

# Editorial

## I Am Fearful of the Rise in Antisemitism

by 'Musafir'

Antisemitism has been on rise lately. Even high-profile personalities have openly supported antisemitic sentiments. Former president Donald Trump dined recently with an outspoken Holocaust denier.

Beyond these headlines, there's also been a steady rise in the number of hateful incidents directed at Jewish people over the past several years.

The year 2023 has been the highest year on record for documented reports of harassment,

vandalism and violence directed against Jews (Anti-Defamation League). The watchdog group has tracked these incidents since 1979, and it says the antisemitic activities are rising every year.

The current streak includes the 2018 attack on the Pittsburgh Tree of Life synagogue - where a gunman killed 11 Jewish worshippers, as well as the deadly "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Va. two years earlier extremist demonstrators chanted "Jews will not replace us" during a torchlit march. Thousands of smaller incidents like vandalizing Jewish schools and community centers, or extremists running campaigns against the Jews are happening in 2023. A few years ago, two young Orthodox boys were playing in their

yard in California and were shot with red paintballs. And we saw pictures of them.

Jews are attacked based on centuries-old myths about Jewish control and disloyalty.

Even Shakespeare depicted them as asking for a pound flesh in lieu of the debt payment (Shylock in Merchant of Venice). That image of the Jews still continues. Jews are centered in a lot of conspiracy theories, especially around economy or power or greed or

whatever. We all heard Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene claiming that California wildfires may have been caused by the Rothschilds, a prominent Jewish banking family.

Lately, the students in almost all major universities of America are demonstrating against Israel by adopting a racial tune against the Jews. This, in my mind, is also due to a lot of suppression of knowledge. I don't want to blame these students for it. They're very open, but they need to be taught, no doubt about it.

My fear is that today it is against the Jews and tomorrow can be against us. I shudder at this thought.

