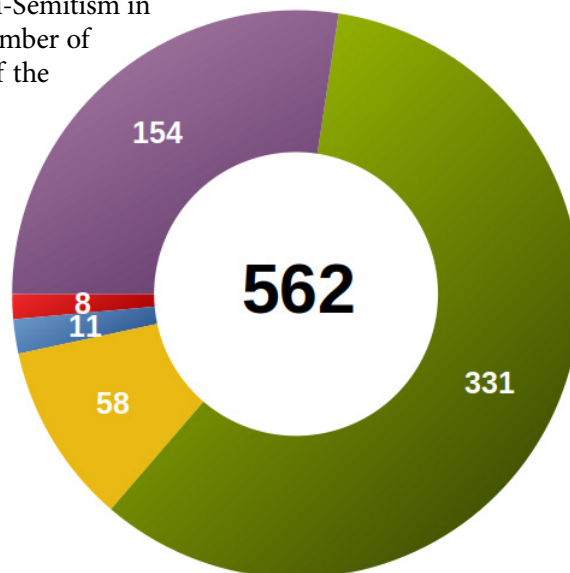


## Reported anti-Semitic incidents in the first half of 2021

From 01/01/2021 to 30/06/2021, the Anti-Semitism Reporting Office of the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG) recorded a total of 562 anti-Semitic incidents. This number only includes reported incidents. The actual number of occurrences of anti-Semitism in Austria remains unknown. More than twice the number of incidents was reported than in the same period of the previous year (257 anti-Semitic incidents reported).

### Of the 562 incidents, there were:

- 8 physical attacks
- 11 threats
- 58 incidents of damaged property
- 154 mass mailings
- 331 incidents of harmful behaviour

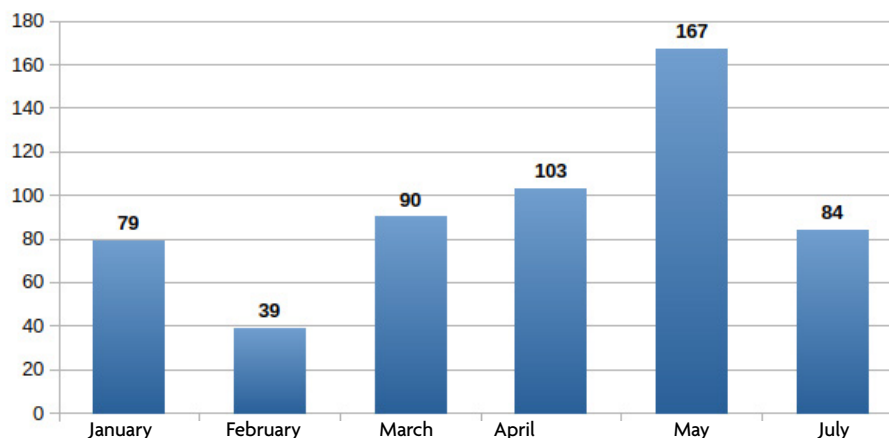


All details about categorisation and the methodology used can be found at [www.Antisemitismus-Meldestelle.at](http://www.Antisemitismus-Meldestelle.at)

## Progression of the number of reports

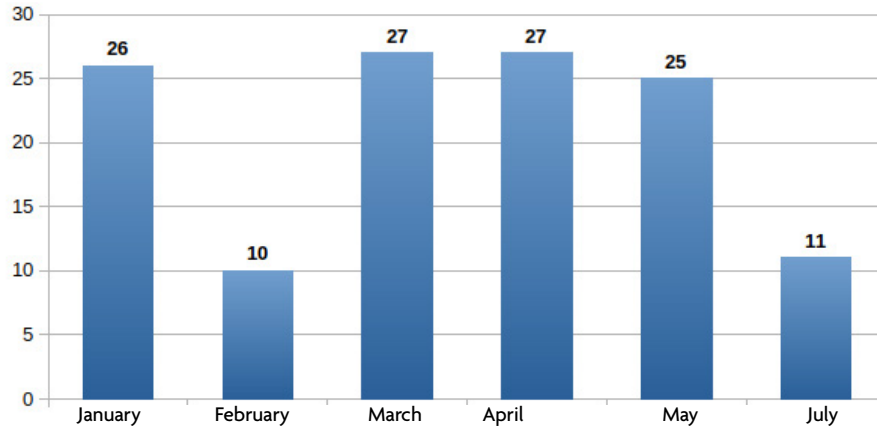
The year 2021 began like the year 2020 ended: with 79 reported incidents, January was only slightly different than December 2020 (73 incidents). In this case, anti-Semitism was also strong in relation to the corona pandemic (26 incidents in January, compared to 20 in December). After a strong decline in February, another jump had to be registered in the number of cases in the following three months primarily due to the increased occurrence of anti-Semitism related to Israel, which especially accelerated rapidly as a result of the developments in the Middle East. In April, there was a three-digit number of anti-Semitic incidents in one month (103) for the first time, and

