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Antisemitism in the Turkish Media: Part 1

The rising antisemitism in the Turkish media is a complex phenomenon that manifests itself in several forms:

1. Animosity towards Jews, Judaism and 'Jewish lobbies.' Jews are targeted as individuals, a community, people and "race," and as a sinister political entity seeking Jewish dominance on world affairs, businesses and media. Jews are demonized in many conspiracy theories including causing earthquakes, globalization, and the creation of Wahhabism in Saudi Arabia.

2. A hostile approach towards the Jewish citizens of Turkey, questioning their loyalty; blaming them of treason and for the fall of the Ottoman Empire; characterizing them with derogatory adjectives; inciting the public by citing Koran verses hostile to them; and creating an atmosphere conducive to violence. [1] This type of antisemitism also targets Masonic lodges and freemasons for their alleged connections with Judaism.

3. Antisemitism that in recent years has turned into a harsh campaign, which some Turkish intellectuals have called "a witch hunt" against the 'Dönme' [2] who are regarded as 'hidden Jews' posing as Muslims. They are blamed for helping to found the modern Republic of Turkey as a 'spare' Jewish state, for holding all key positions' in Turkey and for ruling the country.

4. Antisemitism directed at Israel and Zionism. The word 'Zionists' often replaces the word 'Jews' in the press.

This is the first part in a series of reports which will be released in the coming weeks. The following are excerpts from articles in the Turkish press dealing with antisemitism (the format of the text appears as in the original):

"The Disgusting Form of Racism Called Antisemitism, is Fast Growing and Causing the Increased Interest in 'Mein Kampf'"

In an article titled 'Mein Kampf and the Protocols of Zion', Ayse Hür wrote in the left of center, liberal daily *Radikal*: [3]

"Recently there are two interesting books in the 'bestseller' lists: Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and the *Protocols of Zion*. *Mein Kampf* which is the 'handbook' for the ultra- nationalists of Turkey was translated [into Turkish] and published about 45 times between the years of 1940 and 2005. [...] the *Protocols of Zion*, which inspired *Mein Kampf*, was published in full or in summarized form over 100 times during 1943-2004. *Mein Kampf* which is thought to sell about 1,000 copies a year, is now being marketed by 11 publishers.

"[...] Sami Celik, the owner of Emre Publications, who recently printed 31,000 copies told Aksam newspaper on February 27, 2005: 'Following our research and observations, we thought that *Mein Kampf* would be a book that would be sought after and read by the public. [...] *Mein Kampf* was [indeed] affected by [recent] developments and its sale figures peaked.' [4] As a matter of fact it has become a sort of handbook for the [electorate] base of MHP [the ultra-nationalist 'National Movement Party'] and 'Genc Parti' [the Youth Party]. Some claim that it is very popular among the students at police academies.

"In the same newspaper [*Aksam*] we read sociologist Prof. Mustafa Erkal who said: 'Reading Hitler is a reaction. Israel's policies and goals cause a reaction. Naturally, people get curious about Hitler's antisemitism and want to learn more about what he did and wanted to do.' What our academician failed to say is the fact that in Turkey, as in the rest of the world, animosity toward the Jews, that disgusting form of racism called antisemitism, is fast growing and causing the increased interest for *Mein Kampf*. We know that publishing this book in Europe is banned; and in Germany even its possession is a crime. [...]

"Having '*Mein Kampf*' and the '*Protocols*' on our bestseller list today, must make us think twice before we claim 'there is no antisemitism here.'"

"It is the Jews Who Should Read Mein Kampf"

Columnist Arslan Tekin of the nationalist-Islamic daily *Yenicağ*, wrote in an article titled 'Yes, *Mein Kampf* should be taught in schools:' "Everybody should read it, and should learn the reasons why Hitler came about." [\[5\]](#)

11 days later, Tekin wrote in his column in *Yenicağ*: [\[6\]](#) "Can a Hitler rise in America? It can happen... What was [true] for Germany before Hitler came to power is [now] exceedingly true for America. Big banks, big TV organs, big newspapers, all the tools that can trap the public opinion are in the hands of the Jews... Politics is run by them too.

"What is the proportion of the Jewish [population] in America of 200 million [sic]. Must not even be two percent. They have an image beyond what their numbers merit. I am sorry for the Jews... How come they do not think about the effect their disproportionate 'grandeur' would have on the majority of the [American] people! In Germany, Hitler did not rise just single-handedly. He only answered the questions asked by his people.

"Hey Jews! The world cannot bear to have another Hitler [because of you]. Your disproportionate [presence]; your recklessness; your daring to burn the world for [even] one Jew, makes the American people and everyone in the world ask the question: 'what's happening here?' Do you know how the US is seen now? [It looks like] the biggest Jewish empire of the world. [...]

"I, like everyone else, am seeing this situation... Hitler's *Mein Kampf* must be read especially by the Jews.

"A madman like Hitler does not just come about [without a reason]... The book which you define as 'nonsense' has set the world on fire. The Jews should think about the reasons [why]."

"Hitler Was a Man of Foresight"

Abdurrahim Karakoç, a columnist at the Islamic newspaper *Vakit* praised Hitler: [\[7\]](#)

"[...] It is impossible not to admire the foresight of Adolph Hitler, who is presented to public opinion as 'racist, sadistic, and monstrous.' Way back then, Hitler foresaw what would happen these [present] days. He cleansed off these swindler Jews, who believe in racism for a religion and take pleasure in bathing the world in blood, because he knew that they would become [this] big a curse for the world.

"[...] Hitler indeed was a man of foresight [...] So Hitler did the job, yet Israel is presented to the world public opinion as the innocent victim.

"[...] The second man with foresight is evidently Osama bin Laden. If a stone hits a dog's leg somewhere in the world, Osama bin Laden gets blamed. [...] Bin Laden had foreseen what would happen in Iraq, in Palestine, and in the prisons of Guantanamo.

"He [Osama] alone, or perhaps with a few friends, defies the superpowers of the world and sets fear inside the very shelters of the oppressors. [...] It was Hitler yesterday, and it is Osama bin Laden today [...]"

"Couldn't You Find Other People to Send to Turkey, Than the 'Jew' Edelman and the 'Jew' Feith?"

In reaction to a *Wall Street Journal* article by Robert Pollock [\[8\]](#) [on the rising anti-Americanism in Turkey] columnist Serdar Kuru wrote in the nationalist Turkish daily *Ortadoğu*: [\[9\]](#)

"[Pollock's] article determines that Turkey is becoming a paranoid third world country. And the reason they think we are paranoid is the widespread belief among Turks that America is [nothing but a] toy in the hands of Jews who have designs of aggression against Turkey. The author of the article seems to be annoyed at the exposure of the *Jewish* identities of the American Ambassador Edelman and later of [Douglas] Feith during his visit [to Turkey].

"[...] In reality it is clear who ordered this poor shooter [Robert Pollock, WSJ] to write this article [...] Our problem is with the Zionist Jews who have grabbed every corner in America and the Evangelist Christians that they [the Jews] feed, who plan [together] to set on fire the whole world and our country. The ones who are disturbed by people, who oppose their plans, are the same ones who prepare these plans.

" *The Wall Street Journal*, where this article was published belongs to the Dow Jones Corporation. Peter R. Kahn, the head of Dow Jones is *Jewish* and is a member of CFR. This man's wife Karen House is the head of the *Wall Street Journal*. She too is *Jewish* and a member of CFR. Mrs. Karen is also the director of RAND, the think tank that prepared the world domination plans for the Bush team. Vice President of Dow Jones, Joseph Stern, is one of America's most famous *Jewish* lawyers. A Board of Directors member is Lewis Campbell who owns Textron the gun manufacturer and heads the security operations of the capitalist Round Table. One other Director of the Board is former president of American Express, Harvey Golubda and he is *Jewish*.

