EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
COMMUNITY SECURITY COMMITTEE (CSC)
FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 2021 - MAY 2022

Background and Mission
The Community Security Committee (CSC) was established to assist communities around the world to facilitate, streamline and monitor their activities and processes in the field of Security and Crisis Management.

The CSC also serves as a mechanism to help Jewish communities manage any security related issues that may arise. The CSC meets regularly and promotes comprehensive security solutions in the different regions of Jewish communities worldwide.

Committee Members
Mary Kluk, Chair of WJC Communal Security Committee; Chair, Africa & Australia Jewish Congress;
Haim Ben Yakov, Chief Executive Officer, Euro-Asian Jewish Congress
Anna Bokshitskaya, Russian Jewish Congress, Executive Vice-President; WJC Representative in the Russian Federation
Claudio Epelman, Latin American Jewish Congress, Executive Director
Ariel Isaac, Latin American Jewish Congress, Commissioner for Community Security
Ariel Muzicant, European Jewish Congress, Interim President; WJC Vice President
Ophir Revach, Security and Crisis Center (SACC) by European Jewish Congress, Chief Executive Officer
Amir Shaviv, WJC American Section, representing WJC North America

WJC Staff
Rotem David, WJC Operations, Coordinator
Betty Ehrenberg, WJC North America and WJC American Section, Executive Director
Ernest Herzog, WJC Operations, Executive Director; WJC representative in the Balkans
John Malkinson, WJC Chief Operating Officer
Laurence Weinbaum, WJC Israel, Executive Director
Significant Matters dealt with during the period of March 2021 – May 2022.

- The crisis in Ukraine due to the Russian invasion and the work being conducted by WJC professional teams around the clock, as well as communities in Europe and across the globe. These discussions emphasized:
  - The importance of coordinating the work between different regions and different Jewish organizations in order to provide the highest level of assistance to those in need. This collaboration also serves to strengthen the relationships between communities.
  - The operational response in the area, including the supply of medication and food. In addition, psychological support for those affected as well as the monitoring of antisemitism is being provided.
  - Assistance with the intake of refugees in the bordering countries of Ukraine as well as countries further north and west.

- The Texas Colleyville hostage situation was noted as a key event in realizing a shift in awareness and preparedness by both Jewish communities and Federal and State support for Jewish institutions. This event demonstrated that the silver lining had been the training of the Rabbi who was able to handle the event incredibly bravely and wisely. This has led to great interest in training Rabbonim across the USA.

- Efforts by the WJC American Section to collaborate with local law enforcement has been a very positive development and close cooperation has resulted in local enforcement regularly holding briefings before Jewish holidays.

- The rise of the Taliban was also discussed within the CSC as this could impact the security of communities. In August 2021 in Afghanistan, the Taliban started direct assaults on urban areas and in September announced an interim government. Various possible effects were discussed within the committee in relation to communal security and general well-being. In particular, the EAJC efforts were mentioned as they were having daily communication with communities in the neighboring countries.

- The conflict between Israel and Hamas in May of 2021 was also a source of great concern for the committee, which held a specific meeting on this subject. The threat to global communities was highlighted as diaspora communities are seen as an extension of Israel in times of such conflicts. Furthermore, the unequivocal rise in hate and antisemitism online was a source of discomfort with a disturbing tag becoming popular saying “Hitler was right.”
The various manifestations were broken down - street demonstrations, harassment, tensions on campuses, political discussions as well as extreme online hate - highlighting the importance of each community having connections with local authorities in all regions. This is essential in order to work together to protect the community particularly during times of heightened concern.

Other initiatives were noted, including assistance to Israel by EAJC in building bomb shelters. Significant international support seen during this period was also discussed explaining how in some cases, manifestations of support were mixed with criticism as well.

- **Rising antisemitism in North America** is being tracked and noted alongside better news of the rise in preparedness and awareness. This is also resulting in more state funds being made available to a larger scope of religious centers and not only places of worship.

- The **reporting of antisemitism** was also discussed, as there is concern whether hates crimes are being properly reported and categorized.

- Events that may trigger a backlash of either physical or virtual antisemitism are often discussed in the committee. One event discussed for example was the attack by Russia on the Babyn Yar memorial in Kyiv.

- The surge in antisemitism in Russia following the last Olympics was noted with the Israeli gymnast, Linoy Ashram, triumphing over Russian gymnasts to win a gold medal. This peaked when a Jewish science professor was attacked on a bus in Moscow with shouts to “finish what Hitler left unfinished.” The Russian Jewish Congress wrote to the General Prosecutor about these events.

- **New projects of the European Jewish Congress** were brought to the attention of the committee following a 3M EUR grant by the EU commission. One of the projects is the installation of panic buttons in Jewish buildings in Europe - a lesson learned from Halle. The second project is an interfaith discussion on creating a plan to increase security in places of worship in Europe.

- In Latin America, LAJC led a first-of-its-kind seminar with members of the security forces from different countries across the region as well as young political leaders. The seminar gave the Jewish perspective on how to potentially prevent and deal with the threat of terrorism in the region that is not often discussed as there are no appropriate platforms. The LAJC provided this platform in an initiative that is planned to continue.
The work of the WJC in online hate has been an ongoing important discussion, confirming the enormous value of dealing directly with the online media platforms from the policy point of view. This is in addition to the different tools that the WJC provides for combatting antisemitism, Holocaust denial and distortion as well as overall online hate.

The WJC's work in tracking extremist events such as the Lukov march in Bulgaria, the Day of Honor in Hungary, the Bleiburg commemoration in Austria and more, was highlighted. Additionally, smaller events and the gatherings of far right and neo-Nazi groups is regularly monitored by the Intel team, which alerts local communities.

The work in countering far right and neo-Nazi movements has brought the WJC to the understanding that the strength behind these movements is their interconnectedness. A special WJC initiative - a Far-Right Interconnectivity Project - maps the far and extreme right-wing connections, activities and networks in Europe, with more regions to come. The map, soon to be launched, provides a unique perspective on the reach and international spread of far-right groups by listing and linking individuals, organizations, and events across Europe. All information on the map is from open sources accessible to the general public but collated together in one place, thus providing an incredible tool in dealing with these groups.