### 1. Half-year period

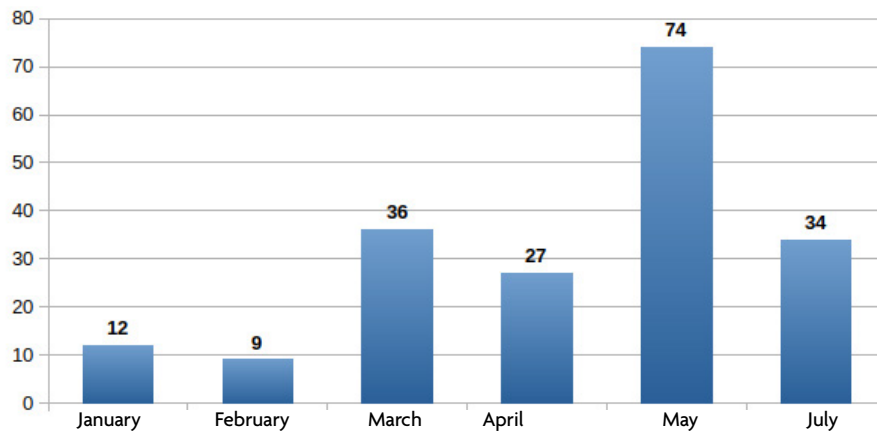


the 167 cases in May correspond to 3.4 times the monthly average of last year (49). The situation only calmed down again in June by a decline to a still above-average number of 84 reported incidents.

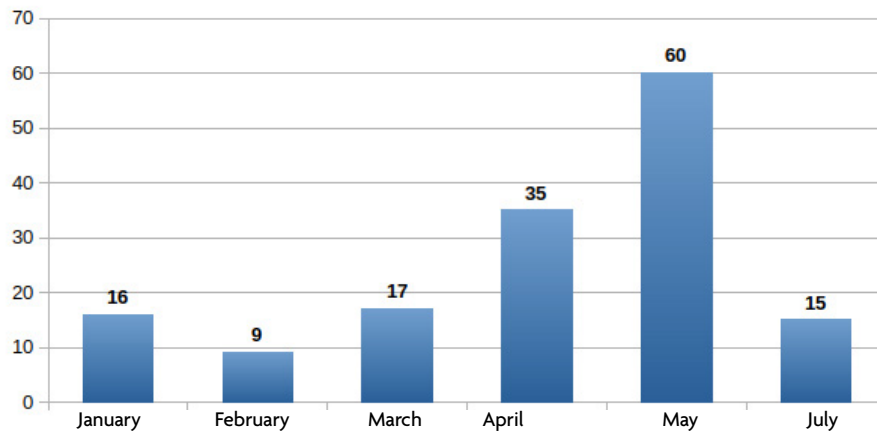
1. Half-year period – 126 cases of anti-Semitism related to corona