"By now you must have understood why Wall Street Journal is disturbed by Turkey's anti-Zionist attitude. This *Jewish* Dow Jones Corporation also has an exchange fund called "Dow Jones Islamic Market Turkey." This strange exchange fund [claims] to do brokerage with no interest. Some stupid fools who think they can make money without paying interest must be entrusting their monies into the hands of *Jews*. As you can see my friends, the reactions to the Turkish attitude towards American and Zionist expansionisms are not objective [...] they are coming from the Zionists themselves.

"Is it our fault that behind every immorality, incitement, conspiracy and filth there is a *Zionist* ? Couldn't you send to Turkey people other than the *Jew* Edelman and the *Jew* Feith? [...]"

"Our Times are Similar to 1930's in Germany"

In the leftist-liberal daily *Radikal*, Murat Necip Arman wrote: [10]

"The discussions we are having now are almost identical to the ones they had in Germany during the 1930's. At those days the press articles were not openly targeting the non-Germanic races yet, but were often arguing that they [the Jews] dominated the economy and that they were conducting [secret] activities that would ruin the fiber of the German society.[...]

"On New Year's Eve, in a TV channel which does not feel the need to hide its ties to a [Turkish] political party, it was recounted at great length that the Jews are a cursed people and that for this reason it was obligatory for the Muslims to eradicate them [the Jews]. [...] it should not be forgotten that to openly say such a sentence constitutes a crime. [...] While this neo-antisemitism is recklessly manifested in almost all media organs, in the eyes of the masses Israel's aggression towards Palestinians provides justification for such a dangerous kind of racism.

"[...] This animosity towards the non-Muslims, the like of which we have not witnessed in many years, is hovering over Turkey and agitating masses of people who are not bothered by its [grave] consequences.

"As I said, what we have here [in Turkey] presents similarities with Germany of the 1930's. I hope common sense prevails in Turkey and this dangerous trend does not lead to frightening results. [...]

"At least the national press must keep in mind its social responsibility in presenting these matters with a cool head. Political parties can play dangerous games for political gains. [...] But the media's common sense is essential [...]"

"Persecution by Hitler Much Exaggerated"

Upon the German Government's decision to ban the publication of the Turkish Islamic daily *Vakit* in Germany, a columnist at *Vakit*, Hüseyin Üzmez, wrote: [11]

"[...] It is true that persecution [of Jews] by Hitler is much exaggerated. We are sick and tired of [listening to] stories of the inhuman persecution and torture he committed against the Jews. It is said that Hitler himself was a Jew... that he committed cruelty only to force the Jews to migrate from Europe to Palestine ... and that it was the Israeli Zionists who dictated these acts upon him, at the time they were founding Israel. Two great powers

(money and media) are in Jewish hands. The 'treacherous local collaborators' and some international organizations are also in their command.

"All humanity knows the fact that they [the Jews] are unequalled in [their] lobbying [skills]. With all this power and the tools, they can make or break anyone. [...] Who can oppose them? We saw the best example of this in what the German Interior Minister did to our newspaper Vakit. Against all the European human rights agreements, German police was putting pressure on our paper. We were in the midst of a judicial process. Our paper was illegally shut down [...] Then the German Interior Minister interfered. He banned our paper. [...] This was a [perfect] example of execution without a trial. [...] It is obvious that he [the interior minister] was directed [by someone high above] into making such a decision. [...] This is how powerful the Zionists are. And this is the supposedly 'civilized and modern' West.

"[...] the German Interior Minister, who was so angry at us because we said 'Hitler had not killed six million Jews,' cannot be German. We are very curious to know whether he is a Jew?"

"Jewish Paranoia"

Columnist Yusuf Kaplan of the Islamic *Yeni Şafak* writes: [\[12\]](#)

"Jewish paranoia (= fanaticism) is a phenomenon found in Jews that is an integral part of their character, blood and soul. Since paranoia is the form of Jewish existence and self- expression, they have never refrained from exposing it at every occasion, in the past and the present.

"[...] the Jewish paranoia can reach barbaric, cruel and inhuman dimensions [...]

"Jewish paranoia has determined the color and the shape of our times. What keeps this paranoia alive is the power that the Jews possess [which enables them] to shape and direct the politics, economies and cultures of especially the western countries.

"[...] Jews also rule the Western universities and world media. [...]

"Jewish desire to dominate everything in the Western countries, and the way they easily and arrogantly exploit organizations and individuals to serve Jewish interests, may end up causing a short circuit within the democratic institutions of the West. Their nosy interference with everything, and their actions beyond the reach of their size, have already started to draw serious reactions in the Western countries. Because the Jewish paranoia is blown to extreme, forced and artificial dimensions, it can explode any day and take care of them [the Jews] and cost them dearly."

"The Jews and Christian Zionism"

In his article titled 'Globalization Projects and Nationalists' Israfil Kumbasar of the nationalist-Islamic daily *Yenicağ*, summarizes a lecture by Mehmet Gül [\[13\]](#) at a recent [pan-Turkic] Turan Cultural Foundation's meeting: [\[14\]](#)

"[...] The only 'secret' power behind the globalization project are the Jews and the masons!...

"The 'Jewish Zionists whose goal is the 'total Jewish domination of the world' claim that a 'messiah' will come down from the sky and will build the 'World Kingdom'!...

"The same expectation is widely shared by the 'Christian Zionists' who accept all that the 'Old Testament' says!... The Christian Zionists believe that all humanity will become Christian with the coming of Jesus, the 'son of God'!...

"The Neo-Con representatives of Evangelism that amalgamates the 'Christian Zionism' and the 'Jewish Zionism' are ruling America now!...[...] they are looking for 'sacred allies' in the Islamic world, who will serve their purposes!...

"In recent years some communities with 'messianic views' are appearing within the Islamic world [...] !...

"[...] We can understand the games played on the Muslim world if we learn that the 'Wahhabism' which originated in Saudi Arabia is plotted by the 'masons' to 'leave the Muslims behind.' Bahaism, Kadianism [...] and other 'messiah waiting' Muslim communities all help serve 'the new world order'!... [...] it seems that these 'Zionist Muslims' will soon say that 'greater Israel' is the will of the great architect of the universe'!... The Muslim Turks who follow them will only see the realities when it is too late and our lands between the Euphrates and the Tigris will already be in Israeli hands.

"[...] 'Messianic belief' is a 'Zionist trap' for all humanity! [...]"

[1] On November 15, 2003, two major synagogues in Istanbul were bombed by Turkish Islamic terrorists, killing 26 and wounding hundreds, most of them Muslim Turks who were in the vicinity. On August 21, 2003, a Jewish dentist, Dr. Y.Yahya, had been murdered in his clinic. The perpetrator confessed upon his arrest that he had wanted to kill 'a Jew' [after what he read about the Jews in the press]. On March 9, 2004, a Masonic lodge in Istanbul was also attacked by two suicide bombers, killing one and wounding five, and the bombers were later found to have had ties with the synagogue bombers. A gun used in the attack against the Masonic lodge proved to be the same one used in the execution style murder of the Jewish dentist.

[2] The 'Dönme' are descendants of the Jewish followers of a self-proclaimed messiah, Sabbetai Sevi (1626-1676) who was forced by the sultan to convert to Islam in 1666. They consider themselves Muslims and officially are recognized as such. *Dönme* is the Turkish word for 'convert' but it carries overtones of 'turncoat' as well.

[3] *Radikal* 2 (Turkey), March 13, 2005.

