

Identify the Signs of Anti-Semitism in Your Community

E.J. Kimball

2026 US National Conference – Friday AM Session

Sandy Wezowicz: It is my honor this morning to welcome my friend, E.J. Kimball. E.J. works at the forefront of one of the most important issues of our time the global rise of anti-Semitism. As Director of Interfaith Outreach and Engagement for the Combat Antisemitism Movement, he partners with Christian leaders to expose emerging anti-Semitic trends, decode the slogans and symbols driving today's hostility toward the Jewish people, and equip believers to recognize what they're seeing online and in their communities. He also serves as Director of Policy and Strategy for the U.S. Israel Education Association, engaging leaders in Washington, D.C., and strengthening partnerships that support the U.S. Israel Alliance and the promise of the Abraham Accords. Through E.J.'s insights, you will be challenged to recognize the moment we're living in and equipped to respond with clarity and conviction. Please give a warm welcome to E.J.

Thank you very much. Thank you. And thank you for that introduction. I would like to get a copy to share with both my wife and my mother so that they understand what I do.

Well, first of all, Susan Michael, that was incredible. We did not coordinate this at all, but I could not have asked for a better presentation before I speak because it feeds into exactly what I wanted to talk with all of you about.

I want to talk a little bit about symbols and slogans related to anti-Semitism, but I want to step back a little bit and build upon what Susan just shared with you. Anti-Semitism follows a very familiar pattern. We see this very simply. There is a problem. There is an issue. There is a concern. Something happens in the world.

It can be an earthquake. It could be a pandemic. It could be a financial crisis. It does not matter what it is, but there is a problem and immediately, who is the scapegoat? The Jews. And what do they, the anti-Semitic, do? They start with the conspiracy theories that blame the Jews for the 'problem' and they start pushing it out and you keep hearing about it.

Then what happens to the Jews? Susan talked about it. What are Jews doing today? They are hiding their Star of David. They are not coming to functions because they are worried about their security. They are not wearing the kippah because they do not want to show signs of visibly being Jewish out of fear. Why? Because there is an attempt to push them out of society.

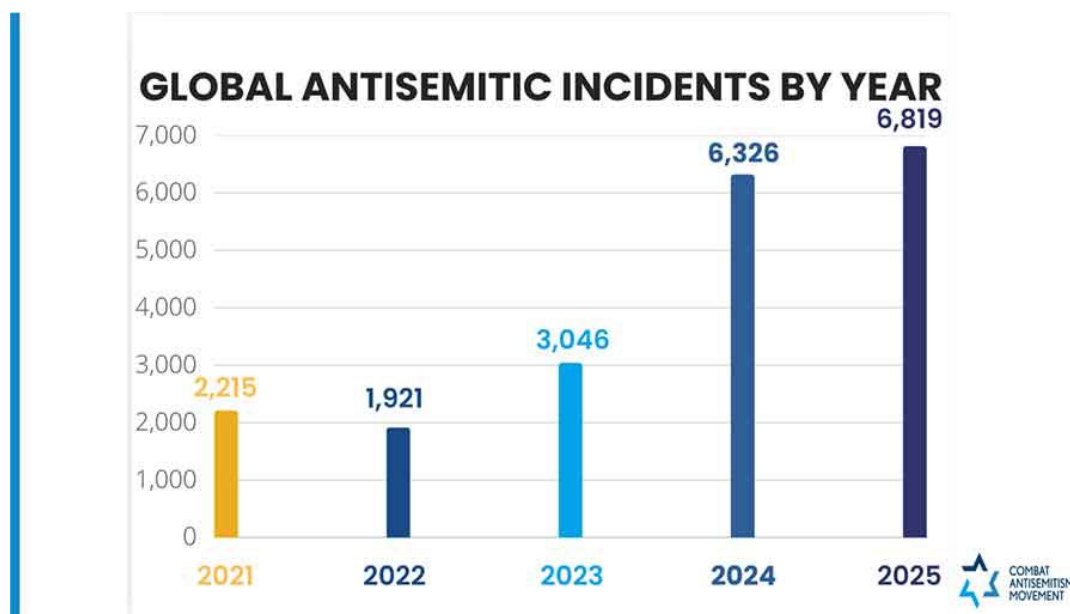
Then what happens? Remember, what was the initial cause? The initial cause was something legitimate. There is a financial crisis. Why did this happen? There is a pandemic. Why did this happen? The issue is something legitimate. It is a real concern for society. But the scapegoating is on the Jews.

