



Anti-Semitism as a tool for solving conflicts in the Post-Soviet region

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Belarus - sanctions



- The European Union imposed sanctions on Belarus as a response to electoral fraud in 2020, oppression, many human rights violations and the cooperation of Belarus with Russia in its war against Ukraine.
- The USA imposed sanctions on people and entities for allowing oppression within Belarus and supporting Russia in its war against Ukraine. In addition, visa limitations were put on regime officials and their affiliates for challenging or harming democratic institutions in Belarus, including judges responsible for giving sentences based on political biases against the country's citizens.

Belarus' Economy



The Belarusian economy grew 3.9% last year, but it's mainly supported by growth in investments and consumption. With that, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector has dived, and the growth is expected to slow down this and next year.

The sanctions continue to weigh on the economy, with trade almost entirely focused on Russia. High inflation was curbed through price controls and stabilization of the exchange rate.

Belarus Anti-Semitism



Negative antisemitic trends have surfaced recently in **Belarus**, which traditionally does not have an overtly antisemitic outlook regarding Jews, aside from the conservative Soviet values which are often reflected by antisemitic themes that hail from Moscow. This is in addition to the Soviet tradition of quelling independent discourse on the Holocaust, as well as the discouragement of separating the Holocaust from the general theme of World War Two remembrance.

Since the outbreak of the war, several major antisemitic motifs and myths are noticeable in both Russia and Belarus. For example, we see an attempt to brand Jews as traitors who abandoned Russia and fled to Israel to avoid conscription in the war against Ukraine. Based on this narrative, they are now betraying Israel, who provided them with sanctuary. In this context, the idea of the treacherous Jews' double allegiance has evolved into a demand to bar Jews from positions of local influence – Russian media in particular.

Concurrently, the Jewish topic continues to provide one of the central narratives of Russian propaganda regarding the war in Ukraine. From the beginning of Russia's invasion, the Jewish origin of Ukraine's leadership – for example, President Zelensky, former Defense Minister Reznikov, Kyiv Mayor Klitschko, and others – has spearheaded Russian anti-Ukrainian propaganda.

The Iron Swords war has elevated this idea to new heights. During the war's first days, Russian propaganda claimed that Ukraine would lose Western sympathy in favor of the Jews. Additionally, Zelensky's Jewish origins have – according to the Russian propaganda machine – become additional proof of Jewish treachery against Ukrainian interests. And yet, the most prominent antisemitic narrative concerning the war in Ukraine is the myth of a Heavenly Jerusalem (sometimes referred to as The New Land of the Khazars). This unfounded narrative describes the phenomenon of Jews fleeing Israel for Ukraine in order to establish a Jewish state there, at the expense of the native

Slavic Christian population, which is said to be abandoning its land. Alongside all this, over the past year, Russian propaganda has consistently abused the memory of Holocaust victims by presenting the Soviet Union and then Russia as the principal defenders of their memory.

Belarus Anti-Semitism



- In a meeting chaired by the president of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko a few days ago he commented the corruption case in the agricultural sector:" We have here a list of more than 30 suspects. Forgive me, I'm not Anti-Semitic - but more than half of the accused are Jews".
- Furthermore he added : "What's happening here? They [the Jews] have a special privileges? They steal and don't think about their future? Here everyone is equal in the eyes of the law. Jews, Belarusians, Ukrainians, Russians and Poles".

Belarus Anti-Semitism



The quote here is from Lukashenko
in December 2023:

“If Armenia wants to die financially, we can lose her. But I don't think the Armenians are dumb people. Armenian people are smart. They don't have even one Jew in Armenia. You know why they don't have any Jews in Armenia? Because Armenians are the smartest people.”

Armenia



The Nagorno Karabakh wars in 2020 and 2023 which ended with Azerbaijan returning its territory, led to hard feelings among the Armenians. Among other things, on the background of the loss in the war, it was possible to identify Armenians' pull towards Iran.

Armenia

At the beginning of June 2024, Fitch Ratings affirmed Yerevan's Long-Term Foreign- and Local-Currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at 'BB-' with Stable Outlooks. Due to the fact that a significant number of articles have been published in Armenia in regards to the significant economic rise - there's a basis to assume that the economy is a priority for Armenian decision makers.

Armenia



The situation in **Armenia** is heavily influenced by Israel's relations with Azerbaijan, to whom it exports weaponry. Such relations raise the ire of the Armenian public, especially due to the heightened conflicts in the Nagorno Karabakh region, which is located between the two countries. Interestingly, the fact that the Armenians have chosen to focus on Israel's assistance and not that of other Azerbaijan supporters indicates that antisemitic sentiments in Armenia run deep – perhaps due to outside influence.

Armenian social media was quick to respond to the Hamas attack with joy, sharing en masse Hamas-produced propaganda. This activity was accompanied by harsh criticism of Israel and explicit demands to support Hamas, as well as comparisons between Israel, Azerbaijan, and Nazi Germany.

Vladimir Poghosyan, a prominent anti-Israel political commentator, who is known for his harsh antisemitic viewpoints and who has previously held positions of official security, has openly threatened the Jews and Israel and repeatedly called to attack Jews. As a result of the violent rhetoric, Armenia's small Jewish community has more than once been a victim of antisemitic harassment, culminating in two attempts to set fire to the country's only synagogue – once on October 2nd and again on November 15th.

Armenia



Since the beginning of October 2023 there have been 4 attacks on the synagogue in Yerevan. The authorities tried to blame Azeris, Russians and Belarusians for those acts without any evidence presented.

There was a Neo-Nazi parade in the city center of Yerevan on January 1st 2024.

We see increased Anti-Semitic activity in social networks.