

Jewish Community Safety Index

Comprehensive Country Assessment • Seven Pillar Framework

VERSION
1.2



WARNING: CRITICAL STATE-LEVEL HOSTILITY: South Africa has brought genocide charges against Israel at the ICJ, maintains direct ties with Hamas officials, and has created an institutionally hostile environment for Jewish citizens. The ANC government's position represents the most adversarial state-level relationship with Israel of any major democracy.

Seven Pillar Summary

#	Pillar	Weight	Score	Assessment
P1	Legal & Government Framework	10%	45	Concerning "" Hate crime law exists; no IHRA; no envoy
P2	Security Infrastructure	10%	28	Critical "" No dedicated funding; community self-funded
P3	Criminal Justice Outcomes	10%	42	Concerning "" Precedent exists; enforcement gaps
P4	Threat Environment	18%	52	

				Moderate "" Low physical violence; high general crime
P5	Movement Ecosystem NEW	15%	15	Critical "" Hamas rep operates openly; MJC "I am Hamas"
P6	Cultural & Societal Climate NEW	15%	12	Critical "" State-level BDS; ICJ case; sport boycotts
P7	Lived Experience & Community Voice	22%	25	Critical "" 60% population decline; mass emigration

[OK] LIMITED STRENGTHS

- **Low Physical Violence:** ~78 incidents in H1 2024; few assaults
- **Gun Control:** Firearms Control Act 2000; licensing required
- **Hate Crime Law:** 2024 Act signed by President
- **General Population:** Hostility not reflected at street level
- **Conviction Precedent:** 2020 online antisemitism conviction

[X] CRITICAL VULNERABILITIES

- **ICJ Genocide Case:** State-led lawfare against Israel
- **Hamas Ties:** Official Hamas representative operates openly
- **Embassy Closed:** No ambassador since 2019
- **David Teeger Case:** Jewish captain stripped of role
- **Population Collapse:** 60% decline since 1970; 1% annual aliyah
- **"I am Hamas":** MJC leader's public declaration

FORMULA: $JCSI = (45 \times 0.10) + (28 \times 0.10) + (42 \times 0.10) + (52 \times 0.18) + (15 \times 0.15) + (12 \times 0.15) + (25 \times 0.22) = 29/100$

Assessment Period: October 2023 "" December 2025 | Framework v1.2 | Report Date: December 2025

South Africa JCSI v1.2 "" Detailed Assessment

DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT (Reference Data - Not Scored)

Indicator	Measurement	Source
Jewish population	~50,000 (0.08% of total) "" down from 118,000 in 1970	Institute for Jewish Policy Research
Muslim population	~900,000 (1.5% of total)	Census 2011
Muslim:Jewish ratio	~18:1	Calculated
Geographic concentration	~90% in Johannesburg and Cape Town	SAJBD
Population trend	Declining "" 60% loss since 1970; 1% annual aliyah rate (2021)	IJPR/Jewish Agency
General crime rate	Very high "" among world's highest murder rates	SAPS Statistics

PILLAR 1: Legal & Government Framework

45/100 | Weight: 10%

1.1 Government Leadership on Antisemitism (25%)

15/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Special Envoy for Antisemitism	No "" No such position exists	0	Government Records
Government engagement with Jewish community	Hostile "" ICJ case; Hamas ties; dismissed SAJBD concerns	10	SAJBD/Media
National action plan on antisemitism	No "" None exists or planned	0	Government Records
Government response to antisemitic incidents	Inconsistent "" Some political support for "I am Hamas" statements	20	Media/SAJBD
Political leadership statements	Often hostile "" ANC supports Hamas; Teeger case politicized	15	Government/ Media

1.2 Constitutional & Fundamental Protections (15%)

78/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Religious freedom guarantee	Yes "" Section 15 of Constitution (strong)	90	Constitution 1996
Equal protection clause	Yes "" Section 9 (comprehensive)	85	Constitution 1996
Minority rights provisions	Yes "" Bill of Rights includes religious minorities	60	Constitution 1996

