



ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Political Affairs Department

Islamophobia Observatory

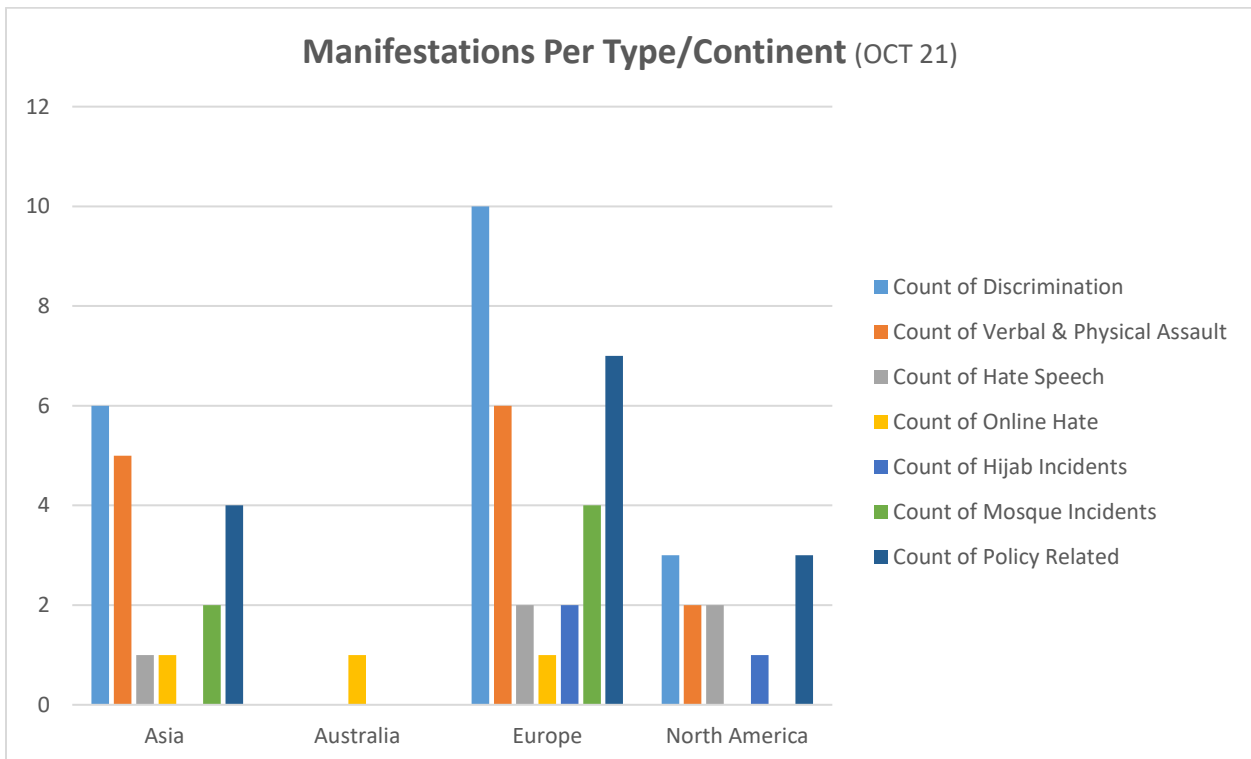
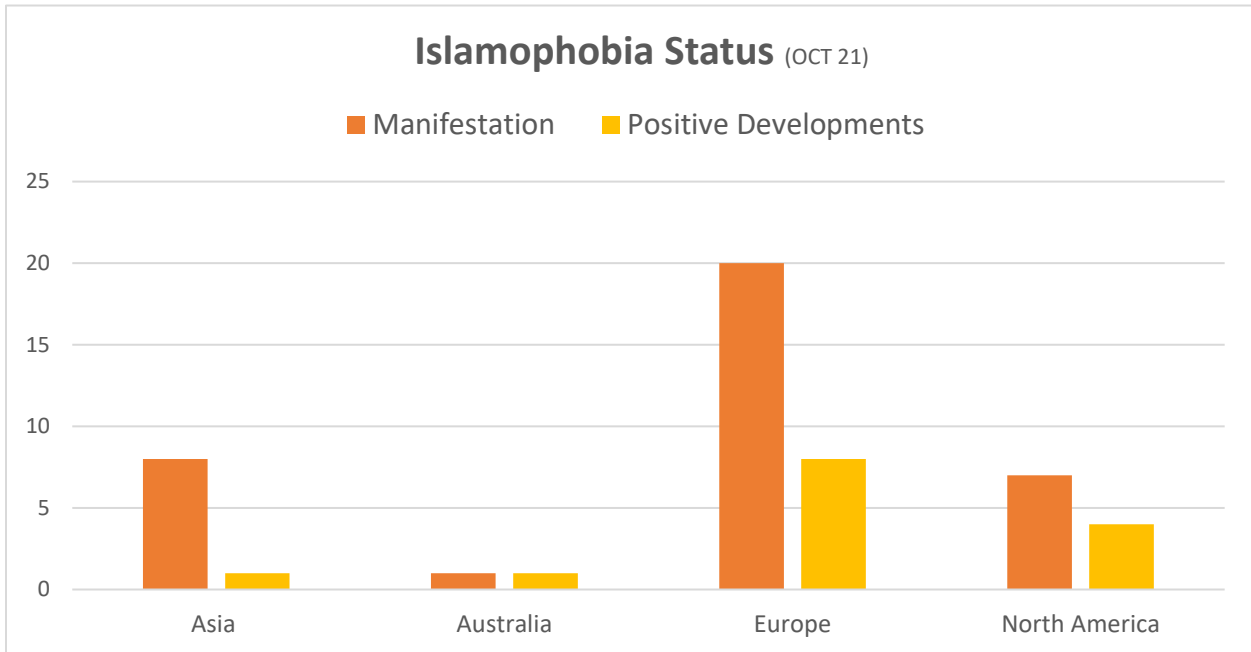
Islamophobia Monitoring