1. Half-year period – 192 cases of anti-Semitism related to Israel

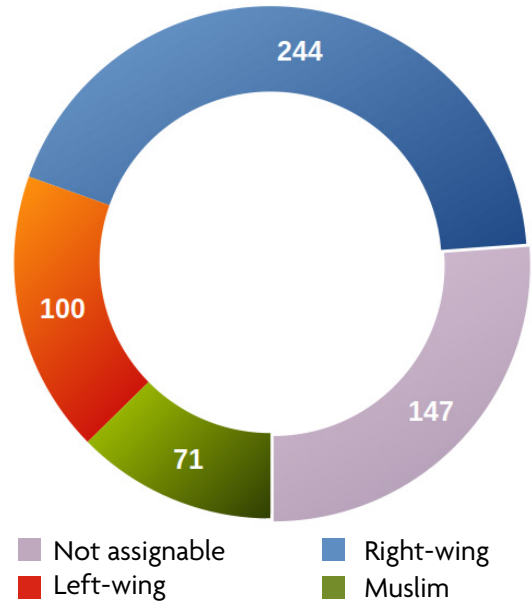


1. Half-year period – 152 cases of relativising/denying the Shoah



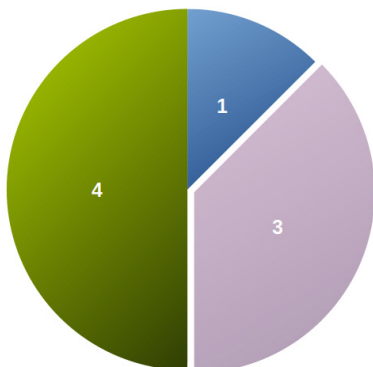
## Ideological Background ...

Of the 562 anti-Semitic incidents in the first half of 2021, 415 could be clearly assigned to an ideological category (74%). This clarity did not exist for the remaining incidents, which is why they were registered in the “not assignable” category.

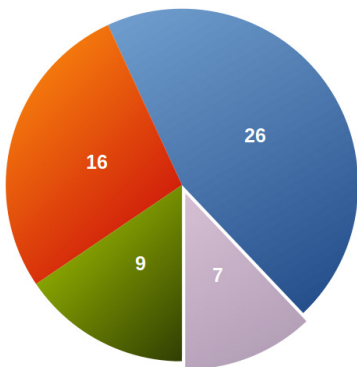


## ... by incident categories

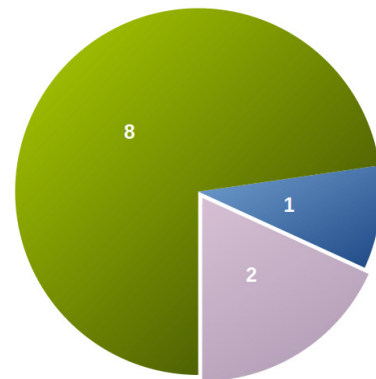
Attacks



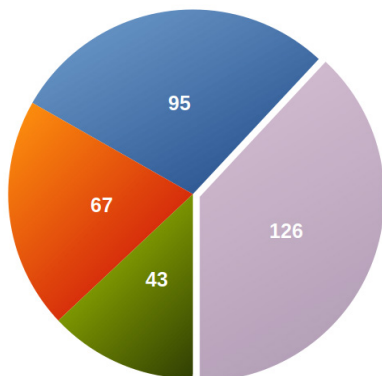
Incidents of damaged property



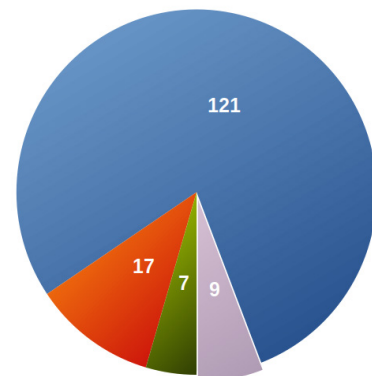
Threats



Incidents of harmful behaviour



Mass mailings



## Comments

The Jewish community has **never been confronted with such a high number of reported incidents** since the beginning of systematic recording of anti-Semitic incidents in Austria 20 years ago. At 562, this number was only slightly under the number of the entire last year (585). This half-year number would represent its own negative record for an entire year in every other year before 2020.

What is worrying is not merely the overall number but primarily the **many attacks, threats and insults**. It is especially worth mentioning here that awareness regarding the topic of anti-Semitism has been promoted, and the **willingness to report anti-Semitic incidents** could be noticeably increased because of the publicly effective presence of the reporting office and its progressive establishment.

Nevertheless, it was confirmed again that especially those who are affected by attacks, threats and insults are extraordinarily unwilling to report these incidents. These affected persons are almost always recognised as Jewish - mostly due to their clothing - or are perceived to be Jewish for a variety of reasons. Two of the eight attacks were directed towards non-Jewish passengers on public passenger transport, but were explicitly thought to be Jewish by their attackers.

