and attempted arson.
- **Violence Trends:** Physical violence averaged **11.5 attacks per month**, peaking in August 2025. A decline in late 2025 was followed by a gradual resurgence in early 2026.

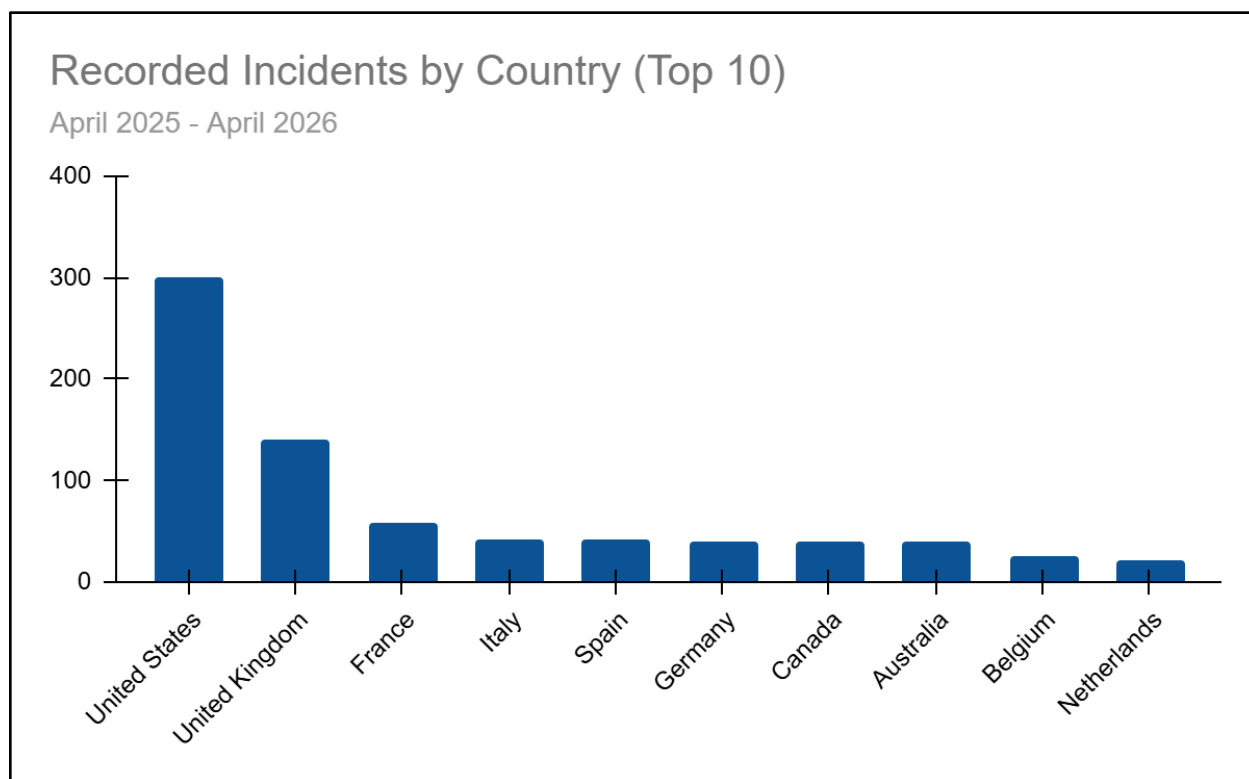
Incident Typology & Targeting

- **Vandalism & Property Damage (38.4%):** This remained the most frequent mode of attack, consistently targeting visible Jewish assets such as synagogues, cemeteries, and storefronts.
- **Physical Attacks (27.2%):** While less frequent than vandalism, these incidents represented the highest operational severity, including mass casualty events and targeted assassinations. Physical attacks during the reporting period resulted in the deaths of 19 victims.
- **Primary Targets:** Individuals and religious institutions (synagogues) were the most identifiable targets.