Month: October 2021



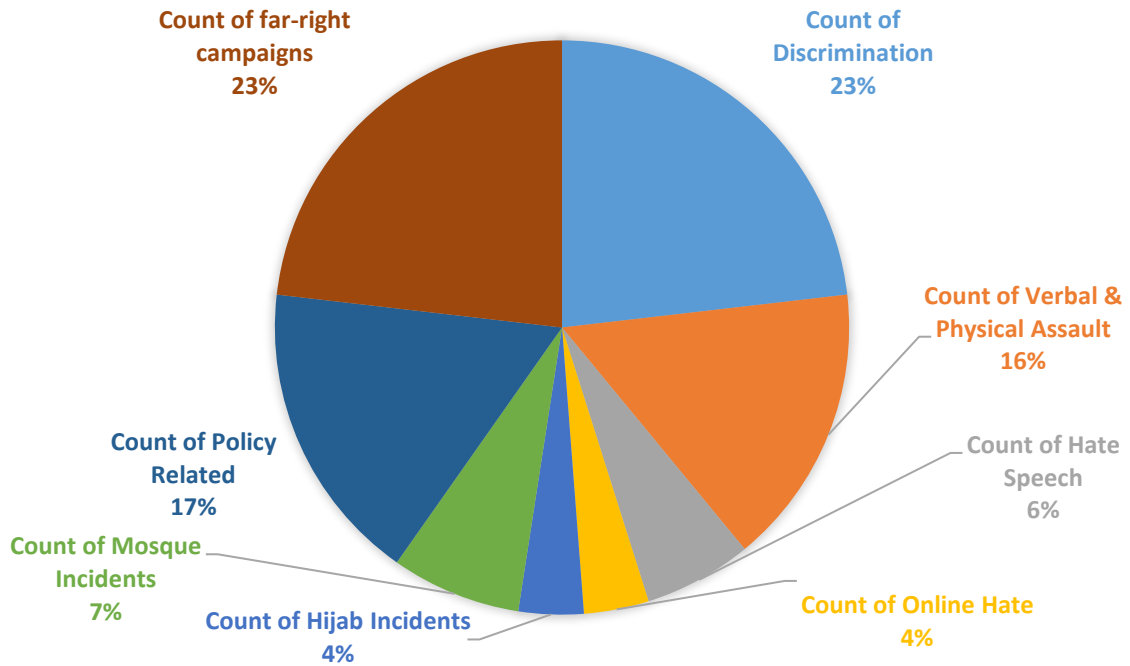
OIC Islamophobia Observatory

Issue: October 2021



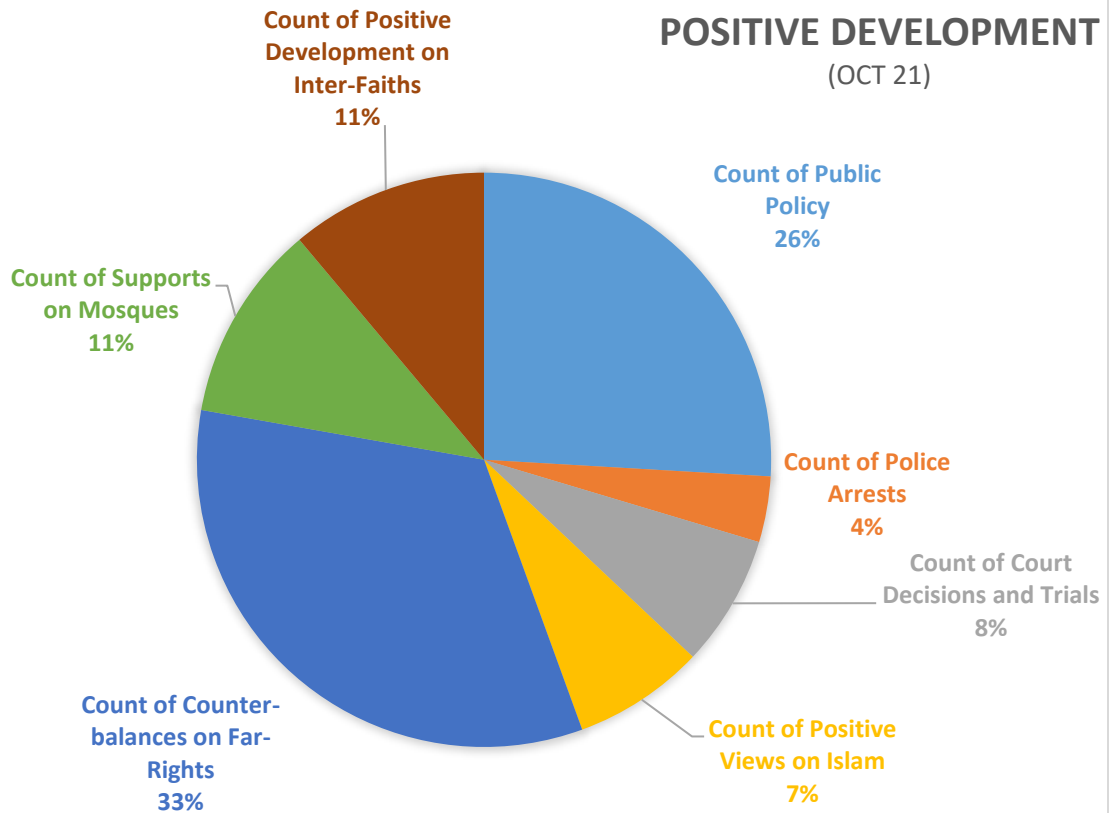
MANIFESTATION

(OCT 21)



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

(OCT 21)



MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

NORTH AMERICA



IsP140503-Panama: Panama police shoot targets in Arab clothes in Israel-run coaching

course – Center East Monitor— Photographs revealed on social media uncovered Panama’s law enforcement officials capturing at targets wearing conventional Arab clothes, together with a headdress, throughout an Israeli-run coaching course. The pictures, which prompted controversy on-line, was revealed on Twitter, by the Nationwide Police and the native Israeli chamber of commerce however it had since been deleted. The deleted Twitter posts claimed that the coaching was organized by the Israeli embassy in Panama. The controversy drew criticism from the Panamanian Committee of Solidarity with Palestine, which stated that the course promoted “violence and racism, in order that anybody who wears a hijab or one thing related might be categorised as a terrorist.” They added a request to the federal government in Panama to discontinue the intervention of international locations in coaching safety forces. In response, the Panama police drive issued an apology: “We’re respectful of cultural, spiritual and ethnic variations. We remorse that ... a state of affairs arose outdoors the character of our mission and obligation.”

See: The Times Of Sindh News’ entry, in: <https://thetimesofsindh.com.pk/2021/10/04/panama-police-shoot-targets-in-arab-clothing-in-israel-run-training-course-middle-east-monitor/>, Image Source: <https://twitter.com/pedrounderdog09/status/1443947421189423124> , retrieved on 05.10.2021



IsP140504-US: Teacher accused of forcibly removing Muslim 2nd grader’s hijab— A school district in Essex County, New Jersey, was investigating an allegation of discrimination by a teacher against a 7-year-old Muslim student. Cassandra Wyatt’s family is Muslim. Her 7-year-old daughter Sumayyah and her sister had been wearing the hijab, since they were very young. “I try to teach them modesty and teach them about what God wants us to do and what is our purpose here,” Wyatt said. Wyatt said Sumayyah’s 2nd grade teacher at Seth Boyden Elementary School in Maplewood, New Jersey, forcefully removed the hijab from her head on October 6. “She said, ‘Yes, Mommy, she pulled my hijab off... She walked up to me saying you can’t wear that in here, and then, she pulled it off.’ And when she went to pull it off, Sumayyah was trying to hold it... and then, she finally got it off, looked at her hair and said, ‘Well, your hair is nice.’ Sumayyah said, ‘Oh, thank you’ and put her hijab back on. And the whole entire class seen it,” Wyatt said. The New Jersey chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations, had called for the teacher’s removal.



See: Yahoo News’ entry, in: <https://news.yahoo.com/jersey-teacher-accused-forcefully-removing-160811016.html/>, retrieved on 11.10.2021

IsP140505-US: Berkeley survey: Majority of Muslim Americans face Islamophobia, especially women— On September 29, the Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley had released a survey which found that nearly 68% of Muslims in the United States had experienced bias, hate or exclusion — forms of Islamophobia. For women, the numbers were especially staggering. Nearly 77% of Muslim women responded that they had faced some form of anti-Islamic prejudice, compared with 58.6% of men. The survey also found that 93.7% of respondents said Islamophobia affects their emotional and mental well-being.

See: The San Francisco Chronicle newspaper entry, in: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Berkeley-institute-Islamophobia-is-shockingly-16494831.php>, retrieved on 03.10.2021

IsP140506-US: Far right activist Laura Loomer to challenge U.S. Rep. Webster in GOP primary— Laura Loomer, a far-right Republican activist infamously banned from numerous social media and tech platforms, was running for Congress again, but this time for a Central Florida district held by GOP Rep. Dan Webster, a longtime Florida Republican who had served in Congress since 2010.

See The Orlando Sentinel newspaper entry, in: <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/politics/os-ne-loomer-congress-run-webster-20210901-baoe63q3uvdmzmpmeadvwhsl6i-storv.html>, retrieved on 13.10.2021

IsP140507-US: ‘Dozens’ of Oregon Cops Have Paid Dues to the Oath Keepers Militia Group: Report— More than two dozen members of the police and military in Oregon had at one point been members of the Oath Keepers, a far-right anti-government militia group, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported on October 15. According to the leaked data obtained by Distributed Denial of Secrets, a non-profit whistleblower organization that shares leaked information with journalists and researchers.