The blame is on the Jews. They are trying to push Jews out of society because dehumanizing Jews leads to the point where action is taken. When that action is taken, Jews are beaten, Jews are shunned and they are not allowed to have jobs. And to the extreme, when you have situations like the Holocaust, the perpetrators do not feel that they are doing something wrong. They actually believe that they are doing the moral thing to rid the world of the evil Jews who have caused all of these problems. That is where it leads.

In 1948, you had the creation of the modern state of Israel. Before, whereas the Jews would be blamed, now it is the Jewish state, now, it is the Zionists who are being blamed. It is using Zionists as a proxy for the Jews. But it has not changed. And why? Why has this happened?

I know you all know the story of how after 2000 years, the Jewish people came back to the land. But how did the Jewish people survive for 2000 years, maintaining a culture and identity? You know, when we talk about what it means to be Jewish, it is not just about religion. It is a peoplehood. It is what held the Jewish people together for 2000 years. It is the Jewish collective that held them together. It was living in Soviet Russia. It was living in parts of Europe, in parts of the Arab world, in different parts of the globe, where leaders said, you can be a Jew, that is fine, but there is no such thing as a Jewish collective; we will not allow to happen. You have to become part of us. And the Jewish people said no, for 2000 years, they said no, that is not going to happen and today you have the Jewish nation state of Israel. And the world says you cannot do that. You have to be what we tell you to be. And what does the Jewish state say? No, that is not going to happen? And that is what drives these anti-Semites crazy.

I will get into the symbols in a moment. But just to give you some stats and thank you, Susan, I did not have the one that you shared. 2025 was much deadlier than 2024. And people talk about the surge in anti-Semitism post October 7th. And I do not think there is a surge anymore. Unfortunately, I think we have a new baseline, and that is a problem. You can see in 2023, it increased significantly from 22. And of course, that was in the last three months of the year where the bulk of that happened.



I am thankful to report that 2026 so far seems to be lower than it was in 2025, which is an encouraging sign. And of course, the places where the majority of this happens is in New York, California, which

have very large Jewish populations, DC rose to third on the list. Now, this is according to our data. We have an anti-Semitism research center at CAM, and that's where we are pulling our data now. In order to fight anti-Semitism, you do need to define anti-Semitism. I am going to very briefly go through this because to simply put it, anti-Semitism is Jew hatred. Now it can turn into hatred of the Jewish state, but at its core, it is Jew hatred. There is a great definition. I am not going to get into it in too much detail, but it is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism.

IHRA Working Definition



"Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for "why things go wrong." It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits."



It is a tool to help you understand what you are seeing and what you are hearing. And it is a certain perception of Jews. And the second sentence there, rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals. How can it be anti-Semitism if they are attacking non-Jews? And the importance is because it is not about the identity of the victim, but the motivation of the attacker. If you are wearing a Jewish Star of David and waving an Israeli flag, and you are attacked by someone who says, stop killing Palestinian babies, stop the genocide, you are not Jewish. But that is an anti-Semitic attack.

The second part to the definition, and you see in yellow what Susan was mentioning, of course, criticism of Israel. That is something that Jews love to do. That does not make you anti-Semitic. It is when you are holding the Jewish state to a double standard that no other state in the world is held to. It is when you are demonizing that state, when you are dehumanizing the people.

And the third part, there are 11 contemporary examples of things that may be anti-Semitism. Some of them are historic, some of them are more modern. You can see here accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to the State of Israel than to their own state, denying the Jewish people the right to self-determination. You know, this whole question of does Israel have same right to exist as any other country in the world?

Entertain that question. Does Brazil have a right to exist? Do we talk about that? No. But does Israel have a right to exist? And the question that should be asked is what are they trying to get at? It is not about legitimate debate. It is about conspiracy theories. It is about repeating these lies, repeating these phrases. So maybe you don't buy it, but the next generation does, because that is what they have grown up hearing.

Anti-Semitism is not a crime. It is important to know we have free speech in this country. It is interesting talking to colleagues who work on anti-Semitism in Europe. Well, they do not have free speech in Europe. You can criminalize speech. That is not the case in the United States. It is abhorrent, but it is constitutionally protected.

