

Antisemitism on the Internet

an overview



International Network Against Cyber Hate

www.inach.net

Compiled by the members, candidate-members & co-operation partners of the International Network Against Cyber Hate, for the OSCE Conference on Antisemitism in Berlin, 28 & 29 April 2004

Cover:

In 1999 the Dutch bureau, Magenta Foundation, got a complaint about antisemitism and Holocaust denial on the web site www.blitzcast.com

Since research showed that the owner's address was false the bureau asked the registration authority, Network Solutions, to cancel the domain name blitzcast.com

However, Network Solutions wanted proof that the address was not correct, so Magenta Foundation had no other choice then to send an empty envelope to *Blitzcast, 88 Zyklon-B Lane, Dachau, Bundesrepublik Deutschland...*

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The International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) is a foundation established in 2002 under Dutch law.

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Jugendschutz
www.jugendschutz.net

The Netherlands

Stichting Magenta, Meldpunt Discriminatie Internet
www.meldpunt.nl

Switzerland

AkdH - Aktion Kinder des Holocaust
www.akdh.ch

Belgium

CENTRE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND OPPOSITION TO RACISM
www.antiracisme.be

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ADL
http://www.adl.org/main_internet.asp

Candidate-members and starting-up bureaus:

Sweden

EXPO
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Poland

Nigdy Więcej/Never Again
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Denmark

DRC
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MRAP
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Russia

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Co-operation partner:

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THE COMMUNITY SECURITY TRUST (CST)
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Preface

In this booklet, which was specially compiled for the OSCE Conference on Antisemitism in Berlin on 28 & 29 April 2004, you will find an overview of contemporary antisemitism and Holocaust denial on the Internet. This overview is not complete and does not aim to be, but it will give the reader an idea of the scope of the problem and the methods and rhetoric that are being used by on-line antisemites and hate-mongers. It gives examples of 'old' and 'new' antisemitism. As more network-nodes (or bureaus) start operations and harmonize data-collection methods we will be able to provide a more complete overview.

Antisemitism is on the rise worldwide. This also goes for the Internet. In fact, Internet is more and more being used as a tool to disseminate hate and recruit followers. An increasing number of young people from very different backgrounds are attracted to extremist views.

Right now antisemitism and Holocaust denial make up a large part of all the online hate, a part which is rapidly growing.

There are thousands of hate-sites and new ones are brought online every day, promoting violence, denying historical facts, poisoning and recruiting. Apart from that, a vast amount of hate is being disseminated through discussion forums, music and video networks (Napster, Kazaa), mailing lists and chat boxes.

On the Dutch part of the Internet in 2003, antisemitism became the largest of all online hate categories, with Islamophobia in second place. The bulk of the antisemitism and Holocaust denial come under the guise of 'anti-Zionist' or 'anti Israel' expressions and were found on a number of Muslim and left-wing web forums and sites, while the 'traditional' antisemitism on the Internet was mostly perpetrated by the extreme right. Right now it looks like this also goes for other European countries.

Today's antisemitism has a larger breeding ground than before. This conclusion meets with irritation, resistance and sometimes outright denial. People do not like to hear that others than the extreme-right are capable of discrimination, but the facts speak for themselves.

If we do not want our children to grow up with hate, being recruited by antisemites, racists, bigots and terrorists, we have to act now.

The INACH Network

The International Network Against Cyber Hate is a network in which National Complaints Bureaus for Discrimination on the Internet work together to get hate removed or to prosecute perpetrators of hate. INACH was founded in 2002 by Magenta Foundation, Dutch Complaints Bureau for Discrimination on the Internet and by Jugendschutz.NET in Germany. INACH combats racism, antisemitism, islamophobia, Holocaust denial and discrimination on the Internet through education, monitoring, regulation, legal action and promotion of international measures.

From 1997 to the present day, the INACH members were responsible for the removal from the Internet or prosecution of thousands of instances of online hate, often working together with Internet Service Providers and NGOs .

Country by country overview

BELGIUM

Antisemitism on the Internet: Belgium

Prepared by Koen Cooreman, Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism

Complaints

- A lot of complaints the Centre receives are about webpages located on the (free of charge) web site **www.msn.be**. Next to thousands of 'normal' sites there are also many which, through articles, racist logo's, swastika's and other Nazi symbols and pictures (Hitler in all sorts of poses) blatantly incite racism and antisemitism. Many of these websites are made by youngsters from the so called '*gabber*' scene (Skinhead related music scene) that think they are really cool by adopting neo-Nazi rhetoric. **MSN.be** usually removes these sites after they are notified by the Centre.
- The propaganda of the extreme-right in Belgium is also disseminated through websites started by a neo-Nazi organisation based in the United States : Altermedia. From autumn 2002 on racist, antisemitic, islamophobe and revisionist statements are distributed from there.
- Complaints about the Flemish chapter of "Blood and Honour", for the dissemination of revisionist materials (2002).
- Complaint against www.arabeuropean.org, the AEL (Arab European League). Reason: threats against the Jewish community on the AEL-site in 2002 and 2004. Examples: "*power (in Antwerp) is in the hands of a zionist lobby and extreme rightwing racists*" and "*Antwerp is in the bastion of Zionism in Europe*" and "*Antwerp is a city where pro-Aaron gangs of Zionists are dictating the rules*".

