



THE PR OFFICE ^[PRO]

Conference of European Rabbis

Coverage update

3rd January 2020



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After the knife attack in New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio plans to introduce security cameras and additional police presence

By Aakash Molpariya - December 30, 2019



The scene in front of the house in Monsey near New York, where the attack occurred. Photo by Eduardo Munoz / Reuters





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After a series of attacks on Jews in the New York metropolitan area, the metropolis had recently tightened security measures

The assembled believers in Rabbis Chaim Rottenberg's house were about to light the Hanukkah candles when an attacker brutally interrupted their celebration of the Jewish Festival of Lights. "We saw him take a knife out of a box – it was the size of a broomstick," said one of the participants in the New York Times celebration. "He started attacking people as soon as he got in the door. We had no time to respond at all. I prayed for my life".

OJPAC (Hudson Valley Division) @OJPACHV · 29 Dec 2019

At 9:50 this eve, a call came in about a mass stabbing at 47 Forshay Road in Monsey (Rockland County; 30 miles North of NYC). It's the house of a Hasidic Rabbi. 5 patients with stab wounds, all Hasidic, were transported to local hospitals.

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2 of the victims of the attack were taken into hospital as critical. The perp's face was partially covered with a scarf but skin showed him to be an African American.

180 03:43 - 29 Dec 2019

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The attack occurred on Saturday night in the Rabbi's house in the Orthodox Jewish town of Monsey, about an hour's drive north of the metropolis of New York. [The attacker injured at least five people in a very short time and then fled with a car.](#) But the police caught him shortly afterwards. The investigative authorities initially did not disclose any further information about his identity or a motive.



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 **REVYUH**

Security measures tightened recently

The man was charged with five attempts to murder and break-in, the police said on Sunday. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo described the attack as "disgusting." New York Governor Andrew Cuomo spoke of a "hideous and cowardly deed" and ordered an investigation. On Sunday, he visited the scene of the crime and argued that the incident should be seen as "domestic terrorism". Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the metropolis of New York, announced additional security measures at a press conference on Sunday – including more security cameras and additional police presence. The New York State Secretary of Justice, Letitia James, was "deeply disturbed" by the attack and pledged solidarity to the Jewish community.

Security measures had recently been tightened in the metropolis of New York after there had been around half a dozen anti-Semitic attacks during the Hanukkah celebrations. Every year, with the Festival of Lights lasting several days, Jews commemorate the new consecration of the temple in Jerusalem in 165 before the Christian era.

The unharmed believers around Rabbi Rottenberg continued their Hanukkah celebration after the attack in the neighbouring synagogue, as a video of the local Jewish community shows on Twitter. The commentary also translated the song of the faithful: "The grace of God has not stopped and His grace has not left us."

Israel wants to support American authorities

Politicians worldwide condemned the attack. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also condemned the attack. "We will work with local authorities in every way to help end this phenomenon." Israeli President Reuven Rivlin spoke on Twitter of a "terrible attack". Parliament President Juli Edelstein was equally "shocked". He was confident that the American authority would act decisively against the "hideous attacker" – as against any criminal who raised his hand against a Jew.





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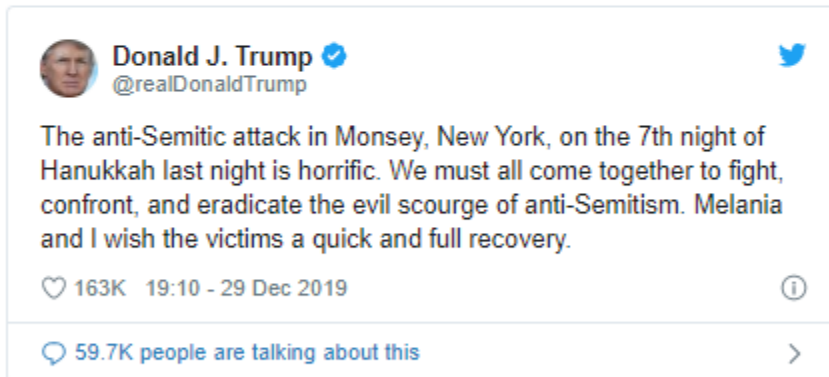
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The Holocaust Memorial Yad Vashem expressed "deep concern about the news and images of the site of another anti-Semitic attack". The Wiesenthal Center called on the President of the United States, Donald Trump, to set up an FBI special unit in the fight against anti-Semitism "after the endless attacks on Jews and their religious institutions". "Enough is enough! Jews in America should not have to fear for their lives if they go to their houses of worship. »The International Auschwitz Committee and the Conference of European Rabbis also condemned the attack.