So, I want to do a little something here, a little word association. And you seem like an active crowd that may participate. I just did a presentation for law enforcement. It is a little different vibe in the room. So just shout out what comes to mind when I say the word watermelon? Yeah. What about the sun? Okay, what about swastika? Anyone call out the Hindu swastika? No. You know the swastika existed before the Nazis. But who do you associate it with? The Nazis? Hitler, the Holocaust? Well, you have been educated.

Prior to October 7th, 2023 the biggest anti-Semitic worldwide event in modern history was the Holocaust. There was a concerted effort to teach about what happened, to make sure that it never happened again. We need to do the same thing post October 7th, because the symbols and slogans post October 7th are not the same. Some of them existed before, but they were not well known. So, I want to run through some of them with you.

Anyone ever see the **upside-down red triangle**? It is actually something that was used by the Nazis during the Holocaust to identify communists. Now it is something that Palestinian terrorist organizations started using to target Israelis. Israeli IDF tanks, locations. They would paint the upside-down red triangle. That is where you should target. **Post October 7th, it has been used not just to go after Jews or Jewish institutions, but also against those that support them.**

Inverted Red Triangle

- Used to identify political prisoners during the Holocaust.
- Palestinian groups like Hamas have adopted it to mark targets during attacks.
- The red triangle is weaponized to intimidate and incite hostility, repurposing a Holocaust-era symbol of persecution into a modern tool for hate against Jews.



Inverted Red Triangle – New York City

- In February 2025, an inverted red triangle was found placed atop the subway plaque for Yeshiva University.

ADL
@ADL

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A clear-cut case of antisemitism on the NYC subway: An inverted red triangle, a symbol Hamas has used to indicate targets, was placed atop the subway plaque for Yeshiva University, a Modern Orthodox university and the world's premier Jewish institution for higher education.

More about the red triangle
here: extremismterms.adl.org/glossary/inver...

3:43 PM · Feb 14, 2025 · 11.3K Views

COMBAT ANTISEMITISM MOVEMENT

Here you can just see the **upside-down red triangle in New York City, at Yeshiva University**. When I show this to law enforcement, it is a very clear message. If you understand what that red triangle means to them, you understand that is a threat.

Inverted Red Triangle – Columbia University

- In April 2025, an inverted triangle was found in a bathroom at Columbia University.

StopAntisemitism
@StopAntisemites

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Columbia University's Apartheid Divest group boasted on Telegram about protesters threatening Acting President Claire Shipman.

They vandalized a bathroom with an inverted red triangle, an icon Hamas uses to mark targets before striking.

This is a direct threat. These students and groups should be expelled immediately.

H/T: @Eliana_Goldin

9:06 PM · Apr 3, 2025 · 18.7K Views

COMBAT ANTISEMITISM MOVEMENT

And this was seen at **Columbia University in a bathroom, the upside-down red triangle**. It is a threat. If any of you see this where you live, know it is a threat. **If you see that on a building - You should report it.** I will get to this at the end, but CAM, the Combat Antisemitism Movement, has a new app. It is called **Report It**. If you see something, you can take a picture, you can write in the location of it. We will share it with law enforcement.

Susan talked about the red hands. Right. Artists for Ceasefire. Red hands, **red bloody hands**. We want cease fire. Right. **But the Red hands comes from an incident in 2000 when two IDF reserve soldiers accidentally made their way into Ramallah**, the Palestinian Authority capital. And to their credit, the security forces took them to a security location and called the IDF, and said, hey, two of your people

are here. You better get here. Well, they did not get there fast enough. **People found out there were a couple of Jews. They went in, they beat and ripped them apart. And you can see that person's two red hands in the window. That was showing the crowd what he did.** Now, do I believe that all these celebrities in Hollywood know this? No. I doubt any of them know this. They are ignorant. They are being used as tools. But this is what they are promoting.

Red Hands

- Popularized by the Artists4Ceasefire pin, the red hands symbol has gained widespread attention, frequently used in advocacy for a ceasefire in Gaza, appearing at protests and on social media.
- In October 2000, two IDF reservists inadvertently entered Ramallah and were brutally lynched by a mob.
- A harrowing photo from that day captured one of the perpetrators proudly displaying his blood-soaked hands to a cheering crowd.
- The red hands symbol reinforces a narrative of violence and trauma for Jews and evokes this painful history.



And I mentioned the watermelon.