See: Rolling Stone News’ entry, in: <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/oregon-cops-oath-keepers-members-1243194/>, retrieved on 16.10.2021

IsP140508-Canada: Islamophobia in Canada 'systemic' since 9/11 attacks in US— Aggression against Canadian Muslims accelerated after the 9/11 attacks al-Qaeda terrorists carried

out 20 years ago in the US, the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) said in a report, on October 15. The hate increased in the years immediately following the World Trade Center attack and had slowly grown since, with Statistics Canada reporting that anti-Muslim attacks numbered 99 in 2014, up from 36 in 2009. In 2015, hate crimes ballooned to 159, a 60% jump, and in 2017 - the year of the Quebec City Mosque murders - incidents showed a dramatic increase, to 349, police reported. "It's become systemic since then," said Fatema Abdalla, communications coordinator for the NCCM, told Global News. "And what we're seeing now is that not only is it growing, but it's also evolving." Also in 2015, former Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister Stephen Harper wanted to form a "barbaric cultural practices hotline" where Canadians could call to report disturbing rituals their neighbors were involved with. The idea, which many considered stemmed from anti-Muslim sentiment, died when Justin Trudeau won the election the same year. But Islamophobia survived. Then Quebec instituted a law which banned religious symbols from been worn by public servants, such as teachers, nurses, and police, in the workplace. Critics said that regulation unfairly targeted Muslim women who wear a hijab.

See: Anadolu Agency News' entry, in: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/islamophobia-in-canada-systemic-since-9-11-attacks-in-us-/2361510>, retrieved on 17.10.2021

IsP140509-Canada: Quebec City mayoral candidate calls Islam 'a cancer that is slowly growing inside Quebec society'— Alliance Citoyenne Quebec (ACQ) mayoral candidate Alain Giasson said he think Boufeldja Benabdallah, who was running in the Cap-aux-Diamants district, was promoting the Islamization of the provincial capital. In response, Benabdallah pointed out he had no intention to impose his religion on anyone. "He does not intend to turn his back to his religion, but neither will he impose his point of view," reads a statement from Benabdallah's campaign. Benabdallah's name on mayoral candidate Marie-Josée Savard's team led Giasson to include the following on his party platform: "Islam is contrary to fundamental Quebec values. Islam is a cancer that is slowly growing inside Quebec society." "The trigger was the fact that the co-founder of the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec (Benabdallah) is up for election," Giasson told CTV News. "His whole adult life in Quebec City, he has worked very publicly for the Islamization of Quebec. They're taking steps and making decisions that favours the Islamization of Quebec society."

See: CTV News Montreal News' entry, in: <https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/quebec-city-mayoral-candidate-calls-islam-a-cancer-that-is-slowly-growing-inside-quebec-society-1.5610214>, retrieved on 05.10.2021

EUROPE

IsP140510-France: France Raids Several Mosques, Islamic Institutions— France's Minister of Interior, Gerald Dermanin, announced the ministry would shut down six mosques and a variety of Islamic associations in France accused of promoting "separatism." Darmanin revealed that a third of the 89 places of worship in France had been under investigation since November 2020 on the grounds of been "suspected of being radical." Six places of worship in France would close as a result of this crackdown. French authorities were intensifying efforts to eradicate Islamic "separatism" in the country.

See: Morocco World News entry, in: <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2021/10/344698/france-raids-several-mosques-islamic-institutions>, retrieved on 03.10.2021

IsP140511-France: Under construction mosque in northeastern France receives threat letter— An under-construction mosque in the French city of Strasbourg had received a death threat letter, an official of the country's Islamic community said. The letter, which was received on October 12, titled "Declaration of War," and argued that Islam had no place in France. The anonymous note said Muslims of France would have to make a choice between Islam and

Christianity. "Considering most of you will choose Islam, you have no place in France. Get ready, you will be attacked in your mosques!" the letter said.

See: Anadolu Agency News' entry,, in: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/under-construction-mosque-in-northeastern-france-receives-threat-letter/2385802>, retrieved on 17.10.2021

IsP140512-France: French Interior Minister Targets Muslim Publishing House in Latest Anti-Islamic Move— On September 24, French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin posted a tweet where he confirmed and supported the closure of two prominent French-Islamic organizations. Darmanin stated one of France's highest judicial bodies, the Council of State, supported the motions to close Muslim NGO Baraka City and the anti-islamophobia group Collective Against Islamophobia in France (CCIF). "The fight against Islamist ideology is reaching a decisive stage," Darmanin concluded in his social media post. The news follows French authorities' decision to close Nawa Editions publishing house, a top Islamic literary publishing company. On Twitter, the French Interior Minister alleged Nawa was involved in the "distribution of several works legitimizing the jihad," while he failed to provide substantial evidence to support his claim. He Argued that the decision was purely political, Nawa accused the French government of taken an anti-Islamic direction to win support among right-leaning populations in France. While the company's catalog included literature on Islamic historical figures and religious customs, there was very little evidence that it contained literature that sympathized with or celebrated jihadist sentiments.

See: Morocco World News entry, in: <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2021/09/344633/french-interior-minister-targets-muslim-publishing-house-in-latest-anti-islamic-move>, retrieved on 03.10.2021

IsP140513-France: French Court Confirms Dissolution of Anti-Discrimination Group— On September 24, France's top administrative court, the Council of State, approved the French authorities' December 2020 dissolution of the Collective Against Islamophobia in France (CCIF), a leading anti-discrimination group. Over the years, CCIF had provided legal support to people who faced anti-Muslim discrimination and were documenting the discriminatory impact on Muslims of France's counterterrorism measures. In their judgment, the court said that CCIF's denunciation of France's hostility toward Muslims in the fight against terrorism, as well as the group's failure to "moderate" third parties' antisemitic and other hostile comments in response to CCIF social media posts, constituted incitement to discrimination, hatred, and violence, which justified the decision to close it down. The court also accepted disputed allegations that CCIF maintained close links with supporters of radical Islamism. The Council of State rejected all other arguments by the French government, yet nevertheless upheld the decision to close it down.

See: Human Rights Watch News' entry, in: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/09/27/french-court-confirms-dissolution-anti-discrimination-group>, retrieved on 03.10.2021

IsP140514-France: French poll predicts Zemmour-Macron showdown in 2022 presidential election—A poll released on October 6 had suggested for the first time that far-right pundit Eric Zemmour would qualify for the second round of next year's presidential election and eclipse traditional far-right leader Marine Le Pen. Some 17-18 percent of voters told Harris Interactive polling they would vote for Zemmour in the first round, compared with 15-16 percent for Le Pen. This would mean he would advance to a second-round with President Emmanuel Macron, who was credited with 24-27 percent of voter intentions in the first round, set to be held on April 10th. The online poll of 1,310 people, was carried out on October 4 and published in Challenges magazine.

See: Human Rights Watch News' entry, in: <https://www.thelocal.fr/20211006/french-poll-predicts-zemmour-macron-showdown-in-2022-presidential-election/>, retrieved on 07.10.2021

IsP140515-France: U.S. Antigovernment Groups Are Influencing the French Far Right— On October 13, Laurent Nuñez, France's national intelligence and counterterrorism coordinator, who was visiting Washington, said Right-wing extremist groups in the United States had been

influencing French groups. “As far as the threats from the extreme right, the developments we are observing in France are quite similar to what is happening in the United States,” he said. In previous years, extreme right-wing groups in France were open about their activities, less violent and had different motivations, he said. But right-wing extremists were now older, Mr. Nuñez added, and they were often people whose activities the French authorities do not know about. “They want to organize themselves into clandestine networks,” he said. “There is no more visibility. They are willing to commit violent actions, which can be compared to terrorists.” The groups’ targets had expanded from mosques and Islamic groups to institutions of the French state, he said. Like American groups, many extremist groups had adopted conspiracy theories about the government’s actions. Still, he said, there had been no right wing extremist cells dismantled by authorities, while in the last five years six Islamist cells were broken up by authorities and accused of plotting attacks. The French authorities had not found “operational links” between domestic extremist groups and the United States. But French groups had drawn inspiration from other movements outside the country, including QAnon, Mr. Nuñez said.