Court rulings

- 15 january 2002 the Correctional court of Brussels convicted a person who had disseminated revisionist expressions through the Internet from december 1997 until february 1999. The accused was convicted to 1 year in jail for breaking the antiracism- and revisionism law.
- 9 september 2003, conviction of '*Vrij Historisch Onderzoek*' (Free Historical Research) for Holocaust denial. In july 1996 the Centre started proceedings against two brothers for the distribution of clearly revisionist materials, a.o. through the international website, **www.vho.org**. The Antwerp Court convicted each brother to 1 year suspended sentence and a fine of 2.500 euro. They were stripped of their civil rights for 10 years.
- Through the Netherlands the Centre is informed about the sale of books on paranormal fairs and through a website. The content clearly had antisemitic elements (e.g. Jews should thank Hitler for the Holocaust). Result: convicted, pending appeal.
- Expected later this year : ruling on **www.Assabyle.com** for antisemitism and revisionism (a.o. video's comparing Sharon to Hitler and links to "The protocols of the Elderly of Zion"). The site is owned by the Brussels Islamic Centre

Positive action

- Joint actions by several religious and humanist movements (amongst them representatives of the Muslim and Jewish communities) to counteract mutual hate. These actions are being encouraged and supported all the time by the Belgian government and the media (e.g. right now there exists an intercultural dialogue initiated by the federal government);

- The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism founded an *alertness-unit antisemitism* which will map-out and take action on all –so not only on the Internet- expressions of antisemitism.

FRANCE

General evaluation of racism on the French part of Internet

Prepared by Gerard Kerform, MRAP

Introduction

One has to make the distinction between two main ways to spread racist ideas on the Internet. The sites, the shop windows of hatred, and the forums and newsgroups, the 'back shops' of racism, less well known, but no less dangerous in spreading hate speech.

Racist sites

The majority of racist sites used to be in English, but during the last period of time more sites in French have appeared. Their nature has also changed. The first racist sites were mostly Holocaust denial sites (radio islam, abbc) or neo-Nazi sites (initiated by skinhead groups or the traditional extreme-right). Recently, sites have appeared which use local and international political tensions.

- An increase in the number of sites which transpose the Middle East conflict, justifying antisemitism as defense of the Palestinian cause. Under the cover of anti-Zionism formidable and extremely well structured sites, linked to fundamentalist circles spread an antisemitic message (islamaya.net, *la voix des opprimés* (voice of the oppressed), quibla.com). These sites have ideological affinities with terrorist groups, notably Hamas.
- Another recent development is the explosive growth of anti-Arab sites, in particular since the widespread debate about the place of Islam in France. A hard core of about 40 sites of this type, extensively linking to each other, and densely stacked with diverse 'literature' stirs up hatred. One should notice that the -undoubtedly antisemitic- political movement from which these sites originate exploits the Middle East conflict on French soil by trying to pit the Arab-Muslim populations against the Jews of France, and vice-versa (SOS-Occident, SOS-France, France-avenir, france-echo, occidentalism, etc.). At the moment these sites do favour their hatred of the Arabs, but their mistrust of the Jews stays the same.

The extremist nationalist movement: the 'identity' movement, often linked to extremist rock bands is also very active. The 'blue, white, rock' sites play a very pernicious role amongst the youth, as they use the musical support (circulating CD's through Internet) to spread their heinous message.

The web forums

Less spectacular than the sites decorated with swastika's or pictures of Hamas extremists, their structuring role is even more dangerous. The forums of the above mentioned sites are intensively used places where hundreds of racist messages are exchanged in all impunity on a daily basis. (on the site of the '*SOS-racaille*' nebula, close to 500 messages per day were exchanged, until very recently the site was closed down).

Most of the protagonists of these forums are also active in news groups (Usenet), amongst them *fr.soc.politique*, and great contributors of racist messages.

Another development is the penetration of general forums (press, leisure or economy) by racists who then 'squat' forums not dedicated to racism.

Passing from the virtual to the real world

Forums also play a very pernicious role in the transition from virtual to 'In Real Life' racism. During the demonstrations against the head scarf law in France, Holocaust deniers from mister Latrèche's '*parti des musulmans de France*' (French Muslim Party) organised, using the Internet to disseminate leaflets and calls for the demonstration. During these demonstrations antisemitic outbursts took place. One should also notice the fact that from the '*SOS-racaille*' forum, during the same night, a coordinated action against six mosques in several French towns was organised. One should also remember that the assassination attempt against president Chirac was done by a person linked to the, very active on the Internet, 'identity' movement.

GERMANY

Antisemitism on Web Sites in the German Language

Prepared by Stefan Glaser, Jugendschutz.net

Observing right-wing activities on the Internet has been an important and continuous part of the project work of jugendschutz.net since 2000. Within the last few years jugendschutz.net has documented about 800 new Internet sites with discriminating content and hate speech per year, on which the authors agitate against Jews, antifascists, foreigners, homosexuals etc.

