

INDIANA CONFERENCE – February, 06,2022

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK INDIANA UNIVERSITY, THROUGH ITS INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM, PROF. ALVIN ROSENFELD AND DR. GUNTHER JIKELI, FOR HAVING ME HERE TODAY.

THE POSITION OF A COMMISSIONER TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTISEMITISM IN THE AMERICAS WAS CREATED BY SECRETARY GENERAL LUIS ALMAGRO LAST JUNE, AND I WAS APPOINTED ON OCTOBER.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IS THE WORLD'S OLDEST REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, DATING BACK TO THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN STATES, HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FROM OCTOBER 1889 TO APRIL 1890. THAT MEETING APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS, AND THE STAGE WAS SET FOR THE WEAVING OF A WEB OF PROVISIONS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, THE OLDEST INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.

THE OAS, AS WE KNOW IT TODAY, CAME INTO BEING IN 1948 WITH THE SIGNING, IN BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA, OF THE CHARTER OF THE OAS, WHICH ENTERED INTO FORCE IN DECEMBER 1951, SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED.

THE ORGANIZATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE, AMONG ITS MEMBER STATES—AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE 1 OF THE CHARTER—"AN ORDER OF PEACE AND JUSTICE, TO PROMOTE THEIR SOLIDARITY, TO STRENGTHEN THEIR COLLABORATION, AND TO DEFEND THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND THEIR INDEPENDENCE."

TODAY, THE OAS BRINGS TOGETHER ALL 35 INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE AMERICAS AND CONSTITUTES THE MAIN POLITICAL, JURIDICAL, AND SOCIAL GOVERNMENTAL FORUM IN THE HEMISPHERE. IN ADDITION, IT HAS GRANTED PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS TO 69 STATES, AS WELL AS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU).

THE ORGANIZATION USES A FOUR-PRONGED APPROACH TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT ITS ESSENTIAL PURPOSES, BASED ON ITS MAIN PILLARS: DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, SECURITY, AND DEVELOPMENT.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES, IT IS ORGANIZED THROUGH STRUCTURES SUCH AS:

- THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;
- THE MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS;

- THE COUNCILS (THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT);
- THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE;
- THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS;
- THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT;
- THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

AMONG THE MANDATE ITEMS, WE CAN HIGHLIGHT: THE STRUCTURATION OF A DATABASE OF INCIDENTS IN THE REGION, COURT DECISIONS; GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES; CONCEIVING AND DESIGNING MEASURES TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE OF PAST AND PRESENT MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTISEMITISM, AS WELL AS THE DANGER THEY POSE TO DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION; TO STIMULATE MEMBER STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO ADOPT THE IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM, ALREADY ADOPTED BY OAS ITSELF.

I SEE IT AS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE THE DEBATE OUTSIDE THE SPHERE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES, WITH A REGIONAL AND SUPRANATIONAL APPROACH.

MY FIRST REMARK ON OUR ISSUE IS THAT ANTISEMITISM CANNOT BE SEEN AS A PHENOMENON THAT HAPPENS IN THE VACUUM, NOR IT WAS BROUGHT TO OUR SOCIETIES BY EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS. IT IS AS SYMPTOM OF SOMETHING DEEPER, OF A SOCIAL TREND, THAT HAS TO BE ANALYZED AS A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY AND A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MINORITIES MUST BE RESPECTED AND BE ASSURED A SAFE LIFE, IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY CAN THRIVE.

OUR CONTINENT, ESPECIALLY LATIN AMERICA, WAS FOUNDED AND DEVELOPED UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF COUNTER-REFORM. EITHER THROUGH THE SETTING UP OF TRIBUNALS OR THROUGH THE SO CALLED “VISITATIONS”, THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE INQUISITIONS WERE PRESENT AND ACTIVE IN OUR REGION FOR MORE THAN THREE CENTURIES. THIS OBVIOUSLY CARRIED A STRONG INFLUENCE IN THE LOCAL PERCEPTION OF THE JEWS. THERE ARE RECORDS OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES ESTABLISHED IN BRAZIL SINCE THE COUNTRY’S DISCOVERY IN 1500 (FIFTEEN HUNDRED), HAVING ARRIVED IN DIFFERENT TIMES. THE PORTUGUESE KING HAD EXPELLED THE JEWS THAT WOULD NOT CONVERT TO CHRISTIANISM THREE YEARS BEFORE, IN 1497.

