



‘Not in our name’: historic anti-Zionist Congress in Vienna

By **RobCarter** - 14th June 2025



Anti-Zionist Jewish Congress 2025, Vienna, Austria. | Credit: 5Pillars

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The world’s first Jewish Anti-Zionist Congress is underway in Austria, bringing together activists, and intellectuals to oppose the “dangerous” ideology responsible for the

Organisers say they hope the three-day event, hosted in the capital, Vienna, will unite and s

and support Palestinians amid the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

The event boasts a line-up of distinguished speakers, including Professor Haim Bresheeth, Ilan Pappé, and Iris Hefets.

Speaking to 5Pillars, Ilan Pappé, a Jewish historian, author, and political scientist, explained Jews to speak out against the ideology was more important than ever.

"We are hoping to galvanise public opinion among both Jewish and European communities. \ change attitudes and help stop the genocide on the ground.

"The problem with Zionism is that it is a racist ideology. Although it started as something me believes Palestine should become a Jewish state though the dispossession of the Palestinians

"That's what Zionism became. A settler colonialist ideology."



Speaker Ilhan Pappé sitting alongside Haim Bresheeth and Ghada Karmi.

Jewish academic Professor Haim Bresheeth told ! "racist" project which needs to be brought to an ended.

"I am here because it is not possible to live with aggression, destruction, death, genocide and all the Palestinians and everyone else around them.

"The problem with Zionism is it is a racist movement which is grounded in white supremacy with non Jews. That is a racist belief."

A number of Arab and Palestinian speakers are also being platformed including Dr Ghada Ka

Egyptian journalist Rahma Zein told 5Pillars that platforming the former-Zionist Jews is a tac

"Zionism is dangerous but we need to create a safe space for those who want to tear up the encourage more people. And also to have these people speak against liberal Zionism. People more powerful than a brown woman speaking against it."

Jewish support for Zionism

Historically, Zionism was not a mainstream Jewish belief or ideology. According to historians, Jewry in Palestine was not well received or popular.

However, following the Second World War, Jewish settler ambitions in Palestine sparked a wa emigrated to the Holy Land.

Today, it is widely believed that a large majority of the world's Jewish community supports Z

despite the ongoing crimes against the Palestinian people.

A 2023 Campaign Against Antisemitism poll found that 80% of British Jews self-identify as Z to Israel.

However, a 2024 National Jewish Identity Survey reported a decline from 72% identifying as the October 7, 2023, events.

A 2025 Voice of the Jewish People survey found that a “significant majority” of American Jew Zionist,” with higher non-Zionist or anti-Zionist representation among younger Jews, ultra-O Israel. Exact percentages were not provided.

Professor Bresheeth addressed this point to 5Pillars.

“Zionism is not just occupying Palestine it has occupied the Jewish mind. It moved them from army. It replaced the morality of the Prophets with a fascist racist morality of a settler colonial argument among many Jews and we can’t change that overnight.

“However, when I first came to London, many years ago, I only knew ten anti-Zionist Jewish not a totally lost cause. There is still hope for change.”

Although many Jews support Zionism, Zionists are not exclusively Jewish. There are many extremist Christian groups based in America and Western politicians.

The Palestine solidarity movement boasts many Jewish allies, too, including both secular and the political ideology behind its creation.

Vienna’s Zionist history

The choice of organisers to arrange the Congress in Vienna was not random. Vienna is a city movement.

While Zionism as a political movement originated in various locations, including eastern and in its development, particularly through the work of Theodor Herzl.

Herzl established the central office of the movement in Vienna and published his official Zion

Herzl, a key figure in the Zionist movement, is credited with popularising the term “Zionism” convened the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland.

Born in 1860 in Budapest to a family of assimilated, non-religious European Jews, Herzl was environment.

Herzl was a secular European atheist Jew with no attachment to religious Judaism.



Theodor Herzl, the European founder of Zionism.

Delegates said Zionism is the root cause of the conflict between Jews during and after WW2 to travel to Arab populated areas.

When the Arabs eventually fought back against illegal Jewish settlements, the Zionist settlers' forces engaged in ethnic cleansing.

In 1948 Zionist gangs expelled over 700,000 Palestinians from their homes and ethnically cleansing them. This is known as the Nakba of the Palestinian nation.

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