Watermelon

- The watermelon is used as a symbol because it matches the colors of the Palestinian flag – red, green, black and white.
- It has been adopted as a cultural and political symbol representing the desire to replace Israel with a Palestinian state.



Do not feel guilty. It has become a symbol because **the watermelon colors sort of symbolize the Palestinian flag colors.** And you see in the bottom picture, it is used there in conjunction with the red hands, the genocide. So, it is now become part of a symbol. And when we talk about coded language, it is not what you think it means. It is what they think it means. And you need to understand what they think it means, so that when you see it, you understand the situation that you are in. Yes, we all know this phrase because it is a call for genocide.

And it is not just genocide against Jews, it is genocide against Israel and all who live there, which are the Jews, the Christians, the Muslims, those that are agnostic or atheist. It does not matter if you live there, you are part of the problem. That is why on October 7th, when Muslims were captured by Hamas and they said, no, no, no, I am Muslim and they were saying the shahada and they are trying to prove

they are Muslim by reciting the Koran. They were slaughtered and actually, in some cases, treated worse. Why? Because they were accepting the Jewish state's existence. They were complicit.

Resistance By Any Means



"When people call terrorism 'resistance,' they are not just twisting language—they are excusing the murder of innocents."

— *Natan Sharansky*, former Israeli cabinet minister and human rights activist, Chair of CAM Board



There is only one solution. Intifada. Revolution. Globalize the intifada.

What is the intifada? It is the Palestinian uprisings that happened both in the 80s and early 2000, but they were not just uprisings. They were violent. They were vicious. They were terrorist attacks. They did not discriminate between civilian and soldier. Any Jew, any Israeli, was a fair target. Blowing up busses, blowing up restaurants. It did not matter. So, **when you hear calls to globalize the intifada, they are calling for worldwide attacks against Jews, Israel and those that support them.**

"From the River to the Sea, Palestine Will Be Free"

- Call for the annihilation of Israel.
- This phrase refers to the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, encompassing all of Israel. It implies the elimination of the State of Israel and the displacement of its Jewish population.
- Promoting the eradication of the Jewish state, denies Jewish peoplehood and Jewish history and fuels antisemitism globally.

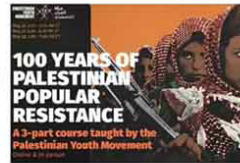




Now, this is very important because this all comes together. I will tie it all up in a nice bow for you. Resistance is justified. I do not think anyone really has a problem with that if you are being oppressed. Of course, you should be able to resist that. That oppression is not right. But resistance does not mean what we think it means. They have a different understanding of it, which is why Hamas, which is an acronym in Arabic, translates to the Islamic Resistance Movement. And what is it? **How does Hamas define resistance? It is death. It is terror. It is killing Jews. It is killing children. That is resistance. Hezbollah is the same thing.**

"Resistance is Justified"

- "Resistance" is frequently used as a euphemism for violence, especially in extremist rhetoric targeting Israel and Jews worldwide.
- Terror groups often frame terrorism as "resistance"
- Hamas and Hezbollah embed "resistance" in their names and identities: Hamas stands for "Islamic Resistance Movement," while Hezbollah's political wing is called the "Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc."
- After the October 7th massacre, references to "resistance" have been used to justify the mass murder of civilians, reframing terrorism as a legitimate political or moral act.



Anti-Israel event about "resistance" features images of gun-wielding terrorists



And if resistance is justified. And you can have resistance by any means, again, when you go out and you start slaughtering babies, killing grandparents, it is justified. It is moral. Why? Because who is the enemy? It is the Jews. You know, it is a hard thing to wrap your head around. And when I watched the unedited videos of the atrocities on October 7th, the one part that struck me the most, and if you have seen it, you may recall there was a Hamas teenager and he calls his parents and he tells them how he killed, I don't know, ten Jews, 15 Jews and he is so excited. His mother is crying with tears of joy for what he was able to do. And I am watching his face. And I felt bad because he truly believed that he had just accomplished a life goal. He was so happy he had made it. He had done what people thought was impossible. He had lived his dream. And that is how he was raised. That is the society. Think about the child abuse that goes on in Gaza. That is what touched me the most. Everything was horrific. That hurt to see that. That is the next generation. And there is more.