1.3 Antisemitism-Specific Legislation (25%)

42/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Holocaust denial criminalized	No "" Not specifically prohibited	0	Criminal Code
Hate speech laws covering antisemitism	Yes "" PEPUDA 2000 + Hate Crimes Act 2024	75	Legislation
Hate crime enhancement statutes	Yes "" 2024 Act provides aggravating factors	70	Hate Crimes Act 2024
IHRA definition adopted	No "" Government has not adopted	0	Government Records
Incitement to violence laws	Yes "" Section 16 Constitution limits hate speech	65	Constitution/ Criminal Code

1.4 Gun Control Framework (10%)

72/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Constitutional right to arms	No "" Gun ownership is statutory privilege	100	Constitution
Semi-automatic weapons banned	Restricted "" Requires specific license categories	65	Firearms Control Act
Licensing + background check	Yes "" Comprehensive; competency test required	80	Firearms Control Act 2000
Enforcement effectiveness	Limited "" High illegal gun proliferation	45	SAPS/Research

1.5 Organization & Symbol Bans (15%)

48/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Hamas banned	No "" Hamas representative operates openly in SA	0	Government Records
Hezbollah banned	No "" Not proscribed	0	Government Records
Nazi symbols criminalized	Partial "" May fall under hate speech provisions	50	Hate Crimes Act
Incitement slogans prosecutable	Context-dependant "" "One Jew one bullet" chants documented	40	Case Law/ Media

1.6 Israel Relations (10%)

10/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Full diplomatic relations with Israel	No "" Embassy closed; liaison office only since 2019	10	DIRCO
Ambassador to Israel	No "" Recalled; no senior contact policy	5	Government Records
Legal actions against Israel	Yes "" ICJ genocide case filed Dec 2023	0	ICJ Records

PILLAR 1 CALCULATION: (15x0.25) + (78x0.15) + (42x0.25) + (72x0.10) + (48x0.15) + (10x0.10) = 45/100

PILLAR 2: Security Infrastructure

28/100 | Weight: 10%

2.1 Government Security Programs (35%)

15/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Dedicated Jewish security funding	None "" No government funding identified	0	Budget Documents
Per capita security funding	\$0 from government	0	Calculated
Program longevity	None "" No dedicated program exists	0	Government Records
General security cooperation	Limited "" Standard police response only	35	SAJBD

2.2 Community Security Organization (35%)

45/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
CSO presence	Yes "" Community Patrol (CAP) and private security	60	Community Records
CSO coverage	Partial "" Major institutions in Johannesburg/Cape Town	55	Community Records
Funding sustainability	Community-funded "" No government support	35	SAJBD
Training standards	Variable "" Private security industry regulated	40	Industry Standards

2.3 Police & Intelligence Cooperation (30%)

25/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Dedicated liaison officers	No "" No dedicated Jewish community liaison	10	SAPS Records
Intelligence sharing	Limited "" General crime focus; not antisemitism-specific	20	SAJBD
Response times	Poor "" General SAPS capacity issues nationwide	25	SAPS Statistics
Event security cooperation	Variable "" Dependent on local relationships	40	Community Records

PILLAR 2 CALCULATION: $(15 \times 0.35) + (45 \times 0.35) + (25 \times 0.30) = 28/100$

PILLAR 3: Criminal Justice Outcomes

42/100 | Weight: 10%

3.1 Investigation & Arrest (35%)

38/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Antisemitic incidents reported (H1 2024)	78 total incidents "" relatively low vs. global	65	SAJBD
Physical assaults (recent)	None reported in past 3 months (mid-2024)	75	SAJBD
Investigation rate	Unknown "" Not specifically tracked	20	SAPS
Dedicated hate crime units	Emerging "" 2024 Act requires SAPS training	35	Hate Crimes Act 2024

3.2 Prosecution & Conviction (45%)

45/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Prosecution rate	Unknown "" Limited data available	25	NPA
Landmark convictions	Yes "" 2020 Letsoalo conviction (online antisemitism)	70	Court Records
Equality Court usage	Active "" Radio 786 case (Holocaust denial) ongoing	50	Court Records
Hate crime enhancement applied	New "" 2024 Act recently enacted	40	NPA

