

The annual carnivals in Aalst and Campo Criptana, featuring antisemitic and Nazi-themed displays and floats, are deeply offensive to the Jewish community and to Holocaust victims, survivors and their families. The tradition of carnival has typically focused on mocking powerful institutions such as the church or the state – not on humiliating minority groups who are once again being threatened and murdered throughout Europe.

These parades are unacceptable with their historically stereotypical representations of Jewish people and members dressed in SS uniforms. Last year, the Belgian carnival it lost its place on a UNESCO heritage list because of its antisemitic content. This year, the parade included caricatures of Jews with hooked noses, obsessed with money and dressed up like insects. These types of caricatures are chillingly reminiscent of the type of antisemitic imagery in 1930s and 1940s Nazi Germany. A video of the procession shows the participants marching in Nazi uniforms. Behind them, dancers wearing striped outfits evoking concentration camp uniforms followed while waving flags of Israel. They were followed by the float shaped like a train locomotive with two large chimneys.

These events must be condemned and We commend Belgian Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes' and the town council of Campo de Criptana for their clear condemnation of events and we call on the carnival organizers and the cities to ban such displays in future.



<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/25/parade-of-nazis-in-spanish-carnival-sparks-furious-criticism>



<https://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/news/eu-castigates-aalst-carnival-parade-for-anti-semitism/>