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25 MONTHS OF ANTISEMITIC INVECTIVE IN GREECE: TIMELINE: MARCH 2002-APRIL 2004

A report compiled in cooperation with the Greek Helsinki Monitor

**Presented at the OSCE Conference on Antisemitism in Berlin, 28-29 April 2004
by Dr. Shimon Samuels, Director for International Liaison
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Antisemitic invective has been constant and escalating over the period of this report. Beginning with newspaper caricatures using Holocaust imagery to Nazify the Jews, this has continued with media articles attacking Jews and Judaism as responsible for all the ills of Greece, in the language of 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion'. In this poisonous atmosphere, we have witnessed the desecration of both ancient cemeteries and Holocaust memorials. Most recently, even the Jewish faith itself has been vilified and the loyalty of Greek citizens of Jewish ancestry and identity has been questioned. An exhibit which glorifies suicide bombing opened in Athens in late 2003. Its favourable review by the so-called quality press is a dangerous endorsement of terrorism and a new threshold that could encourage the indiscriminate targeting of innocents in the Jewish community and beyond, in Greece and other OSCE states.

Unless the Greek authorities publicly and emphatically condemn this incitement to hate and violence, the prospect of physical racist assault cannot be ruled out. The Wiesenthal Centre has repeatedly appealed to the Greek government to take appropriate measures against this offensive, which is in violation of EU provisions and international conventions. The latest letters to newly elected Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis are attached to this report.

Antisemitism is a paradigm for all forms of xenophobia. This report is, therefore, a barometric measure of an atmosphere that can menace the very fabric of Greek society for all its citizens.

MARCH 2002

4: High-level Greek politicians use Holocaust rhetoric in reference to Israeli military actions. Speaker of the Greek Parliament **Apostolos Kaklamanis**: “*genocide*”; Government

Spokesperson **Christos Protopapas**: former spoke “*with sensitivity and responsibility...expressing the sentiments of the Parliament and Greek people.*”

17: Apogevmatini publishes “*The Letter to the Jews*” by **Dimos Mavrommatis**, addressed to his “*Jewish personal friends, Greek Jewish friendly acquaintances and Diaspora Jews...and those with their characteristics,*” berating the “*Greek Jews in particular*” for “*their silence*” in the face of “*the Hitlerist Sharon...who has created a Mauthausen, if not an Auschwitz or a Dachau.*” Lauded throughout the Greek press and internet groups as “*bold*” and “*daring,*” the highly antisemitic “*Letter to the Jews,*” with the author’s response to criticism from **KIS** and the **Israeli Embassy**, was reprinted in **Eleftherotypia**, **Apogevmatini**, and centre-left satirical weekly **Pontiki**. In subsequent eulogies to the author, the “*Letter*” was called a “*hymn to mankind.*” Jewish critics of it were “*revilers...who haven’t the right to look us in the eyes as long as they observe this crime with callowness. For they are accomplices.*” (**Eleftherotypia** 2-4-02).

20: Former Resistance fighter and revered national symbol Manolis Glezos led an **eight-member leftist and Greek Palestinian delegation, unannounced, to the Embassy of Israel**. When they were not received, Glezos claimed, “*It is unsupportable that these people, whom we protected against Nazi persecution, should be making a Holocaust.*” “*The Greek people...are pained and outraged when they see the descendents of Holocaust victims copying their victimizers...*” (**Eleftherotypia** 21-3-02, 27-3-02)

30: Prominent PASOK deputy and former Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos chose **Sabbath of Passover** to launch an **extempore protest march of bipartisan politicians on the Embassy of Israel**. Finding the embassy closed, he claimed that “*it isn’t the Sabbath of Passover in Greece and they should respect the country they’re living in.*” In full page essay in **To Vima** (14-4-02), Greece’s largest selling Sunday paper, Pangalos accused Greek Jews of “*glaring absence from all demonstrations against the massacre of the Palestinians*” and of “*silence, apathy or, even worse, solidarity with the Sharon Government.*” He demanded that Greek Jews unequivocally condemn the Sharon Government and “*then, we...will be able to stand by them, without reservation, against all forms of prejudice and attempts at discrimination.*”

30: Eleftherotypia publishes **Stathis cartoon** equating Nazi destruction of Warsaw Ghetto with Israeli attack on Ramallah. Nazi ghost soldier musing: “*Finally things are complete! Just as we killed the Jews then, so now are the Jews killing the memory of those who were killed.*”

APRIL 2002

During April 2002, in particular, there was a literal barrage of virulent antisemitic articles, caricatures and letters to the editor across the spectrum of the extensive Greek press, in the context of escalating Israeli military attacks on Palestinian targets. In addition to religious and Holocaust comparisons, the texts characteristically cited “*the Jews,*” and Greek Jews as collectively responsible for Israel’s actions, as being global conspirators, and in general for all the world’s evils. The cartoons routinely compared Sharon to Hitler, Israeli soldiers to Nazi storm troopers, and Palestinians to Jewish Holocaust victims. During the Greek Orthodox Easter season, Arafat was depicted in the role of Christ being crucified by the Jews with the Palestinians as his prophets.

The dailies **Eleftherotypia**, **Ta Nea** and **Ethnos** were the worst offenders. The regular cartoonist and columnist **Stathis** [Stavropoulos] (**Eleftherotypia**) has been consistent in his generally sarcastic antisemitic commentary.