Antisemitic content can be found in many forms, from veiled to outspoken, on websites of neo-Nazis, right-wing parties and on a whole in the right-wing comradeship scene and on sites of regional nazi-groups.

Very often Jews are portrayed as "scapegoats", and held responsible for the deplorable social and political state of affairs. Many times you will find expressions in which is spoken of a "Zionist aspiration for world power" ("*zionistischem Weltmachtstreben*") or Jewish financial interests ("*Jüdischen (Finanz-)Interessen*") that influence German policy and politics. In common Nazi-Jargon, anti-Semites talk of the "Financial Judaism" ("*Finanzjudentum*") that keeps Germany and the entire Western World in the "Zionist clutches", or in extreme right terminology, "ZOG" or "JOG" (abbreviation for "Zionist Occupation Government" or "Jewish Occupation Government"). In addition to this there are conspiracy theories in which, for example, the idea is spread that Jews control world affairs by means of some kind of secret society, and that they strive for a Jewish ruled "One-World-Government".

Frequently you will find antisemitic ideas in connection with the denial of the Holocaust. In the crossfire of antisemitic hate speech is also the so-called culture of remembrance for the victims of Nazi-Germany, especially the indemnifications for Jewish forced labours in Germany or the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, which is criticized as a "Stigma" with the only purpose to humiliate the soul of the German people" ("*Deutsche Volksseele*").

Last but not least, originating in the extreme right-wing scene comes criticism towards the Israeli government, that its policies in the Middle East are the result of a world view shaped by antisemitism. This is not argued by using facts but with stereotypical and emotionally loaded slogans about Jews and the "nature of Judaism".

Often the antisemitism focuses on prominent members of the German Jewish Communities. For example, the German racist band „*Die Härte*“ rewrote the words for an old pop song called „The day that Conny Cramer died“. It was aimed at Ignatz Bubis, who was the chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany (*Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland*) at the time. The new, antisemitic version „The day that Ignatz Bubis died“ sounded as follows:

„Bubis, Du Sack, hör gut zu! / Dein Todeslied könnte dies sein / Ja, irgendwann ist der Schuß im Ziel, / Wir kühlen schon die Flaschen Wein / Die Warnung ist unser Ernst, Deine Judenhaut überreif / Die Deutschen kann man nicht besiegen / Du auch bald an Deinem Todestag begreifst Am Tag, als Ignatz Bubis starb / Und alle Juden heulten / Am Tag, als Ignatz Bubis starb / Und alle Gläser klingen / Das wird ein schöner Tag / Wir pissen auf sein Judengrab“.

As soon as there were public debates on the topic of antisemitism – for example in connection with the so-called *Friedenspreisrede* (Peace Prize Speech) of the German writer Martin Walser, in which he talked about the “*Auschwitz-Keule*” (Auschwitz-Mace) or in connection with the so-called ‘Israel-critical’ antisemitic flyer from the former chairman of the German Liberal Party (FDP) Jürgen Möllemann – the number of antisemitic statements and slogans rose significantly in guestbooks and panels on right-wing sites as well as in public web forums or on communication platforms that are popular and frequented especially among youngsters. In those cases smouldering antisemitic interpretations broke out, became some kind of socially acceptable and were presented also on discussion panels on web sites of established political parties and broadcasting magazines.

The outspoken incitement to hatred and violence against Jews, the spreading of prohibited and indicated antisemitic books, articles etc. (e.g. the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, old Nazi-material) and the denial of the Holocaust resp. the relativization or minimization of the atrocities of the Nazis are illegal under German law and can be punished (§ 130 German Penal Code). If a web site includes any such content the author or provider can be prosecuted.

Examples of right-wing websites with explicit antisemitic content in the German language

deutschherrenklub.de

The right-wing extremists of the *Deutschherrenklub*, a kind of secret society, conceive themselves as being the “intellectual spearhead” of the German right-wing movement. The web site is characterized by the fact, that the antisemitic rhetoric is not openly expressed but somehow implied. For example, on the one hand they praise the participation of Jewish pilots in World War I on the frontline of the German army and on the other hand they blame the Jews for their suffering in Nazi-Germany, saying it was the only logical consequence of the alleged “Jewish declaration of war” against Germany. The web site can also be reached through www.izan.de (IZAN = NAZI).

deutsches-kolleg.org

The *Deutsches Kolleg* describes itself as a „study and combat community“ that unites right-wing extremists. One of them, the German lawyer Horst Mahler transformed himself from a left-wing terrorist to a flagrant antisemite and right-wing extremist during his lifetime. Besides fighting against the German form of government, which has, from the point of view of the *Deutsches Kolleg*, no legitimacy and is merely an „*Organisationsform einer Modalität der Fremdberrschaft – OMF*“ (foreign rule organization), they spread lots of antisemitic theories. The veiled antisemitic propaganda of the past has changed to openly expressed antisemitism. This is why members of the *Deutsches Kolleg* have been prosecuted by the German authorities. Meanwhile you can still read their antisemitic rhetoric and theories on deutsches-kolleg.org and several other web sites.