See: New York Times newspaper entry, in: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/13/us/politics/france-far-right-extremists-qanon.html>, retrieved on 14.10.2021

IsP140516-UK: Hate crimes in England and Wales up 9% since Covid pandemic began—

Reported hate crimes had risen by 9% to a record number of more than 124,000 across England and Wales since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, according to official figures released on October 12. Racially motivated crimes, which were nearly three-quarters of the total number of 124,091 hate crimes, increased by 12% over the year ending in March 2021 amid Black Lives Matter protests and a backlash from far-right activists. Homophobic hate crimes increased 7% to 17,135. Hate crime was defined by the Home Office as “any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic”. The statistics released on Tuesday showed that religious hate crimes fell by 18%, in the second successive annual drop since a peak in 2019.

See: The Guardian newspaper entry, in: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/oct/12/hate-crimes-in-england-and-wales-up-9-since-covid-pandemic-began>, retrieved on 13.10.2021

IsP140517-UK: Racist letters sent to Wakefield Labour councillors—

Racist and anti-Muslim letters sent to councillors had sparked a police investigation. Four members of Wakefield's Labour group received the notes, which branded Islam "dangerous" and warned of a "Muslim takeover". Signed off with "a Conservative colleague", the letters took aim at one councillor and their religion. The Conservative group said it was "shocked" and the messages were not sent by one of its members. In the letter, seen by the BBC, Muslims were described as "very dangerous". Referring to one councillor, it urged recipients to "avoid this person at all costs", it added: "We cannot allow Muslims to take over". West Yorkshire Police said it was investigating allegations of malicious communications. Labour members Steve Tulley, Michael Graham, Betty Rhodes and Olivia Rowley all received a version of the note.

See: BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-58920485>, retrieved on 16.10.2021

IsP140518-UK: Picnic marred by 'racist and Islamophobic' attack—

A family picnic had been marred by a "racist and Islamophobic" attack, according to the organiser. Zahra Kosar tweeted that children were chased and terrorised while some parents were assaulted in St George Park, Bristol on September 25. She said they were all traumatised by what appeared to be a "racist and Islamophobic attack". Police had said they were treating the incident as a suspected hate crime.

See: BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-58699238>, retrieved on 03.10.2021

IsP140519-UK: Majority of voters say police have problem with racism, poll finds —

A majority of voters in the UK believe that the police had a problem with racism, an exclusive poll for LFF had found. The poll was carried out by Savanta: ComRes and asked voters to what extent

they thought that the police in general had a problem with racism, with 63% of respondents said they thought the police had a problem with racism, compared to 23% who believed they did not. More than half of those who answered the survey said that the police had a problem with Islamophobia (52%) compared to 26% who thought they did not. 58% of those aged 18-24 years old said that the police had a problem with Islamophobia, compared with 40% of those aged between 55-64 years old. Concerns over Islamophobia in the police were particularly high among Lib Dem and Labour Party voters (64%) each, compared to 48% of Conservative Party voters. When it came to age, 72% of those aged 65 and over said they believe the police had a problem with racism, as do 66% of 18-24 year olds. Concerns over racism in the police were particularly high among those who lived in London, with 70% of respondents said they thought the police had a problem with racism, compared to 52% of those who lived in the West Midlands. When it came to party affiliation, 73% of Labour voters thought that the police had a problem with racism, compared to 58% of Conservative voters. Black people were nine times more likely to be stopped and searched by police than white people, official figures for England and Wales showed. A total of 577,054 stops were carried out across England in 2019-20, with 76% leading to no further action. Black people were 18 times more likely to be stopped under section 60, under which no reasonable suspicion was required.

See: Left Foot Forward News' entry, in: <https://leftfootforward.org/2021/10/exclusive-majority-of-voters-say-police-have-problem-with-racism-poll-finds/>, retrieved on 09.10.2021

IsP140520-UK: “It was one of the worst days of my life,” Muslim man assaulted, robbed along Leeds and Liverpool Canal— A Muslim man had been assaulted, and robbed along Leeds and Liverpool Canal, he told Tellmama caseworker. He witnessed the perpetrator flee the scene in his vehicle as he urged a female member of the public to call the police as an ambulance soon arrived to treat him. The who wished to remain anonymous, was a South Asian, he described the men who assaulted him as a white male in their mid-to-late twenties. The ongoing police investigation had so far been unable to trace his stolen car or wallet – the loss compounded by the news of the use of their card in two transactions – that included the purchase of alcohol.

See: Tell Mama UK News' entry, in: <https://tellmamauk.org/it-was-one-of-the-worst-days-of-my-life-muslim-man-assaulted-robbed-along-leeds-and-liverpool-canal/>, retrieved on 14.10.2021

IsP140521-UK: Racist slammed car door against Muslim woman strapping their child in — A racist man slammed a Muslim woman's car door onto her, which injured her as she almost fell onto her young child, and told her, “I'm fed up of you foreigners,” before he fled the scene by driving off. The anti-Muslim and Islamophobic attack was under investigation from the Met and occurred on September 19.

See: Tell Mama UK News' entry, in: <https://tellmamauk.org/racist-slammed-car-door-against-muslim-woman-strapping-their-child-in/>, retrieved on 16.10.2021



IsP140522-UK: British far-right groups target hotels housing Afghans— Thousands of Afghans housed temporarily in British hotels had faced increasing harassment by far-right groups, according to organizations monitoring the activities of extremists. Campaigners said the groups were drawing on Islamophobic narratives to whip up hate against the refugees. Britain First was one of the most notorious and prominent groups involved in the campaign, and according to its own website, it had made more than a dozen unsolicited visits to hotels housing refugees across England in last few weeks. Right-wing extremism monitor Hope Not Hate said the resettlement schemes for Afghans had become a focal point for many far-right groups. It said the arrival of the refugees had led to the far right “reviving, and refining, similar attacks used during the Syria crisis.” The far right, it added, was using ideas rooted in Islamophobia such as the “Muslim takeover of Europe,” or framing refugees as potential terrorists or sex offenders, to incite hatred against them. In the videos, far-right activists were seen filming themselves showing up at hotels and where they tried to find and film refugees, who they incorrectly described as illegal immigrants.

See: Arab News newspaper entry, in: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1955806/world>, retrieved on 27.10.2021

IsP140523-Belgium: Belgium upholds ban on ritual slaughter for Jews and Muslims — On September 30, The Belgian Constitutional Court supported the judgment of the European Court of Justice (CJEU) on December 2020 on banning animal slaughter without stunning. The ruling followed a request from the Belgian court to CJEU for clarification on the legal issue and the correct interpretation of EU regulation No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing. The regulation allowed ritual slaughter without stunning if it took place in approved slaughterhouses but left the door open for the EU member states to adopt stricter rules to protect animal welfare but not to ban ritual slaughter completely.

See: Brussels Times News’ entry, in: <https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/187461/belgian-court-upholds-ban-on-ritual-slaughter-for-jews-and-muslims/>, retrieved on 02.10.2021

IsP140524-Italy: Far-Right Granddaughter of Benito Mussolini Wins Election as Rome City Councilor — Rachele Mussolini, the granddaughter of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, had won a second term as a city councilor in Rome, and received over 8,200 votes. While Rachele Mussolini, a member of the Brothers of Italy party (a far-right group which critics said was rooted in neo-fascism) had previously garnered only 657 votes in the 2016 election, she was able to capture a plurality this time, where she received more votes than anyone else on the ballot. The election took place on October 3 and 4 in 1,200 municipalities across Italy.

