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Anne Frank Books Vandalized in Japan

Are Anti-Semites To Blame for Tokyo Page-Rippings?

By [JTA](#)

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More than 100 copies of Anne Frank's "Diary of a Young Girl" have been vandalized in public libraries in Japan's capital Tokyo.

Pages have been ripped from at least 265 copies of the diary and other related books, Japanese officials told the BBC on Thursday. It is not clear who is behind the vandalism, they said.

Anne Frank's diary was written during World War II, while the teenager hid from the Nazis in occupied Amsterdam. The book made her a symbol of the suffering of Jews during the war.

The head of Japan's library council, Satomi Murata, told the French AFP news agency that five of Tokyo's wards had reported the vandalism so far. "We don't know why this happened or who did it," he added.

Toshihiro Obayashi, a library official in West Tokyo's Suginsami area, said, "Each and every book which comes up under the index of Anne Frank has been damaged at our library."

The Simon Wiesenthal Center said in a statement that it was shocked and concerned by the incidents, and called for the authorities to investigate.

"The geographic scope of these incidents strongly suggest an organized effort to denigrate the memory of the most famous of the 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Nazis in the World War II Holocaust," Associate Dean Abraham Cooper said.

Rotem Kowner, a professor of Japanese history and culture at Israel's University of Haifa, told the BBC that the book has been exceptionally popular and successful in Japan.

He said that in terms of absolute numbers of copies of the book sold, Japan is second only to the United States.

About 30,000 Japanese tourists visit the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam every year, about 5,000 visitors more than the number of visitors from Israel.

Japan is also the only East Asian country with statues and a museum in memory of Anne Frank.

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I hope the perpetrators are caught. Looks like anti-Semitism. Could be people who don't want us to remember than Japan was an ally of the Nazis.

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