aufstand-fuer-die-wahrheit.net

This web site is registered by Horst Mahler and aims especially at the denial of the Holocaust. Mahler has founded the “*Verein zur Rehabilitierung der wegen Bestreitens des Holocausts Verfolgten*” (Association for Rehabilitation of haunted Holocaust Deniers) in cooperation with leading internationally known revisionists like Ernst Zündel, Frederik Töben, Germar Rudolf, Robert Faurisson and others. In their so-called „*Verdener Manifest*“, which is downloadable on the web site, the authors describe themselves as victims of Israel and its supporters, that dictate the views and opinions on the Holocaust („*Meinungsdiktatur Israels und seiner Hilfstruppen*“). They pretend to aim at the „truth and the dignity of the German people“ but then do some juggling with the

numbers of Jews that have been killed in Auschwitz and end with the conclusion that the Holocaust has never happened. Mahler has already been prosecuted for this.

unglaublichkeiten.info

The owner of this web site is an enthusiastic follower of conspiracy theories. Beside theories about secret u-boot bases during the time of National socialism, theories about secret societies like the „*Illuminaten*“ and about the so-called AIDS-lies he is especially spreading conspiracy theories in which Jews are held responsible for the deplorable state of affairs in Germany. On his web pages you can find a conglomerate of hateful stereotypes and clichés about Jews and lots of articles in which the Holocaust is denied. The owner of the web site has already been prosecuted. However, the web site is still online.

globalfire.tv/nj/deutsch.htm (National Journal)

The web site of the National Journal is available in German and English language. In the German part the authors spread lots of antisemitic hate and Holocaust denial materials of notorious right-wing extremists and revisionists like the Germans Horst Mahler and Günter Deckert and Jürgen Graf from Switzerland. On the web site, registered in the USA, a post office box in Great Britain is named as contact point. But it is known that the publication is edited by the so-called „*Freundeskreis Otto-Ernst Remer*“, a group of admirers of the formerly Major General of the German „*Wehrmacht*“ Otto-Ernst Remer. The content of the web site stretches over categories like „Jewish Studies“ („*Jüdische Studien*“), in which the authors give „proof“ for typical „Jewish traits“, e.g. greed, aspiration for world power and similar antisemitic prejudices and imputations, as far as the obvious denial of the killing of Jews in concentration camps in web site categories like „History“ or „Holocaust-Industry“.

ety.com/tell (Wilhelm Tell Web site – Switzerland)

The so-called „Wilhelm Tell Web Site“ is advertised on the revisionist web pages of *Vrij Historisch Onderzoek* (vho.org) as a site owned by the Swiss Holocaust denier Jürgen Graf, that contains „Swiss national politics and revisionism, as free and naughty as Wilhelm Tell himself“. The Wilhelm Tell website is hosted by ety.com, which is registered by the English publisher of revisionist literature Anthony Hancock. The web site itself is introduced by a person named Agnes Stauffacher. On the pages you can find the complete spectrum of Holocaust denial as well as antisemitic articles of revisionists like „Israel’s policy verifies the authenticity of the “Protocols of the Elders of Zion” by Ahmed Rami (of Radio Islam). Apart from that the site links to all sorts of international revisionist websites.

ruf-ch.org (Recht und Freiheit – Switzerland)

The on-line publication „*Recht und Freiheit*“ (Right and Freedom) is also on a domain that is registered by Anthony Hancock. The web site of the *Presseclub Schweiz* (Swiss Press Club) contains revisionist pamphlets of well-known anti-Semites, in which they speak of the „Holocaust-Hysteria“, „*Gaskammer-Umerziehungsgeist*“ (spirit of gaschamber re-education) or – with reference to a prosecution of a Swiss revisionist – of the „*Pyrrhussieg für die jüdische Gedankenpolizei?*“ (Pyrrhic Victory of the Jewish Thought Police). In classical antisemitic terms the authors invoke the influence of the Jewish World Congress (JWC) and of criticism of Jewish organizations on Swiss policy and financial concerns, e.g. in connection with the reimbursements for Jews, they talk about the „*Banken-Ablasshandel: Sieg der jüdischen Schweiz-Expreser*“ (Trade of indulgence: Victory of the Jewish Switzerland-Blackmailer).

ostara.org (Austria)

On the Ostara website, flagrant antisemitic expressions have already been spread for several years. The site is currently registered in the USA by neo-Nazi Garry Lauck, but Austrian revisionists are responsible for the content. On the web pages there are, besides

„common“ clichés about Jews, also overt statements in which the crimes of the Nazis are denied. The authors offer several antisemitic articles about Israel, legends and lies about Judaism (“Jewish Ritual Murder”), malicious publications like „The Protocols of the Elders of Zion“, and conspiracy theories painting a picture of “Germany under a Zionist stranglehold”. With the associated publishing company „Orion-Verlag“ Ostara also offers the possibility of ordering inciting books on-line.