See: Newsweek Magazine News' entry, in: <https://www.newsweek.com/far-right-granddaughter-benito-mussolini-wins-election-rome-city-councilor-1636404>, retrieved on 07.10.2021



IsP140525-Austria: Muslim woman attacked for wearing hijab in Vienna— A Muslim woman living in the Austrian capital Vienna was spat on by a woman in an Islamophobic attack. Digital creator Baraa Bolat said the woman verbally harassed her after she got off a city bus. The woman pulled off her hijab, which caused the pin attached to the veil underneath her chin to wound her. Ms Bolat said the worst part was that no one helped her. The assailant only stopped when Ms Bolat started filming her. She shared the incident on social media to raise awareness of such attacks.

See: The Independent Newspaper entry, in: <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/muslim-woman-attacked-hijab-vienna-vafef1bf8/>, Also: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/muslim-woman-attacked-in-austria-for-wearing-hijab/2375507>, retrieved on 21.10.2021

IsP140526-Germany: German elections: Hijab-wearing woman turned away from voting booth— On September 26, a Polling station assistants in the western German town of Bergheim initially refused to allow a Muslim woman wearing a hijab and a protective mask to cast her ballot during Germany's elections. The poll workers reportedly cited a ban on face coverings for not allowing her to vote, according to the local WDR public broadcaster. The law said those who wish to vote must be identifiable. She was later allowed to vote after researched the law and complained to city officials. The town's elections board said she was allowed to wear her headscarf and vote, while they added that restrictions on face coverings apply to more conservative forms of dress such as the burqa or niqab.

See: DW News' entry, in: <https://www.dw.com/en/german-elections-hijab-wearing-woman-turned-away-from-voting-booth/a-59343162>, retrieved on 03.10.2021

IsP140527-Germany: Germany probes far-right incidents in military guard unit— A company of the German military's honor guard battalion had been suspended from official duty amid an investigation of initiation rituals, suspected sexual abuse and far-right incidents, the German Defense Ministry said on October 8. The company had been suspended from official events “until further notice” while the allegations were being investigated, ministry spokesman Arne Collatz told reporters in Berlin. He stressed that the ministry was pursuing a “no-tolerance” policy. The guard battalion, which had nearly 1,000 members, provided military honors during state visits and other formal events. Collatz said the internal investigation covers “several dozen” soldiers and the alleged incidents came to light as a result of reports by fellow battalion members. See: New Canaan Advertiser Newspaper entry, in: <https://www.ncadvertiser.com/news/article/Germany-probes-far-right-incidents-in-military-16518494.php>, retrieved on 09.10.2021

IsP140528-Germany: German far-right party opposes mosque’s call to prayer in Cologne— Germany’s far-right AfD party stepped up criticism of Cologne’s mayor Henriette Reker for the decision to allow mosques to broadcast call to prayer (Azan) on Fridays. “This gives the impression that Germany is not a Christian country, but a Muslim one. This is not the case,” Matthias Buschges, the AfD’s deputy spokesman in Cologne, said in a statement. Cologne had been home to more than 120,000 Muslims, nearly 12% of the city’s entire population. Mayor Reker announced the week before that nearly 30 mosques in the city would be allowed to broadcast muezzin’s call for Friday prayers over loudspeakers. “Cologne is a city of religious diversity and freedoms. Allowing muezzin’s call to prayer is for me a sign of respect,” she stressed. See: Anadolu Agency News’ entry, in: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/german-far-right-party-opposes-mosque-s-call-to-prayer-in-cologne/2391131>, retrieved on 17.10.2021

IsP140529-Netherlands: Dutch municipalities secretly probing mosques: Report —On October 16, Dutch daily NRC reported that at least 10 municipalities in the country had been investigating mosques, imams, mosque association officials, and people active in the community through private companies. According to the report, the municipalities involved in such investigations included Rotterdam, Delft, Almere, Huizen, Leidschendam-Voorburg, Zoetermeer, Veenendaal, and Ede. The newspaper added that the Utrecht Municipality had stopped the investigation due to concerns about privacy and the method of the probe. The report claimed that the NTA (Nuance door Training en Advies), a consultancy firm that informs the government on radicalization, was paid by the national coordinator for security and counterterrorism through municipalities. Around \$347,990 was spent on the secret investigations, according to the report. The NTA employees who did the investigations posed as members of the community or visitors and met numerous people without revealing their true identities, the report added. According to the daily, findings on the backgrounds of imams and administrators, such as where they came from or their schooling, were submitted to the municipalities as "secret information" by the NTA. See: Anadolu Agency News’ entry, in: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/dutch-municipalities-secretly-probing-mosques-report/2394300>, retrieved on 17.10.2021

ASIA

IsP140530-India: Facebook aware of anti-Muslim content in India, but took little action, alleges whistleblower— Facebook was well aware of incendiary anti-Muslim narratives been promoted on the platform in India, whistleblower and former Facebook employee Frances Haugen told United States authorities, The Wire reported. Haugen also cited internal company documents referred to “fear-mongering content” promoted by “Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh users, groups and pages”. She claimed that “political considerations” prevented Facebook from providing a designation to “this group”, in what seems to refer to the possibility of increased monitoring of RSS-related content. Haugen referred to internal records on hateful content which targeted

Muslims in India. “There were a number of dehumanizing posts comparing Muslims to ‘pigs’ and ‘dogs’ and misinformation claiming the Quran calls for men to rape their female family members,” she quoted a company document as saying. The document reportedly stated that no action was taken against much of those content as the company lacked “Hindi and Bengali classifiers”. Classifiers referred to algorithms that detect hate speech. Haugen, through her lawyers, had filed at least eight complaints against Facebook with the US’ Securities and Exchange Commission, CBS News reported. The complaints were related to “making material misrepresentations and omissions in statements” to investors through filings with the SEC, testimonies to the US Congress, online statements and media articles. She reportedly based her complaints on tens of thousands of documents that she secretly copied before she left Facebook in May 2021. At least four of the complaints contained references to India, according to *The Wire*.

See: Scroll India News’ entry, in: <https://scroll.in/latest/1007049/facebook-aware-of-anti-muslim-content-in-india-but-took-little-action-alleges-whistleblower>, retrieved on 07.10.2021

IsP140531-India: Madhya Pradesh: Muslim family ‘beaten up, asked to leave village’; dispute over money, say police— On October 9, A Muslim family of seven who lived at Kampel grampanchayat near Indore in Madhya Pradesh were beaten up and threatened by a mob of more than 100 people. The mob asked them to vacate the house and leave the village, alleged the family members. The family alleged that these men chanted Jai Shree Ram and were beating them up because they had not vacated the house and left the village by October 9, paying heed to an earlier warning by the group, a month before. The police, however, stated that the two groups had got into a dispute over money and cross-complaint from both sides were registered.

See: Indian Express News’ entry, in: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bhopal/madhya-pradesh-muslim-family-beaten-up-asked-to-leave-village-dispute-over-money-say-police-7563526/>, retrieved on 11.10.2021



IsP140532-India: Many people believe immigrant Muslims root cause why Assam has lost identity: Himanta Biswa Sarma— Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said many people in the state believe immigrant Muslims were the root cause why Assam had lost identity, culture and land. Himanta Biswa Sarma also said that there was no community-based politics in Assam. Speaking at the 19th edition of the India Today Conclave 2021, Himanta Biswa Sarma said encroachment was taking place because immigrant Muslims were producing in large numbers.

