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Submission of NGO Monitor to Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Regarding Their Upcoming Visit to the European Union

NGO Monitor, a project of the Institute for NGO Research,¹ an organization in Special Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC since 2013, respectfully submits the following information to the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues. We hope that the information provided will inform the upcoming visit to the European Union and contribute to an accurate assessment of the EU's implementation of its obligations under international law concerning antisemitism, hate speech, and non-discrimination.

Rising Antisemitism Across the European Union

Antisemitism across the European Union has reached levels unseen in decades. The Hamas-led massacre of October 7, 2023, and the subsequent war in Gaza triggered an explosion of antisemitic violence, intimidation, and hate speech throughout Europe. From [Paris](#) to [Berlin](#), [Brussels](#) to [Amsterdam](#), Jews have been harassed, assaulted, and vilified in schools, public transport, and online. [Synagogues have been defaced](#), [Holocaust memorials vandalized](#), and Jewish institutions forced to close temporarily under police protection.

According to data collected by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), Jewish communities across Europe reported a more than [400% increase](#) in antisemitic incidents following October 7. In its 2024 survey, the FRA found that [96% of Jewish respondents](#)

¹ Members of NGO Monitor's Advisory Board include Elliott Abrams, Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations; former Canadian Ambassador to Israel, Amb. Vivian Bercovici; Michal Cotler-Wunsh, former member of Knesset for the Blue and White Party; Hon. Michael Danby, MP, senior member of the Australian Labor Party; Harvard Professor Prof. Alan Dershowitz; Canadian Senator, Hon. Alexander Downer AC, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia; Maj. Andrew Fox, Henry Jackson Society research fellow; Hon. Linda Frum; best-selling author and commentator and British journalist and international affairs commentator, Tom Gross; Bonnie Glick, former Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer of USAID; David Harris, former CEO of the American Jewish Committee; Colonel Richard Kemp, former commander of British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan; Douglas Murray, Director of the Centre for Social Cohesion, best-selling author and commentator; former Member of Italian Parliament, Hon. Fiamma Nirenstein, UCLA Professor and President of the Daniel Pearl Foundation, Prof. Judea Pearl; US Jurist and former Legal Advisor to the State Department Judge Abraham Sofaer; Natan Sharansky, former Russian Refusenik, Dr. Einat Wilf, former member of Knesset with the Israel Labor Party and advisor to Shimon Peres; Harvard Professor Prof. Ruth Wisse; R. James Woolsey, former US Director of Central Intelligence; and Israeli Supreme Court Justice, Justice Elyakim Rubinstein.

across 13 EU countries had personally experienced or witnessed antisemitism in the preceding year, an alarming statistic that underscores the breadth of the problem.

These antisemitic incidents have included physical violence, intimidation of Jews, and open calls for genocide, conduct that goes far beyond protected speech. In Berlin in October 2023, just days after the brutal Hamas massacre, 65 police officers were injured during “Free Palestine” protests. According to a [statement published by the Berlin police](#), “colleagues have been injured in the past hours due to stones, burning liquids and acts of resistance, among other things.” In May 2024, the Nożyk Synagogue in Warsaw was hit with [three firebombs](#). In November 2024, Amsterdam [banned demonstrations](#) for three days after violent antisemitic attacks on Israeli soccer supporters hospitalized individuals by what the mayor called “antisemitic hit-and-run squads” and a “[Jew hunt](#).”

These actions do not constitute protected free expression but instead foster an environment of cultural violence where antisemitism flourishes and Jews are targeted. The scale of this surge reveals that, despite a comprehensive EU framework for combating hate crimes and discrimination, implementation remains gravely inadequate. The [EU Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia](#) (2008) and the [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan](#) (2020-2025) each commit member states to prevent and prosecute hate crimes motivated by antisemitism. Yet, in practice, many police and judicial authorities fail to recognize antisemitic motives, while political leaders and institutions hesitate to confront antisemitism when it appears under the guise of anti-Israel activism.

The inability or unwillingness to apply existing legislation leaves Jewish minorities uniquely vulnerable. In many European capitals, demonstrations in which crowds chant for the destruction of Israel or glorify terrorist organizations frequently proceed with little intervention. Such permissiveness emboldens extremists and normalizes antisemitism within mainstream discourse. Antisemitism, whether expressed through physical violence, social exclusion, or denial of Jewish self-determination, must be treated not merely as a matter of prejudice, but as a fundamental human-rights concern. The failure to protect Europe’s Jewish citizens undermines the credibility of the EU’s broader human-rights agenda and weakens its moral authority in promoting tolerance abroad.

