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These anti-Semitic acts that plague France

By [Stéphane Kovacs](#)

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An anti-Semitic tag on the wall of the Jean-Claude-Mazet stadium, discovered on October 8 in Carcassonne. *NATHALIE AMEN VALS / PHOTOPQR/L'INDÉPENDANT / MAXPPP*

Since October 7, "857 anti-Semitic acts" have been recorded in France, according to the Minister of the Interior. This is double the number of incidents recorded for the whole of 2022.

Swastikas addressed to the mayor of Petit-Quevilly, in Seine-Maritime, drawn on a pedestrian crossing in Nice, in front of a secondary school in Libourne, in Gironde, on a gymnasium in Riom, in the Puy-de-Dôme, or on the garage door of an inhabitant of the Grasse hinterland. Swastikas even in a primary school in a village in Mayenne, reproduced in Lego bricks in the playground... Since October 7, the date of the Hamas attack on Israel, "857 anti-Semitic acts" have been recorded in France, Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin said Tuesday.

Not to mention a dozen bomb threats targeting Jewish schools in the Paris region, and a whole litany of '*Death to the Jews*' or calls for an intifada chanted in the streets during demonstrations that were banned... On Wednesday, the case was referred to the Paris prosecutor's office "For anti-Semitic and hateful songs, shouts and remarks" uttered by young people in the subway. "*Fuck the Jews and fuck your mother! Fuck the Jews and the grandmothers! We're Nazis and we're proud!*", can be heard in a video circulating on social media.

More than 430 people were arrested and "*More than 230 investigations (are) ongoing*" *Élisabeth Borne* said. "*I want to tell our fellow citizens of the Jewish faith that if they have marks, graffiti on their businesses, on their properties, they should call the police*" insisted *Gérald Darmanin*. *The Republic will protect them and will have a very firm hand.* "Some 956 sites are now protected by the gendarmes and soldiers of Operation Sentinelle. '*An extremely powerful acceleration of the phenomenon*', is frightened *CRIF President Yonathan Arfi*, which recalls that for the whole of 2022 the Ministry of the Interior and the Jewish Community Protection Service (SPCJ) had not identified "*that*" 436 anti-Semitic acts. And "*It wasn't the outrage over the images from Gaza that was the trigger, he points out. The anti-Semitic acts began as early as October 7, even before the Israeli response.*"

'Outraged and shocked'

President of Union of Jewish Students of France (UEJF), *Samuel Lejoyeux* adds: "*There's clearly a desire on the part of the people who did this to terrify.*" At the same time, in the universities, the UEJF is observing a '*Atmospheric anti-Semitism*', '*Clearly pushed by far-left circles*'. With "*A lot of low-level attacks on people: insults, threats...*" "*We have students in such a bad way that they ask us for certificates not to go to class*" *Samuel Lejoyeux* sighs. *They are all the more terrified that it is no longer just "Dirty Jews" tags in the toilets, but acts aimed at specific people. I have a friend in Strasbourg who has just found her door locked with a 'Death to the Jews'.*"

We have students in such a bad way that they ask us for certificates not to go to class. They are all the more terrified that it is no longer just "Dirty Jews" tags in the toilets, but acts aimed at specific people

Samuel Lejoyeux, President of the Union of Jewish Students of France (UEJF)

On the night of Monday to Tuesday, in several Parisian districts, Stars of David were spray-painted, stenciled, on homes inhabited by Jews. *"Outraged and shocked," the mayor of the 14th arrondissement, Carine Petit, and her municipal team immediately condemned "these anti-Semitic and racist acts," recalling "the methods of the 1930s and the Second World War that led to the extermination of millions of Jews."* His colleagues Éric Lejoiner and Philippe Goujon expressed the same indignation after the discovery of *"anti-Semitic tags"* in the 18th and 15th arrondissements. An investigation has been opened for damage to the property of others aggravated by the fact that it was committed because of origin, race, ethnicity or religion. After the discovery of a first set of Stars of David traced on the façade of a school in the 10th arrondissement, a Moldovan couple in an irregular situation was arrested on Friday. They must be returned to their country of origin. Similar tags appeared last weekend in Vanves and Fontenay-aux-Roses (Hauts-de-Seine), as well as in Aubervilliers and Saint-Ouen (Seine-Saint-Denis), where the stencils were accompanied by inscriptions such as *"From the sea to the Jordan, Palestine will win"*.

"We know you're Jewish, we'll be back!"