See: Indian Express News’ entry, in: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/assam-himanta-biswa-sarma-population-polarisation-1862781-2021-10-09/>, retrieved on 11.10.2021

IsP140533-India: 10-yr-old Muslim boy quizzed by Uttar Pradesh police for entering temple— A 10-year-old Muslim boy was taken to a police station for questioning after he "inadvertently entered" the Dasna Devi temple. In a video clip circulating on social media, temple priest Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati charged that the minor had been sent to snoop on him and in the boy's community, there were "trained killers" of his age. Narsinghanand could be heard where he accused the boy who was standing next to him of entering the temple premises to carry out a "recce" but asserted that he was not "touched or slapped". The priest said he wanted to tell Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and all senior police officers that a conspiracy was being hatched to kill him. However, the boy told police that he had come to the area to visit his pregnant sister-in-law admitted to the community health centre (CHC) adjacent to the temple. He said that he accidentally entered the temple but was caught by the management and handed over to police. After the veracity of the boy's statements was verified, he was allowed to go, police said.

See: The Hans India News' entry, in: <https://www.thehansindia.com/news/national/10-yr-old-muslim-boy-quizzed-by-uttar-pradesh-police-for-entering-temple-710651/>, retrieved on 13.10.2021

IsP140534-India: For Fourth Straight Week, Namaz Offering in Gurugram's Sector 47 Faces Protests— Muslims who were offering namaz in the open on Friday, October 15, in Gurugram's Sector 47 faced protests from some people who attempted to reach the spot, which prompted police to cordon off the area. This was the fourth consecutive week when Friday prayers by the Muslim community in the area had been targeted, according to a report by the Indian Express. As a mark of protest, around 12:40 pm, 70 to 80 people attempted to march towards the site where the Muslim community congregated singing bhajans using a microphone and portable speaker. The protestors also raised slogans against the government for allegedly not stopping namaz from being offered in public places and open government lands. The said site in Sector 47 in Gurugram was among the list of 37 designated sites locally where prayers could be offered in the open.

See: The Wire News' entry, in: <https://thewire.in/communalism/gurugram-sector-47-protest-namaz>, retrieved on 28.10.2021

IsP140535-India: Bhopal: Four Muslim Men Targeted by Bajrang Dal Outside College Garba Event, Then Detained by Police— On October 10, Four young Muslim men, in Bhopal were taken into police custody on Sunday night after members of the Hindu right-wing Bajrang Dal decided to "catch them" and hand them over to the police, the Indian Express reported. The men were outside a garba organised by Oxford College, where two of the men – Adnan Shah and Kadir Mansoori – were students. The other two – Umar Khalid and Sayyad Sakib – were their friends, according to the newspaper. The Bajrang Dal members reportedly claimed that the garba event was being held in violation of COVID-19 norms and also promoted "love jihad". Superintendent of Police, Indore West, Maheshchand Jain admitted to the Indian Express that the action against the four young men was "unfair" and that he had recommended that they not be detained. Malharganj SDM Parag Jain, however, said the four had been charged for creating a "public nuisance", and were sent to jail as their families didn't furnish bail bonds. An eyewitness told the Indian Express that the Bajrang Dal members targeted the four because of their religious identity. "Ye unwala hai (He is one of theirs)," BCom student Habib Noor quoted the Bajrang Dal members.

See: The Wire News' entry, in: <https://thewire.in/communalism/bhopal-mp-bajrang-dal-garba-muslim-men-targeted>, retrieved on 12.10.2021



IsP140536-India: Tripura: Statewide attacks on mosques, houses of Muslims during rally against Bangladesh violence— On October 22, Mosque in Panisagar in North Tripura district was burnt by Hindu violent mob at 1am. At least six mosques and over a dozen of houses and shops which belonged to Muslims were vandalized by Hindutva groups RSS, VHP and Bajrang Dal across Tripura during protests against Bangladesh violence on October 21. Photos and videos accessed by Maktoob showed violent right wing mobs who wear saffron and carry swords raised anti-Muslim slogans during protests organized by Viswa Hindu Parishad, Hindu Jagran Manch, Bajrang Dal, and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Safiqur Rahman, an activist associated to Students Islamic Organization (SIO) said to Maktoob that at least six mosques were attacked by Hindutva assailants since Wednesday, October 20. A mosque was burnt in Maharani Region in Gomathi district’s Udaipur, he confirmed to Maktoob. A government order said Section 144 imposed in the region following call for anti-Muslim violence by Hindutva groups. Mosques in Krishnagar, Dharmanagar, Panisagar, Chandpur were also vandalized by saffron wearing youths on Thursday October 21. According to Tripura Infoways website, participants of a rally brought out by Vishwa Hindu Parishad broke window glasses and CCTV cameras of Krishnagar Jama Masjid. In Kailashahar, a locality near to Tripura’s capital city Agartala, a mob surrounded the mosque and shouted “Jai Shri Ram” and placed a saffron flag. “These all happened during the protests against communal violence in Bangladesh,” Rahman said.

See: Maktoob Media News’ entry, in: <https://maktoobmedia.com/2021/10/22/tripura-statewide-attacks-on-mosques-houses-of-muslims-during-rally-against-bangladesh-violence/>. Also See the video, in: <https://twitter.com/maktoobmedia/status/1451267145849991168>, retrieved on 23.10.2021

IsP140537-Palestine: Brazenly inhumane: Israel demolishes Muslim graves near Al-Aqsa— On October 10, Israeli authorities had destroyed Muslim graves near the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the illegally occupied eastern Jerusalem. The Israel-administered Jerusalem Municipality desecrated several graves at the Al-Yusufiye Cemetery near Al-Aqsa and used the municipality’s engineering vehicles in the Old City. By the time the Palestinians reached Al-Yusufiye Cemetery amid reports of bones found at the graveyard, the municipality vehicles had already left the scene.

See: The Correspondent News’ entry, in: <https://www.thecorrespondent.pk/2021/10/11/brazenly-inhumane-israel-demolishes-muslim-graves-near-al-aqsa/>, retrieved on 12.10.2021