Two factors are responsible for the very worrying development in the first half of the year: initially the **protests against the corona measures** continued unabated both online and openly on the streets. After a short pause in February, the beginning of the immunisation campaign and the associated discussions once again gave momentum to the actors who were already known from last year. This was noticeable in the form of increased case numbers again in the months of March to May. The anti-Semitic manifestations related to corona were primarily motivated by right-wing ideology. Extremist groups repeatedly acted as the organisers of these kinds of rallies. These expressions of this kind of anti-Semitism hardly deviated from these kinds of expressions from last year. Primarily **the same conspiracy myths as well as relativisation of the Shoah** were noticed as was seen in the past year and as they were already illuminated in detail in the [most recent two](#) reports. As at the end of 2020, it was also combined with anti-Semitism related to Israel, firstly based on the very offensive approach to the topics of immunisation and dealing with immunisation in society and then later regarding the contrast of the situation in Israel to the areas controlled by the Palestinians.

In the meantime, tension increased in Israel in Jerusalem between militant Palestinians and Israel in April. This was used in May by Palestinian terror organisations in Gaza to provoke an open military confrontation with Israel. This led to an **increase in anti-Semitic incidents worldwide** that was an **explosive increase** in some areas as has been the case multiple times in the past. Austria was not spared of this phenomenon either. However, the quality and quantity of incidents was new here in this country.

As is customary, the reporting office very carefully evaluates potential cases of anti-Semitism related to Israel to make an especially precise differentiation between criticism of Israeli policies (even if it is sharp or hostile) on the one hand and anti-Semitism related to Israel on the other hand. The [IHRA definition](#) is normally used.

For illustration purposes, we would like to take the opportunity to list some examples of anti-Semitic incidents from this period because of the extraordinary situation. These incidents are not included in the anti-Semitically motivated attacks some of which appeared in the media (e.g., the previously mentioned attacks against non-Jewish persons which can be read [here](#) and [here](#)):

- 12 May: at an [anti-Israel](#) rally by “Palestine Solidarity Austria” (including the anti-Semitic BDS movement) in Vienna a speaker used multiple [utterly anti-Semitic themes](#), some of which are centuries old, including well poisoning (by Israel), vengefulness (by Israel), enrichment (of Israel) at the cost of others as well as provoking wars (by Netanyahu) throughout the world. Dozens of participants shouted anti-Semitic death threats in Arabic (“[Khaibar, Khaibar ya Yahud!](#)”).

- 14 May: stones were thrown at a family recognised to be Jewish because of their clothing in a park in Vienna's second district.
- 17 May: multiple posters at the Vienna Jewish Museum were smudged. The Star of David in the logo and the word "Jewish" were crossed out.
- 19 May: a girl recognised as Jewish because of her clothing was yelled at with the words "Free Palestine!" by a woman in Vienna's second district.
- 19 May: four girls recognised as Jewish because of their clothing were harassed, pushed and insulted with anti-Semitic words by a group of children of the same age.
- 22 May: after an evening prayer, community members recognised to be Jewish were yelled at with the words "Allahu Akhbar!" by a group of male adolescents in Vienna's first district.
- 28 May: a man recognised to be Jewish because of his kippah was on his way in Vienna's first district when several male adolescents drove very close to him with electric scooters and yelled at him with the words "Shit Jew" and "Allahu Akhbar!".
- 30 May: a group of several male adolescents first harassed a mother with three small children recognised to be Jewish in a park in Vienna's second district, and then shouted "Falasteen! Falasteen!".

This list is merely a snippet of what took place in the month of May. For multiple incidents, the affected persons gave no consent to anonymised publication. Other cases will be handled in the annual report. Experience has shown that an incalculable number of cases will never come to light. As in all other Jewish communities worldwide, the **enormous unknown number of anti-Semitic assaults** can only be surmised. The Anti-Semitic Reporting Office is continuing to work on convincing affected persons of the usefulness – or even absolute necessity – of talking about these kinds of experiences, reporting them and possibly reporting them to the police as well.

**Recognise, report and mutually  
combat anti-Semitic incidents!**

**[www.Antisemitismus-Meldestelle.at](http://www.Antisemitismus-Meldestelle.at)**

**01 / 531 04 – 261**