Appeals by the **Embassy of Israel** and the **Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece** (KIS) to both the major papers themselves and to the **Union of Athens Daily Newspaper Journalists** (ESIEA) were either ignored or rebuked as falsehoods or censorship efforts.

1: Eleftherotypia - KYR caricature on front cover: *“Holocaust II”* depicting Israeli soldier as Nazi officer and Palestinian civilian as Jewish death camp inmate, with archival photo of Jewish child propelled at gunpoint by Nazi soldier.

2: Organ Trafficking Libel. The official **Athens News Agency** (Athinaiko Praktoreio Eideision) distributes unconfirmed story from a Palestinian organization: *“Israelis are selling organs of dead Palestinians”* and are *“using Arabs as guinea pigs.”* The story appeared as news on 2-4-02 in three major dailies: **Ta Nea, Eleftherotypia,** and **Apogevmatini** (latter as front-page headline, with follow-up on 3-4-02).

2: Eleftherotypia, Ta Nea, and To Vima: same article by world renowned composer **Mikis Theodorakis:** *“the Jews”* are *“imitating Nazi barbarity,”* and becoming *“more and more enamored with Nazi methods,”* and conducting *“their final solution against the Palestinians.”*

10 (Athens) and 14 (Thessaloniki): Massive pro-Palestinian concert/rallies spearheaded by **Mikis Theodorakis.** Israeli flag paraded with **swastika** in place of Star of David.

15: Desecration of Holocaust Memorial in Thessaloniki by *“unknown vandals”* using red paint (to indicate bloodshed) and the word *“Palestinians”* one day after Holocaust Memorial Service at same monument and Theodorakis anti-Israel rally in same city.

15: Desecration of Jewish cemetery of Ioannina. At least **four headstones** vandalized. To date Sworn Investigative Inquiry (E.D.E.) has not proceeded.

15: Eleftherotypia publishes reader’s antisemitic letter that prompted **Greek Helsinki Monitor** to first react with a letter to the newspaper’s director, and then press charges against the daily for violating **Greek anti-racist Law 927/1979** as amended with **Law 1419/1984.** **A reader from Patras** writes, inter alia, that *“Jews today are lucky that no one intends to deprive them of the right to be called human beings, when they aren’t”* and *“it’s a proven fact that Jews are untrustworthy and fickle. They infiltrate societies, first playing the poor souls to generate pity and then, when the time comes, they’ll grab you by the throat.”*

16: Ta Nea publishes same antisemitic letter with two additional sentences and one phrase removed.

MAY 2002

Late May: Construction begins on Holocaust Memorial on the island of Rhodes.

JUNE 2002

10: Rhodes local daily Drasis reprints **Stathis’** *“Warsaw Ghetto = Ramallah”* cartoon with announcement of exhibition of history of Rhodes’ Jews.

12: Jewish Community of Rhodes spokesperson reports that verbal and physical harassment of workers during construction of monument requires 24-hour police protection throughout.

23: Official unveiling of Holocaust Memorial of Rhodes.

30: First signs of desecration of Holocaust Memorial of Rhodes with gradual removal of letters of inscription.

JULY 2002

3: Partial permanent destruction of Holocaust Memorial of Rhodes. Decorative wire cut and pushed down around the base of monument. Local daily **Proodos** reported (4-6-02) **“vandals all but destroyed the monument,”** noting that the Mayor of Rhodes had *“recently received a letter from MP and [ultra-nationalist] LAOS party leader George Karatzaferis, expressing his opposition to the monument to the Jews of that city.”* It further noted that Karatzaferis was scheduled to visit Rhodes three days later.

Spring 2002: Embassy of Israel issues a five-page **confidential report** on the **“sharp rise in anti-Semitism in Greece since the end of March”** to major Jewish and Israeli organizations in the United States.

The report was leaked to the Jerusalem Post and finally covered by **Tachis Michas in Eleftherotypia on 2 July 2002.**

8: Simon Wiesenthal Centre (on the basis of the report) announced that, at **OSCE** parliamentary discussion, it urged **Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis** and other Greek leaders to publicly condemn the use of antisemitic stereotypes and Nazi imagery that have characterized public and media criticism of Israel. *“Failure to do so could jeopardize Jews in Greece and poison the environment leading up to the 2004 Olympic Games.”*

AUGUST 2002

1: GHM lodges complaint with Public Prosecutor of the Athens Magistrates’ Court against Eleftherotypia and Ta Nea, inter alia, on the grounds of inciting racial hatred and discrimination through published material. Specifically, the letter of a reader published in both newspapers (**15 and 16 April** respectively) expressed anti-Jewish sentiments, and also used characterizations obviously offensive to Jews.

8: Following UN report on Jenin (1-8-02). In response to **readers’ letters** asking **Eleftherotypia** to apologize for previous disinformation at the expense of Israel, which *“feeds the worst form of anti-Jewish racism in Greece,”* the paper admitted that it had misreported, but that it *“cannot ask for apologies from those who condemned the homicides but instead from those who committed them. Otherwise anti-Semitism and Semitism are both forms of racism that ‘E’ fights against always and everywhere.”*

13: Eleftherotypia and Ta Nea indicted by the Public Prosecutor for violating articles 1 and 2 of anti-racism Law 927/1979. Minority Rights Group-Greece was involved in the indictment procedure as a witness.