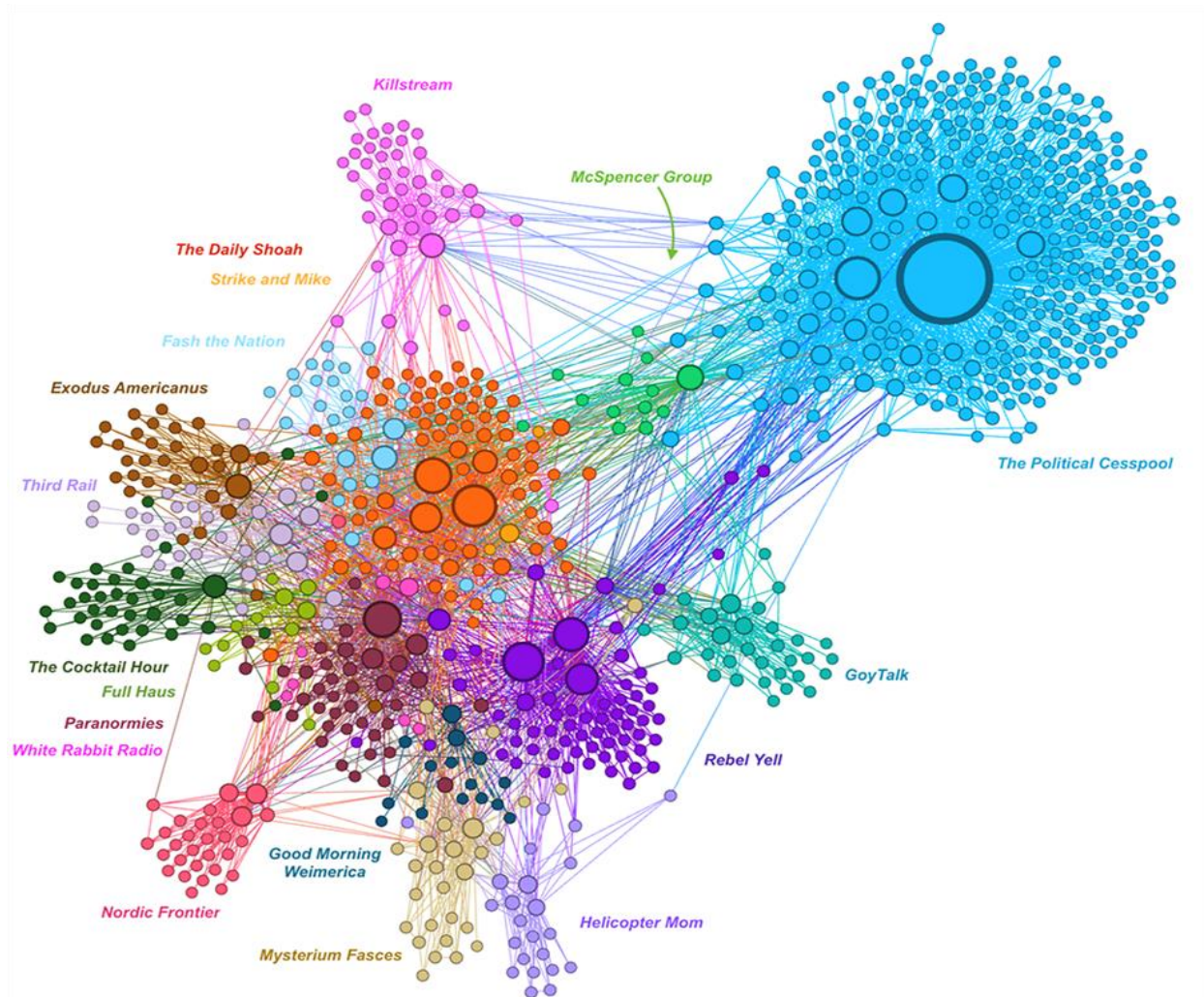
AUSTRALIA

IsP140538-Australia: Australia's right-wing extremism fastest-growing threat: federal police— Australia's national police agency had revealed that the number of investigations it was conducting into far-right extremism had increased 750 percent in the past 18 months. Australian Federal Police (AFP) Assistant Commissioner Scott Lee, on October 8, warned that far-right extremism was the country's fastest-growing threat. He told broadcaster SBS that the number of nationalist and racist violent extremism cases before the AFP's Joint Counter Terrorism Team (JCCT) had grown by 750 percent since the start of 2020 and now accounts for 15 percent of the unit's investigations compared to 2 percent in 2019.

See: New China News Agency entry, in: http://www.news.cn/english/2021-10/08/c_1310231828.htm, retrieved on 09.10.2021

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

NORTH AMERICA



IsP140539-US: Exposing Hate Online: New SPLC resource tracks role of tech companies in spreading far-right extremism through podcasts — The Southern Poverty Law Center released a groundbreaking, four-part report on September 27 which exposed the origins and growth of the far-right podcast ecosystem over the past decade. The series was the first investigative report on the SPLC’s new TechWatch, a resource that tracked the role technology played in perpetuating hate. The investigative series on TechWatch also examined the extremists and groups that used this technology to create and expand their networks of hate. “For years, far-right extremists and hate groups have increasingly used technology to spread dangerous messaging, raise money, expand their membership and audience and even coordinate violence,... This new resource seeks to expose the various ways these groups use all sorts of tech platforms....Despite constant warnings to tech companies about the dangers of these groups, more often than not, companies have put profits over the public good. Our hope is resources like this will shine light into dark corners of the web and help propel action by the companies, the public and even Congress to address this dire situation.” said Susan Corke, director of the SPLC’s Intelligence Project.

See: SPL Center News’ entry, in: <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2021/10/01/exposing-hate-online-new-splc-resource-tracks-role-tech-companies-spreading-far-right>, retrieved on 03.10.2021

IsP140540-Canada: Toronto Maple Leafs alumni host game in London, Ont. to stand against hate—Toronto Maple Leaf alumni faced off at Budweiser Gardens in London, Ont. on October 3 to show how sports could bring a community together even when faced with adversity. The game followed the Toronto Raptors' annual open practice at Budweiser Gardens on Oct. 2. It was all part of a weekend of events hosted by Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment, organized with the aim of standing up against hate in the wake of a fatal attack on a Muslim family in June. At the end of the game, former Leafs captain Wendel Clark reflected on the importance of sports as way to overcome division. "It's looking out for one another," he said. "It doesn't matter whether you're on the ice or in the community, it's about being a good community person, and being a good team player."

See: CBC News' entry, in: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/toronto-maple-leafs-alumni-host-game-in-london-ont-to-stand-against-hate-1.6198449>, retrieved on 04.10.2021

IsP140541-Canada: Mayoral candidate in Canada jailed for defaming Muslim entrepreneur— On October 4, Kevin J. Johnston was sentenced in a Canadian court to 18 months behind bars for contravening six court orders to stop making defamatory comments about restaurant owner Mohamad Fakhri. Johnston, a mayoral candidate for the city of Calgary, Alberta, was jailed by Justice Fred Myers for breaking a 2019 court order to stop defaming Fakhri, something he continued to do six times after the order. "Almost all the evidence against Mr. Johnston comes from his own mouth," Myers said in pronouncing the sentence. "Mr. Johnston's words are classic hate speech. They draw on tropes to assign negative characteristics based on ugly stereotypes like branding Muslims as terrorists, for example."

See: Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/americas/mayoral-candidate-in-canada-jailed-for-defaming-muslim-entrepreneur>, retrieved on 06.10.2021

IsP140542-Canada: Canada school district to implement anti-Islamophobia strategy—A school district in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in Canada announced that it would implement a new anti-Islamophobia strategy, amid reports of increased hate crimes against Muslims in the country. On September 30, The Peel District School Board (PDSB), adopted a motion, which included the creation of a committee responsible for anti-Islamophobia training. "Hate crimes have been on the rise, making Muslims one of the most targeted communities in Peel Region. Such events have had a significant impact on our students, and the broader Muslim community's sense of safety and belonging," trustee Nokha Dakroub told the meeting. In a video posted on Twitter, Dakroub said the strategy would include mandatory training to all staff, accountability measures and regular communication with the broader community.

See: Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/islamophobia/canada-school-district-to-implement-anti-islamophobia-strategy>, Also: <https://www.thestar.com/local-mississauga/news/2021/10/08/peel-district-school-board-passes-motion-for-all-staff-to-receive-anti-islamophobia-training.html>, retrieved on 11.10.2021

EUROPE

IsP140543-France: French police arrest Hitler sympathizer for planning mosque attack— A teen extremist who idolizes Adolf Hitler was arrested for planning to attack a high school and a mosque, media reports said on October 2. French daily Le Parisien said the man, who the newspaper called "Simon," planned to attack the high school he attended and a nearby mosque in the Seine-Maritime region in the northwest of the country. He was detained few days before by the General Directorate for Internal Security (DGSI) and brought before a counterterrorism judge on October 1. The paper said Simon had planned to execute the attack on April 20, Hitler's birthday, and before the second round of presidential elections in France.

See: Daily Sabah newspaper entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/europe/french-police-arrest-hitler-sympathizer-for-planning-mosque-attack>, retrieved on 06.10.2021

IsP140544-Germany: German far-right party co-chief quits after election disappointment—

On October 11, The co-chief of Germany's far-right AfD Joerg Meuthen said that he would not seek to continue as head of the eurosceptic and islamophobic party. After six and a half "incredibly challenging" but also "enriching" years, Meuthen said in a statement that he would "no longer bear the role of federal spokesman" for the party.

See: France 24 News' entry, in: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211011-german-far-right-party-co-chief-quits-after-election-disappointment>, retrieved on 12.10.2021

IsP140545-Germany: Germany's far-right party lost seats in last week's election.—

The major headlines which came out of Germany's federal election on September 26 were about the Social Democrats' win and the defeat of the Christian Democrats after Angela Merkel's 16-year leadership run. Many feared that Germany might shift to the right, following countries like Austria or Switzerland, where xenophobic parties had long been powerful. Instead, Germany's far-right, anti-immigrant Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) lost 11 seats, and received about 10 percent of the vote.