[4] According to the most recent reports, 'Mein Kampf' has climbed to second place in Turkey's 'Bestsellers' list. The first place is occupied by a book titled 'Metal Storm,' a futuristic novel set in 2007 when Turkey is attacked by the U.S. military, after which a young Turkish hero explodes a nuclear bomb in America.

[5] *Yenicağ* (Turkey), March 15, 2005. This Turkish daily newspaper is a synthesis of radical Islam and MHP (Nationalist Movement Party) nationalism.

[6] *Yenicağ* (Turkey), March 26, 2005.

[7] *Vakit* (Turkey), August 17, 2004. In February 2005 publication of this newspaper was banned in Germany, for antisemitic incitement and its denial of the Holocaust.

[8] *The Wall Street Journal*, February 16, 2005.

[9] *Ortadoğu* (Turkey), February 19, 2005. Ortadoğu is a nationalist Turkish daily close to MHP (Nationalist Movement Party) which was a coalition partner in the previous government.

[10] *Radikal* (Turkey), January 23, 2005.

[11] *Vakit* (Turkey), February 28, 2005.

[12] *Yeni Şafak* (Turkey), February 21, 2005. This Islamic daily newspaper is known to be an unofficial mouthpiece of the AKP government. The newspaper's owner and PM Erdoğan have become in-laws, after the recent marriage of their children.

[13] Mehmet Gül is a former member of Parliament from MHP (Nationalist Movement Party), and he was addressing a Turan [pan-Turkic] ultra-nationalist gathering.

[14] *Yenicağ* (Turkey), March 4, 2005.

Special Dispatch Series - No. 904 **May 5, 2005**

Antisemitism in the Turkish Media (Part II) – Turkish Intellectuals Against Antisemitism

Antisemitism in the Turkish media targets not only Jews in general, but also the Turkish citizens who are members of the small Jewish community of about 20,000 people. Increasingly, newspapers are accusing Turkish Jews of disloyalty, of betrayal, and of having hidden and sinister agendas. The Turkish media has recently blamed the Jews for espousing secularism and for espionage against Turkey.

This antisemitism, in which Turkish nationalism and radical Islam find common ground, is of growing concern to some Turkish intellectuals. The following report addresses the views and concerns of those intellectuals:

Turkish Intellectuals Petition: "Zero Tolerance for Antisemitism"

In its October 2004 issue, the socialist Turkish magazine *Birikim* published a petition titled "Zero Tolerance for Antisemitism." The petition was signed by Muslim and non-Muslim intellectuals ([see Appendix](#)). The following are excerpts: [\[1\]](#)

"As long as a danger is not properly articulated, it cannot be fought against. On the contrary: Vague words only conceal the evil.

"We, the undersigned, wish to draw attention to the ever-present and steadily increasing antisemitism in Turkey, and to share our observations and concerns with all those who may be interested.

"The various historical examples of racist violence and discrimination against non-Turkish, non-Muslim, non-Sunni citizens of the Turkish Republic have, albeit to a limited extent, been pointed out and criticized, whereas antisemitism remains, with few exceptions, a subject which is met with silence, underestimation, or outright denial.

"The Twilight Zone

"[...] Publications have become vehicles for promoting confusion regarding concepts such as Nazism, fascism, Zionism, the Holocaust, genocide, etc., emptying these of their [true] content and blurring their differences. They debase the Holocaust by stripping it of its historical uniqueness, thus giving a green light to Holocaust denial.

"The historical specifics of antisemitism, its geographical pervasiveness, and its all-encompassing class, social, and cultural basis deserve to be dealt with as a separate issue. What we wish to point out is that a large sector of the Left, including human rights circles in Turkey, fail to include in their agenda antisemitism as a threat in its own right – and when forced to confront it, merely subsume it under the rubric of discrimination, and ignore its vehemence.

"This situation illustrates the fact that antisemitism is not limited to saluting Hitler but emerges in many different guises.

"Animosity Flows Through Open Channels

"It seems obvious that when people cannot make sense of a complex world, they need to create and isolate 'enemy others.' Historically Jews have been, and still are, the target of that 'need,' and for this there is a name!

"Antisemitism today is most actively perpetrated by the Islamist press, a large segment of which has gone so far as to recklessly praise Adolf Hitler for his 'foresight.' Concurrently, there has been an unprecedented array of publications and campaigns against so-called 'Sabbetaists,' [\[2\]](#) whose Jewish roots are traced and emphasized in a manner reminiscent of the Nazi obsession with creating a 'pure race,' targeting them as the evil-intentioned members of a secret sect which is integral to the 'Jewish plot to dominate the world.'

"This rising tide of antisemitism has been allowed to flow unhindered in the channels of the Islamist as well as the mainstream media, and to settle into Turkish daily life and discourse. It is now second nature to find a 'Jewish finger' under every stone, and to invent various conspiracy theories with 'the Jew' as the villain.

"We hereby proclaim our opposition to this unquestioned and pervasive pattern of antisemitic assumptions, and [likewise proclaim] our determination to attain ZERO TOLERANCE OF ANTISEMITISM, to become informed, to object, to write, to draw, to raise our voice, and to maintain solidarity with all who feel and think likewise."

Liberal Daily - "The National Ideology: Antisemitism"

Nese Duzel, of the left-of-center, liberal daily *Radikal*, interviewed Professor Ihsan Dagi and wrote the following in her column under the title "National Ideology: Antisemitism": [\[3\]](#)

"[...]We spoke to Prof. Dr. Ihsan Dagi of Middle East Technical University, Department of International Relations, who has published many books and articles on [subjects like] the Islamic identity, Westernization, global politics, human rights and who is an executive board member of the 'Liberal Thought Association' [...]:

Nese Duzel: "Turning to foreign issues: AKP [4] has an allergy to Israel. Is this because of the aggressive behavior of the Sharon government, or is it coming from [some] hidden antisemitic feelings?"

Professor Ihsan Dagı: "Recently in Turkey, great [political] gains are being made by [anti-] Sabbetaist, [anti-] Jewish and [anti-] *Dönme* [propaganda]. Those who fear everyone and everything, the nationalistic-conservative circles, Milli Gorus [5] [followers], pro-Third World Kemalists [and] leftists, [and] state- and security-centered sectors are all coming together thanks to the Sabbetai-related stories [conspiracy theories]. A new [national] alliance is being created. This is a search for a new national unity in Turkey. The conservative, religious segments that were alienated from the state-centered [secular] factors because of the February 28 [military intervention] are now joined with the cement of anti-Sabbetaist rhetoric."

Duzel: "Isn't this antisemitism?"

Professor: "Of course this [is] antisemitism. It is a new and broad alliance against the Jews and the *Donme*, who are [allegedly] secretly plotting not only in the world but also in Turkey, who control Turkey and who need to be stopped. [...] In this alliance you have groups from AKP, the Left, Kemalists, CHP, [6] Alevi, a whole world of people."

Duzel: "What are they trying to achieve by this antisemitic alliance?"

Professor: "In order for politics not to be reshaped by social dynamics, and to prevent the pluralization of the country, they claim that some people exist among us who are plotting and laying traps against Turkey. By doing so, they attain unity and homogeneity. They say, 'Look, there are people among us with [sinister] plans. Despite our differences, whether we are Kemalists, or religious, or leftist, we must unite.' That is, a national unity ideology [attained] by Sabbetai stories. [...]"

Liberal Daily: "Turkey's Jews Aren't Dhimmis [7] in Need of Tolerance or Protection"

An article by Turkish intellectual Rifat Bali, [8] titled "(In)tolerance to Antisemitism," was published in the left-of-center, liberal daily *Radikal-2* and in the January 2004 issue of the socialist, intellectual magazine *Birikim*. The following are translated excerpts: [9]

"[...] In the recent past, some [...] events led Turks, with the help of the media, to face up to some disturbing realities within their society. The spotlight came on, but soon it went off, and the incidents were all but forgotten, either because the agenda changed, or because the investigations dragged on without conclusion. I fear that, similarly, the repugnant reality of antisemitism, which was always present which has always been present in Turkey and came undeniably to the fore in the [November 15, 2003] synagogue attacks, [10] will also soon be forgotten...