SEPTEMBER 2002

24: Stathis cartoon in Eleftherotypia. Nazi-like Israel soldier with Star of David on his helmet says to Nazi officer next to him: *“Arafat is not a person the Reich can talk to anymore.”* Nazi officer responds: *“Why? Is he a Jew?”*

OCTOBER 2002

13: First round of elections for Greater Athens “super prefect”: MP and leader of Ultra-nationalist LAOS party George Karatzaferis comes in third with 14% of votes. Through his newspaper **Alpha Ena**, television channel **TeleAsty**, and statements and **parliamentary questions** (Jewish involvement in 9/11 and suspected Jewish origins of Greek politicians) Karatzaferis is notably Greece’s most vocal propagator of anti-Semitism and conspiracies theories.

20: Prefect of Hania, Crete, George Katsenevakis (supported by small **leftwing Synaspismos** party) was **reelected with the majority of votes**. Katsenevakis strongly **opposed the re-opening of the 15th century Etz Hayyim Synagogue in Hania**. On 5-4-02 he states to local press regarding Middle East crisis: *“...civilization is being murdered. Christ is being re-crucified by the contemporary Caiaphas, the high priest of Zionism, Sharon.”*

15: Letter from Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) to Greek Minister of Interior [Constantine Skandalidis]: “Close Down Racist Politician’s [George Karatzaferis] Television Mouthpiece for Hate.”

16: Front page headline of Eleftherotypia: *“Nea Demokratia [conservative opposition party] is a Havra Ioudaion.”* **Havra Ioudaion** (lit: Hevra of Jews) is idiomatic Greek for a noisy or rowdy gathering. It has a highly negative connotation.

17: Eleftherotypia rejects KIS objections over use of term Havra Ioudaion: “You are insulting the Greek language.” *“There are two interpretations of the expression in question: the Jewish definition and the one established in the Greek language, which means rowdy mob gathering. We would kindly ask you to stop seeing insults, anti-Semitism and racism everywhere, because in addition, you are insulting the Greek language. We are presenting the interpretation as recorded in Greek dictionaries...”*

18: George Karatzaferis asks Minister of Interior for copy of “slandering” SWC letter in order to take legal action against its authors.

18: Eleftherotypia columnist Yannis Triantis calls the SWC letter a *“provocation”* and a threat to *“freedom of expression”*: *“Who and with what criteria will determine if we are dealing with incidents of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, etc, when there are tremendous differences in interpretation...”* (boldface his).

18: Kathimerini journalist Olga Sella writes that Greek publishers commented on *“dominance of books on the Holocaust”* at recent Frankfurt Book Fair, questioning the motives behind this trend. *Is this simply extension of the ‘industry of the Holocaust’?”*

DECEMBER 2002

13: Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM) sends letter to **Manolis Barbounakis**, publisher and owner of **Katoi tou Vivliou** bookstore in central Thessaloniki regarding prominent display and sale of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which has no place in a serious bookstore, but “*only in those places that specialize in promoting anti-Semitic and other fascist ideas.*” GHM did not receive a reply.

16: Eleftherotypia publishes article “*Into the Fire.*” **Journalist G. Kork** accuses “*meddlesome Greek Helsinki Monitor*” of “*ordering*” the publisher to “*immediately remove*” the book. (When visiting Thessaloniki in **June 2003**, GHM saw book had been removed and that its original letter with Mr. Barbounakis’ reply, a brief note handwritten on it, is freely available in multiple copies on a desk at the bookstore entrance.

JANUARY 2003

2: Eleftherotypia publishes antisemitic letter to editor by journalist Gavriil Lampsidis [member of Supervisory Committee of the Vafopouleio Cultural Center of Thessaloniki]: “*[Greek] Jews should swallow their tongues.*”

MARCH 2003

24: Misdemeanors Prosecutor refers the GHM v Eleftherotypia case directly to trial on 26/9/2003 before the Sixth Three-Member Misdemeanors Court of Athens. The leadership of the KIS constituted themselves civil claimants.

APRIL 2003

Preliminary investigation of GHM vs. Ta Nea case. Although mentioned as witnesses in the GHM complaint, the leadership of KIS was not summoned to testify, making the investigation incomplete, and preventing them from constituting themselves civil claimants.

MAY 2003

26: The English language weekly, Athens News, in its column on the Greek language, featured phrases on the summer at the beach. Column Editor, **Brian Christopoulos**, introduced the column with the question, “Who stole the beach? Answer: “The Zionists!”

JUNE 2003

3: First of two-part interview of **Dimitris Kitsikis**, Professor of History at the University of Ottawa, in extreme-right weekly **Stochos**, Greece’s oldest, most notorious antisemitic publication. Kitsikis calls Islam and Christianity “*so-called Jewish religions.*”

13: Avriani (small but influential center-left populist daily) front page and center spread. Claim that in gigantic privatizing scam, the financially beleaguered Softex paper company “*ended up in the hands of a small group of Jewish ‘merchants’.*” Incendiary phrases and words are capitalized through text, including “*SELL OFF,*” “*SHUT DOWN*” and that “*Sly Jews MADE OFF*” with company and all its assets.

