

US Jews failed to anticipate antisemitic violence during Gaza conflict – study

Tel Aviv think tank finds that community organizations struggled to enlist traditional allies in fight against Jew-hatred

By Lazar Berman / Nov. 10, 2021

A study of antisemitism in the US during Operation Guardian of the Walls in May found that Jewish communal organizations and leaders were taken by surprise by violence against Jews that took place during the conflict.

“This time the Jewish community was doubly surprised by the rapid transformation of protests by the American extreme left, especially the pro-Palestinian and anti-Israeli groups, into outbreaks of violent antisemitic acts that had broad geographic distribution, and by the increased criticism of Israel among larger circles within the Democratic Party than in the past as well as among several civil social organizations,” wrote **Shahar Eilam** and **Tom Eshed** of the **Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv.

The report, titled “Increased Antisemitism in the United States Following Operation Guardian of the Walls: Permanent or Short-Lived?” also found that American Jews were surprised by the difficulty they experienced “in enlisting their natural allies and partners” in the fight against antisemitism.

“The main question that occupied me was how it was possible that the US Jewish establishment was surprised, despite its deep experience in dealing with similar previous incidents of escalation as part of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, in which there also was a similar dynamic in the US theater,” Eilam told The Times of Israel. “Deep changes in American society are not supposed to surprise the Jewish community.”

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The report was part of an ongoing **INSS** series on antisemitism in the US.

For full article:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-jews-failed-to-anticipate-antisemitic-violence-during-gaza-conflict-study/>