"(In)tolerance to Antisemitism

"In the aftermath of the violence suffered in Istanbul on Saturday, November 15, Turkish society had the opportunity to confront face to face the antisemitism which is incorporated in the political Islamic movement. However, the political leaders, the media, the intellectual elite, the Israeli government, [...] the Chief Rabbi and the secular leaders in his entourage as the representatives of the Turkish-Jewish community, [all] seemed determined to ignore that opportunity. Everyone apparently shared the view of the conservative and nationalist columnist Taha Akyol, who two days after the attacks wrote in *Milliyet*, 'there has never been antisemitism in Turkey in its racist or religious sense.' [11]

"[...] In our day, a variety of racist and fascist conspiracy theories range from 'Mossad carried out the September 11 attacks on the Twin Towers' and 'Sabbetaists are ruling Turkey together with the Zionists,' and all the way to [the allegation] that the [synagogue] attacks of November 15 were carried out by Mossad and Israel.

"Instead of criticizing Israel in rational and realistic ways, some have made a litany of hate-spewing words towards the Jews a part of their daily language, hiding behind the slogan, 'we are not antisemitic, we are anti-Zionists, criticizing Sharon's policies.' What are those [if not antisemites]?"

"[...] In recent years, not only in the Islamic sector, but in virtually all ideological variants, we have seen incessant discussions on the topic of Dönmes [Sabbetaists], 'decoding' the names of individuals and 'exposing' them as 'Jews.' Isn't this behavior a provocation to violence for raging fanatics against innocent persons whose ancestors are 'presumed' to be Jewish?

"[...] The ones responsible for the November 15, 2003 violence are the government, the society, and the political, intellectual, cultural and media elite that turn a blind eye to these facts, and that do not enforce the relevant clauses of Turkish criminal law against such behavior. They shield themselves behind the argument of 'freedom of the press,' legitimize and elevate antisemitic writers as 'enlightened,' and refrain from stressing the antisemitic nature of the November 15 attacks, referring to them only as 'terrorism.'

"Every [Turkish] government since 1950 bears the responsibility for the situation we find ourselves in today. This is because they remained silent with regard to the hateful rhetoric against Jews, and took no steps to make the Jews feel like real Turkish citizens.

"Also responsible for this situation are the writers of yesteryears' 'religious', today's 'Islamist' media, and all 'opinion makers' who, since the establishment of the State of Israel, have incessantly and untiringly engaged in a rhetoric of hatred against Jews and continue to poison the minds of the future generations. [...]

"Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the AKP government must publicly denounce [both] the antisemitic discourse of political Islam, from which he emerged and which he declared later to have abandoned, and those who insist on perpetuating such discourse.

"[...] Turkey's Jews are not *dhimmis* in need of the tolerance and the protection of the Muslim majority. They are citizens of the Republic of Turkey. [...]"

An American Jewish Activist on Antisemitism in Turkey

Rusen Cakir of the mainstream Turkish daily *Vatan* interviewed Barry Jacobs, the American Jewish Committee's director of Strategic Studies in the Office of Government and International Affairs about antisemitism in Turkey. The following are excerpts: [\[12\]](#)

Vatan: "How do you assess the status of the Turkish-American relations?"

Barry Jacobs: "The relations are going through a difficult period. It would be exaggerated to say that this is a crisis, but in the past seven or eight months there have been serious problems. The American administration is disturbed by the increase in anti-American, anti-Western, anti-Israel, and antisemitic [trends] in Turkey, especially in the media."

Vatan: "We know you and the circles known as the 'Jewish lobby' as 'friends of Turkey.' Has this changed?"

Jacobs: "[...] The Jewish-American community has never lost the championship in 'support for Turkey' to anyone. These people [American Jews] who have defended Turkey's rights in the U.S. Congress and the administration are not [all] experts in foreign policy, but they do read the news and articles like the one by *The Wall Street Journal* editor Robert Pollock about the anti-Americanism in Turkey. Then they come to the Jewish organizations like ours and ask: 'Why are you still supporting that country?'"

Vatan: "Do you think anti-Americanism and antisemitism are at serious levels?"

Jacobs: "Yes, it's very grave. In fact, this is due to the recent rise in nationalism in Turkey. We see this nationalism in the Turkish military which has a very deeply rooted relationship with the American military, [as well as] in the government and all the political parties [...]"

Appendix

The petition was signed by the following (in alphabetical order):

Ridvan Akar, Taner Akçam, Dogan Akhanli, Mustafa Akyol, Ishak Alaton, Necmiye Alpay, Selim Amado, Çağatay Anadol, Nazmi Arif, David Arditi, Ergün Arslan, Hüseyin Aygöl, Esin Ayrar, Laleper Aytek, Rifat N. Bali, Beki Bardavid, Süleyman Bardavid, Ali Ihsan Başgöl, Moiz Bayer, Lizi Behmoaras, Jacob Bensason, Jacques E. Botton, Nükte Devrim Bouvard, Cem Bozsahin, Fatma Mefkure Budak, Belgin Cengiz, Oral Çalışlar, Hacer Çınar, Ahmet Dag, Hüseyin Dagdas, Gülder Demir, Hülya Demir, Aynur Demirdirek, Hülya Demirdirek, Seyda Demirdirek, Aycan Demirel, Fuat Dünder, Tevfit Erhat, Jak Esim, Jenny Eskinazi, Nesi Eskinazi, Yusuf Estroti, Mose Farsi, Hacer Yıldırım Foggo, Çetin Gabay, Rezzan Gabay, Eli Gerson, Gamze Tokol Goldsman, Volkan Granit, Corry Görgü, Refik Güllü, Ayşe Günaysu, David Hasday, Emintelel Isikli, Yürük Iyriboz, Aydan Kalaçlar, Dina Karako, Sema Karaoglu, İsa Karatas, Asude Kayas, Erdal Kaynar, Gülay Kiliçdoğan, Ergun Kirlikovali, Sevil Kivan, Kürsad Kiziltug, Burçe Klaynman, Hayim I. Krespin, M. Mustafa Kulu, Ahmet Kurt, Jaan Latif, Recep Marasli, Ceki Medina, Amy Mills, Gül A. Minci, Avram Mizrahi, Eti Motola, Özcan Mutlu, Akin Olgun, Haluk Oral, Mordo Ovadya, Montes Aziz Oz, Mahmut Esat Ozan, Ayşe Öktem, Kerem Öktem, Ayşe Önal, Canan Özadam, Gencer Özcan, Yelda Özcan, Mehmet Mihri Özdoğan, Noyan Özkan, Ester Ruben, Murat Ruben, Rafael Sadi, Selim Salti, Defne Sandalci, Selim Sanje, Fatma Sayman, Melih Sisa, Semra Somersan, Haldun Süral, Nora Seni, M. Orhan Tarhan, Ülfet Tayli, Sirin Tekeli, Sule Toktas, Saime Tugrul, Süreyya Turhan, Akil Ulukaya, Momo Uzsınay, Nessim Weissberg, Deniz Yücel, Ragıp Zarakolu, and Yaprak Zihnioglu.

[1] *Birikin* (Turkey), October 2004.

[2] The Sabbetaists (*Dönme*) are descendants of the Jewish followers of a self-proclaimed messiah, Sabbetai Sevi (1626-1676), who was forced by the sultan to convert to Islam in 1666. They consider themselves Muslims and officially are recognized as such. *Dönme* is the Turkish word for 'convert' but it carries overtones of 'turncoat' as well.