DENMARK

The situation in Denmark

Prepared by David Hopmann, Danish Documentation and Advisory Centre on Racial Discrimination

The Danish Documentation and Advisory Centre on Racial Discrimination (DACoRD/in Danish DRC) has been working as a complaints bureau ‘in Real Life’ for more than ten years. Complaints received by the DACoRD cover all societal areas, including racism on the Internet. However, the number of ‘classical’ racist homepages seems to be relatively limited. The main reason for this is most likely the fact that Danish law is very permissive. Expressions have to be extraordinary racist to be illegal according to Danish law. For instance the “Ausschwitz-Lüge” is not forbidden. Therefore, the DACoRD judges that expressions, which are considered “racist” in other countries, are quite openly distributed in Denmark and consequently there is no pressing need for using the Internet (as a place to “hide” these expressions). Until recently, a neo-nazi radio program was financially supported by the Danish state.

Among the relatively well-known sites in Denmark is the homepage of the Danish Nazi-party DNSB (www.dnsb.info) and www.patriot.dk, a right-wing portal linking to nationalist and revisionist pages. Most of the pages known at DRC are hosted in Denmark, because there -as mentioned- is no need to avoid legal prosecution. Those pages, which are not hosted in Denmark, but which are addressing a Danish audience, are mostly revisionist pages breaching other aspects of the law, mainly the copyright law (as for example www.holocaust.nu, a copy of www.dchf.dk, a ‘research’ institute covering genocide and the Holocaust).

The biggest problem in Denmark is the more hidden racism on the Internet, which is not to be found on ‘classical’ racist pages. A recent case at DACoRD was the homepage www.dingelink.dk, a service offered by the formerly state-owned Danish telecom company TDC. On this sites users can up- and download among (other stuff) logos for mobile telephones. Many of the logos used to be illegal, even under Danish law. TDC has promised to stop logos breaching Danish law from now on. But as TDC has done that for several times in the past years, it remains to be seen, whether this will happen effectively or not. Unfortunately, TDC is not the only case, as DACoRD knows of several pay services on the net not properly checked by the owners.

Finally, as in most other European countries, there does exist an uncountable number of public discussion forums on the net, mainly the Usenet (among others, dk.politik.indvandring is one of the most known), where illegal racial materials can be found. Disappointingly, it is DACoRD’s experience that providers hosting these services rarely act cooperatively when asked to stop illegal activity, even though the breach of law might be obvious.

The overall picture in Denmark is that most racist activities are to be found on open services as discussion forums and mobile services. Also, it is DACoRD’s experience, that neither governing politicians nor providers, hosting the services, show any interest at all in stopping these activities, even though they might be illegal according to Danish law. If services as those mentioned are stopped, it only happens when one of the bigger Danish newspapers writes about it, but it never happens voluntarily.

THE NETHERLANDS

Antisemitism on Internet in the Netherlands

Prepared by Suzette Bronkhorst & Ronald Eissens, Magenta Foundation, Complaints Bureau for Discrimination on the Internet (MDI), The Netherlands

Antisemitism and Holocaust denial on the Internet only became the absolute largest category from 2002 on. Although in previous years the largest category had always been 'Other descent, origin or nationality' (expressions like 'migrants' and 'foreigner', etc.) compared to this rather 'generic' category, antisemitism always has been the largest single discrimination ground. Until the 2nd half of 2000 virtually all antisemitism complaints were about web sites or newsgroup postings from 'classical' antisemites and/or racists. From October 2000 on antisemitism slowly shows up in more unsuspected places and no longer just in the extreme-right or neo-Nazi scene. Events in the Middle-east are used more and more as an excuse for expressing only too familiar prejudices about Jews in general. September 11, 2001 had a tremendous impact on the amount of complaints about Islamophobia; we received 10 in 2000 and 125 in 2001. This trend continues in 2002 with 291 complaints about Islamophobia. At the same time the effects of 11 September and the events in Israel have an even bigger impact on complaints about antisemitism. In 2002 the MDI received 584 complaints about antisemitism, of which around 350 expressions were found on Arab and left-wing web forums.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total number of reported expressions	115	142	360	833	1081	1798	1496
Antisemitism	17	31	91	203	197	533	477
Holocaust denial	-	-	21	7	33	51	37
Percentages	14.7	21.8	31.1	25.2	21.3	32.5	34.3

Already in the first 4 months of 2004 a total of 237 complaints were received about expressions that were considered antisemitic or Holocaust Denial.

In 2003 MDI received five complaints about jihad-sites, sites that recruited for Jihad and numerous expressions in which violence was instigated against 'white' Dutch people, 'white westerners', Jews or the United States. One of the Jihad-sites, 'Sluitjeaan' ('Join us'), also had antisemitic elements (Protocols of the Elders of Zion) and other content in which the Holocaust was denied. Because the site had seven 'mirrors' with other providers, mainly in the U.S., MDI succeeded with the help of ADL and Jugendschutz (two other members of the INACH network) in having them removed. Since the 1st of Januari 2004 MDI has already received 10 complaints about new jihad-sites.

