Jewish leaders slam desecration of Torah ark in Frankfurt airport

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Jewish leaders in Germany condemned the desecration of a Torah ark inside a Jewish prayer lounge at Frankfurt’s international airport amid an increase in anti-Semitic attacks in the country.

Police said a swastika had been painted on the ark inside the room, used for prayer, inside the airport’s transit area, according to an [Associated Press report](https://apnews.com/article/frankfurt-europe-race-and-ethnicity-racial-injustice-health-feefa89d5c49d379ab46caa0e2fd7789). Torah scrolls, which contain the first five books of the Old Testament, are kept in cabinets known as arks and are removed during synagogue services.

“It is simply sad. This hatred of Jews must finally stop,” Germany’s Orthodox Rabbinical Conference said in a statement Saturday. “The ugly grimace of antisemitism does not stop even in a highly secured area, at a place of encounter, silence and stopping, where people from all over the world meet briefly while traveling and are in transit.”

Although the swastika was discovered last week, police are not sure how long it has been there as the lounge had been shuttered during the coronavirus pandemic.

Authorities recorded an increase in anti-Semitic attacks in Germany. Last year there were 2,428 attacks in the country.