[3] *Radikal* (Turkey), February 28, 2005.

[4] The ruling AK (Justice and Development) Party.

[5] Milli Gorus is the movement of political Islam started by N. Erbakan, a former prime minister whose government resigned because of the intervention by the Turkish military on February 28, 1997. His three consequent political parties were shut down. Their current political party is SP, Saadet (Felicity) Party. AKP and PM Erdogan are offspring of this movement.

[6] CHP (Republican People's Party) is the first political party of the modern Republic of Turkey, founded by M. Kemal Ataturk. This left-of-center, liberal, secularist party is currently the main opposition party.

[7] *Dhimmi* are non-Muslims who live in Islamic countries under Islamic law (*Shari'a*). They are protected under Islamic rules, yet are inferior, vulnerable, humiliated and degraded. (The modern, secular Republic of Turkey is not an Islamic country.)

[8] Bali, R.N. is a leading Turkish-Jewish historian/researcher who has published several books and articles on the history and the status of the Turkish Jews since the founding of the modern Republic of Turkey in 1923.

[9] *Radikal-2* (Turkey), November 23, 2003.

[10] On November 15, 2003 two major synagogues in Istanbul were bombed simultaneously by Turkish Islamic terrorists, killing 26 people and wounding hundreds, most of them Muslim Turks who were in the vicinity.

[11] *Milliyet* (Turkey), November 17, 2003.

[12] *Vatan* (Turkey), April 4, 2005.

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Antisemitism in the Turkish Media (Part III): Targeting Turkey's Jewish Citizens

The following is the third report in a series on the issue of antisemitism in the Turkish media. [1] This phenomena is directed not only against the Jews in general, it also targets Turkey's Jewish citizens, in the form of multiple attacks on Turkey's Chief Rabbi; insults to and offensive characterization of Turkey's Jews; and

accusations of disloyalty, espionage, and treason. The media frequently accuse Turkish Jews of destroying the Ottoman Empire, carrying out the 'genocide' of Armenians, hatching sinister plots against Turkey, establishing a secular 'anti-Islamic' regime in Turkey; also blaming Jews for being rich and influential is often seen.

Publications by the Islamic terrorist organization IBDA-C, [\[2\]](#) which claimed responsibility for the November 15, 2003 bombings of two Istanbul synagogues, circulate freely in Turkey; dozens of pages in each issue are dedicated to virulently antisemitic literature. [\[3\]](#) Books such as **Mein Kampf**, **The Protocols of the Elders of Zion**, and **The International Jew** are high on Turkish bestseller lists, and are displayed prominently in the front of bookstores.

The following report also focuses on some of the intellectuals and liberal journalists in Turkey who have spoken out against this wave of antisemitism.

"Judaism is Synonymous With Treason"

Columnist Fahri Guven wrote in the Islamist daily *Milli Gazete*: [\[4\]](#) "[...] The Ottomans saved the Jews from the hands of Christians, who murdered them along with the Muslims in Endulus [Muslim Spain]. When Russia and Hungary persecuted the Jews, again the Ottomans saved them. The Muslim Turks rescued Jews yet again, from the hands of Hitler, who was himself a hidden Jew [...]. From the beginning, the Ottomans showed hospitality, seemingly even by allotting the best homes to the Jews – along the Bosphorus, in Istanbul's most luxurious area.

"And, characteristic of their savage, treacherous [nature], in return they [the Jews] first overthrew Sultan Abdulhamid and destroyed the Ottomans; [\[5\]](#) [then], like insects, they ate away at the Ottoman [Empire]; and as if this were not enough, they stabbed the Muslim Turkish soldiers in Palestine in the back.

"'Judaism' is synonymous with 'treason' [...] They [the Jews] even betrayed God [...] When God told them to bow their heads while entering Al-Quds [Jerusalem], they entered with their heads up. The prophets sent to them, such as Zachariah and Isaiah, were murdered by the Jews [...] In fact, no amount of pages or lines would be sufficient to explain the Koranic chapters and our Lord Prophet's [Muhammad's] words that tell us of the betrayals of the Jews. [...]"

"Here is the Real Jew!"

Columnist for the ultra-nationalist daily *Ortadogu* Selcuk Duzgun, in an article titled "Here is the Real Jew," wrote: [\[6\]](#) "Salamon [a Jewish name often used in a derogatory way] is on his deathbed. He asks his wife about each member of his family and wants to know if they are present. When the wife assures him that all his loved ones are beside him, he is angered and shouts at them for leaving the shop unattended.

"This is a clear example of what the real Jew is. While we read and laugh at our jokes about the Jews, they [the Jews] are enjoying themselves by fooling the entire world.

"[...] Oh my naive people – you have elevated so many of these [Jews], and you have given an identity to so many [who had none]. You have saved, protected, and fed so many of them!... [...] and they have created the [country's] agenda and continued their march to [their] 'Promised Land.' While we were calling them Masons, Sabbateans, Rotarians, etc., they had the privilege of ruling our country. Whatever name we call them, we always are faced with the truth that they are the 'JEWS.'

"[...] We are surrounded. Wherever we look we see traitors. Wherever we turn we see impure, false converts. Whichever stone you turn over, there is a 'JEW' under it. And we keep thinking to ourselves: 'Hitler did not do enough to these Jews.' [...]"

Turkey's Chief Rabbi Attacked, Reviled By Media

On August 17, 2004, the Islamist daily *Anadolu'da Vakit*, popularly known as *Vakit*, published a column by Abdurrahim Karakoc that lauded Hitler for his "foresight" and for "purging the bloodthirsty, swindling Jews" and also praised Osama bin Laden. [\[7\]](#)

In February 2005, the publication of the daily in Germany was banned by the German government because of its antisemitic incitement and Holocaust denial. The Turkish press reacted with attacks on and smears against the German government, particularly German Interior Minister Otto Schily.

On March 2, 2005, German Ambassador to Ankara, Wolf Ruthart Born, sent a letter to Turkish Press Council President Oktay Eksi, of the centrist, widely circulated daily *Hurriyet*, who had called Germany's ban on *Vakit* "the murder of the law." In it, Ambassador Born said that *Vakit*'s articles were 'inciting and disgusting' and that it would be better for the Turkish Press Council to focus on these inappropriate publications instead of giving legal advice to the German Interior Minister. Since then, the German government has approached Turkish Interior Minister Aksu to protest against *Vakit*'s ongoing attacks on Germany and its government.

At a May 18, 2005 press conference, German Interior Minister Schily said: "As you know, *Anadolu'da Vakit* was banned because of its virulent antisemitism. Then it began publishing articles attacking me and, lately, Prime Minister Schroeder. The Turkish government must also concern itself with the *Vakit* newspaper. [...] This paper has depicted me, and also our Prime Minister, as neo-Nazis [...] If the Turkish government does not have the necessary laws, they should create them." [8]

Following the August 17, 2004 publication of Karakoc's article in *Vakit*, the Turkish Chief Rabbinate sent a letter of complaint to several liberal columnists in Turkish newspapers, prompting a campaign of daily attacks and revilement against Turkish Chief Rabbi Izak Haleva by journalists and politicians who write primarily for *Vakit*.

The following are only a few sample excerpts from this campaign:

The Chief Rabbi must condemn Israel

On August 26, 2004, the headline of *Vakit*'s lead story read: "The Chief Rabbi who criticizes '[free] thought' is indifferent to Sharon's cruelty. Turkey's Chief Rabbi, who criticized our writer Abdurrahim Karakoc in a letter he sent to some columnists, has never said anything about Israel's massacres that have turned into 'genocide.'"