THEY ARRIVED IN BRAZIL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE DUTCH RULE, SETTING UP IN RECIFE THE FIRST SYNAGOGUE IN THE AMERICAS, THE KAHAL ZUR ISRAEL, AS EARLY AS 1636. MOST OF THOSE JEWS WERE SEPHARDIC JEWS WHO HAD FLED THE INQUISITION IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL TO THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

THE PORTUGUESE INQUISITION EXPANDED ITS SCOPE OF OPERATIONS FROM MAINLAND PORTUGAL TO ITS' COLONIAL POSSESSIONS, INCLUDING BRAZIL, WHERE IT CONTINUED INVESTIGATING AND TRYING CASES BASED ON SUPPOSED BREACHES OF ORTHODOX ROMAN CATHOLICISM, UNTIL 1821. WE CAN AFFIRM THAT THIS ONLY STARTED TO SHOW A REAL CHANGE FIFTY FIVE YEARS AGO, WITH THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL AND THE NOSTRA AETATE, THAT RESET THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND JUDAISM.

STILL ON THE SIDE OF THE SO CALLED "TRADITIONAL" ANTISEMITISM, BUT WITH A NEO-NAZI OR RIGHT-WING BACKGROUND. LATIN AMERICA WAS A DESTINATION OF GERMAN EMIGRATION, IN THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY/BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH. LATER ON, THE LARGEST NAZI PARTY OUTSIDE OF THE REICH COULD BE FOUND IN BRAZIL. AND THOUGH BRAZIL ENTERED THE WAR ON THE SIDE OF THE ALLIES IN 1942, AND WAS THE ONLY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY TO SEND TROOPS, AFTER THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, SOUTH AMERICA BECAME A ROUTE OF ESCAPE TO FORMER NAZI CRIMINALS, ESPECIALLY IN ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CHILE AND PARAGUAY.

WE HAVE WATCHED MORE RECENTLY, IN SOME COUNTRIES OF OUR CONTINENT, A CERTAIN SELF-ASSURANCE THAT SUPREMACIST THOUGHTS COULD BE EXPOSED PUBLICLY, BE IT VERBALLY OR THROUGH VIOLENT ACTS, SUCH AS THE MARCH IN CHARLOTTESVILLE – WHERE PEOPLE WERE MARCHING WITH TORCHES, SAYING "JEWS WILL NOT REPLACE US", OR IN PITTSBURGH, WITH THE SHOOTING OF ELEVEN PEOPLE AT THE SYNAGOGUE TREE OF LIFE, THREE YEARS AGO.

REGARDING THIS ISSUE, I WOULD LIKE TO BRING YOUR ATTENTION TO A LEGAL CASE THAT WAS TRIED AT THE BRAZILIAN SUPREME COURT IN 2004, THAT BECAME EMBLEMATIC IN WHAT RELATES TO HOLOCAUST DENIAL AND REVISIONISM, RESULTING IN THE ONE OF THE FIRST COURT CONVICTIONS ON THE GROUNDS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN LATIN AMERICA.

A BOOK PUBLISHER, SIEGFRIED ELLWANGER CASTAN, THE OWNER OF A PUBLISHING HOUSE CALLED “REVISÃO”, IN THE SOUTH OF BRAZIL, PUBLISHED A SERIES OF BOOKS DENYING THE HOLOCAUST, INCLUDING ONE OF HIS OWN AUTHORSHIP,” HOLOCAUST: JEW OR GERMAN – THE BACKSTAGE OF THE CENTURY’S LIE”. IN THIS BOOK, HE DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND DEATH OF 6 MILLION JEWS DURING WORLD WAR PART OF HIS CATALOG WERE BOOKS SUCH AS “PROTOCOLS OF THE ELDER S ZION”, “THE INTERNATIONAL JEW”, BY HENRY FORD, “BRAZIL, A BANKERS’ COLONY”, “CONQUERORS OF THE WORLD – THE REAL WAR CRIMINALS”, AND ‘HITLER: GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY’.