However, the investigations are *"not joined at this stage, because we do not have any elements allowing us to affirm that it is the same perpetrator or perpetrators,"* the Paris prosecutor's office said in a statement. In addition, he points out, *"we don't know if these tags are intended to insult the Jewish people or to claim to belong to them, since it is the blue star"* and not yellow. The National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism (BNVCA) described *"a very alarming situation."* *"The Jewish community is extremely worried about itself, but also about the future of the Republic,"* said the BNVCA's lawyer, Franck Serfati. *There is this pharmacist in the 11th arrondissement of Paris who called me yesterday and told me that two threatening individuals had shouted at him: "We know that you are Jewish; We'll be back!" Or this young woman driving home in Saint-Mandé by Uber: when the driver learned that her name was Sarah, she was shocked! She had to be hospitalized."*

Last week in Paris, the front door of the apartment of a Jewish couple in their eighties was set on fire. *"In the stairwell of a building in the 19th arrondissement,"* says Serfati, *"surveillance cameras captured the conversation of two young people who had come to reconnoitre: 'You've seen the mezuzahs' (1); We'll be back," they said.* Many Jewish families have removed their mezuzah from their doors, some have even replaced their surnames on the intercom with initials. A recurring problem, the BNVCA points out, is that *"more and more police stations refuse to take complaints from victims, on the pretext that they are only neighborhood quarrels."*

Lucie, a disabled octogenarian, *"the only Jew in her public housing"*, has been fighting for eighteen months to be rehoused, reports Emmanuel Abramowicz, secretary general of the BNVCA. On the eve of Yom Kippur, however, she woke up to *"Death to the Jews"* and a swastika on her door. *"When she climbs the stairs to the third floor, with difficulty, with her walker under her arm, her neighbors spit on her, call her a 'dirty Jew,' sometimes hit her and threaten her with death,"* he said. There will be more and more of this kind of neighbourhood quarrel with small French-French jihadists if we don't bang our fists on the table and if politicians continue to fan the flames for electoral reasons!"

'Neighbourly quarrel'

"Neighborhood quarrel" also for Dominique, 70 years old, who has been harassed by a Muslim neighbor for years, and who has had to *"change the lock three times"*: *"I filed a complaint for theft, damage, threats, but the prosecutor did not qualify it as anti-Semitism,"* deplores this septuagenarian, who is weakened by a long-term illness (ALD). *If there's no bloodshed, there's nothing you can do.*" As for this other pensioner, he, like a second Jewish tenant of his social housing project in the Paris suburbs, was the victim of *"chemical attacks"* by his upstairs neighbour: *"He brought in several companies who noticed that dangerous products, making the atmosphere unbreathable, were being poured into the ventilation ducts and ventilation systems,"* says Emmanuel Abramowicz. *But he can no longer afford hotel nights... then he has to live with the windows open and put up with his sticky furniture."*

The atrocities we have seen for three weeks everywhere in France stem from statements by politicians legitimizing the violence, but also from the totally free speech that circulates on social networks. A part of the French people, an Islamo-leftist fringe, also agrees with this

Me. Serfati

Maître Serfati has already testified *"Four complaints since October 10, for incitement to anti-Jewish hatred and apology for terrorism, after the flood of despicable remarks by elected representatives of the NPA, LFI, in particular Jean-Luc Mélenchon and Danièle Obono."* *"It is obvious that the atrocities we have seen for three weeks everywhere in France, including in the most remote communes, stem from these declarations of politicians legitimizing the violence, but also from the totally free speech that circulates on social networks",* he says. *"A part of the French people, an Islamo-leftist fringe,* the lawyer further emphasizes, *In the courts, as in the case of the mural depicting Emmanuel Macron as a puppet of Jacques Attali in Avignon, there are also non-Muslims, who do not come from the housing estates but from a certain bourgeoisie, with the same hatred of the Jew."*

'One driving force, hatred of Israel'

Along with sixteen other senators, the LR Stéphane Le Rudulier has just tabled a bill "so that anti-Zionism is just as banned and condemned as anti-Semitism". "All these anti-Semitic acts that proliferate on our territory have only one motive, hatred of Israel," he said. Researcher Nonna Mayer, he recalls, had also highlighted in 2020 that "criticism of Israel and Zionism (in France) is clearly the detonator of anti-Jewish acts, which multiply after each IDF operation in the Palestinian territories".

This wave of hatred that is rising and is being displayed publicly is everyone's business. It is not the first since the Second World War, but it is on an unprecedented scale, and it is poisoning the social fabric, national cohesion and the values of the Republic

Licra (International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism)

For the International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism (LICRA), "This wave of hatred that is rising and being displayed publicly is everybody's business. It is not the first since the Second World War, but it is on an unprecedented scale, and it is poisoning the social fabric, national cohesion and the values of the Republic.", posted on Tuesday [Licra on X \(ex-Twitter\)](#). How do you "block it"?

"First of all, we must make anti-Semitism a fight of the nation and not only of the Jews," suggests Mario Stasi, its president. *Identify, prosecute and repress anti-Semitic narratives in the speeches of representatives of radical Islam, link the fight against Islamist terrorism with the fight against anti-Semitism, strengthen penal policies and educational measures for young people. Finally, ban vectors of hatred, such as the weekly Rivarol, the Palestine Vaincra collective or the Samidoun network. The government has announced that it is going to crack down, but nothing has come...*"

(1) Objects of Jewish worship affixed to the entrance of homes.

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To be read

Amnesty France president refuses to call Hamas a 'terrorist' group

Hamas "is an armed Palestinian group guilty of war crimes," Samouiller said. He went on to say that this characterization was "more precise" and therefore more useful in international law.

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According to the latest figures dated Tuesday, no fewer than 6,072 reports of online hate have been recorded by the judicial police since the Hamas raid in Israel on October 7.