3.3 Victim Support (20%)

45/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Victim support services	Community-provided "" SAJBD assists	50	SAJBD
Reporting mechanisms	Available "" SAJBD has incident reporting	55	SAJBD
Government victim compensation	Limited "" General schemes only	35	DOJ

PILLAR 3 CALCULATION: (38x0.35) + (45x0.45) + (45x0.20) = 42/100

PILLAR 4: Threat Environment

52/100 | Weight: 18%

4.1 Incident Statistics (40%)

62/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Total antisemitic incidents (H1 2024)	78 incidents "" stable vs previous years	65	SAJBD
Incidents per 100,000 Jewish population	~156 per 100k "" moderate rate	55	Calculated
Physical assaults (annual)	None reported recently "" primarily verbal/online	80	SAJBD
Vandalism incidents	Low "" None recently reported	75	SAJBD
Direct threats (credible)	Moderate "" "One Jew one bullet" chants at protests	40	Media/SAJBD

4.2 Mass Casualty Attack History (25%)

85/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Fatal attacks in past 3 years	None "" No fatal antisemitic attacks	100	SAJBD/Police
Fatal attacks 3-5 years ago	None "" No recorded incidents	100	Historical Records
Foiled/prevented attacks	None publicly reported	60	Security Services

4.3 Campus Climate (20%)

35/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Campus antisemitic incidents	Regular "" BDS activism; protests at universities	40	University Records
Academic boycotts enacted	Yes "" UJ severed Ben-Gurion partnership (2011)	20	Academic Records
Jewish student safety	Concerning "" Reports of hostility	40	Student Surveys

4.4 Organized Threat Assessment (15%)

25/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Terrorist organizations present	Yes "" Hamas representative operates openly	10	Media/FDD Report
State-sponsored threat actors	Concerning "" ANC-Iran ties; IRGC connections alleged	20	Intelligence Reports
Far-right extremism	Limited "" Not significant threat currently	55	Security Assessment

PILLAR 4 CALCULATION: $(62 \times 0.40) + (85 \times 0.25) + (35 \times 0.20) + (25 \times 0.15)$
= 52/100

PILLAR 5: Radicalization & Movement Ecosystem

15/100 | Weight: 15%

NOW SCORED

5.1 Islamist Movement Infrastructure (50%)

12/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Muslim Brotherhood presence	Active "" Key figures in foreign policy establishment	10	JCPA/ISGAP Reports
Muslim Brotherhood banned/restricted	No "" Not proscribed; operates freely	0	Government Records
Hamas presence	Active "" Official representative (Emad Saber) operates openly	0	FDD/Media
Hamas banned	No "" ANC signed MOU with Hamas (2018)	0	ANC Records
IRGC/Iran proxy activity	Suspected "" Reports of Iran-ANC financial ties	15	ISGAP Report
Religious leader extremism	Documented "" MJC president: "I am Hamas! Cape Town is Hamas!"	5	Media/SAJBD
Foreign funding of Islamist institutions	Significant "" Qatar/Iran ties alleged	10	Research Reports

5.2 Pro-Palestinian/Anti-Zionist Movement Activity (50%)

18/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Pro-Palestinian protests (annual since Oct 2023)	Frequent "" Regular large demonstrations	20	Media
Protests at Jewish institutions	Documented "" Bnei Akiva incident; threats reported	15	JTA/SAJBD
"Intifada" slogans prevalence	Common "" Frequently documented at protests	10	Media
"One Jew one bullet" chants	Documented "" Outside White House protest (SA group)	5	US State Dept/Media
BDS organizational strength	Very strong "" State-level support; COSATU; ANC backing	5	ANC/ COSATU Records
Palestine Solidarity Alliance	Very active "" Filed Teeger complaint; regular campaigns	15	PSA Records