On August 27, *Vakit*'s headline, and a report by Kenan Kiran in the paper, read: "Still not a sound from the rabbi. Chief Rabbi Haleva, who sent a letter to journalists targeting our writer Karakoc, has not answered our questions for yet another day.

"The Chief Rabbi's letter prompted many reactions [...]: "AKP MP from Manisa, Huseyin Tanriverdi, said: '[...] [The Chief Rabbi's] attitude that is disrespectful of free conscience is wrong. [...] Those who call themselves 'men,' and especially the faithful, cannot be silent about the savagery in Palestine. Mr. Haleva must condemn Israel's inhuman massacres.

"MP Tanriverdi added: 'In the face of the existing barbarism and massacres, Mr. Karakoc has sought to stop this human tragedy by reminding [us] of historical facts. [...] Mr. Karakoc has made very reasonable observations.'

"Chief Rabbi Haleva stated that he would send a written reply to [*Vakit* 's] questions. Although two days have passed, the following questions remain unanswered: 'Do you consider Hitler cruel? Do you also consider Sharon cruel, knowing the world media's decision that the massacres he commits are similar to what Hitler did to the Jews? Do you condone the Israeli soldiers' aggression against Palestinian civilians?'"

Rabbi Haleva, if you do not stop Sharon, anti-Jewish voices may turn into anti-Jewish actions!

On August 29, *Vakit*'s Ilhan Toprak reported: "Turkish Health Workers Union President Mustafa Basoglu criticized Turkey's Chief Rabbi [in a letter he sent to him] for being disturbed at Karakoc's comparing Hitler and Sharon. [...] [The letter read:] 'As a religious leader, Izak Haleva must make all the necessary efforts to prevent Sharon's negative attitudes [...] If Sharon [...] is not stopped, the voices being raised against the Jews [...] might turn into actions. To prevent that, the Chief Rabbi must stop Sharon [...]'

More Turkish politicians join in: Chief Rabbi must apologize

On August 28, the front page of *Vakit* read: "[...] Politicians are reacting to Chief Rabbi Haleva: AKP MP from Kahramanmaraş and former President of Turkish Writers Association Atilla Maras said it was a crime for Turkey's Chief Rabbi to send letters of complaint to journalists against Abdurrahim Karakoc. MP Maras added: 'Turkey's Chief Rabbi Izak Haleva must condemn Israel and Sharon' [...]"

"Nurettin Aktas, AKP Member of Parliament from Gaziantep, said that Turkey's Chief Rabbi had no reason to be disturbed by Karakoc's article, 'Israel is perpetrating state terrorism [...] The Chief Rabbi [...] must warn Sharon and apologize to the Palestinian people. The world condemns Sharon, just like they condemned Hitler.'"

"Chief Rabbi, the Commander"

On August 29, in an article titled "Chief Rabbi, the Commander," *Vakit* columnist Huseyin Uzmez joined in: "[...] Why is it that one of the [Turkish] authorities does not come forward and say: 'You, [Chief Rabbi,] come here! Haven't you learned when and how to submit a complaint? How dare you cross your limits?'" [...]"

Chief Rabbi beats the drums!

On August 31, Hasan Karakaya added another article to the attack on Turkey's Chief Rabbi: "[...] It was clear that...the mallet beating these drums [the six journalists to whom Rabbi Haleva wrote] was in the hands of that [person], whatever his name is: *Helava* [derived from the Turkish word for 'sewage' or 'toilet'] or 'Haleva.'"

Turkish columnist: "Chief Rabbi's synagogues are Zionist bases"

On September 2, 2004, *Vakit* columnist Nurettin Sirin wrote: "[...] Firstly, the Chief Rabbi who uses his synagogues as Zionist bases must learn that no Jew has the right to teach a lesson on 'human rights' to [us], the children of the Ottomans. These [Jews], who fled Spain's massacres and found shelter thanks to Ottoman tolerance, have carried out nothing but treason and plots on Ottoman territory, and have [always] carried out the ugly designs of Zionism on this [Turkish] land.

"These people [the Jews] [...] tried to 'Israelize' the Ottoman [Empire] from within, carrying out their treachery through some Zionist organizations. With the help of Masonic lodges, Lions and Rotary clubs, and political, academic, economic, media, and bureaucratic co-conspirators, they have woven a 'web of Semitism' on this Islamic geography.

"'Semitism' in this country [Turkey] is the name of 'treason' against Islam and Muslims, and against all our national and moral values. [...] Documenting this treachery is as easy as proving the laws of gravity. In face of this truth, the Chief Rabbinate and their allies' cries of 'antisemitism' and their fake claim to innocence are laughable.

"[...] Has he [the Chief Rabbi] ever condemned the genocide by the Jews, that he [dares] to talk of the so-called persecutions of the Jews? [...]"

"[...] It is these so-called innocent Jews who are responsible for the loss of our Ottoman [Empire], for the trampling of our sanctity, for the hanging of our forefathers, for the humiliation of all our beliefs, and for the ban on our women's covering [as demanded by Islam].

"[...] [Karakoc's] article will be an important contribution to the questioning of [the Jews'] sinister plots, satanic steps, and historic treason in our country. When the masks of these so-called innocent people and groups fall, we will clearly see the monster behind them.

"[...] At this opportunity, I would like to also place my signature under the article titled 'Foresight, Israel Shameless' written by my brother and friend Karakoc, and to express my willingness to be judged [as I stand] right next to him. God bless your pen and your heart, brother Karakoc... [...]"

For more examples of the attacks on and revilement of Turkish Chief Rabbi Izak Haleva see Appendix I.

Turkish Columnist Warns: Last Chance for the Jews

Columnist for the mainstream secular liberal daily *Aksam*, Sakir Suter, wrote: [\[9\]](#) "In Turkey, there are 'sworn enemies' of the Jews. [But] Jews also have some friends, even if they are not 'sworn [friends]' [...] Quite a few people [in Turkey] are pleased by their friendship with Turkish citizens of Jewish descent. There are some common [shared] historical sorrows and joys.

"Today, however, we are on the verge of saying 'there WERE' [in the past]. We will either cross-out this friendship or continue with a 'bad taste.'

"In Turkey, there is a big 'maybe' hanging in the minds of [even] those who [until now] did not see the Jews as 'enemies.'

"They [the Turkish Jews] have an obligation to show us that they are distanced from the terror that resulted in the death of thousands in Turkey [due to terrorism activity by the PKK, a separatist Kurdish organization]... and that the Jews are not 'plotting' against us [the Turks] together with the [Kurdish] elements in Northern Iraq, who definitely cannot be our friends.

"[...] The burden of proof is on [...] Tel Aviv to show that they [the Jews] are not playing out any Israeli 'anti-Turkish plots in Northern Iraq,' as reported even by the foreign media. Instead of providing the required proof, making nasty threat-like comments against Turkey is ugly.

"[...] If they [the Jews] claim to be real friends of Turkey, the burden is not on the Turks, who have proven their friendship, but on the Jews, whose 'hostility' we are discussing.

"We, on our part, are offering one last chance before officially and openly declaring that the Jews are our 'enemy.'

"[...] [Now] we have reached such a juncture that... millions in Turkey are all too eager to pour out to the streets and cry out: 'Death to Zionism!'... 'You [Jew]! Let us hear you [reply]!' 'You must either prove your innocence... or apologize [immediately] to the Turks, who took you for a 'friend' for over 500 years!'"

Jewish Espionage

Columnist Suat Gun wrote in the nationalist daily *Once Vatan*: [\[10\]](#) "Upon the discovery of an Israeli mole in the Pentagon, I remembered the book by the late General Cevat Rifat Atilhan, titled *Suzi Liberman, the Jewish Spy*...