IN 2003, THE SUPERIOR COURT HAD CONVICTED ELLWANGER TO TWO YEARS OF JAIL FOR INCITEMENT TO RACISM. HIS DEFENSE APPEALED THE DECISION, ON THE GROUNDS THAT “JEWS ARE NOT A RACE AND THEREFORE, THERE WAS NO CRIME OF RACISM”. (*ANY SIMILARITY TO WHOOP! GOLDBERG IS NOT A COINCIDENCE*). HOWEVER, THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE IN BRAZIL DID NOT ACCEPT THE APPEAL.

“HABEAS CORPUS Nº 82.424 - DIÁRIO DA JUSTIÇA - 19/03/2004.

THE SETTING UP OF THE JUDICIAL-CONSTITUTIONAL DEFINITION OF THE WORD “RACISM” REQUIRES THE COMBINATION OF HISTORIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS AND CIRCUMSTANCES THAT GUIDED ITS FORMATION AND USE. THE CRIME OF RACISM CONSTITUTES AN ATTACK ON THE PRINCIPLES IN WHICH HUMAN SOCIETY IS BUILT AND ORGANIZED, BASED ON THE HUMAN BEING’S RESPECTABILITY AND DIGNITY AND HIS PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE ARE NO BIOLOGICAL DIVISIONS OF THE HUMAN SPECIES, THE COURT UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SUBDIVISION OF HUMAN BEINGS IN RACES RESULTS OF A PROCESS OF MERELY POLITICAL-SOCIAL CONTENT. THIS PROCESS GAVE ORIGIN TO RACISM, WHICH IN TURN GENERATES DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATIONIST PREJUDICE. TO BUILD THE JUDICIAL-CONSTITUTIONAL DEFINITION OF THE WORD “RACISM”, THE COURT CONCLUDED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO COMBINE HISTORIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS AND CIRCUMSTANCES THAT GOVERNED ITS FORMATION AND APPLICATION THROUGH A FINALISTIC AND SYSTEMIC INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION. ONLY THEN IS IT POSSIBLE TO GET THE LAW REAL SENSE AND REACH. THIS SHOULD RECONCILE ETYMOLOGIC, ETHNOLOGIC, SOCIOLOGIC, ANTHROPOLOGIC AND BIOLOGIC CONCEPTS.

THUS, IT WAS STATED THAT THE CRIME OF RACISM IS APPARENT IN THE MERE UTILIZATION OF THE STIGMA ABOVE, WHICH RUNS AGAINST THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH HUMAN SOCIETY IS BASED AND ORGANIZED, ON THE RESPECTABILITY AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN BEING AND HIS PACIFIC COEXISTENCE IN THE SOCIAL MILIEU. THEREFORE, IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT THE PUBLISHING OF MATERIAL WITH ANTI-SEMITIC IDEAS THAT GIVES CREDIBILITY TO THE RACIAL CONCEPTION DEFINED BY THE NAZI REGIME, THAT DENY AND SUBVERT UNDISPUTED HISTORIC FACTS – SUCH AS THE HOLOCAUST - IN THE FORM OF THE SUPPOSED INFERIORITY AND DISQUALIFICATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, IS COMPARABLE TO INCITEMENT TO DISCRIMINATION, WITH A STRIKING RACIST CONTENT, AND REINFORCED BY THE HISTORIC CONSEQUENCES OF THOSE ACTIONS ON WHICH THEY ARE BASED.