PILLAR 5 CALCULATION: $(12 \times 0.50) + (18 \times 0.50) = 15/100$

PILLAR 6: Cultural & Societal Climate

12/100 | Weight: 15% **NEW**

PILLAR

6.1 Academic & Institutional Boycotts (25%)

8/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
BDS resolutions (national level)	Yes "" ANC formally supports BDS (2012); COSATU (2011)	0	ANC/ COSATU
Academic boycotts enacted	Yes "" UJ-BGU partnership dissolved (2011)	10	University Records
Trade union boycotts	Yes "" COSATU Woolworths boycott; ongoing campaigns	5	COSATU Records
Jewish-owned business targeting	Documented "" BDS campaigns intensified post-Oct 7	10	SAJBD

6.2 Cultural & Public Space Hostility (25%)

10/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
David Teeger case	Critical "" Jewish captain stripped of role for Israel support	0	Cricket SA/ Media
Sports boycotts/ exclusions	Active "" Teeger case; Diadora threatened withdrawal	5	Media
Israeli artists/cultural boycotts	Frequent "" Regular concert disruptions documented	10	Media
"Cancellation" for Israel views	Documented "" Public figures face backlash	15	Media/ Community

6.3 Media Environment (15%)

20/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Mainstream media bias in Israel coverage	Significant "" Generally hostile framing	20	Media Analysis
Holocaust denial in media	Documented "" Radio 786 case (1998); unresolved	15	Court Records
Public broadcaster treatment	Critical "" SABC coverage often hostile	20	Content Analysis

6.4 Israel Relations & Freedom of Movement (15%)

5/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Full diplomatic relations with Israel	No "" Downgraded to liaison office (2019); closed (2023)	0	DIRCO
ICJ genocide case against Israel	Yes "" Filed Dec 2023; ongoing proceedings	0	ICJ Records
Threat to arrest SA citizens serving in IDF	Yes "" Former FM Pandor statement	5	Government Statement
Anti-BDS legislation	No "" Government supports BDS	0	Government Policy

6.5 Jewish Heritage Celebration "" POSITIVE INDICATORS (20%)

30/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
Official Jewish Heritage recognition	No "" No national Jewish Heritage Month	0	Government Records
Holocaust education	Limited "" Not mandatory; some schools include	35	Education Dept
Holocaust Remembrance Day observed	Partial "" Community observance; limited government	40	Government/Community
Jewish historical sites protected	Some "" Heritage sites exist; variable protection	50	Heritage Records

PILLAR 6 CALCULATION: $(8 \times 0.25) + (10 \times 0.25) + (20 \times 0.15) + (5 \times 0.15) + (30 \times 0.20) = 12/100$

PILLAR 7: Lived Experience & Community Voice **25/100** | Weight: 22%

7.1 Subjective Safety (40%)

22/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
% who feel safe as Jews	Variable "" Street-level generally okay; institutional hostility	45	Community Surveys
% feel antisemitism is serious	High "" Government hostility primary concern	20	SAJBD/ Surveys
% feel situation has worsened	Very high "" Post-Oct 7 government position	10	Surveys
% trust government to protect them	Very low "" Government seen as hostile	5	Community Surveys
Youth safety concerns	Critical "" "Overwhelming" concern per JTA interviews	15	JTA Reporting

7.2 Behavioral Adaptation (35%)

20/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
% who hide Jewish identity	Lower than Europe "" Less physical threat but institutional issues	55	SAJBD
% who considered emigrating	Very high "" 1% annual aliyah (highest rate globally 2021)	5	Jewish Agency
Actual emigration rate	Critical "" 60% population decline since 1970	0	IJPR
Youth planning to leave	Very high "" Majority of teens interviewed plan emigration	10	JTA Survey

7.3 Community Vitality & Protective Factors (25%)

40/100

Indicator	Measurement	Score	Source
General public favorability toward Jews	Moderate "" "Not reflected among ordinary people"	60	SAJBD Statement
Political representation & access	Limited "" Few Jews in ANC; DA more supportive	35	Political Analysis
Jewish school enrollment trend	Declining "" Population shrinkage affects institutions	35	Education Data
Interfaith solidarity	Limited "" Some Christian support; Muslim-Jewish tensions	40	Community Reports

PILLAR 7 CALCULATION: $(22 \times 0.40) + (20 \times 0.35) + (40 \times 0.25) = 25/100$