Methodology

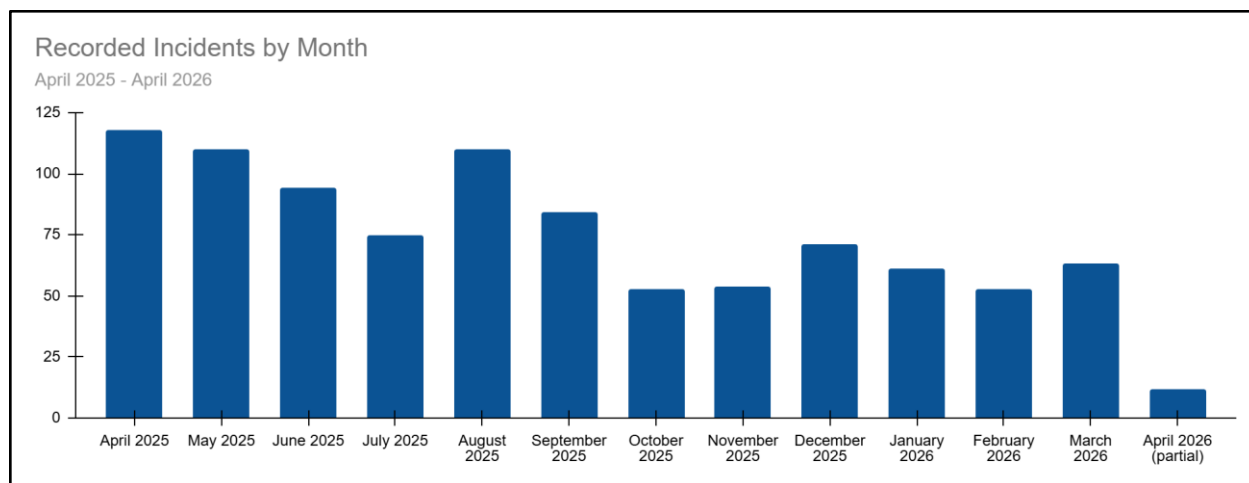
- The antisemitic incidents presented in this report span **multiple countries** and are derived from a **range of open sources**, including news agencies, Israeli and international media outlets, and reports from independent individuals. The report covers a variety of incident types, including antisemitic or anti-Israel **physical attacks, vandalism, verbal abuse or threats**, as well as **boycotts** and **protests**. These incidents are further analyzed based on their targets, including **individuals, groups, and institutions** identified as Jewish or Israeli.

Antisemitic Incidents - Quantitative Analysis



Graph showing the ten countries with the highest number of validated incidents

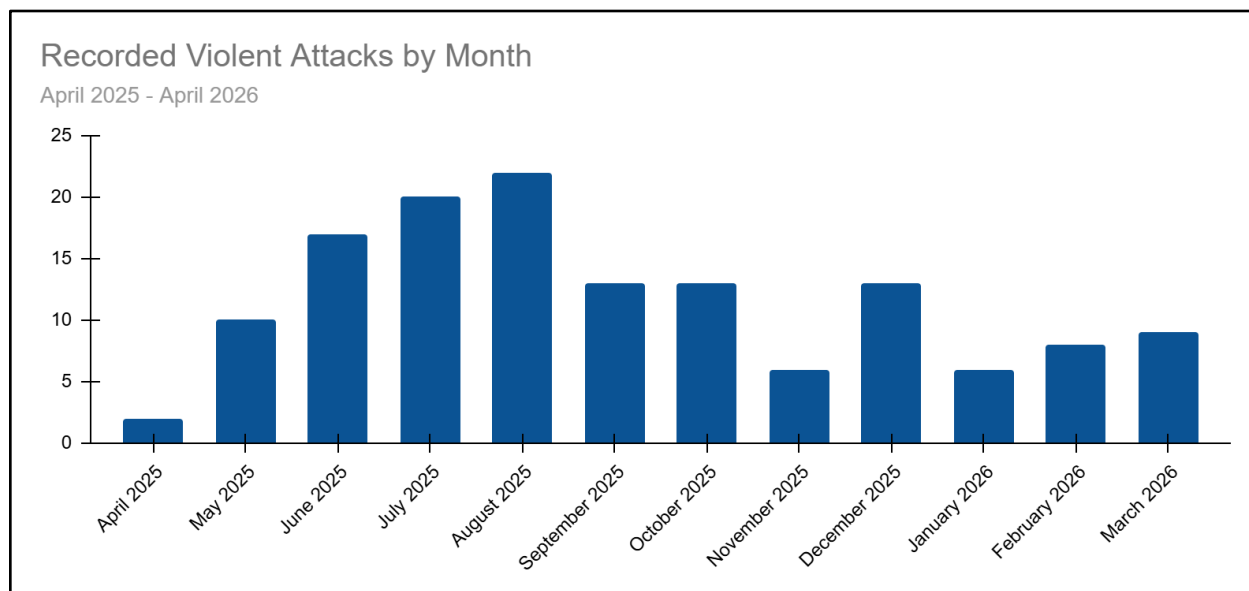
- During the period **April 2025 - April 2026**, **958 incidents** were reported within the scope of the current brief, spanning **72 countries**. The data cover direct incidents against synagogues, Jewish businesses, Jewish cemeteries, and other Jewish institutions, alongside attacks against individuals.
- The **United States** accounted for the highest number of validated incidents, followed by **Britain, France, Italy, and Spain**.
- Monthly activity averaged nearly **74 validated incidents per month** across the reporting period.



