



## MEDIENMITTEILUNG ■ COMMUNIQUE AUX MEDIAS ■ MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Anti-Semitism Report 2017: Physical violence and harassment on the internet**

**Also in 2017 anti-Semitic attitudes gave rise to incidents. This is shown by the new anti-Semitism report from the SIG and the GRA. Three times, Jews were attacked physically. In total, 39 anti-Semitic incidents were registered in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. This number does not include entries on the internet.**

In the reporting year (2017), 39 anti-Semitic incidents were recorded in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. This is significantly more than in the previous year (25 cases). Entries on the internet were not included although they have been taken into account in the analysis. Most of the registered incidents were reported to the SIG or were featured in the media.

Several physical assaults were registered. For example, a rabbi was the victim of unprovoked anti-Semitic insults and a physical attack by a woman by the lake in Zurich. Also in Zurich, adolescents attacked a man wearing a kippah and subjected him to anti-Semitic insults. In Baden, a man wearing a kippah was spat at by adolescents and called a 'sow Jew'.

Also, several incidents not involving physical violence are distressing. For example, a Jewish family from Baden received anti-Semitic books in the post although they had never ordered them. The president of a Jewish community received a packet of excrement. In the canton of Schwyz, anti-Semitic banners were displayed on motorway bridges. One of them contained a call to murder Jews.

The anti-Semitism report also shows that the internet is increasingly being misused to post hate messages. Anti-Semitic harassment on the internet is often influenced by political events at home and abroad, especially the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. This year the debate about a possible ban on the import of kosher meat and US President Trump's decision to move the US embassy to Jerusalem acted as triggers for anti-Semitic hate comments. Increasingly in 2017 internet users used their real names to abuse Jewish men and women. This is an indication that perpetrators are tending more and more to see their hate messages as socially acceptable. As well as that, it is striking that the majority of Facebook commentators agitating against Jews were aged between 15 and 30 and were male.

Anti-Semitism is a matter of concern for society as a whole - and not just for the Jewish community. It is important that as many people as possible should speak out against anti-Semitism and racism. One person who does speak out loudly is the rapper Knackeboul. He takes direct issue with racism, anti-Semitism and conspiracy theories. More than enough reason to interview the many-sided artist for the new anti-Semitism report.

The anti-Semitism report is published annually and is a joint project of the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (SIG) and the Foundation against Racism and Anti-Semitism (GRA).

**For the whole report: [www.antisemitismus.ch](http://www.antisemitismus.ch)**

**For the interview with Knackeboul: <http://www.antisemitismus.ch/content/interview-mit-dem-rapper-knackeboul#overlay-context=users/swissjews>**

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*\*The CICAD report on anti-Semitism in the Romandy can be downloaded from [www.cicad.ch](http://www.cicad.ch).*