See: The Washington Post newspaper entry, in: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/10/05/germanys-far-right-party-lost-seats-last-weeks-election-heres-why/>, retrieved on 06.10.2021

IsP140546-Germany: Germany's largest mosque to broadcast call to prayer on Fridays —

Germany's largest mosque was permitted to broadcast the call to prayer over loudspeakers on Friday October 8, after an agreement between the city of Cologne and the Muslim community to ease restrictions, the city said on October 11. All 35 mosques in Cologne would be permitted to broadcast the call to prayer for up to five minutes on Fridays between noon and 3 p.m., under a two-year initiative. That includes the Cologne Central Mosque, which was opened in 2018 after it became a flashpoint for anti-Muslim sentiment from far right parties. "Permitting the muezzin call is for me a sign of respect," Cologne Mayor Henriette Reker wrote on Twitter.

See: Reuters News' entry, in: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germanys-largest-mosque-broadcast-call-prayer-fridays-2021-10-11/>, retrieved on 12.10.2021



IsP140547-UK: A Far-Right Writer Was Refused Entry to the UK and Poland Is Freaking

Out— On October 2, Rafal Ziemkiewicz, who had been accused of anti-Semitic, Islamophobic and homophobic views, was denied entry to the UK. That's sparked a wave of online abuse against a British MP who had previously called him out. Poland had said it would summon the British

ambassador to explain why controversial far-right agitator Rafal Ziemkiewicz was denied entrance to the UK, which sparked a furious response from his nationalist supporters. Rafal Ziemkiewicz, a far-right journalist and writer who campaigners had accused of pushing anti-Semitic, Islamophobic and homophobic views. On 2020, Poland's Human Rights Ombudsman accused Ziemkiewicz of anti-Semitism after he stated on public television that Jews had cooperated with Germans during the Holocaust. According to a Home Office letter, posted on Twitter by Huq, Ziemkiewicz was refused permission to enter “due to [his] conduct and views which are at odds with British values and likely to cause offence.”

See: Vice Magazine News' entry, in: <https://www.vice.com/en/article/xgxn4d/rafal-ziemkiewicz-a-far-right-writer-was-refused-entry-to-the-uk-and-poland-is-freaking-out>, retrieved on 05.10.2021

IsP140548-UK: Tory councillor in Worthing suspended over alleged support of far right—

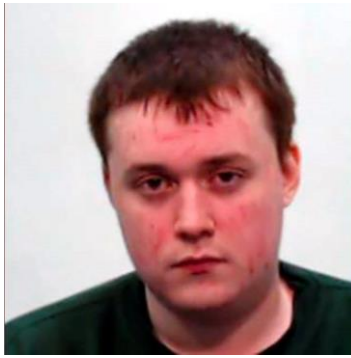
The Conservative party had suspended a councillor and was investigating allegations that he had been a secret supporter of a far-right organisation. Tim Wills, a borough councillor in Worthing, West Sussex, was alleged to had been a supporter of Patriotic Alternative (PA), a racial nationalist group which sought the removal of ethnic minorities from the UK. In discussions on a PA channel of the Telegram social media app, he was alleged to had called for the promotion of conspiracy theories such as “white genocide” and urged the group to “infiltrate and influence those in power.” Calls for Wills to be expelled from the Conservative party were led by the antiracist campaign group Hope Not Hate, which published the results of an investigation into him as Boris Johnson was addressing his party's annual conference on October 6.

See: The Guardian Newspaper entry, in: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/oct/07/tory-councillor-in-worthing-suspended-over-alleged-support-of-far-right/>, retrieved on 09.10.2021

IsP140549-UK: Muslim Athlete Charter: Football Association of Wales signs pledge on equality and diversity—

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) had become the first footballing body to sign the Muslim Athlete Charter. By signing the pledge, the FAW would be committed to recognising Muslim needs in football for players, staff and spectators attending games. The FAW would aim to become fully accredited to the Nujum Sports Muslim Athlete Charter external-link in the future. Chief executive Ebadur Rahman said the organisation would assist the FAW to “aspire to be even more inclusive”. Rahman added: “Having signed the pledge, the FAW is joining a positive movement of solidarity, equality and recognition of the contribution Muslims make for their respective clubs and teams... Nujum is here to support professional clubs and their players, and contribute positively to their equality and diversity agenda.” The charter was first launched in June and in addition to the FAW, BBC Sport understands six Premier League and 22 Football League sides were included in the 34 professional football clubs to sign the pledge. The FAW's equality, diversity, inclusion and integrity manager Jason Webber told BBC Sport they were “committed to building an environment and culture that actively supports all faiths ...By utilising the Muslim Athlete Charter framework and working closely with Nujum Sports, we will ensure that Muslim players are supported in their environment to practice their faith while playing football,” he said.

See: BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/58919073>, retrieved on 21.10.2021



IsP140550-UK: Man convicted of terrorism offences— On October 27, Sam Imrie, a man who hated Muslims and idolised right-wing mass murderers had been convicted of terrorism charges after a two-week trial. Sam Imrie, was arrested in July 2019 after he posted messages on social media saying he was planning to set fire to the Fife Islamic Centre. Imrie was convicted on two charges of breaching the terrorism act.

See: BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59069363>, retrieved on 28.10.2021

ASIA



IsP140551-South Korea: Daegu mosque protests discriminatory: Human rights commission— On October 1, The National Human Rights Commission of Korean (NHRCK) said that a mosque construction project in Daegu, which had been suspended due to complaints, should be allowed to resume, as the decision on the suspension was based on discrimination and prejudice against Muslims. The human rights watchdog expressed the opinion in response to a petition filed by the Darul Emman Kyungpook Islamic Center, against the Buk District Office that had issued the administrative order to halt the mosque's construction. The Islamic community in the Buk District of Daegu, the nation's third-largest city, located in the southeastern region of the country,

launched the construction of the place of worship in Daehyeon-dong in December 2020, after they received a construction permit from the local district office on September 2020. The mosque was to be built on a site where Muslims were previously holding religious gatherings. But some residents, who worry that the mosque might lead to a larger Muslim presence in the neighborhood, had fiercely opposed the construction. The residents and other political activists had been staging multiple rallies in front of the construction site and hanging up banners in protest. They filed a petition with the district office where they called for an administrative order to halt construction. The district office ordered the site owner to stop the construction on February 16, and the project had been on hold indefinitely ever since. The human rights commission stated that such a decision was based on discrimination and prejudice against Muslims, and recommended that the local government "take the necessary measures to allow construction to resume."

See: Korea Times News' entry, in: https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/10/119_316326.html, retrieved on 03.10.2021

AUSTRALIA

IsP140552-New Zealand: New Zealand police say safety plans in place after Hindutva threats to professor— A professor of Indian origin in New Zealand had been receiving abusive messages on social media for criticising “Hindutva extremism” through his work, which prompted the police to put in place plans for his safety, The New Zealand Herald reported on September 27. Mohan Dutta, the dean’s chair of communication at the Massey University, had in May published a paper on “Islamophobic elements” in the Hindutva ideology, according to the newspaper. Dutta and other academics had sought to differentiate the ideology from the “pluralist and democratic ethos” of Hinduism, The New Zealand Herald reported. “Hindutva extremism is the threat to Hinduism,” Dutta said. Hindutva is a Hindu nationalist ideology, which in India, is endorsed by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Dutta, through his work, had called for a careful inspection of the presence of Hindutva in New Zealand, according to the newspaper. The professor had started to receive offensive messages in August after he delivered an online lecture ahead of an international conference titled, “Dismantling Global Hindutva”, The New Zealand Herald reported.

See: Scroll News' entry, in: <https://scroll.in/latest/1006343/new-zealand-police-says-safety-plans-in-place-after-hindutva-threats-to-professor>, retrieved on 01.10.2021