In 2002 and 2003, the main bulk of antisemitism and Holocaust denial no longer came from 'classic' antisemites but from Muslim and left-wing web forums. The good news is that our *removal rate* is higher than ever, 95,3%. In other words, of 655 expressions which were assessed as being illegal, 624 were removed after a request by the MDI.

RUSSIA

Hate on the Internet in Russia

Prepared by Alex Axelrod in Moscow

There are at least 80 Russian Web sites and three large Web portals regularly engaged in distributing anti-Semitic, racist and hate propaganda online. There are no legal instruments in the Russian Federation to fight hate on the Internet, because the law does not restrict online media. However, several campaigns were undertaken in 2003 by Jewish organizations to urge providers to deny hosting web-resources with anti-Jewish, racist or xenophobic content.

Although most of the Internet access providers have adopted policies prohibiting dissemination of racist materials by their clients or subscribers, few monitor the web pages and sites they host. When alerted to a particular hate site, some of the providers responded quickly by denying service to groups and individuals that engaged in hate propaganda. More common, however, is a situation when a Russian internet provider does not have a proper user agreement or when extremists use internet providers based outside of Russia, allowing them to pursue hate activities without restrictions.

As the Internet becomes available to increasing numbers of Russians, hate groups can share information and freely disseminate materials. Yet, there has been little indication that Russian legislative and law enforcement bodies are ready to take serious steps against racist and anti-Semitic Web activities.

SWEDEN

Anti-Semitism on Swedish web pages

Prepared by David Lagerlöf, Expo Foundation

Expo Foundation regularly views about a hundred and twenty internet sites with extrem right content. There are of course more extrem right internet sites, but with less significance. Not all of those are spreading anti-semitism. Besides right extrem internet sites there are some Islamic pages that spread anti-semitic conspiracy theories.

One of the most famous Swedish web sites spreading anti-Semitism is Radio Islam that soon will be prosecuted by legal authorities for hate crimes. Even though what the name implies Radio Islam has nothing to do with Islam. The web page rather tries to combine criticism towards Israel with texts about Jewish conspiracy theories. Radio Islam has from time to time created headlines in media. One of the reasons is a long list over Swedish Jews witch has upset a lot people within the Jewish community.

When it comes to right extremist sites they picture Jews as a group that is conspiring to take over important judicial organisations, influencing politics and are responsible for armed conflicts in the world. This is what neo-Nazi's usually calls zog – the Zionist occupational government – that strives for world domination.

Anti-Semitic articles are often written in a way that can not be prosecuted. The sites quite often use references to “Zionists” or Jewish themes in a more general way, or write for example about Jewish congressmen in the USA. The articles published often contribute to ideas of a Jewish conspiracy or “Jewish power”. Other right extremist web sites use words like “cosmopolitans” and “internationalists” to describe Swedish politicians that are ruled by the Jewish conspiracy.

There are also some extreme right web sites, which are quite well visited, that in general do not mention Jews or any topics related at all. Only in a few cases they reveal vague ideas about “Zionists”, or as in one case, claims that the reason for increasing violence towards Jews is because of their alleged defence of the Swedish multi cultural society. This undermines the national state and creates a need for scapegoats – the Jews.

Some examples of anti-Semitism:

Club-28.com

This is a web site where customers can buy white power compact discs and videotapes. The site belongs to the European Nazi organisation Blood & Honour. They also have some articles about various topics, most often with hateful and violent content. One article with the headline “Are Jews more worth than other people?” pictures Jews as “eternal plotters”:

*The occupant "state" of Israel is for most Jews not a particularly pleasant place to live. Much more preferable are countries like USA or the - in theory - hated state of Germany. And as eternal plotters they have through their Zionist schemes and control over finance and media gained total power over the natives, described by these religious race-haters as Goyim , or **cattle** , to put it in plain English.*

Another article questions the Holocaust.

Den-svenske.com (“The Swede”)

The web site belongs to the National Socialist Front (NSF). The organisation is outspokenly anti-Semitic and questions the Holocaust. The authors are obsessed with single Jewish personalities like politicians or businessmen and what the state Israel is doing. According to their web site they considered the war against Iraq was a war decided by the “Zionists”. On the web site traditional anti-Semitism are exposed:

There is an old way of saying: “Where there is power and money, there is also a Jew”, I think that wisdom is correct.

Info14.com (“Information 14”)

A militant neo-Nazi site that fights against the “decadent” society. Among other things Info 14 publishes articles where homosexuals, Jews, politicians and media is conspiring together to destroy the Swedes good morale. The Jews also controls media and the government.

One article is about opinions in England about Jews. The article describes how the Jews once were banned from England:

The Jews was eventually let back within the British borders and a look back at England's history shows king Cromwell's fatal mistake when he invited the Jews back that time after time has dragged the people of England into war, war that only has been for the benefit of Jewish interests witch for example the ongoing war against Iraq is a good example of.

Sannhistoria.com (“True History”)

The web site “True History” claims it's purpose is to provide information about the Holocaust. But in reality it is a site used to publish revisionist material. It is an attempt to counter the web site “Living History” witch is run by an authority that focuses on the Holocaust and other genocides. The site does not seem to be that very well visited.