Graph showing the number of validated incidents per month (Apr 2025 - Mar 2026)

- Two clear peaks were recorded in **April 2025 (118 incidents)** and **August 2025 (110 incidents)**.
 - **April 2025:** In April 2025, **no single incident type was overwhelmingly dominant**, with the dataset reflecting a diverse range of activities, including online actions, boycotts, vandalism, and other forms of incidents. The increase in antisemitic incidents in April 2025 may be associated with the **end of the first ceasefire in Gaza** in March 2025, which appears to have contributed to a sustained wave of antisemitic activity in the subsequent months.
 - **August 2025:** the spike was driven primarily by **vandalism and attempted arson** affecting synagogues, museums, memorials, and Jewish-owned businesses across multiple countries. The increase in antisemitic incidents observed in August 2025 may be associated with heightened discourse surrounding **allegations of a deliberate famine in Gaza**, alongside **official Israeli statements concerning the potential for a full occupation of the territory**.
- The monthly pattern indicates a **sustained baseline of global activity with episodic surges** rather than a single continuous escalation. No single geopolitical trigger is assigned here unless directly evidenced in the incident record.

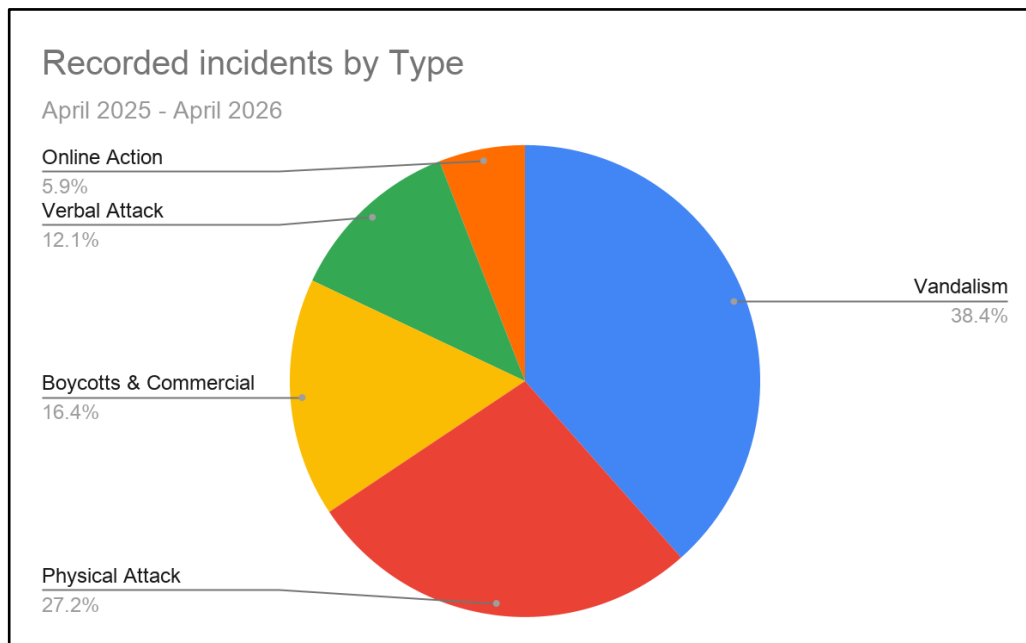
- Monthly activity averaged **11.5 violent attacks per month** across the reporting period.



