



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

**Museum Statement on
Antisemitic Attack in Amsterdam**

Montreal, November 8, 2024 - The Montreal Holocaust Museum is appalled by last night's antisemitic attack against soccer fans in Amsterdam. The reports and videos of the horrific incident show Israelis being chased, abused, and beaten. The Mayor of Amsterdam, Femke Halsema, stated that during the hit and run attacks, men on scooters sought out Israeli fans. During a press conference, she declared that "Jewish life and culture has been threatened."

A mere 79 years ago, Jews on the streets of Amsterdam were hunted, abused, and beaten by the Nazis and their collaborators. Although History doesn't repeat itself, it certainly seems to echo. There must be zero tolerance for violence against individuals simply because of their religion, race, or nationality. The perpetrators of last night's horrific crimes must be brought to justice, as we at the Holocaust Museum know where unchecked hate and antisemitism can lead.

It is crucial to note that just three nights ago, on Tuesday, November 5, an unlawful demonstration took place outside a local synagogue, the Shaar Hashomayim. In violation of the current injunction protecting places of worship, a group of individuals gathered to protest the presence of a former Israeli government spokesman. Videos released of the incident show masked protestors chanting "intifada" outside the doors of the synagogue - A slogan whose disastrous effects have been felt in Amsterdam. What latent violence lurks beneath this mask, if not that of antisemitism?

The rise of antisemitism must be combatted at all levels of society with the highest forms of government support. At the Museum, we call for an urgent wake-up call: The conflict in the Middle East is being used as an excuse to unleash violent antisemitism worldwide, yet the world is looking away.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to use education as our strongest tool in this combat. Our doors remain open to anyone interested in learning more about the dangers of antisemitism, its worst manifestation – the Holocaust, and the resilience of survivors, many of whom dedicated their lives to combatting hate in all its forms.

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