Omislam.com (“About Islam”)

This Islamic site has its focus on questions about Islam and its purpose is to “spread correct information about Islam”. The major part of the site is about religious life and beliefs. But in a section called “Lessons” the following can be read beneath the headline “The truth about the hostility between Muslims and Jews”:

Why do we hate Jews? We hate them for the sake of our Lord, we hate them for the sake of Allah because they slandered Allah and slandered and killed His prophets.

Muslimer.com (“Muslims”)

The web page is run by converts with purpose of spreading knowledge about Islam. It does not, from what I can see, contain any anti-Semitic material in such. But it contains links to several other pages. Among them the web page www.whatreallyhappened.com that claims that “Zionists” has driven USA into war with Iraq. Israel is also accused of being behind the attacks on 11 September.

UNITED KINGDOM

Cyberhate in the UK, overview for 2003

Prepared by Mike Whine, Community Security Trust, January 2004

1. Introduction

1.1 Many extremist political groups in Britain increasingly use the Internet. They do so:

- 1.1.1 to advertise themselves and their ideologies
- 1.1.2 to advertise their activity
- 1.1.3 to communicate with their members
- 1.1.4 to raise funds

1.2 Among the most prolific users are:

- 1.2.1 the far right, ie neo-Nazis and white supremacist groups
- 1.2.2 Islamist groups

1.3 The main far right users include the British National Party (BNP), the National Front (NF), the White Nationalist Party (WNP), Combat18 (C18)/Blood and Honour, International Third Position (ITP).

The NF uses the Internet nationally and locally; ie the headquarters’ office manages a website as do the branches, and both for the reasons listed above.

The BNP no longer has a physical HQ. The stated strategy of the leadership is to have a ‘virtual’ HQ to disseminate information and to maintain overall control of the organisation. The main website has separate sections for the various BNP regions and branches.

The WNP, C18/Blood and Honour and NF guestbooks are linked to the extent that those using the sites overlap, and are active in all three groups.

These organisations have both open access websites and closed e-groups.

The latter are used primarily for organising activity, most notoriously during 2003, via the Redwatch site which is a vehicle for naming anti-fascist activists and promoting violent activity against them (see 2.5 below).

1.4 The primary Islamist users, which are also antisemitic, are Al-Muhajiroun, Hizb ut-Tahrir, Muslim Public Affairs Committee (MPAC), Muslim Association of Britain (MAB).

2. *Legal Situation*

2.1 Incitement to racial hatred is illegal in Britain. A government initiative to make incitement to religious hatred failed when the legislation was rejected by Parliament in 2001. It is however the government's intention to bring back the legislation at a later date.

(For legal reasons the Jews, and Sikhs, are counted as racial groups.)

2.2 The means by which racial hatred is promoted is immaterial. Public statements made by government ministers and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police have been made in recent years in which they have stated that illegal material on the Internet will be prosecuted in the same way as all other material.

2.3 An amendment to the Malicious Communications Act in 2001 (via the Criminal Justice and Police Act), specifically allows for the prosecution of malicious material sent electronically, as well as by other means. The penalties for offences under this Act, however, are lower than for penalties under the incitement legislation.

2.4 The primary legislation against race hatred is contained within Part III of the Public Order Act, as amended by the subsequent Crime and Disorder and Criminal Justice Acts. The Public Order Act incorporated those elements which dealt with incitement contained within the Race Relations Act 1976, the legislation which deals with race relations and their betterment.

2.5 To date there have been no prosecutions of incitement via the Internet, although there is a current investigation into the Redwatch site. The organisers of this are long-term neo-Nazi activists and include Kevin Watmough, a former C18 activist now involved with the White Nationalist Party, Tony White and Tony Foy.

It is believed that BNP organisers in the north-west of England are passing information to those who run the site.

Complaints by the National Union of Journalists to the police in the north of England led to the investigation. The Union acted when two of its journalists were targeted by neo-Nazis after they wrote articles in the local press exposing the criminal nature of the local neo-Nazi scene.

A question in the House of Lords by Lord Greaves in January 2004 to the government on the progress of the investigation was due to be answered by Baroness Scotland.

2.6 Islamist sites, both uploaded in the UK, and uploaded elsewhere but available in the UK, promote an uncompromising anti-Israel, and frequently antisemitic message. Among the most notorious of the UK-based sites are those of Al-Muhajiroun, Hizb ut-Tahrir, the MAB, which is associated with the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas, and MPAC. The latter has reproduced Holocaust denial material originally published from American far right activist Michael Hoffman III, Ahmed Rami's Radio Islam website and David Irving.

Electronic editions of Arab papers have also published antisemitic material, including offensive cartoons, and material from several of the above have been the subject of complaints to the Home Office, the police and prosecuting authorities, so far without prosecutions being undertaken. The Foreign Office, via British Ambassadors, has complained to Arab states where the electronic media promote antisemitism, but to date with little effect.

