

Publication: Jewish News Syndcate (online)
Date: 24.02.2020
1/3

jns Jewish
News
Syndicate

Lapid reprimands Belgian ambassador over anti-Semitic carnival in Aalst

Blue and White No. 2 Yair Lapid says he had a “long and angry conversation” with the Belgian ambassador regarding the anti-Semitic parade in Aalst.



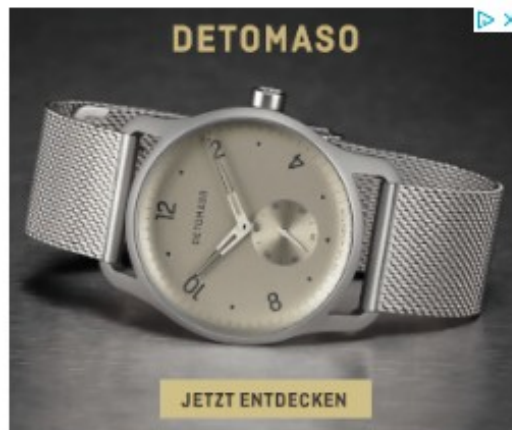
Publication: Jewish News Syndcate (online)
Date: 24.02.2020
2/3

jns Jewish
News
Syndicate

(February 24, 2020 / JNS) Blue and White Party No. 2 MK Yair Lapid said on Sunday that he had reprimanded Belgian Ambassador to Israel Olivier Belle regarding an anti-Semitic parade in Belgium over the weekend.

“I had a long and very angry conversation” with the Belgian ambassador, Lapid told *i24 News* and *Israel Hayom* in an interview. “I told him that if there was a possibility of pressing charges in Belgium I will do it myself, as an Israeli politician but not only—also as the son of a Holocaust survivor.”

The carnival, in the Belgian city of Aalst, was removed from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) heritage list after anti-Semitic symbols were used in last year’s parade, but in this year’s event Jews were targeted once again.



“Even though Aalst Carnival is much more than that, these facts detract from our values and reputation of our country,” Belgian Prime Minister Sophie Wilmès said in a statement, according to the *AP*. “Belgium is a state of law. It is for the Justice Department and concerned authorities to see if the events during Carnival are in contravention of the law.”





Publication: Jewish News Syndcate (online)
Date: 24.02.2020
3/3



One group on Sunday dressed up like insects, sporting the fur hats worn by some Jewish sects.

Aalst Mayor Christoph D'Haese denied any racist element to the carnival, saying all he saw was “free speech.”

“I did not see an anti-Semitic or racist parade. To the contrary, I saw a high mass of free speech and creativity,” said D'Haese.

Chief Rabbi of Moscow Pinchas Goldschmidt, who is also president of the Conference of European Rabbis, said that “the satirical procession with anti-Semitic tropes in Aalst, Belgium, are extremely offensive and abuse the power of free speech which is such an essential ingredient in any liberal democracy,” according to the report.

<https://www.jns.org/lapid-reprimands-belgian-ambassador-over-anti-semitic-carnival/>