THE COURT PLENARY PUT ON THE RECORD THAT, DUE TO THE GRAVITY AND REPULSIVENESS OF THE OFFENSE, THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION IMPOSED ON THE AGENTS OF CRIMES OF THIS NATURE THE NON-APPLICATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS CLAUSE; SO THAT, *AD PERPETUAM*, FOREVER, THE REPUDIATION AND ABJECTION OF THE BRAZILIAN SOCIETY TO THIS PRACTICE WILL BE CENSORED AND REPUDIATED.

THE NON-APPLICATION OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS TO RACISM CRIMES WAS JUSTIFIED AS A SERIOUS ALERT TO THIS GENERATION AND THE NEXT ONE, SO THAT THE RESTORATION OF OLD AND OUTDATED CONCEPTS THAT ARE NO LONGER ADMISSIBLE - TO THE JUDICIAL AND HISTORIC CONSCIOUSNESS.

FINALLY, IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT AS ANY INDIVIDUAL RIGHT, THE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS NOT ABSOLUTE, AND CAN BE SET ASIDE WHEN IT SURPASSES THE MORAL AND JUDICIAL LIMITS – SUCH AS IN THE CASE OF EXPRESSIONS OF IMMORAL CONTENT THAT IMPLY CRIMINAL UNLAWFULNESS.”

THIS PRECEDENT SET BASIS FOR OTHER CASES THAT INVOLVE LIMITS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, TO WHICH WE WILL RETURN LATER.

MOVING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, WE HAVE SEEN OBJECTIONS DIRECTED TO ISRAEL POLICIES REACHING DANGEROUS LEVELS, NOT LIMITED TO A GOVERNMENT'S DECISIONS CRITIQUE, BUT QUESTIONING THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE STATE ITSELF AND ITS DELEGITIMIZATION. AS MR. JONATHAN GREENBLATT, THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE CEO HAS MENTIONED, ANTISEMITISM ON THE LEFT IS SIMILAR TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

“SLOWLY BUT SURELY, THE TEMPERATURE IS RISING. THERE ARE OCCASIONAL STORMS, BUT TOO OFTEN PEOPLE CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE SIGNS AND DENY THAT THERE IS A PATTERN. BUT BY ALL MEASURES, THE METAPHORICAL TEMPERATURE IS CLIMBING, THE CONDITIONS WORSENING, AND THIS SITUATION THREATENS TO UPEND LIFE AS WE KNOW IT.”

THE RECENT REPORT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, CALLING ISRAEL AN “APARTHEID STATE” AS WELL AS SOME POLITICAL LEADERS CALLING IT A GENOCIDAL STATE CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEMONIZATION OF THE STATE, WITH NEGATIVE EFFECTS TOWARD THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE DIASPORA.

WE COULD SEE IT DURING MANIFESTATIONS ABOUT THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS, LAST MAY.

IN THE USA, JEWISH DINERS WERE ATTACKED AT A RESTAURANT IN LA; JEWS WERE HARASSED IN NY AND IN FLORIDA. IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS BRAZIL, VENEZUELA, MEXICO AND OTHERS, MANIFESTATIONS EQUATING ISRAEL TO NAZI GERMANY AND DAVID STARS TO SWASTIKAS WERE SEEN ON THE STREETS AND IN SOCIAL MEDIA. IN SOME COUNTRIES, THERE WAS EVEN SOME GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE CAMPAIGN. THE IDEA THAT JEWS AROUND THE WORLD CAN BE COLLECTIVELY HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS IN THE MIDDLE EAST REACHED A NEW DIMENSION.

WE DON'T SEE IMMIGRANTS OR REFUGEES OF OTHER COUNTRIES BEING TARGETED IN THEIR NEW HOMES FOR DECISIONS MADE BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS. IT IS SURELY A DOUBLE STANDARD AND IT MAY BE CALLED WITHOUT RESERVATIONS, BY ITS NAME: ANTISEMITISM.

AND, IF WE SEE THE LAST FBI REPORT ABOUT HATE CRIMES, DESPITE BEING ONLY 2% OF US POPULATION, 60% OF HATE CRIMES BASED ON RELIGIOUS REASONS, WERE DIRECTED AGAINST JEWS.

