

Shoah Memorial in Paris tagged with red hands

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A Paris memorial honoring people who distinguished themselves by helping to rescue Jews in France during the country's Nazi occupation during the Second World War was defaced Tuesday, May 14, with painted blood-red hands.



A city employee is at work to clean the “Wall of the Righteous” (Mur des Justes) covered with Red hands graffiti outside the Shoah memorial in Paris, on May 14, 2024, after the monument was vandalized overnight with the president of the Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions (CRIF) denouncing the act as antisemitic. (Photo by Antonin UTZ / AFP)

The attack on the Wall of the Righteous, at the Shoah Memorial, comes in the context of tensions and anger in France over the Israel-Hamas war. Antisemitic acts have surged in the

country with the largest Jewish and Muslim populations in western Europe.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said the memorial was vandalized overnight Monday to Tuesday. She described the vandalism as “unspeakable”

The head of the Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions, Yonathan Arfi, said: “No matter who the perpetrators are, this degradation of the Shoah Memorial, the symbol of the bloody hands of the terrorists who lynched two Israeli soldiers in October 2000, resonates like a hateful rallying cry against Jews.”

The wall bears the names of more than 3,900 people recognized as having risked their lives to help save Jews in France.