



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **AFTER THE ARAB SPRING: ANTI-SEMITISM RUNS RAMPANT IN COUNTRIES DEVOID OF JEWS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Budapest, (May 6, 2013) – The *Arab Spring* has brought with it bad news for Jews.

Despite high hopes and expectations for democracy and greater freedoms to minorities across the region, a closer look at what has transpired has exposed a grim reality.

A new report released by the non-governmental organization "*Justice for Jews from Arab Countries*" (*JJAC*), under the headline "Report on Anti-Semitism in Arab Countries: 2012", documents discriminatory practices, incitement by Arab leaders, confiscation of assets, desecration of holy sites, abrogating freedom of religion, and worst of all – physical violence against Jews.

It is true that in all Middle East Arab countries, Israel and Zionism are primary targets of Arab rancor. Yet, virtually all of the media references cited in the "Report on Anti-Semitism in Arab Countries" make no mention of Israel and/or Zionism. The antipathy is directed against Jews and Judaism – not Israel. The Report details anti-Semitic instances that foment hatred against all Jews, irrespective of where they may live.

These troubling findings were documented all across the region – from North Africa (Tunisia, Algeria, Libya) to the Middle East (Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq) and the Arab Peninsula (Yemen). Morocco is the one Arab country that must be singled out for its unique tolerance, leadership for which is provided by His Excellency King Mohamed VI.

Rabbi Elie Abadie, Co-President of *Justice for Jews from Arab Countries* stated that: This modern-day anti-Semitism magnifies the sense of loss for Jews displaced from Arab countries.

There is the loss of one's country; the loss of one's home; the loss of leaving a life behind; the loss of an entire generation of Arab youth to hatred of Jews..

JJAC executive director, Dr. Stanley Urman, called upon the U.S. government and the international community to do all they can in order to protect the Jews and preserve Jewish holy sites, including tombs, cemeteries and synagogues. Urman added that a fact-finding mission should visit Jewish holy sites in Iraq and other Arab countries, assess their condition, and ensure ways to have the locations preserved and protected.

*Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC)* is an international coalition of major Jewish communal organizations operating to ensure that justice for Jews from Arab countries assumes its rightful place on the international political agenda and that their rights be secured as a matter of law and equity ([www.justiceforjews.com](http://www.justiceforjews.com)).

## **"Report on Anti-Semitism in Arab Countries: 2012"**

*For a full copy of the Report click here:* <http://www.justiceforjews.com>

### ***Summary of Findings***

- *Violence against Jews* – There were three reported deaths of Jews in Tunisia, Yemen and Morocco. Government leaders, party officials, clergy and others regularly engage in ‘a call to violence’, urging their followers “to shoot the Jews”; “to kill the Jews – it’s a religious duty”; that Jews “deserved to be killed”; “annihilate them”; that Islam “instructs Jihad against Jews”; “drive them out of our countries”; “nurture hatred for them”; and that “loathing Jews is a form of worship of Allah”.
- *Anti-Semitism/Incitement Against Jews* – There is a tendency to demonize and humiliate the Jews who are called “apes”, “pigs”, “monkeys”; “donkeys”; “dogs”; and a “cancer” on the world.

Moreover, the portrayal of Jews is fraught with conspiracy theories as Jews are accused of “trying to poison the Prophet Muhammad”; “a source of evil in human society”; that “Jews spread corruption on earth”; that “Jews spark Wars”; that “every catastrophe in the world is the handiwork of Jews”; that 9/11 was “a theatrical show run by Jews”; that Jews control the world’s gold”; that “Jews use porn to corrupt Muslims”; that “Jews support whorehouses”; that “Jews have no history”; that “the Jewish religion is a fairy tale”; that “Jews use slaughtered victims blood to make Purim sweets”; etc.

- Thwarting Norman Relations with Jews – In media reports in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen, Jews are singled out in the Arab press as “bloodthirsty”, “treacherous”, “slaughterers”, “deviant”, “corrupt”, “thugs”, “obstinate”, “frauds”, “warmongers”, “deceitful” and “exploitive”.

In light of these vile characterizations, many in Arab countries seek to thwart relations with Jews, including: the cancellation of a concert that a Jewish singer was to give in Algeria; Jews being jailed upon their return to Libya; cancellation of invitations to Jews to attend meetings and conferences in Arab countries; film on Jews causes an uproar in Egypt; Jews excluded from a National Dialogue Conference in Yemen; and threats made against any Jews wishing to return to Egypt.

- Desecration of Holy Sites, Religious Articles – Instances include: graves being desecrated in Libya; converting Jewish tombs into mosques; leaving old Torah scrolls unpreserved in Iraq; two synagogues ransacked in Tunisia; and Jewish cemeteries vandalized in Tunisia.
- Abrogating Freedom of Religion – As exemplified by the enforcing of Shari’a law in Egypt; blocking Jewish pilgrimages; preventing services in synagogues on Jewish holidays; issuing *fatwas* preventing Jews from visiting their own holy sites; and
- Confiscation of Jewish Assets and Archives – Taking control of Jewish community assets in Egypt; preventing Jews from retaining Jewish communal records from Iraq and Egypt.