IN BOTH CASES, WE SEE ANTISEMITISM BEING NORMALIZED AND BECOMING MAINSTREAM, AS IF IT WERE A LEGITIMATE DISCOURSE AND BEING INSTRUMENTALIZED TO BE USED AS A POLITICAL TOOL, IN A FIGHT AGAINST THE OTHER SIDE – LEFT X RIGHT - MUCH MORE THAN A PROBLEM THAT NEEDS TO BE FACED AND ADDRESSED. THE IDENTITARIAN POLICIES ADD TO THAT DANGEROUS ATMOSPHERE, SINCE THE EXTREME RIGHT DON'T SEE JEWS AS WHITES, WHILE THE FAR LEFT SEE US AS SUPER WHITES, PRIVILEGED ETC, AS DAVID BADDIEL MENTIONED A FEW DAYS AGO.

THE THIRD VERTEX OF THIS TRIANGLE IS THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM. IN LATIN AMERICA, ARGENTINA IS THE MORE IMPORTANT EXAMPLE.

IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT ARGENTINA IS THE ONLY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY TO HAVE RECORDED TWO TERRORIST ATTACKS, MOVED BY ANTI-SEMITISM: IN BUENOS AIRES, ON MARCH 17, 1992 (MARCH SEVENTEEN, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-TWO), A BOMB WAS THROWN AGAINST THE ISRAELI EMBASSY, LEAVING 29 DEAD AND SOME 200 INJURED. IN ADDITION, IN THE MORNING OF JULY 18, 1994 (JULY EIGHTEEN, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY FOUR), A BOMB EXPLODED AT THE JEWISH CENTER AMIA, KILLING 85 PEOPLE.

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS LATER, THE MOST SERIOUS ATTACK IN THE ARGENTINIAN HISTORY REMAINS UNPUNISHED, ALBEIT THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE ATTACK WAS CREDITED TO THE LEBANESE SHI'ITE MOVEMENT HEZBOLLAH, AND TO IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS – PERHAPS BECAUSE THE ATTACK WAS SEEN AS A TERRORIST ACT AGAINST THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND NOT AGAINST ARGENTINA ITSELF. PROSECUTOR ALBERTO NISMAN WHO SHOULD GO TO CONGRESS ON JANUARY 19, 2015, TO SHARE HIS FINDINGS ABOUT A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, TO BE SIGNED BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND IRAN, WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS APARTMENT AT THAT VERY MORNING.

IN BRAZIL, A GROUP OF SUSPECTS OF TRYING TO COMMIT TERRORIST ACTS WAS ARRESTED BEFORE THE OLYMPICS IN RIO DE JANEIRO, 2016. IN THEIR WHATSAPPS, THE INTENTION OF HITTING JEWISH TARGETS WAS FOUND.

RECENTLY WE HAD THE VISIT OF MOSEEN RAZEI, AN IRANIAN VICE PRESIDENT - WHO IS IN THE INTERPOL RED ALERT LIST - IN NICARAGUA, AT THE DANIEL ORTEGA SWEARING IN CEREMONY AS REELECTED PRESIDENT.

AND, AT THE BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION IN COLEYVILLE, DALLAS, MALIK FAISAL AKRAM CAME FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO TRY TO LIBERATE AN AL QAEDA MEMBER SERVING A PRISON TIME FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER, CLOSE TO THE SYNAGOGUE, THROUGH THE KIDNAPPING AND DEATH THREATS OF ITS MEMBERS.