20: Avriani front page, Sunday edition: alleged attempt by “*Patriarch, Americans and Jews with the applause of the Turks [who are] seeking the fragmentation of the Church of Greece.*” Draft of **European Constitution** is called “*historically inaccurate pro-Jewish and pro-Turkish.*”

23: Eleftherotypia columnist Andreas Roumeliotis reprints pamphlet and makes statement against globalization by the “*‘Christian fascists’ and international Zionists,*” i.e. supporting the doctrine of notoriously antisemitic **Christianiki Dimokratia's** group. Official news service of the (Greek Orthodox) **Church of Greece** devotes section to the 50-year history of Christianiki Dimokratia as “*expressing the anxieties and questions of thinking and sensitive Christians.*”

JULY 2003

10: Stochos, part 2 of interview of **Dimitris Kitsikis**: “*It’s a fact that the Jews are the Greeks’ great rivals...The Jews and the Greeks are competing for who will reign over the Planet...I’m sure we will beat the Jews.*”

13: Apogevmatini (mainstream conservative opposition) **Sunday** edition: **Father George Metallinos**, Professor at the School of Theology of University of Athens criticizes “*Museum of (post-Charlemagne) Europe [for being] administered by a Jew (They couldn’t find a Christian!).*”

12/13: Alpha Ena (extreme right, nationalist weekly, affiliated with LAOS party of **George Karatzaferis**): **Theodoros Hadjigogos** reviews **Father Metallinos’s** book: “*The Orthodox Greek is not an anti-Semite, but he knows the essence of Zionism and its frame of mind against Hellenism...For the first time (the cleric) states that it is a bad thing for Greek children to be taught so much Jewish history [meaning the old testament].*”

20: Eleftheros Kosmos (extreme right weekly) publishes reader’s contribution of “*interesting data concerning the control of key sectors of the Greek Nation by people of Jewish origin or who have direct dealings with Zionist circles.*” Many of those named in real – or apocryphal – positions are not Jews, but simply have foreign or foreign-sounding names.

23: Indictment against Eleftherotypia revoked by **Misdemeanors Prosecutor** with request for complete immunity from charges.

30: All charges against Eleftherotypia quashed by **Misdemeanors Judicial Council** on grounds that reader “*out of justifiable interest as a Greek citizen was expressing his concerns over the events taking place with Greece’s neighboring peoples, i.e. the Israelites [sic] and the Palestinians.*”

AUGUST 2003

3: Sabbath desecration of Ioannina Synagogue with neo-Nazi symbols and slogans including “*SIEG HEIL,*” swastika, Celtic cross, “*long live the victory,*” “*blood and honor.*”

5: Ta Nea case. Prosecutor sends the case before the **Misdemeanors Judicial Council** with a motion to quash the charges. The text of the motion is not accessible until the Council rules on the case.

7: Eleftherotypia appeals the referral for indictment and an Appeals Prosecutor recommends to a Misdemeanors Judicial Council that the charges for the antisemitic letter be quashed. The Council's ruling (ref. no. 3277/03), accepting the Prosecutor's motion, was issued on 7/8/03 and the trial was cancelled. The Council argued that the letter writer was merely "*freely expressing, through the press, his views, judgments and evaluation of the Jews, with no intent to incite others to perform acts or carry out activities that may result in discrimination, hatred or violence against the Jewish people, on the sole ground of the latter's racial or ethnic origin.*" In addition, the Council accepted a prior Council ruling (3292/97) that the publisher and the editor of the newspaper (who were also referred to trial) "*are indeed responsible for the development, formulation and presentation of the newspaper's daily main position on the major issues of the day, and therefore do not have the possibility of knowing every text published in the newspaper, and especially the readers' letters that do not comment on the newspaper's content but express their [the readers'] personal views.*"

9: State television NET, on weekly investigative documentary program "*To Kouti tis Pandoras*" (Pandora's Box) (Wed. 23.00-24.00): Witness speaks of one of many Greeks involved in monarchy-sponsored baby trafficking ring as "*someone named Cohen, a lawyer, who was moreover a Jew*" with clear derogatory emphasis on the word Jew. NET chose not to edit the last - irrelevant to the story - remark.

17: Kefallonia: Left-wing objects to presence of Israeli delegation at 50th anniversary commemoration of the country's aid in island's 1953 earthquake, using Holocaust analogies. Communist Party (KKE) and Neo Aristero Revma (New Left Current-NAR) call Israeli Ambassador Aviram and visiting Israeli military officers "*agents of the worst holocaust in contemporary times*" and Israel a "*Hitlerist regime.*"

21: Archbishop of Greece Christodoulos visits Majdanek Extermination Camp in Poland. Historical omissions in his speech and official statement issued by News Service of the Church of Greece. No references to the Holocaust as such, to the more than 1,500,000 overwhelmingly Jewish victims, or to the 1,500 Greek Jews – even simply as Greek citizens – who are documented among the "*thousands of people, who were not to blame for anything, who met with a tragic death in this place.*" Nor that their "blame" was simply being Jewish.

23: Russian media oligarch Vladimir A. Gusinsky arrested at Athens airport en route from Israel on charges of fraud by Russia. Story received extensive coverage in Greek media for several weeks. The vast majority of newspaper stories routinely referred to him as the "*Russian Jew (Rossoevraio) Vladimir Gusinsky,*" almost always with references to his affiliation with the "*Jewish lobby,*" the "*all-powerful (panischyro) Jewish lobby,*" the "*American Jewish (amerikanoevraiko) lobby,*" etc., and its pressures on Putin and on Greece to not deport him.