Graph illustrating the number of violent attacks per month (April 2025 - March 2026)

- The data shows a **steady increase in incidents from April 2025 (2) through August 2025 (22)**, marking the peak of the period. Following this peak, incidents **decline through the autumn months**, stabilizing around **13 incidents in September and October**, before dropping to a low of **6 incidents in November**.
- In December 2025, there was a **moderate rebound (13 incidents)**, after which levels decreased again in January 2026 (6), followed by a **gradual rise in early 2026**, reaching **9 incidents in March**.
- Elevated levels of violent antisemitic activity may be associated with the **war in Gaza**, which contributed to heightened anti-Israel sentiment. The observed decline in October may be linked to the **ceasefire in Gaza**, after which incident levels decreased notably.
- Additionally, the higher activity observed between **June and August 2025** may be partially attributed to the **summer vacation period**, during which increased international travel by Israelis may lead to **greater interaction—and potential friction—with local populations**.

- Of the **958** incidents reported, **489** involved incidents that specifically targeted Jews (as opposed to antisemitic incidents where there is no single direct target like generic hate speech or antisemitism during protests). **Vandalism and property damage** accounted for **188 of those 489 targeted incidents (38.4%)**,¹ making it the dominant mode of targeting.
- Physical attacks accounted for **133 incidents (27.2%)**. Threats, plots, protests, and commercial-pressure cases made up most of the remaining activity.
- Physical attacks during the reporting period resulted in the deaths of **19** victims.