"Cevat Rifat Atilhan was an officer, much valued by great Ataturk. His units fought in important [...] battles [during WWI]. When the Arab-Israel war started in 1948, he joined that front with the 300 volunteers he gathered, and was successful in capturing a Jewish settlement from the enemy.

"Cevat Rifat Atilhan is an unequalled patriot, who informed the Turkish public of the 'Jewish threat.' [...]

"This present day espionage [in the U.S.] is an operation undertaken by the Jews [...] who like a cancer virus have spread everywhere, destroying the American governmental system. In reality, the U.S. has been infected with a 'Jewish cancer,' and the Jews will bring about its death, demise, or destruction [whichever term you choose]...."

"Politics are Committing Adultery With Our Honor"

Liberal columnist Ayse Onal, formerly of the secular, Kemalist daily *Aksam* and who writes now for the *Star Gazete*, wrote an article protesting the Turkish media's accusation of the Jews for every disaster in the world. She opens with quotes by antisemitic writers: [\[11\]](#)

"335 children and teachers were murdered in Beslan by the Jews. The barbarism of 9/11 was a Jewish plot. Turkish society and family values are being destroyed by the Jews. It is the Jews who are cutting off heads in Iraq. They [the Jews] are so blinded [with hatred] that in order to conceal the Jewish finger [role] in all of that, they sometimes butcher [their fellow] Jews as well. It was them [the Jews] who bombed their own synagogues. And when their own families died, they shed false tears.

"The Jews are like a punching bag. Hit [them] and hit [them], as much as you can... Punch [them] as much as you want, with no fear, shame, respect or sense of boundaries... In any event, only about 15,000 Jews remain [in Turkey], and they have no voice to be heard.

"The Jews are a convenient, living shield for all immorality, all murders, savagery, and lies... If you place a Jew where there is barbarism or fraud, you have solved the problem...

"And knowing too well what would await them, nobody has the possibility, nor the courage, to ask, 'Where are the human rights and freedoms, values of equality, principles of non-discrimination with regard to religion, race, and ethnicity?' If the honor [of the citizens] is indeed under the protection of the [Turkish] constitution, this means that according to the State, Jews are either not human, or not citizens.[...]

A Nauseating Synagogue in the Land of the Prophets

In the Islamist daily *Milli Gazete*, Burhan Bozgeyik wrote: [\[12\]](#) "[...] We went to the city of Şanlıurfa to visit friends and relatives. Before entering the city, we went directly to the garden of the revered Hajji Halil's father. We performed our noon prayers there. Our young brothers went all out to show us hospitality. We were in the place where [...] Ibrahim Aleyhisselam [Abraham] lived. [...]

"After food and conversation, we started thinking about our next stop, Adana. But, since we had come this far, we had to first visit the cave where Halilullah [Abraham] was born [...] So we went to the Dergah Mosque, and there we performed our mid-afternoon prayers.

"I have told you all this as an introduction to our real subject: On the way back, our guide said, 'Just take a look here, look at this synagogue.' We looked: it was an impressive building. 'This entire area was expropriated; this park is going to be expanded so that the synagogue will be prominent,' he said. [...]

"When we saw the synagogue, we lost all our joy. It wiped away the vision of the beautiful garden, the magnificent banquet, the mosque, the shrine [...] Instead, this frightful building stood in front of our eyes like a ghost. What was a synagogue doing in this 'Land of the Prophets?' [...] Where did this 'Jew-love' come from?

"[...] Frankly, we were extremely nauseated when we saw the synagogue. The food we had eaten stuck in our throats like a knot [...]"

Respect for Christians and Jews Harms This Country

In another article, Burhan Bozgeyik wrote: [\[14\]](#) "Some people in this country are mistaken in how they treat Christians and Jews. Such mistakes are harming not only the perpetrators, but also all the young Muslims of this land, and directly or indirectly, this country.

"Heading the list of these mistakes is the respect and reverence shown to Christians and Jews [...] It is a mistake to include them in the protocol of meetings, to let them speak, to applaud them, to quote their words in the newspapers [...]. It is not just wrong, it is a frighteningly grave mistake [...]

"It is a mistake for so-called professors, writers, thinkers, and famous intellectuals to make 'sympathetic' statements about Christians and Jews. Particularly, to say that 'they too will go to heaven' is an even bigger mistake. [...] Christians and Jews, who have rejected our Prophet and refuse to recite 'Mohammed is the Messenger of God' belong forever in Hell.

"In the eyes of God, there is only one religion, and that is Islam [...] There is only one book, and that is the Koran. [...]

"For so-called 'dignitaries' to present Christianity and Judaism as 'godly religions' is terribly wrong. [...]

Let Us Be Wary of Becoming Neo-Nazis

Columnist Mehmet Barlas of the mainstream, large circulation Turkish daily *Sabah* criticized the antisemitism in the Turkish media: [15] "[...] Being 'European' implies that all the people and the 'media' accept a [particular] philosophy. Three days ago, the European Council Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) published a report on Turkey which included the following criticism of the Turkish media:

"Antisemitic propaganda continues to be published by some Turkish media organs. Identifying the Turkish Jewish Community [...] with the policies of the State of Israel is frequent in the Turkish media."

"All those who follow world developments know what this statement means. Publication of materials that incite and generate hatred and hostility against a race or an ethnic group is now considered a **'crime against humanity.'** The concept of crime is not only valid for bureaucrats and politicians. For example, Nigerian journalists who engaged in similar practice against their country's minorities were convicted last year by the international court. It is becoming dangerous for the members of the Turkish media to engage in racism as they hide behind the assertion, 'I'm commenting on Middle East politics.'

"Those who make remarks such as 'anyway, he's a Sabbatean, we know his [real] identity' may cause serious harm to their country and their profession and bring serious problems upon themselves.

"Those who aspire to be patriots, nationalists, or Arab sympathizers can [easily] turn into **Neo-Nazis.**

"[...] We in the media should refrain from using expressions which do not fit the European pattern. This kind of behavior is **'shameful,'** even when not **'criminal.'** [...]

IBDA-C Publication: "The Best Jew is a Dead Jew!"

Aylik is a monthly magazine published in Turkey by the Great East Islamic Raiders Front, IBDA-C, which is the terrorist organization which claimed responsibility for the November 15, 2003 attacks on Istanbul's two main synagogues that killed 26 and wounded dozens. Turkish authorities have stated that this organization has ties to Al-Qa'ida. The April 2005 edition of *Aylik* includes 18 pages of antisemitic propaganda.

The first article concerning the Jews, titled "The Internal and External Enemy: *Yahudi*" was written by Salih Izzet Erdis, also known as Salih Mirzabeyoglu, who is the 'architect' or 'commander' of the organization and is presently serving a life term in a Turkish prison. The following are few excerpts from his article:

"[...] The race that bred in evil and treachery, creating the real Jew, and the one that has become a curse to the world, is the Jew...

"[...] The one who blamed the Prophet Jesus [for blasphemy], who came from their own [kind], and whom they sold to the Romans [...], that lowly treacherous one, is (Judah), the Jew...

"The one who later distorted the belief of Jesus and made up the lie and the insult that he is the son of God is (St. Paul) the Jew...

"[...] The ones who, through planning and plotting, brought to Turkey adultery, immorality, and destruction, who built Israel right at the heart of Islam and next to the oil and other natural resources [...] as a tiny model of their secret [world] empire...

"Like an octopus hiding its tentacles under its belly, watching [for opportunities] to grab Iraq with one arm, Syria with another arm, and with others Kuwait, Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], Egypt, and Libya; they who need a world tragedy in order to carry out their aims [...] In short, those who stir the witches' cauldron to melt all civilizations within it are Jews... It is only the Jew, always the Jew..."