25: Kathimerini subheading: "American-Jewish (amerikanoevraiko) lobby moves to reverse [Gusinsky's] deportation to Russia." Mentioning "*Rossoevraios*" twice in text and "*pressures*" by the "*powerful American-Jewish lobby.*" **Ethnos:** "Russian Jew" with photo of Gusinsky wearing yarmulke next to Israeli flag. Many papers - but not all - chose this photo, when others were available.

26: Kathimerini front page: "Russian Jew" [Gusinsky] has "support of American-Jewish lobby." **Ta Nea:** "Russian Jew."

26: Macedonian Press Agency quoting Deputy Foreign Minister Loverdos: "*other sides have shown interest in [Gusinsky], I'm referring to the Jewish lobby...*"

26: Avghi (progressive internationalist) journalist **Eirini Lazaridou** writes: "*Rossoevraios*" Gusinsky "*clashed with Putin when the latter attempted to diminish influence of Jewish lobby*" in Russia.

27: English Kathimerini-International Herald Tribune notes Gusinsky is senior figure in World Jewish Congress. A Google search of Gusinsky and Jews showed **Ekathimerini** to be the **only English paper on the www mentioning "Jewish."**

27: Same article in Kathimerini (George Delastic) and in Ekathimerini (GG de Lastic). English version is altered. Greek "*Russian Jewish entrepreneur*" becomes English "*fugitive media baron.*" Both mention pressure coming from "*American-Jewish lobby*" and "*Jewish lobby in America*" respectively.

29: in.gr, Greece's busiest site and 261st in world traffic, published **Athens Press Agency (APE)** release, deliberately adding "**Russian Jew.**"

29: Avghi: Lazaridou: "Rossoevraios" (first sentence) and "**crook**" [apateonas] (headline) Gusinsky.

SEPTEMBER 2003

13: Stathis cartoon in Eleftherotypia: one soldier with ISRAEL on helmet with swastika in place of S, and one soldier with USA on helmet with Star of David in front of U.

15: Stathis column in Eleftherotypia with Holocaust comparisons: "*Where will this Final Solution [for Palestinian people] take place? In Auschwitz? In Dachau? In Belsen?*"

22: Huge neo-Nazi antisemitic graffiti on both sides of major highway – obviously not freshly painted – observed by GHM, including swastika, Celtic cross, "Juden Raus," and number 88.

22: Hellenic state television ET1, reporter on main 21.00 newcast: "*The Rossoevraios Vladimir Gusinsky.*"

25: Eleftherotypia publishes antisemitic letter by journalist G. Lampsidis [member of Supervisory Committee of the Vafopouleio Cultural Center of Thessaloniki]: "*[The Jews] have vindicated the persecutions of the Nazis. All humanity says that they deserved such an executioner [Hitler] since they have proved to be murderers themselves.*"

28: Sto Karfi newspaper. "*Set Up and Money: Nicely rigged job with the Rossoevraios Gusinsky. The American-Jews and the Moscow prosecutor got together...a lot of money changing hands.*"

29: Originally scheduled date for Eleftherotypia antisemitism trial. Case was quashed (see above).

OCTOBER 2003

6: Ta Nea interviewed Alexandros Psychoulis regarding his exhibit entitled "**Body Milk**", due to open in Athens on 20 October. He was quoted as saying, "*I feel that the experiment of Israel*

has failed... but politics do not concern me in this work, only the relations between the woman and the supermarket – what is it that ultimately makes her feel pleasure in this place?... The title 'Body Milk' brings together both female cosmetics and the human milk of an 18 year old Palestinian girl bomber in an Israeli supermarket last March. A very beautiful girl, educated, in love... of an army of women in the women's' space of the supermarket... the supermarket is a super female provider. If she blows herself up there, she is magnifying her existence and her act."

According to Ta Nea, this pink lace embroidery montage displays an Arab woman and her bomb belt "heroically" obliterating an Israeli supermarket.

In a letter to Prime Minister Simitis, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre demanded that the exhibit be aborted, saying, *"Over 450 innocents, including women, children, elderly, have been murdered and thousands maimed by suicide terrorists in the last three years in Israel – the most recent only four days ago in a jointly Jewish and Arab owned restaurant in Haifa. This exhibit will continue to poison the Athenian climate, adding to the antisemitic campaign currently underway in the Greek media. This can only encourage eventual violence in Greece itself, for the scourge of global terrorism is indivisible."*

The letter continued, *"Mr. Prime Minister, if your government does not immediately take the necessary measures to abort this obscenity insensitive to atrocity and human life itself, the world will know that Greece will have lost its soul. In consequence, the prospect for terrorism will have been enhanced in the context of the approaching Olympics. Indeed, the very ideals represented by the Olympic flame will have been impugned in the land of their birth."*

8: Associated Press website of 9 October. For the second time (see 15 April 2002, above), the Ioannina Jewish cemetery and its Holocaust memorial were desecrated.