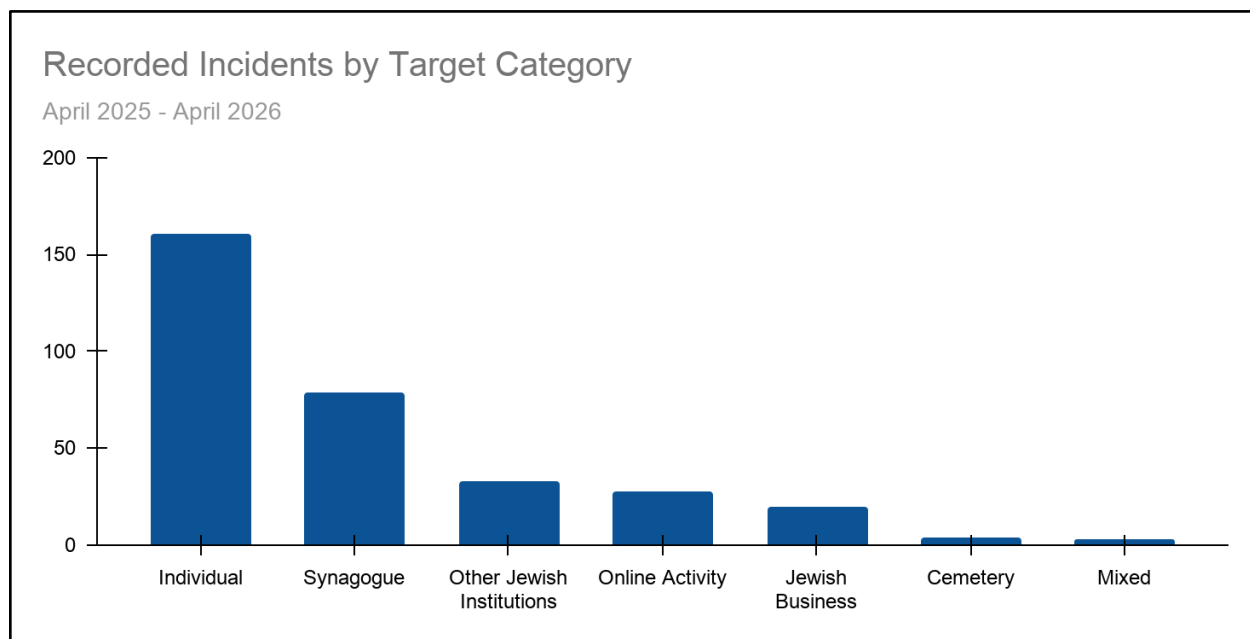


Graph illustrating the breakdown of validated incidents by incident type

- The concentration in **vandalism/property damage** indicates that visible Jewish sites remained the most frequently targeted assets in the reporting period.
- Although fewer in number, **physical attacks were operationally the most severe category**, including the three incidents that produced the conservative validated Jewish-fatality total used in this brief.

¹The dataset excludes certain activities classified under the categories "Other" and "Protests."

- The following chart presents the distribution of recorded incidents by target category between April 2025 and April 2026.²



Graph illustrating validated incident counts by client target category

- Among clearly defined targets, **individuals** represent the first-largest group (around 150 incidents), followed by **synagogues** (approximately 80). Lower-frequency categories include **other Jewish institutions**, **online activity**, and **Jewish businesses**, each with relatively modest counts. Incidents targeting **cemeteries** and **mixed targets** are minimal in comparison. Overall, the data indicates that while a substantial portion of incidents are broadly categorized, identifiable targets are most commonly **individuals and religious institutions**, particularly synagogues.

²The dataset excludes certain targets classified under the category "Other".

Selected Incident Examples

Turkey: Shooting Incident Near Israeli Consulate in Istanbul

Date: April 7, 2026

Location: Israeli Consulate, Istanbul

Event: On April 7, several armed individuals opened fire near the Israeli consulate building in Istanbul's Besiktas district, leading to an exchange of fire with Turkish police. Three attackers were neutralized (with conflicting reports on whether all were killed or some severely wounded), and two police officers were lightly injured; no Israeli personnel were harmed as the consulate was unstaffed. The attackers, reportedly equipped with rifles, ammunition, and backpacks, appeared to have planned the assault and attempted to reach the consulate, indicating clear targeting intent.³⁴⁵⁶⁷



UK: Arson Attack Targets Jewish Ambulances in London

Date: March 23, 2026

Location: London, England

Event: Four Hatzalah ambulances operated by the Jewish Community Ambulance service were set on fire in Golders Green, London. Emergency services responded at 1:40 am to vehicles ablaze at Highfield Court, where explosions from onboard cylinders damaged nearby buildings and forced evacuations. No injuries were reported.⁸



³https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/turkey-gunfight-reported-outside-israels-consulate-istanbul?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Social_Traffic&utm_content=ap_3jyiexfx0s

⁴<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-892312>

⁵<https://www.c14.co.il/article/1518889>

⁶https://www.mako.co.il/news-world/2026_q2/Article-ef5a1766f476d91027.htm

⁷<https://x.com/MOSSADil/status/2041455844143829217>

⁸<https://today.rtl.lu/news/world/london-police-probe-attack-on-jewish-ambulances-as-hate-crime-1949872390>

Belgium: Car Torched in Suspected Antisemitic Attack

Date: March 23, 2026

Location: Jewish Quarter, Antwerp

Event: One or two vehicles were deliberately set on fire near Antwerp's Jewish Quarter in an apparent act of arson. Police arrested two minors at the scene, and authorities are investigating possible links to terrorism. While the incident is being treated as a suspected antisemitic attack due to its location, the motive and ownership of the vehicles have not been confirmed. A group linked to recent antisemitic incidents in Europe has claimed responsibility, though this remains unverified.⁹¹⁰



