

Anti-Semitic Vandalism In U.S. Declined In 1983

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Anti-Semitic vandalism and other attacks against Jewish institutions, businesses and homes declined substantially in 1983 for the second year in a row, according to the annual audit conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

ADL's national director Nathan Perlmutter said the survey revealed 670 incidents across the nation, a decline of 19 percent from the 829 incidents recorded in 1982.

The nationwide total for 1982 was almost 15 percent lower than the 974 recorded in 1981. The two-year decline reversed a sharply upward trend reported since 1979.

The 1983 audit once again showed that three states, New York, California and New Jersey, accounted for a majority of the incidents — New York, 215, California, 111; New Jersey, 57.

The audit, which was based on data supplied by the League's 30 regional offices across the nation, also reported a large decrease in the number of assaults against individual Jews and threats and harassments in which Jews or Jewish-owned properties were victims or targets. The decline amounted to almost 41 percent — down from 593 in 1982 to 350 in 1983. The incidents involving assaults and harassments were tabulated separately from the category of vandalism.

The League reported that 115 persons were arrested in connection with 55 anti-Semitic incidents in both categories. Almost 90 percent of those arrested were teenagers, a statistic that followed the pattern found by previous ADL audits.

Describing the 1983 decline in anti-Semitic incidents as "welcome," Mr. Perlmutter said counteractive measures and heightened public concern over the problem likely contributed to the decline. He listed the following developments:

- Stricter law enforcement and punishment nationwide against those responsible for perpetrating anti-Semitic incidents;
- Passage of laws, many based on an ADL model statute, against religious or ethnic vandalism in sixteen states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and Washington;
- Stepped up newspaper and TV attention to "bias crimes;"
- Intensified educational programs to eradicate bigotry and promote appreciation for ethnic diversity;
- Security conferences throughout the nation, many sponsored by ADL, attended by law enforcement authorities, community leaders, educators and religious leaders to implement counteraction efforts, including strengthening

security measures for buildings and other property.

The audit cited two other possible explanations for the decline in anti-Semitic incidents.

-- The overall decrease in the number of crimes committed in this country in 1982 and the first half of 1983, as reported by the FBI;

-- Imitative behavior, which influenced increases in anti-Semitism vandalism in the past, may have been dampened during the last two years in the face of stricter law enforcement and greater public concern.

In assessing the findings of the audit, Mr. Perlmutter asserted that they provide only a single barometer for measuring anti-Jewish hostility in this country.

Anti-Semitic incidents, he said, constitute only one of several manifestations of bigotry in the U.S. of concern to the American Jewish community. Others include:

- Anti-Semitic activities of hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis and various armed paramilitary groups, including Posse Comitatus;
- The increasingly open anti-Semitism promoted by the Soviet Union as "anti-Zionism" and the activities of radical leftist organizations such as the Communist Party and the Trotskyist Socialist Workers Party whose propaganda against Israel and Zionism attacks the most heartfelt concerns of the overwhelming majority of Jews both in the United States and around the world;

-- The outpouring of anti-Semitism at the United Nations disguised as anti-Zionism;

-- Anti Israel and anti-Zionist propaganda purveyed by pro-Arab and pro-PLO groups;

-- The spreading of Holocaust revisionist propaganda by organizations and individuals that deny the reality of the Nazi annihilation of six million Jews;

-- The private prejudices and bigotries, which cannot be counted, that take place in executive suites where discrimination against Jews is practiced, or in social clubs that bar Jews from membership.

In describing the pattern of anti-Semitic incidents in 1983, the League's audit reported that the 670 episodes of vandalism took place in 32 states and the District of Columbia. This compared with 35 states and the District in which such incidents occurred in 1982.

Among other findings of the 1983 audit, prepared by the Research Department of the League's Civil Rights Division, were the following:

The Southern states reported an almost 19 percent decline, from 91 in 1982 to 74 in 1983, and the Western states showed a drop of more

than 12 percent -- from 145 in 1982 to 127 in 1983.

The Midwestern states reported an 11 percent increase -- from 72 incidents in 1982 to 80 in 1983.

In the category of assaults, threats and harassments, the nationwide total dropped from 312 to 222 in the Northeast, a reduction of almost 29 percent. The South showed a decline of 20 -- from 46 in 1982 to 26 in 1983 for a reduction of 43 percent. In the Midwest, such incidents dropped from 130 to 63 -- a decline of 51 percent, while in the West, there was a reduction of 39 -- from 76 to 37 -- amounting to a 51 percent drop.

During 1983, the number of threats in writing or by phone and harassments in which Jewish institutions were the targets was sharply lower compared to 1982. The drop was 71 percent -- from 136 in 1982 to 39 in 1983. In such incidents involving individuals as targets or victims, the decline was almost 32 percent -- from 457 in 1982 to 311 in 1983.

Serious incidents monitored by ADL -- bombings, attempted bombings, arsons, attempted arsons and cemetery desecrations -- declined in the aggregate during 1983 as they had in 1982.

There were 3 cases of arson in 1983 compared to 7 in 1982 and 10 in 1981. Attempted arsons rose to 10 in 1983 from 7 in 1982 and 6 in 1981. No bombings were reported in 1983; there were 3 in 1982 and 4 in 1981. There was one attempted bombing in 1983 compared to none in 1982 and 2 in 1981. Cemetery desecrations declined to 9 in 1983 from 15 in 1982 and 15, also, in 1981.

The audit noted that several incidents in 1983 attracted considerable publicity and were perceived by many as motivated by anti-Semitism. These included shootings directed at New York's Yeshiva University and its students, a purported arson at a Jewish center in Bloomington, In., and arson and vandalism directed at synagogues and homes of individual Jews in West Hartford, CT.

In the Yeshiva incidents, police have not yet been able to establish that anti-Semitism was the motive of the attacks. In Bloomington authorities suspect that anti-Semitism was the motivation. In the Connecticut incidents, a Jewish teenager admitted he was responsible.

"Regardless of the decline in anti-Semitic incidents in the past two years," Mr. Perlmutter concluded, "the stark fact remains that in 1983 there were 670 incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism. The vandalizing of even one religious institution or one home because of the religion or race of the occupant is one too many."

He called for continuing educational, legislative and law enforcement efforts.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Beth Hatefutsot, the prestigious Museum of the Diaspora located on the Tel Aviv University, may have to close by the end of January unless the Treasury withdraws its decision to withhold the monthly government allocation of over 10 million Shekels (100,000) which covers some 40 percent of the museum's operational expenses.

One Of A Kind Floral Design
367-0277 — 4810 Wynn Road

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

\$14⁰⁰ off a dozen roses if ordered on the 1st,
\$2⁰⁰ deducted each day until the 7th.
Order early and save!



PLAN A WEDDING OVERNIGHT 500 WEDDING GOWNS IN STOCK

MELAIRE offers you fall and winter merchandise arriving daily as featured in National Ads
Bridal Service
Gifts
Portraits by Infinite Images and
The most beautiful selection of formals from \$45 to \$200

Sizes 3-20 in stock
We order to size 44 in bridal gowns & formals
We manufacture our own beautiful bridal hats, mantillas and veils
Tall girls note, we order extra lengths
Childrens Party Frocks sizes 3-14
Festive Holiday Gowns arriving Daily

OUR TUX DEPARTMENT features
PALMBEACH and
AFTER SIX
Both Rentals & Sales

Mel Aire
BRIDAL & FORMAL SHOP
1131 E. TROPICANA
University Plaza
736-2867
Established for 18 Years