NOVEMBER 2003

4: Composer **Mikis Theodorakis**, 78, stated at a news conference: *"We are two nations without brothers in the world, us [the Greeks] and the Jews, but they have fanaticism and are forceful... Today we can say that this small nation is the root of evil, not of good, which means that too much self-importance and too much stubbornness is evil."* he told the audience of journalists and officials including Cultural Minister Evangelos Venizelos and Education Minister Petros Efthymiou. He continued: *"They only had Abraham and Jacob, shadows... We had the great Pericles..."*

DECEMBER 2003

16: The **National Herald** article entitled *"Theodorakis' Antisemitic Ranting"* stated: *"Theodorakis' statements represent one more step into the abyss of political paranoia by a person by who once upon a time was seen by many (including myself) as a brave artist who fought for the ideals of freedom and social justice. During the last 10-15 years Theodorakis' leftwing political discourse has become increasingly marred by anti-Americanism, conspiracy theories, anti-Semitism and praise for the worst form of totalitarianism."*

The article concluded: *"Theodorakis' ranting may not be worthy of much attention except for the fact that his views exemplify the intellectual evolution of a large segment of the Left... It is as if all these elements were tightly bound to one another by some powerful force or by some immanent necessity, as if one cannot exist without the others. There seems to be a very small step*

leading from the condemnation of the Jew to the glorification of the Gulag, from the demonization of America to the acceptance of tyranny."

29: Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM) strongly condemned the decision of Thessaloniki-based Greek **state television ET-3** to withdraw funding of a documentary on *"The Evil Dr. Merten."* Max Merten is the only war criminal who, in 1959, was tried and convicted for the Holocaust of Greece's Jews.

JANUARY 2004

13: Greek Parliament at last passed the law to establish the **27th of January as Holocaust Day**. The formal decision was taken without a vote, following a special procedure. The idea was first launched by the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki two years ago, and was since actively promoted by the Wiesenthal Centre, the GHM and the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS). The matter had been first decided by Government authorities on 21 November 2003, following an international outcry on the heightened level of antisemitism in Greece.

FEBRUARY 2004

7: Rabbi Mordechai Frisis' calling in life: *"to save the remnant of Salonika's once-vibrant Jewish community from extinction... Living in Greek society is no easy task for a religious Jew, as anti-Semitism is rampant. I walk around with a cap because there have really been some problems. There is antisemitism in Greece,"* the rabbi notes. More than a year ago, while visiting the community, Frisis was attacked and physically beaten at the city's train station... *"Greece is a very traditional Christian society, and they blame the Jews for killing Jesus. There are still people who believe that Jews drink the blood of Christians on Pessah."*

27: Eleftherotypia daily newspaper reviewed a **new edition of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion"** just published by a mainstream publishing house and now on sale in Athens' bookshops, in the terms of a *"historically accurate"* book.

MARCH 2004

1: Mainstream journalists like Eleftherotypia's TV critic Maria Petroutsou and state TV (NET) political commentator Pavlos Tsimas (immediately after the only pre-electoral debate on 26/2/2004, where he was one of the participating journalists) described televised debates with many participants speaking at the same time as *"havra Ioudaion"* (*"Hevra of Jews"*). This even though Greece's Jewish community -in one of its rare public reactions- had formally made known two years ago, in a letter to Eleftherotypia, that such expression is offending to Jews. **A search in Eleftherotypia's web edition will show that "Hevra" or "Hevra of the Jews" appears frequently used by many columnists, authors, average letter writers, etc.**

1: Newspaper Kathimerini English edition article *"Letter from Thessaloniki: The Passion [and anti-Semitism] Lives On"* describes the reactions of most Greek film critics in regard to Mel Gibson's film *"The Passion of the Christ."* The article also stated: *"There are also those who fear this film will fuel anti-Semitism as it makes its way around the world. They are right to be alarmed, for there are still Greeks who believe that the Jews are forever guilty of the murder of our Lord and that non-believers should be punished in the here and now as well as in eternity."*

11: The **Avriani** daily - a passionate supporter of George Papandreou (but also with a long history of antisemitism) - attacked, in a front page story, his predecessor Costas Simitis as the **"Jew who managed to destroy PASOK"**.

Although publicly provoked to do so (by columnists Y. Triantis kai Stathis in Eleftherotypia, 12/3/2004, PASOK leader George Papandreou did not comment, let alone condemn it.

13: In **Eleftherotypia**, columnist **Andreas Roumeliotis** (with many previous anti-Semitic texts mentioned in past GHM reports) commenting on the Spain terrorist attacks writes

(http://www.enet.gr/online/online_p1_text.jsp?c=112&id=21481212):

"Paranoiac fundamentalists have come to dominate in the world power. Jesus' crusaders, the born-again Christians, this 'sect of all sects.' The Christian-fascist fundamentalists in coalition with the most extreme international-Zionists who govern America rehearse in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq; on the other side, the suicide commandos, 'Allah's donors' cannot wait to join him so as to glorify themselves, while taking with them 'infidel dogs'."

15: In **Eleftherotypia**, columnist **Andreas Roumeliotis** repeats himself

(http://www.enet.gr/online/online_print.jsp?id=87701436):

"The fundamentalist sects of 'born again Christians' ... and their chosen international-Zionist allies... The Protestant heretics and the extreme Orthodox Zionists who govern us..."