Netherlands: Blast Hits Jewish School in Amsterdam

Date: March 14, 2026

Location: Amsterdam, Netherlands

Event: An explosive device detonated outside a Haredi Jewish school in Amsterdam's affluent south side, scorching a rainpipe and outer wall but injuring no one.¹¹



⁹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/two-minors-arrested-connection-suspected-antisemitic-arson-antwerp-belgian-2026-03-24/>

¹⁰ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/europe-antisemitism-attacks-group-threatens-us-israel-interests-worldwide/>

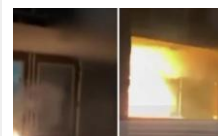
¹¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/explosion-damages-jewish-school-amsterdam-anp-reports-2026-03-14/#:~:text=,Halsema%20said>

Netherlands: Explosion Damages Historic Synagogue in Rotterdam

Date: March 13, 2026

Location: Rotterdam, Netherlands

Event: An explosion outside a historic synagogue in central Rotterdam sparked a fire that damaged the building but caused no injuries. Police arrested four teenagers, aged 17 to 19, after stopping a suspicious car near another synagogue; authorities believe the suspects may have planned further attacks. A group calling itself Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamiyyah claimed responsibility, and investigators are probing possible Iranian links.¹²



USA: Driver Rams Temple Israel in Michigan

Date: March 12, 2026

Location: West Bloomfield, MI

Event: A 41-year-old Lebanese-born US citizen, Ayman Ghazali, crashed his truck into Temple Israel synagogue and its preschool in West Bloomfield, Michigan, injuring a security officer and forcing the evacuation of 140 children. He drove down a hallway before security guards shot him dead. Authorities called it a targeted act of violence against the Jewish community. Ghazali reportedly lost relatives in a recent Israeli airstrike in Lebanon, which may have motivated the attack.¹³



¹² <https://www.reuters.com/world/police-investigate-overnight-fire-attack-rotterdam-synagogue-2026-03-13/#:~:text=AMSTERDAM%2C%20March%2013%20%28Reuters%29%20,Israeli%20war%20on%20Iran>

¹³ <https://www.reuters.com/world/michigan-synagogue-virginia-university-targeted-unnerving-day-us-violence-2026-03-13/#:~:text=In%20the%20suburban%20Detroit%20township,than%20that%20of%20the%20attacker>

Belgium: Blast Damages Liege Synagogue, No Injuries Reported

Date: March 9, 2026

Location: Liege

Event: An explosion damaged a synagogue in Liege at approximately 4 a.m., causing structural harm but no injuries, according to local police. The blast occurred in front of the 1899-built synagogue, which also serves as a museum of the city's Jewish community history. Windows of buildings across the street were blown out, and authorities established a security perimeter. Federal police joined the investigation to determine the cause of the explosion. Officials confirmed the incident resulted in material damage only. The investigation remains ongoing as authorities assess potential motives and responsible parties.¹⁴



Canada: Series of Targeted Shooting Incidents at Synagogues in the Greater Toronto Area

Date: March 2 - March 7, 2026

Location: Greater Toronto Area

Event: Between March 2 and March 7, 2026, three shooting incidents targeted synagogues in the Greater Toronto Area, including locations in North York and Vaughan, causing property damage but no injuries. The attacks occurred within a short timeframe and are being investigated as targeted incidents by police and hate crime units, with no suspects identified so far. The incidents may be linked to heightened tensions and online content identifying Jewish institutions. In response, authorities have increased security around religious sites, while officials have condemned the attacks as acts of antisemitism.¹⁵¹⁶¹⁷¹⁸¹⁹²⁰²¹²²



Australia: Bondi Beach Hanukkah Gathering Targeted in Mass Shooting

Date: December 14, 2025

Location: Bondi Beach, Sydney, Australia

Event: On December 14, 2025, a mass shooting targeted a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach in Sydney, where two gunmen opened fire on a large Jewish community gathering, killing 15 people and injuring dozens more. The attackers were eventually neutralized after several minutes, while witnesses described chaotic scenes, delayed police response, and insufficient security.²³