Key Findings

[OK] LIMITED STRENGTHS

- **Low physical violence:** No fatalities; primarily verbal/online incidents
- **Constitutional protections:** Strong Bill of Rights; religious freedom guaranteed
- **Hate crime legislation:** 2024 Act provides legal framework
- **Street-level tolerance:** "Ordinary people" not hostile per SAJBD
- **Gun control:** Strict licensing prevents mass casualty capability
- **Legal precedent:** 2020 Letsoalo conviction for online antisemitism
- **Community resilience:** Strong SAJBD advocacy; active institutions

[X] CRITICAL VULNERABILITIES

- **State-level hostility:** ICJ genocide case; Hamas ties; closed embassy
- **Hamas presence:** Official representative operates openly; ANC MOU
- **"I am Hamas" statement:** MJC president's public declaration
- **David Teegeer case:** Jewish captain stripped for Israel support
- **Population collapse:** 60% decline; 1% annual aliyah rate
- **Youth exodus:** Majority planning to leave South Africa
- **No security funding:** Community entirely self-funded
- **No IHRA adoption:** Government rejects international definition
- **State-level BDS:** ANC/COSATU formally support boycotts

Unique South African Factors

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC

FACTORS UNIQUE TO SOUTH AFRICA

Factor	Description	Impact
Apartheid Analogy	ANC leadership views Israel-Palestine through apartheid lens; "Israel Apartheid Week" originated in SA (2005)	Provides ideological framework for state hostility

Muslim Political Influence	Despite 1.5% population, Muslims disproportionately represented in foreign policy establishment	Drives anti-Israel policy at state level
ANC-Hamas Partnership	2015 MOU signed; 2018 agreement on BDS; direct government-terrorist relationship	Legitimizes extremist presence in SA
ICJ Genocide Case	Only country to bring genocide charges against Israel at world court	Creates hostile international legal environment
General Crime Environment	Among world's highest murder rates; violent crime affects all communities	Jewish security concerns embedded in broader safety crisis
Historical Jewish-ANC Relationship	Many Jews supported anti-apartheid struggle; relationship has deteriorated	Historical goodwill exhausted; alienation complete

Final Score Calculation

JCSI v1.2 FORMULA

$$\text{JCSI} = (P1 \times 0.10) + (P2 \times 0.10) + (P3 \times 0.10) + (P4 \times 0.18) + (P5 \times 0.15) + (P6 \times 0.15) + (P7 \times 0.22)$$

$$\text{JCSI} = (45 \times 0.10) + (28 \times 0.10) + (42 \times 0.10) + (52 \times 0.18) + (15 \times 0.15) + (12 \times 0.15) + (25 \times 0.22)$$

$$\text{JCSI} = 4.5 + 2.8 + 4.2 + 9.36 + 2.25 + 1.8 + 5.5 =$$

29/100

Score Range

Classification

South Africa

80-100

HIGH SAFETY

60-79	MODERATE SAFETY	
40-59	CONCERNING	
0-39	CRITICAL	<= SOUTH AFRICA (29)

Comparative Context

Country	JCSI Score	Key Differentiator
<div>ZA</div> South Africa	29 (CRITICAL)	State-level hostility; Hamas ties; population collapse
<div>AU</div> Australia	44 (CONCERNING)	Historic attack; multi-vector threats; strong security
<div>FR</div> France	Est. 35-40 (CRITICAL)	High violence; Islamist threat; exodus
<div>UK</div> United Kingdom	Est. 50-55 (CONCERNING)	Strong laws; protest activity; campus issues
<div>US</div> United States	Est. 45-50 (CONCERNING)	Gun access; campus crisis; strong Jewish institutions

WARNING: ASSESSMENT SUMMARY: South Africa represents the most hostile government environment among major democracies for Jewish communities. While physical violence remains lower than Europe, the combination of state-level antagonism (ICJ case, Hamas ties, embassy closure), institutional discrimination (Teeger case), and resulting population collapse (60% decline) creates a fundamentally unsustainable environment for Jewish life. The CRITICAL classification reflects that the primary threat is from government policy rather than street-level violence - a unique profile requiring distinct policy responses.

Spotlight Research