20 March: In **Eleftherotypia** columnist **Andreas Roumeliotis** repeats for the third time in ten days: *"All these sectarians, 'born again Christians', Protestants, contemporary Christian fascist fundamentalists who are certain that 'the true light' guides them to impose God's will on Earth are equally psychotic [as Bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, and those who struck in Madrid]. They live in a nightmarish religious delirium, comparable to the one of the extreme international-Zionist allies of theirs, who are certain that they are God's chosen people."*

20 March: In his weekly human rights column in the daily **Avghi**, Dionysis Gousetis criticised the **Technical Chamber of Greece (T.E.E.) "Information Bulletin"** – issue of 8 March 2004 – and in particular a text written by the faction **The Engineers (TEE) of Order** that reads: *"Greece has degenerated into having a miserable system of internal organization and practice characterized by a Zionist spirit and practice. Greece continues to be a vassal of the same syndicate of the new EU, the new NATO and the foreign globalization."*

Already in early October 2001, two consecutive issues of the T.E.E. weekly *"Information Bulletin"*, mailed to all its members, carried two vehemently anti-Semitic articles by the mentioned **Engineers of Order** claiming that *"Zionist conspiracies"* orchestrated the September 11th terrorist attacks.

21: The **Simon Wiesenthal Centre** stated that recent examples of antisemitism in Greece justify the continuation of its **Travel Advisory**: *"These examples, in volume and persistence, sadly justify the continuation of the travel advisory against Greece issued by the Wiesenthal Center on 1 December 2003."* The Centre's Director for International Liaison, Dr. Shimon Samuels also argued *"the Greek press is certainly exercising its freedom to express Jew hatred. Your government bares the responsibility to condemn these excesses and to institute measures to contain their effects."*

Copies of the letter were also sent to Mr. Solomon Passy, Chairman of the **OSCE conference on Antisemitism** to be held in Berlin on 28-29 April 2004. (Letter attached).

23-27: Following the Yassin killing, several newspapers **Eleftherotypia** and **Ta Nea** have pursued their antisemitic onslaught through several cartoons (CARTOONS: see appendix attached).

30: The **Wiesenthal Centre's** press release on the Greek media antisemitic onslaught of the previous week: *"Too many in the Greek establishment have confused the right to criticize Israeli policies with the license to libel a people and besmirch the memory of all victims of Nazism"*, charged Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Associate Dean of the Wiesenthal Center, who added, *"given the unabated viciousness of this campaign of vilification which includes equating Israel with Nazi Germany, dehumanization of Israeli leaders and conjuring up the horrific imagery of the 'blood libel', the Wiesenthal Center has no choice but to continue its travel advisory to Greece"*.

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11. Desecration of the **Holocaust Memorial** in the city of **Drama** was reported by human rights activist. A photo appeared in the daily newspaper **Avghi**, but no one condemned the desecration that reads: *"Greece-Palestine, no Jew will be left alive"*. The monument had already been desecrated around Easter 2002. This was never reported in the press nor was it condemned.

13. Antisemitic broadcast on **Seven**, formerly **TeleAsty** (a private Greek TV channel of **LAOS political party** - Popular Orthodox Rally - of **George Karatzaferis**). **Seven** pours out anti-Jewish venom unflinching on a daily basis, adding scurrilous references to the Wiesenthal Centre, which is accused of *"conspiring to harm Greece and the Greeks."*

19. **Eleftherotypia** daily newspaper – cartoonist **Stathis Stavropoulos** – continues the antisemitic cartoon campaign. Someone in the background: *"Do you think that the Lord may be related to Hamas? Every time he is resuscitated they kill him again"*. (the killers walking away are an Israeli and a US soldier)



20. The Simon Wiesenthal Centre wrote to Prime Minister Karamanlis and issued a new press release entitled *"Easter Pogrom Hatemongering – Effigies, Desecration, Caricature: Greek Antisemitism Epidemic Persists"*

The Wiesenthal Centre's Director for International Liaison, Dr. Shimon Samuels, pointed to *"the Easter return to a form of ritual bigotry in Greek towns and villages characterized by Salonika University Professor Frangiski Abatzopoulou as 'the most widespread manifestation of traditional antisemitism in Greece.'"*

Samuels noted that, *"Despite declarations of the Greek Orthodox Synods in 1910 and 1918, that 'the Burning of Judas' is 'alien to the Church' and 'foments hatred and fanaticism against Jews,' the official Greek National Tourist Organization promoted this ritual as an Easter attraction on behalf of scores of vacation destinations. Hundreds of local ceremonies are listed and students are invited via the on-line media studies magazine of Panteion University."*

See www.gnto.gr/1/06/0605/ea0605003.html

and www.gnto.gr/1/06/0605/ea0605004.html

and www.gnto.gr/1/06/0605/ea0605006.html.

and www.alexa.com/search?q=%22burning+of+Judas%22+Greece

and www.papaki.panteion.gr/pasxa2.htm

The letter raised an interesting illustration, that what begins with the Jews, can have broad social ramifications, as was the one ceremony, this Easter in the town of Gastouni, of *"Burning the Nigger"* (sic. *"arapis"* in Greek).