AS RABBI ANGELA BUCHDAHL OF CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE OF NEW YORK SAID, DURING HER SERMON ONE WEEK AGO: *“IF YOU ARE A JEW IN AMERICA AND YOU ARE NOT FEELING UNSETTLED, THEN YOU ARE NOT PAYING ATTENTION.”*

DURING THESE TWO LAST WEIRD YEARS, I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION ANOTHER ISSUE THAT HAD A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR SUBJECT, THE PANDEMICS. OLD TROPES, BASED IN CONSPIRACY THEORIES, SUCH AS THAT JEWS PRODUCED THE VIRUS OR THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE NOT CONTAMINATED, AS APPEARED IN A SERIES OF POSTS OF A BRAZILIAN JOURNALIST; THAT THEY OWN THE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES, SELLING VACCINES OR MEDICINES, SOMEHOW TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION. WERE SPREAD IN MANY COUNTRIES, THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS. I MYSELF WROTE AN ARTICLE, IN A BRAZILIAN WEEKLY MAGAZINE, CALLED “THE VIRUS OF PREJUDICE”, IN JUNE/2020, SHOWING HOW MUCH HATE SPEECH WAS SPREAD, ALONG WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMICS. MORE RECENTLY, ANTI-VAXXERS WERE SEEN WEARING YELLOW STARS, IN A PREPOSTEROUS COMPARISON TO HOLOCAUST VICTIMS.

BUT NOT EVERYTHING IS BAD NEWS. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, AND GOING TO MY CONCLUSIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION SOME INITIATIVES TAKEN DURING THESE LAST YEARS, SUCH AS:

- THE PRODUCTION OF A GUIDE TO IDENTIFY HATE SPEECH, BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF BRAZIL AND A LAW SCHOOL, HELPING POLICE OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES TO CHARACTERIZE AND SANCTION IT;
- SIGNING OF MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SOCIAL NETWORKS, FOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS TRUSTED FLAGGERS, IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING ANTI-SEMITIC POSTS, IN ORDER TO HAVE THEM MONITORED AND REMOVED, WITH A FAST TRACK MECHANISM;
- THE BRAZILIAN SUPREME COURT EQUATED RACIAL INSULT TO RACISM, WHICH HAS A MORE SEVERE TREATMENT AND LEGAL SANCTIONS;

- BRAZIL WAS ACCEPTED AS AN OBSERVER TO IHRA, AN ORGANIZATION THAT ALREADY HAS ARGENTINA AS ITS MEMBER AND URUGUAY AS AN OBSERVER.
- TEACHING OF HOLOCAUST WAS INCLUDED IN THE 9TH YEAR OF BRAZILIAN SCHOOLS AS MANDATORY – AND THIS SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN OUR REGION;
- A BILL IS BEING DEBATED AT THE BRAZILIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TRYING TO REGULATE SOCIAL MEDIA AND FAKE NEWS. IT IS IN FACT BROADER THAN THAT, ALSO ADDRESSING HATE SPEECH AND PREJUDICIAL POSTS.

IN FACT, ONE OF THE MORE RECENT TRENDS IS RELATED TO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HATE SPEECH AND ANTISEMITISM ON LINE. THE DEBATE ABOUT HATE SPEECH AND ITS CONTAINMENT AND/OR REGULATION HAS BEEN GAINING NEW CONTOURS WITH THE CHANGES IN THE MEDIA, ESPECIALLY IN THE INTERNET.

IF IT WAS ALREADY CONTROVERSIAL IN TRADITIONAL MEDIA, IT HAS SURELY TAKEN A NEW DIMENSION IN THE DYNAMICS OF ONLINE COMMUNICATION.

DEEPENING THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF HATE SPEECH AND SEEKING TO OFFER SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR PARAMETERS FOR ITS IDENTIFICATION IN CONCRETE CASES IS A TASK THAT WE CANNOT AVOID ANYMORE.

RESPECTING THE SPECIFICITIES OF EACH NATIONAL LEGISLATION, WE BELIEVE THE KEY WILL BE A COMBINATION OF SELF-REGULATION AND LEGAL REGULATION OF SOCIAL NETWORKS, THROUGH LEGISLATION AND COURT DECISIONS. 48 COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN TRYING TO REGULATE SOCIAL NETWORKS SINCE 2019. 24 HAVE ALREADY APPROVED OR SUBMITTED PROPOSITIONS TO MODERATE CONTENT IN THE INTERNET. MAYBE IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUBJECT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.