



## ALARMING RISE OF

# ANTI-SEMITISM

## Is CHRISTIANITY NEXT?

by Henk Askes

**A**s a young boy growing up in a Christian home in the Netherlands, I was taught that the Jewish people were the chosen people of God. Although it is almost 60 years ago, I vividly remember an incident in 1944 when I was ten years old. At the time, our country was occupied by the German military. My father and I had been trying (illegally) to get some wood from a nearby railway station for our stove, as it was bitterly cold.

A German soldier with a shiny helmet, stood in a deserted street and shouted something like: “werda, wer ist da?” (Who is there?) to a Jewish girl. He apparently thought she would run away, so he took out his luger and shot her point-blank. She was wearing the Star of David badge all Jews were required to display.

When the girl collapsed and died, I couldn’t understand how anybody could do a thing like that. Can any race hate another race so much? At that time I hadn’t yet learned of the claims of the so-called Aryan race that Jews belonged to a sub-human race.

My parents, and other Dutch people in Utrecht, played a leading role in hiding Jewish women and children. I thought it was wonderful we were able to save those people from the hands of the enemy. Our parents trained us to say that we knew nothing about people being hidden away when German soldiers interrogated us.

### Increase in European Anti-Semitism

Today, in the early years of this 21st century, Europe has once again become the epicenter of anti-Semitism.

World Jewish leaders report that the level of anti-Semitic attacks in Europe is the worst since World War II. If, in casual conversation, one sides with an Israeli position, one will find oneself as an unsupported and unappreciated minority. Europeans at large abhor discrimination of all kinds—with the exceptions being the Jews and, increasingly, Christians.

Why has this abhorrence of Jewish people increased in Europe and, in fact, over the whole world? Anti-

Semitism is the oldest hatred in history and has, in fact, always been present in European life.

Anti-Semitism has a long and sordid history. K.H. Miskotte wrote in 1933: “Anti-Semitism is, in fact, nothing else but a boundless, for too long concealed hate against the God of the Torah who is also the God of the Church.” The roots of anti-Semitism are spiritual.

### Examples of Escalating Hatred in Europe

In Belgium:

Most of the anti-Jewish activity originates within the Muslim community. Other



significant Belgian sources of

activity are the radical right and Holocaust deniers.

The flamboyant Belgian, Dyab Abu Jahjah, is playing a major role as the voice of the Arabic awakening. His followers often shout: *Hamas, hamas, all Jews into gas*. Jahjah’s vision includes the end of Israel as an independent nation. Jahjah is connected with the Hezbollah in Lebanon and regards the current leader of Israel, Ariel Sharon, as a deranged assassin. Jahjah is preparing to run for the Brussels city council in 2006.



In the Netherlands:

Gretta Duisenberg, wife of the president of the European Central Bank, is obsessed with her “mission.” Gretta is pleading for economic and financial sanctions against Israel. She aroused a wave of criticism from the Jewish population in the Netherlands by deliberately hanging a Palestinian flag across her balcony for six weeks. She recently remarked:

“The Israeli occupation of Palestinian areas is worse than the occupation of the Netherlands by Germany.” She has collected money in Amsterdam for the Arabian Al Aqsa-Foundation which gives support to Palestinian suicide terrorists. She smugly said that she needed “6 million signatures” for her cause.

In France:

French Jews no longer feel safe. They hide their religion and emigrate to Israel, says Joseph Farah in *World NetDaily*. One 20-year-old emigre identified only as Julie, was quoted by *Le Monde* newspaper saying she had decided to emigrate after being attacked with two friends who were wearing kippas. “Up to now, we were proud to be French. Not any more. Now we are proud to be Jewish,” she said.

There is a growing hatred of Jews at French public schools. Last year 450 racist and anti-semitic incidents were reported against Jews and synagogues.

France has the largest Jewish population in Europe—600,000. However, the Jewish population in France is dwarfed by the Muslim population of 6 million—



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—K.H. Miskotte  
1933



the story of the 12-year-old Palestinian boy, Mohammed Adura. Through the irresponsible conduct of his father, this boy was exposed to Israeli army fire during an exchange with Palestinian gunmen. For days the media reported and broadcast the death of Mohammed Adura as the

work of Jewish soldiers.

second only to Roman Catholicism. Many Jews are wondering whether France is safe.

Jewish teens wearing yarmulkes have been attacked on the street. Extraordinary safety precautions take place before synagogue services in some cities, including Paris. Just before Rosh Hashanah, 200 Arabs attacked Jews on the Champs Elysee. Gunmen fired on a kosher butcher and his shop in Toulouse. A Jewish couple in their twenties were beaten up by five men in Villeurbanne. A Jewish school was vandalized in Sarcelles.

Ohana, a Jewish girl, wears a Hebrew letter on a gold chain around her neck. Lately, she said, she keeps it tucked inside her collar. She says, “We’re starting to hide that we’re Jewish.”

In Germany and Austria:

Synagogues have been attacked in Berlin and

Herford in western Germany. Jews have reportedly been attacked because they were

wearing the Star of David. Berlin police have informally advised Jews to avoid wearing skullcaps after recent anti-Semitic attacks in the German capital. Most significant, Jewish sites in Berlin are guarded by armed police. Barricades surround buildings such as the historic New Synagogue.

In England:

There has been a considerable rise in organized anti-Semitism, particularly of the Islamic kind, officials at Israel’s Embassy in London report. Activists are sending e-mails and letters to members of both houses of Parliament, condemning Israel and the Jews. Anti-Israel demonstrations take place on a regular basis. During an average month, there are 20 anti-Semitic incidents in England.



Columnist Petronella Wyatt observed in the *Spectator* magazine that “anti-Semitism and its open expression has become respectable at London dinner tables.”

### The Role of the Media

There is clear prejudice in the media against Israel. Dr. Dvir Abramovich states in *The Beast that Refuses to Die: The Rise of Anti-Semitism in Europe and the Role of the Media* that journalists and commentators have contributed to a climate that has made violence against Jews a common phenomenon. *The London Evening Standard* recently claimed that the State of Israel no longer has a right to exist and the Israeli army is poisoning water supplies in the West Bank.

A media rush to judgment against Jews and Israel is demonstrated by

When it was finally determined that Palestinians had killed the boy, the story was simply dropped without further comment or explanation.

A new anti-Christian and secular European culture has thrown Christian values and norms overboard. This is disturbingly evident in school. My own experience in teaching part-time is confirming this. It is shocking to hear from young people who were brought up in Christian homes, for whom the Bible and the message of salvation has no appeal at all. In all of the anti-Semitism we must pose the question: Are Christians next?

Karl Barth once said: “The continued existence of Jewish people, despite over two millennia of man’s attempted destruction, is the only concrete evidence that God has any veracity.”

Verbal abuse, physical assaults and attacks on any ethnic or religious group must be condemned. I fear that a second Holocaust, when Jews in Europe and America are killed merely for being Jews, is no longer impossible. □

*Henk Askes lived and taught in South Africa for 45 years. He now lives in his native country of Holland. During his career, he has authored or co-authored over 35 books, as well as numerous articles.*