Donald Trump called for a more determined approach against anti-Semitism. "We all have to come together to fight, confront and erase the diabolical scourge of anti-Semitism," he wrote on Twitter on Sunday.



The attack shows that "the anti-Semitic threat with its deadly dimension can no longer be denied by anyone in Europe, but also in North America," said the Federal Government's Anti-Semitism Commissioner Felix Klein, the German news agency DPA. "The international community should now respond to this international challenge with its internationally agreed instruments."

<https://www.revyuh.com/politics/knife-attack-new-york-mayor-bill-de-blasio-plans-introduce-security-cameras-additional-police-presence/>



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THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

Israeli man who spat at Polish ambassador convicted of assault

Arik Lederman didn't know Magierowski was the man he harassed; plea bargain sees charge that he threatened the envoy dropped

By TOI STAFF

30 December 2019, 12:34 pm | 3



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Poland's ambassador to Israel, Marek Magierowski. (Poland Embassy photo)

An Israeli man was convicted on Sunday of spitting on the [Polish ambassador to Israel](#) in an incident earlier this year that came at the height of a round of tensions between Jerusalem and Poland over the latter's role during the Holocaust.





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Arik Lederman, 65, agreed to a plea deal that saw the indictment against him amended to consist only of an assault charge, while a charge of threatening the ambassador was dropped.

According to the indictment, Lederman blocked Ambassador Marek Magierowski's car outside the Polish embassy in Tel Aviv in May and banged on its roof. The ambassador then rolled down the window to photograph Lederman, who opened the door and spat at Magierowski twice.

The indictment stated that Lederman thought that embassy employees were inside the car he stopped and was unaware that Magierowski himself was inside.

Magierowski said all he could make out from Lederman's shouting was "Polish, Polish."

Lederman apologized for the incident during a hearing at the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court after police arrested him.

Lederman's attorney told the court at the hearing that he had gone to the Polish embassy to inquire about Jewish property abandoned after the Holocaust. He said the embassy guard addressed him with an anti-Jewish slur, calling him a "Zhid," and refused him entry.

It was not clear whether Lederman speaks Polish. He said the guard "said a long sentence in Polish" at the end of which he heard the word "Zhid."

Magierowski has rejected the claim as "bizarre."

Justice Alaa Masarwe characterized the incident as a "road dispute" and not a politically motivated assault. While Masarwe said spitting at a



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diplomatic official in Israel was contemptible and embarrassing, he added that the suspect wouldn't have been arrested had the Polish envoy not been involved.

At court Lederman said: "I want to express my apology for the incident that happened last night. My family suffered the hardships of the Holocaust in Poland and I came to the embassy on the issue of restitution. During that I was subjected to derogatory treatment by one of the embassy employees who called me a 'Zhid' in Polish. That remark offended me very much."

He said he then left the embassy and was walking on the road because the sidewalks were in bad shape, when "a vehicle came from behind me and honked at me loudly, frightening me. I expressed my anger in a way that I regret."

After the court hearing, Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement condemning the altercation, saying "any such acts directed against diplomatic agents deserve unequivocal condemnation."



Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki arrives at the informal EU summit in Salzburg, Austria, September 20, 2018. (AP Photo/Kerstin Joensson)

Meanwhile Poland's President Andrzej Duda called the incident "an anti-Polish act" and said he expected Israeli explanations.

The incident came amid a bitter standoff between Poland and Israel over how to remember the Holocaust and over demands that Poland pay reparations for former Jewish properties that were seized by Nazi Germany and later nationalized by Poland's communist regime.





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Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki condemned the attack in a tweet, calling it “racist” and “xenophobic.”



Poland’s foreign ministry summoned the Israeli ambassador in Warsaw, Anna Azari, at the time to explain why the ambassador was assaulted.

Jewish groups — including the World Jewish Congress and Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, the president of the Conference of European Rabbis and chief rabbi of Moscow — also condemned the incident.

Israel and Poland have had fractious relations over the past few years, with the issue of Polish complicity in the Holocaust becoming a major sticking point in bilateral relations after the Polish government [passed a law in 2018](#) prohibiting the ascribing of any responsibility for the genocide to the Polish nation.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-man-convicted-of-assault-for-spitting-at-polish-ambassador/>