UK: Deadly Attack Outside Manchester Synagogue on Yom Kippur

Date: October 2, 2025

Location: Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue, Manchester, UK

Event: A vehicle-ramming and stabbing attack struck worshippers gathered outside Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation during Yom Kippur. Two victims were killed and several others were seriously injured. Although the assault occurred outside the synagogue footprint and was therefore handled cautiously in the target-site count, it remains one of the most severe incidents in the dataset and contributes directly to the conservative Jewish-fatality total.²⁴



Moldova: More Than 50 Graves Desecrated in Chişinău Jewish Cemetery

Date: June 12, 2025

Location: Chişinău, Moldova

Event: More than 50 graves in the Jewish cemetery in Chişinău were vandalized with swastikas and symbols associated with Romania's fascist Legionary Movement. The incident is one of the four direct cemetery cases counted in the lead figure for that category. Although cemetery incidents were limited in number, this case underscores the symbolic and historical dimension of antisemitic site targeting.²⁵



²⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/02/world/europe/terrorist-attack-uk-synagogue-manchester.html>

²⁵ <https://combatantisemitism.org/cam-news/swastikas-spray-painted-on-dozens-of-jewish-graves-in-moldova-capital/>

USA: Antisemitic Arson Attack at Pro-Israel Event in Colorado

Date: June 1, 2025

Location: Pearl Street Mall, Boulder, CO

Event: On June 1, 2025, in Boulder, Colorado, Mohamed Sabry Soliman carried out a premeditated attack against a pro-Israel event organized by “Run for Their Lives,” using incendiary devices including Molotov cocktails and a homemade flamethrower. The attack, during which he shouted anti-Zionist slogans, injured 13 individuals, several seriously, and is being treated by authorities as a targeted antisemitic terrorist incident. Soliman has been charged with a federal hate crime, along with multiple counts of attempted murder and use of incendiary weapons.^{26 27}

28



USA: Two Israeli Embassy Staff killed in shooting outside Washington, D.C. Jewish Museum

Date: May 21, 2025

Location: Capital Jewish Museum, Washington DC

Event: On May 21, two Israeli Embassy staff members were fatally shot in a targeted attack outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., during an event hosted by the American Jewish Committee. The suspect, Elias Rodriguez (30) of Chicago, was apprehended at the scene after being subdued by security and bystanders.²⁹³⁰



France: Coordinated Vandalism of Multiple Jewish-Linked Sites in Paris

Date: May 31, 2025

Location: Central Paris, France

Event: Five Jewish-linked sites were vandalized overnight with green paint in central Paris, including the Shoah Memorial, three synagogues, and an Israeli restaurant. The case is analytically significant because a single incident affected multiple Jewish target types at once. The event therefore supports the report's methodological note that category totals should not be summed into one overall incident total.³¹



Tunisia: Jewish Jewelry Shop Owners Attacked with a Machete in Djerba

Date: May 9, 2025

Location: Djerba, Tunisia

Event: A man attacked Jewish jewelry shop owners in Djerba with a machete, seriously injuring one of them. The assault took place shortly before the annual pilgrimage season and directly targeted a Jewish-owned business in a well-known Jewish commercial area. The case illustrates the business-targeting category not only as vandalism or boycott pressure, but also as direct interpersonal violence.³²



²⁶ <https://edition.cnn.com/us/live-news/boulder-colorado-antisemitic-attack-06-01-25>

²⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2025/06/01/us/boulder-colorado-attack#boulder-colorado-attack>

²⁸ <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/cjdx44kx5zxt>

²⁹ <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-854979>

³⁰ <https://x.com/kolhaolam/status/1925406234871468100?s=46>

³¹ <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250531-paris-holocaust-memorial-synagogues-vandalised>

³² <https://www.ynet.co.il/news/article/h1rkw39exg>