

# GLOBAL REPORT

WINTER 2026

## A SPREADING CONFLICT:

Assembling Relief  
for Chilean Jewish People



“**We feel completely abandoned.** Since November 2023, there’s been no Chilean ambassador [in Israel]. Now we hear threats of a full rupture between Chile’s government and Israel. What message does that send to Jewish Chilean citizens under fire?”

These are the sentiments of the Jewish people in Chile who are facing the unprecedented rise of antisemitism in their country since October 7, 2023.

While Chile recently elected a pro-Israel president, make no mistake: The Jewish citizens of Chile are still under fire. The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry’s (FOI’s) workers are rolling up their sleeves to do something about it, in the name of Yeshua. **As you read about the ministry needs in Chile, will you consider partnering with us by prayer and financial generosity as we follow God’s call deeper into South America?**

## THE GROWING MENACE OF ANTISEMITISM

One of the larger Jewish communities in South America is found in Santiago, Chile. The first Diaspora Jews traveled to the region as early as the 16th century. Today, approximately 16,000 Jewish people make Santiago their home. They have a rich history deeply embedded in South American culture and a proud heritage of exploration and development of Chile’s infrastructure. However, Chile also is now home to what may be the largest number of Palestinians outside of the Middle East—an estimated 500,000. Tension between Chile’s Palestinian and Jewish communities, especially in Santiago, is rising.

Violent protests supporting Hamas continue throughout South America. Targeted attacks on Jewish individuals, synagogues, community centers, and schools have increased by 1,000% and continue to rise. Jewish children and youth are warned of the risk of violence they will encounter walking to school because their

school uniforms display the Star of David. Leaders of the Jewish community in Santiago have pronounced similar warnings to the Jewish population generally about wearing *kippahs* (man’s head covering) or any other identifying symbol.

Inflaming the situation even more, Chile’s president for the previous five years, Gabriel Boric, outspokenly antagonized Israel. In May 2025, while still leading Chile’s government, he tweeted in reference to Israel’s military operation in Gaza, “History will judge harshly those who execute, support, and justify the forced displacement and suffering of an entire people. The Netanyahu government has crossed a line once again. Chile condemns this unacceptable plan.”

Boric’s government then continued to escalate its rhetoric about the war, issuing statements about possible plans to boycott and divest from Israel and even threatening to sever all diplomatic relations. While we pray that the new president will check the rise of antisemitic policies, these past actions have fueled the growth of extreme antisemitism in Chile, which may be difficult to stop. And the Chilean Jewish community is suffering for it.



Santiago, Chile

Observing these trends and events, our teams have been asking the same crucial question that inspired FOI's inception back in 1938 during the darkest hours of the Holocaust: "What can we do to help God's Chosen People?" We believe God is calling us to mount a mission in Chile to bring relief, comfort, and the love of Messiah to the beleaguered Jewish community there.

## WHY NOW?

"Bikur Joilim synagogue, the oldest synagogue in Santiago, has been targeted multiple times recently. The latest attack was during a Shabbat. They used red paint to spray anti-Israeli graffiti on walls and posted a picture of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a bullet hole drawn on his forehead," explains Mark Rubin, a church planter and professor at Facultad Teológica Bíblica Bautista in Santiago, Chile. Mark has partnered with FOI for the past two years to pray and help develop our plan for ministry in Chile.

Having lived and served in South America for more than 20 years, Mark's connection to both the Christian and Jewish communities in Santiago is vital to our understanding of how Christians can help. As Mark explains, "The Jewish community in Chile is primarily hidden, in part because of social pressure. In order to visit a synagogue, one usually needs to be invited or accompanied by a member. It's not as easy as just deciding to visit a synagogue service and attend on one's own initiative. In order for FOI to better facilitate Christians ministering to the Jewish community, it will require time to establish trust and develop that relationship."

Our teams have begun to form those relationships of trust with several local rabbis, physicians, and teachers to come alongside the Jewish community and first offer solidarity and support in the face of the growing antisemitism.



We also are working to engage the evangelical church in Chile to rise up and embrace biblical truth about God's love for Jewish people and the Christian responsibility to do the same. Early steps to lay the foundation for these ministries have begun, including translating Bible teaching resources like *Israel My Glory* magazine into Spanish, providing seminaries with FOI literature and media, and taking an exploratory trip to South America back in 2024. Now, God is opening new doors.

We're also excited to announce that in the fall of 2026, FOI will launch a weeklong teaching conference for believers and their pastors in Chile. This first edition will emphasize the biblical perspective on antisemitism, Zionism, and how Christians should think about these things. It is our prayer that both the Jewish and Christian communities in Chile and surrounding countries will be better equipped to offer friendship and the love of the Messiah to their Jewish neighbors. As part of the conference, we will provide supplemental educational opportunities specifically for pastors from all over South America.

While visiting Chile in November 2024, I spent time with a local doctor and a rabbi who was in charge of the building that holds both Sephardic and Ashkenazi synagogues. As we walked and toured the synagogues, the rabbi asked me to explain what exactly an "evangelical" is.



Annual Independence Day celebration, Viva Chile = long live Chile

I told him that it is a Christian who takes the Bible, the gospel, and God's promises seriously—promises to both Christians and Jews. By the end of our conversation, the rabbi said, "We would be happy to have an organization like FOI in Chile to help us stand against antisemitism."

We consider his words an entreaty that FOI is determined to answer. Would you partner with us as we step into this new season of ministry in Chile? Your prayers and financial support will make it possible not only to launch this teaching endeavor, but also to help us put "boots on the ground" as we recruit and train our future Chilean teams to serve in Santiago.

## THE CHALLENGE

We are eager to follow God's calling into Chile but also acutely aware that it will come with many challenges. As Mark Rubin explains, "The average Christian in

Santiago has little to no interaction with Jewish people, and I have only known one Chilean in over 20 years in the country that exhibited any burden or interest in being sensitive to reaching Jewish people."

We are hoping that our ministry plans for this fall will be the catalyst to begin changing that dynamic. Will you pray with us as we attempt to stem the tide of antisemitism in Chile and bridge the gap between local evangelical churches and our embattled Jewish friends in Santiago?

In Christ Alone,

**DAN PRICE, MDiv**  
Director of International Ministries



If God has spoken to you about partnering with FOI's International Ministries teams today with prayer and a financial gift, please send your gift to The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc, PO Box 908, Bellmawr, NJ 08099, or visit [foi.org/global-report](http://foi.org/global-report) to donate online.