The second article, which was prepared for publication by Unsal Zor, is titled, "Cursed Until Eternity": "The rabbis falsified the Torah [which Muslims believe otherwise would be identical to the Koran]. They concealed the power and greatness of God and presented their own race instead as the 'Chosen' One..."

"[...] It is always said that the accusations against the Jews were all 'libels.' None of those [accusations] were 'libels.'

"[...] Their important book the Talmud commands hating all those who are not Jews, and when possible acting by [killing] them. [...]

"An important Talmud writer, Maimonides, has said: '[...] It is prohibited to save the life of anyone who is not a Jew [...] It is forbidden for a Jewish doctor to heal a non-Jew, even if he is paid to do so – unless not treating the non-Jew would cause a public reaction which might harm the Jews.

" *Haham* [Rabbi] Sofer has said about the Muslims and Christians in the Ottoman Empire: 'They are believers in other gods; therefore, they must be killed using indirect methods.' [...]

"The Talmud says: 'If a Jew finds a lost object and realizes that it belonged to a Jew, he is obligated to return it. But if the owner is not a Jew, then it is imperative not to give it back. [...] Dishonesty is acceptable towards a non-Jew. [...]

" **Yahudi [Jew] the thief!** [...] These few examples provide a glimpse of the 'Jewish ideology.' [...] If the Talmud says all these things, then we say: 'Nobody should shed tears and mucus, or mourn when a Jew dies. The best Jew is a dead Jew!' [...]"

The next article in the magazine, "Why Antisemitism?" by Cumali Dalkilic, declares Jews the 'enemy' of the Turks, of Islam, and of the entire world. Jews are alleged to have a 'disgusting nature' and are defined as 'the people eternally cursed by God and His prophets, who are not wanted by anyone and thrown out of every place.'

The article quotes many pages from Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and shows admiration for Hitler, calling him 'a hero', 'a rare mind' that grasped the ['real'] meaning of the Jew and the Jewish problem, 'a true statesman to whom no other can stand up.' The article, which also includes excerpts from the notorious *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, ends with Holocaust denial, cuts down the number of Jewish victims from millions to 130,000 to 150,000, and called on its readers to read and understand Hitler through his own writings instead of believing the 'historic fraud' of the Jews [that] 'prostitutionalizes' the conscience.

The final three articles on the Jews exhibit the most virulent demonization of the Jews. One ends with expressing satisfaction at the new rise in anti-Jewish sentiment in Turkey and credits IBDA and its leader Salih Mirzabeyoglu with this 'achievement.' The last sentence reads: "This is the 'real' and 'final' place for settling accounts with the Jews."

Another, titled "The *Cifit's* [filthy Jews'] [\[16\]](#) Castle" attacks the *Donme*, [\[17\]](#) claiming that they are not 'real Muslims' or real 'Turks,' but 'filthy Jews' under cover, and that they are responsible for the present secularism in Turkey, as well as for all the wrongdoings in the world. The article also states that "the only barrier before the filthy Jews is the 'wall of Islam.'"

Appendix I:

List of additional articles attacking Turkey's Chief Rabbi Izak Haleva:

Vakit, August 26, 2004, "Dedicated to the Rabbi." Front page headline.

Vakit, August 27, 2004, "Chief Rabbi's Musketeers (1)," A. Karakoc.

Vakit, August 28, 2004, "Chief Rabbi's Musketeers (2)," A. Karakoc.

Vakit, August 28, 2004, "Haleva Must Apologize." Headline.

Vakit, August 29, 2004, "Chief Rabbi's Musketeers (3)," A. Karakoc.

Vakit, August 29, 2004, "The Sharons and the [Media] Barons, Shoulder to Shoulder," Hasan Karakaya.

Vakit, August 29, 2004, "Hitler or Sharon [Same Thing]," Ilhan Toprak.

Vakit, August 31, 2004, "Beat the drums!" Hasan Karakaya.

Tercuman, Dunden Bugune, August 31, 2004, "The Tactical Mistake of the Chief Rabbi and his Friends," Serdar Arseven.

Vakit, August 31, 2004, "Has the Human Rights Organization Given up on Freedom of Thought?" Ali Karahasanoglu.

Vakit, September 1, 2004, "Listen to the cries...," Hasan Karakaya.

Vakit, September 9, 2004, "Oppressions of the Oppressor," A. Karakoc.

[1] See also, MEMRI Special Dispatch No. 900, "Antisemitism in the Turkish Media: Part 1," April 28, 2005, <http://memri.org/bin/articles.cgi?Page=archives&Area=sd&ID=SP90005> and MEMRI Special Dispatch No. 904, "Antisemitism in the Turkish Media (Part II) - Turkish Intellectuals Against Antisemitism," May 5, 2005, <http://memri.org/bin/articles.cgi?Page=archives&Area=sd&ID=SP90405>.

[2] The Great East Islamic Raiders Front (IBDA-C) was established in the mid-1970's by a faction of the youth group of former Turkish prime minister Erbakan's MSP (National Salvation Party), which was outlawed during the 1980 military intervention.

[3] The names and phone numbers of the publication's editorial staff appear on the first page.

[4] *Milli Gazete*, February 4, 2005. This daily is affiliated with former PM Erbakan's Islamic movement Milli Gorus, from which current Turkish PM Erdogan and his AK (Justice and Development) Party emerged. On December 28, 2002, columnist Y. Bayer of the mainstream, high circulation Turkish daily *Hurriyet* wrote: "Did you know that: In 1974, when [Turkish Prime Minister] Tayyip Erdogan was president of the Beyoglu [Istanbul] Youth Group of the [Islamist] MSP [National Salvation Party], he wrote and directed a theatrical play called *Maskomya* and also played the lead role of the 'bad son?' And that the role of Erdogan's grandmother was performed by a girl from a CHP [the secular, Kemalist Republican People's Party] family, and that the play was staged 10 times despite the complaints of a board member to Erbakan?"

The historian/researcher Rifat N. Bali also commented on Erdogan's play: "*Maskomya*, or in its correct form *Mas-kom-Ya*, was a theatrical play that was staged everywhere in the 1970s, as part of the 'cultural' activities of MSP Youth Branches. The unabbreviated version of *Mas-kom-Ya* is *Mason-Komunist-Yahudi* [Mason-Communist-Jew]. It is known that the play was built on the 'evil' nature of these three concepts, and the hatred towards them."

[5] Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamid II (1842-1918) was dethroned in 1909 by the Young Turks revolution.

[6] *Ortadogu*, February 13, 2005. *Ortadogu* is a ultra-nationalist Turkish daily close to MHP (Nationalist Movement Party), a coalition partner in former governments.

[7] For more on this article, see MEMRI Special Dispatch Series No. 900 (<http://memri.org/bin/articles.cgi?Page=archives&Area=sd&ID=SP90005>).

[8] *Sabah*, May 18, 2005.

[9] *Aksam*, June 24, 2004.

[10] *Once Vatan*, December 23, 2004.

[11] *Aksam*, September 12, 2004.

[12] *Milli Gazete*, May 9, 2005.

[13] The synagogue is part of an inter-faith project which also includes a mosque and a church, which is being developed in Southeast Turkey to demonstrate tolerance and pluralism in Turkey's history.

[14] *Milli Gazete*, April 13, 2005.

[15] *Sabah*, February 17, 2005.

[16] The word 'Jew' in Turkish is *Yahudi*, and is derogatory. *Cifit* [pronounced "chee-fut"] means "filthy Jew."

[17] The *Dönme* [Sabbateans] are descendants of the Jewish followers of the self-proclaimed messiah Sabbetai Sevi (1626-1676), who in 1666 was forced by the Sultan to convert to Islam. They consider themselves Muslims and are officially recognized as such. *Dönme* is the Turkish word for 'convert,' but also carries overtones of 'turncoat.'