See www.photoreportaz.com/laografia/kapsimoarapi/

The Centre called on Prime Minister Karamanlis *"to announce concrete measures to contain this Greek epidemic of antisemitism at next week's 55-state Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Berlin conference on Antisemitism. This is the occasion for your new government to show a responsiveness to bigotry and hate in the spirit of classical Athenian and Olympic values and thereby condemn those who would dishonour the image of Greece."*

20. Nikos Alefantos, coach of Olympiakos football team, commenting on the competition between the three major teams said to the pro-Olympiakos sports daily that *"it is with Anastasiadis [the PAOK football team coach] we will fight for Greece, not with the Jew [Yitzak Soum, Israeli coach of Panathinaikos],... let us see if they [PAOK] will sell themselves to the Jew in the fight a Greek is giving against him."*

22. The notorious expression *"Havra Ioudaion"* was again used twice in **Eleftherotypia** and **Apogevmatini**. Once again as many times before, **Marina Petroutsou** used it in **Eleftherotypia** to describe a noisy TV debate. While in a two page spread title *"I Havra ton Ioudaion"*, **Apogevmatini** used it to describe the conflict around football teams Panathinaikos, PAOK and Olympiakos and the above-mentioned Alefantos statement.



CENTRE SIMON WIESENTHAL – EUROPE

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Appendix

CARTOONS

On March 23rd, **Eleftherotypia** published three such cartoons, the first depicting Israel's Prime Minister Sharon and US president George Bush dressed as Nazi officers with swastikas on their uniforms and both shooting pistols. Sharon is portrayed in Der Stürmer-like caricature, while President Bush looks like a monkey. Bush: "Assassinations brought us nowhere Ariel, but the assassination of politics may lead somewhere."



In another **Eleftherotypia** cartoon of 23 March, Sharon is sitting in a blood covered armchair holding a sword and a human body as Yianna Angelopoulou, the head of the of Athens 2004 Organizing Committee, remarks to the large man who is carrying her:
 Angelopoulou: “He works in the security of the Olympics, he killed an arch-terrorist.”
 Large Man: “And what does he want?”
 Angelopoulou: “A bonus.”



The third 23 March **Eleftherotypia** cartoon is more prosaic: The Devil is welcoming Sharon at the entrance to Hell.



Eleftherotypia, March 24: **Sharon** with a sign that reads “*An Eye for an Eye.*” The other character who blinds his eyes represents **violence**.



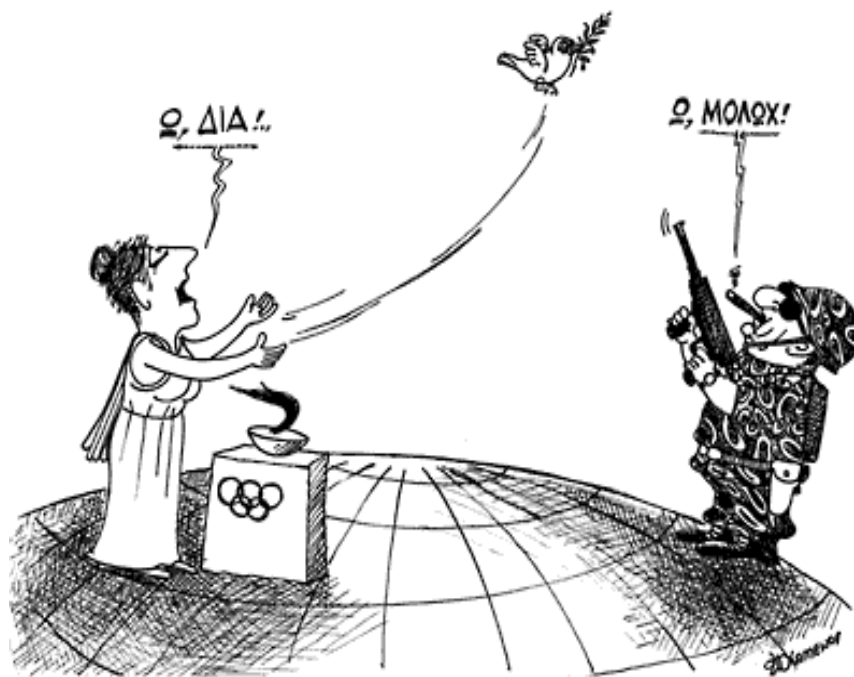
Ta Nea on March 24: Sharon is portrayed as saying, “*You will see that they will start calling me a Fascist again and ruin my image.*”



Ta Nea again on March 24: the **Grim Reaper** looks bewildered at his mirror-image (**Sharon**) and is saying, *"I have to start a diet, I have gotten too fat."*



Eleftherotypia, March 26: The priestess releasing the dove is saying: *"Oh Zeus!"* The man, presumably Sharon, aiming at the dove is saying *"Oh Moloch!"* (Moloch is an ancient god, whose followers performed human blood sacrifices).



Eleftherotypia, March 27: The woman in the first box asks: “*Why did the Jewish Government kill a religious leader?*”

The man answers, “*They are practicing for Easter.*”

In the second box, the woman remarks that “*Sharon killed a crippled leader.*”

The man responds, “*That’s nothing. He also asked to assume the responsibility for the security of the Special Olympics.*”



Again **Eleftherotypia**, March 27: The wolf is labeled “*Mossad*” and the sign next to him reads: “*Security of the Olympic Games: 80 million assigned to the US, Britain, Germany, Canada and Israel.*”

The first sheep on the left is saying: “*I’m afraid that the wolf is a target.*”

The second sheep says, “*The wolf makes us targets.*”

The last sheep says “*and this is the target of the wolf.*”

The implication is that Israel (the wolf), not international terrorism, actually constitutes a threat to the security of the other nations (the sheep) of the world coming to the Olympic Games.