The paraglider on October 8th. This was already being used. You can see down there on the orange sign. Thursday, October 12th was the protest. October 7th was the attack. These were being put out. Now, I do not know if there was knowledge by these groups on college campuses, but they moved really fast. Really fast. Zionism is racism. I made the point earlier. Ask what is it that people are trying to accomplish here? Zionism is racism is something started by the Soviets. They put out a whole campaign about Zionism.

Paraglider

- On October 7, 2023, Hamas used powered paragliders to enter Israel and murder over 1,200 people and kidnap over 250 innocent people.
- After October 7th, many anti-Israel organizations have used the image of the paraglider to spread antisemitic messages.
- Ultimately, the image has become a symbol linked to the Hamas terrorist attacks, serving as a symbol of support for the Oct 7 violent attack.



What is Zionism? Well, at its core, and I will be very brief. **Zionism at its core is what kept the Jewish people together for 2000 years. It is the yearning to return to Zion.** Theodor Herzl did not invent Zionism. He created a political movement to return to the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people that they prayed towards in the daily prayers that at the end of the Passover Seder, they said, next year. Where? Not in Hawaii? Next year in Jerusalem. But if you believe Zionism began with Theodor Herzl, a European Jew, then it is a natural next step to say that, well, the State of Israel is a European colonialist movement because it was started by Europeans. But if you understand that Zionism did not begin in Europe in the late 19th century. It is thousands of years old. Then you understand that the Jewish people are indigenous to the land. But again, what is the goal here? It is to destroy that Jewish collective. You can be a Jew living amongst us, but there are certain rules you must live by.

"Zionism is Racism"

- Slogan traces back to the 1975 UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism, a resolution influenced by Soviet and Arab propaganda. Although revoked by the UN in 1991, the rhetoric persists.
- The slogan delegitimizes the Jewish state, erases Jewish peoplehood and Jewish history, and denies Jews their right to self-determination.



Just showing you this is college campuses, Hezbollah flags, Hamas flags. I know that I do not have to convince you of this but, you know, this is the Houthi slogan – 2nd photo below. You notice after Allah is great, does it say death to Israel? No, because their number one enemy is America. America is the great Satan. Israel's the little Satan.

Hamas Flag



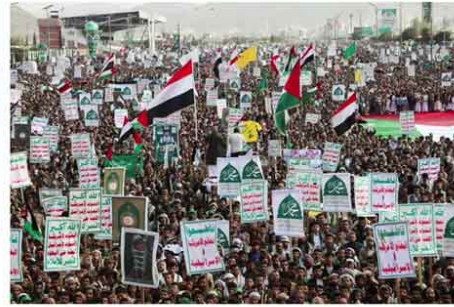
Student at Stanford University wearing a Hamas headband.



Hamas flag spotted at a demonstration in Chicago



Houthi Slogan Flag



Houthi supporters demonstrate in Sanaa, Yemen, August 29, 2025 (Reuters)



The keffiyeh, which is a traditional Arab headdress popularized by Yasser Arafat. It is used now to intimidate.

Palestinian Keffiyeh

- A traditional Middle Eastern headdress and symbol of Palestinian nationalism.
- The garment has been popularized by Palestinian terrorist groups.
- Some may wear the keffiyeh purely as a cultural or fashion statement.
- However, many Jews view the keffiyeh as an indicator of hostility given its association with antisemitic violence.



And this is the big part, because it is not just the individual symbols and slogans, it is the convergence of these symbols together. You want to put up red hands and say, look, bloody hands, I want ceasefire! I want ceasefire. I want the bloodshed to end.

Convergence of Symbols



On its own, you can rationalize that, but when you understand what the symbol actually means and you combine it with these other symbols, it is very clear about what they are calling for. It is calling for the final solution of Hitler to be accomplished. That's what their goal is. So, what can you do? Report

it. Now go on your phone and go to the app store and type Report it. It will bring up our app. Download it. If you see something you can report it through the app.

If you can, do something in your community to train people on these symbols and slogans, so that people are aware. It is something that we talk to law enforcement about to encourage their communities and pastors, to bring this to their churches. Even Jews do not all recognize this is something they need to understand. After October 7th, the Jewish community in America was not prepared for what happened next. We need to recognize what is happening, and we need to step up and fight back against it.

If you use this QR code, you can go to our website and sign up for our newsletters. It's CombatAntisemitism.org, you can look it up. And with that, thank you very much. I appreciate this opportunity.