EU Funding to NGOs Engaging in Hate Speech and Incitement

The alarming rise in antisemitism throughout Europe is compounded by another deeply troubling reality: the European Union itself continues to fund non-governmental

organizations (NGOs) that promote hatred, glorify violence, and maintain ties to designated terrorist entities. There is a direct and tangible link between EU-funded NGO activity in Israel, West Bank, and Gaza and the surge of antisemitism across Europe. Campaigns that promote antisemitism, demonize Israel, and erase the Jewish people's right to self-determination, do not remain confined to the region. They are echoed in European discourse, protests, and public institutions, fueling hostility toward Jewish communities throughout the EU.

This contradiction erodes the credibility of the EU's human rights policies and exposes serious deficiencies in its vetting and oversight mechanisms. Funding organizations that engage in hate speech not only violates EU values but may also breach the [EU's Financial Regulation](#), which prohibits funding entities involved in "incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence against a group of persons or a member of a group or similar activities that are contrary to the values on which the Union is founded." This provision was explicitly reinforced in 2024.

These include:

MIFTAH, a long-time EU funding recipient, published statements rejecting well-documented reports of systematic sexual violence committed during the October 7 attacks, dismissing them as "[unsubstantiated Israeli allegations](#)." Additionally, MIFTAH's founder and chair of its Board of Directors repeatedly [denied](#) in interviews and on her Twitter/X account Hamas' atrocities, calling accusations of massacres, rape, and the beheading of children "nonsense" and "an orchestrated smear campaign." Such denial not only constitutes hate speech under international standards but also retraumatizes victims and promotes impunity for gender-based violence. MIFTAH has further [accused](#) "Israel of harvesting of Palestinian organs."

The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), which has received millions of euros in EU and member-state funding, is linked to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a terrorist organization designated by both the EU and the US. Multiple UAWC officials have been arrested or convicted for involvement in PFLP activities, including acts of violence. On October 7, a UAWC Project Coordinator posted on Facebook, "[October 7 has witnessed the power and will of a great people](#)." On October 11, another UAWC official, posted on Facebook, "[Is there anything more beautiful than traveling by air from Lebanese](#)

[airspace to Israel airspace with a glider?! May Allah be pleased with them.](#)

[#Gone_be_the_humiliation.](#)” These statements publicly glorify violence and terror against civilians and constitute hate speech under international law, as defined by Article 4 of CERD and Article 20 of the ICCPR, inciting hostility, discrimination, and violence against Israelis and Jews.

Sabeel, a Jerusalem-based Christian organization currently receiving €1 million from the EU, is known for using antisemitic imagery and theology, accusing Israel of genocide, and promoting “one state for two nations and three religions.” In a [statement published by Sabeel](#) for New Year’s 2025, Sabeel’s founder stated that “Our people will fear neither Israeli genocide nor Israeli erasure because, with our Muslim brothers and sisters, we say, God is Greater, knowing that **God indeed stands above Israel’s evil snares and conspiracies and God will ultimately defeat the evil schemes of Zionism**” (emphasis added).

These examples demonstrate a systemic failure in the EU’s vetting, oversight, and enforcement mechanisms. The funding of organizations whose leadership or communications glorify violence directly contradicts the EU’s commitments under its Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2020-2024), as well as its own counter-terror and hate-speech frameworks.

Systemic Implications

The EU’s funding of these organizations not only legitimizes hatred but distorts the concept of civil society by supporting actors who exploit human-rights discourse to justify terror, deny Jewish self-determination, and erase Israeli victims.

This failure to apply consistent standards not only weakens the EU’s credibility in combating antisemitism within its own borders but also emboldens extremists abroad. Upholding the EU’s foundational values requires ensuring that no taxpayer money supports organizations that engage in hate speech or glorify violence.

Recommendations

Antisemitism in Europe continues to rise at alarming levels, threatening Jewish communities and undermining EU principles of equality, human dignity, and protection of minorities. This crisis is compounded by the EU’s own funding of NGOs that propagate hatred and glorify

violence. Enforcing existing legislation, strengthening oversight, and ensuring that EU funds do not support such actors are essential steps to uphold the Union's stated values and protect all minority communities.

To restore credibility and ensure effective protection for minority communities, NGO Monitor recommends that the Special Rapporteur urge the European Union to:

- Enforce existing EU and member-state hate crime legislation consistently and transparently, ensuring all antisemitic incidents are properly recorded, investigated, and prosecuted.
- Adopt a zero-tolerance policy toward antisemitism across all EU institutions and publicly condemn antisemitic rhetoric, including that disguised as political criticism of Israel.
- Ensure strict implementation of the 2024 EU Financial Regulation, excluding from funding any entity or partner found to engage in incitement, hate speech, or glorification of violence.
- Conduct an independent review of EU-funded NGOs to verify compliance with EU values, terrorism regulations, and hate speech provisions.
- Require all EU-funded civil society partners to adopt and adhere to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.
- Establish clear oversight and sanctions mechanisms to prevent repeat funding to organizations that deny atrocities, glorify terror, or promote antisemitic narratives.