2.7 Other racial and religious groups (eg Christians, Hindus and Sikhs) have also been vilified online, by Islamists but no cases have been brought to the attention of the prosecuting authorities or the police in 2003.

3. *Internet Anti-Racist Protection and Education*

3.1 All schools (including primary schools) and colleges of further education in the UK are online. All must use filters to screen out racist and pornographic material.

3.2 'Holocaust Denial on the Internet' a publication of the Centre for German Jewish Studies at Sussex University has been sent to all schools. A universities' edition is now in preparation.

4. *Enforcement*

4.1 The Internet Watch Foundation is not focussed on far right, but on pornographic and paedophilia sites. They have however taken and investigated complaints referred to them by the CST, and others.

4.2 Police resources for Internet scrutiny are very limited, and police use of the Internet tends to be as part of specific criminal or intelligence investigations.

However, the Racial and Violent Crime Task Force at the Metropolitan Police Service (responsible for the Greater London area) uses its Internet investigative capacity to search for, and gather intelligence on extreme racist sites, and the activists responsible for them.

5. *Summary*

5.1 A strong anti-racist ethos is promoted by government, police, National Union of Teachers, National Union of Students, the Press Complaints Commission, Advertising Standards Authority and others.

Likewise the mainstream media are strongly anti-racist and active in unmasking racism or anti-religious violence.

5.2 As with non web-based material there is a generally recognised common position against antisemitic and anti-democratic propaganda from the far right, but the same cannot be said, yet, for that published by Islamist extremists.

UNITED STATES

Antisemitism on the Internet in the USA

Prepared by Brian Marcus, Director of Internet Monitoring, ADL

An increasingly sophisticated use of the Internet by extremists continued to develop and expand in 2003. The enhanced technology of antisemitic sites created by various groups is often evident, with website visitors being greeted by slickly-produced Flash videos and background music playing, along with original artwork and cartoons. Numerous sites are updated with new materials and links to news stories every day. There are hundreds of antisemitic websites based in the United States, of varying technical expertise, that continually spread racism and antisemitism, as well as expressing Holocaust denial. Virtually every major extremist and racist group based in the United States has some form of Internet presence, and many groups based overseas utilize

servers located within the United States to circumvent local laws prohibiting racist, extremist, bigoted and antisemitic content. Extremists and groups in the United States with established hate sites include white supremacist David Duke; the neo-Nazi National Alliance (and White Revolution - the offshoot by ex-National Alliance member Billy Roper); various Christian "Identity" churches and believers; scattered remnants of the now-defunct World Church of the Creator (nee Creativity Movement); as well as a host of neo-Nazis, racist skinheads, "Aryan" women's groups and Klan chapters. Holocaust denial groups such as the Institute for Historical Review and the Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust, as well as a number of militia groups and conspiracy theorists, are also accessible online. Particular events in 2003, for example the release of the film *The Passion of the Christ*, have led to the establishment of websites that attack Jewish groups or individuals - in some cases these have been sponsored and hosted by antisemites.

Many leading anti-Semites in the United States produce anti-Israel/Zionist materials with an antisemitic overtone to distribute online, and there are instances of these materials permeating into 'real world' rallies by groups holding anti-Israel (but not necessarily antisemitic) views. This co-mingling of anti-Israel/Zionist rhetoric with antisemitism has led to an increase in expressions of antisemitism in forums and events targeting Israeli political decisions. The co-opting of antisemitic images and ideas, and the conflating of Jews with the state of Israel is a trend that is expressed in the virtual world, as well as the 'real world'.

Increasingly, international terrorist groups with an antisemitic agenda - including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Al Qaeda-affiliated groups - that target the United States generally, and Jews specifically, have found Internet providers in the United States less willing to host their antisemitic and violence-promoting materials. However, terrorist groups have found the Internet to be a valuable resource to post and distribute anti-U.S. and antisemitic propaganda, or call for the targeting of Jews in the U.S. and around the world. These calls are often made in Arabic, and in many cases are not translated and posted in the English-language sections of sites that are aimed at an English-only audience.

The Internet has been utilized by antisemites and racists to create an electronic community of hate to help further their goals. Websites with forum sections allow users to post information and uncensored hatred, as well as a way to meet other extremists to share ideas, information and even plan events. Some sites, such as Stormfront, compile listings of upcoming events sponsored by a variety of organizations. Free email groups made available through major Internet portals and providers have allowed many antisemites to spread their messages and to communicate without having to spend funds for these services. Free websites have also become popular as a way to post and share information without incurring any costs; where a person can obtain a free site and place files for others to download, knowing that if/when the site is discovered by the host company it will be taken down. When a free site is shut down, it often reappears with a similar name on another free service. The new address for these sites is easily distributed through email groups and the cycle repeated. These free sites have included racist and antisemitic video games, pictures and music - and in some extreme cases by terrorist organizations. Instances where antisemitic terror organizations and sympathizers have posted instructions on how to utilize various types of weaponry, and even included detailed descriptions on how to create poisons and chemicals to be used as weapons of mass destruction with the intent of striking against civilians (often identifying Jews as preferred targets).

The antisemitic materials that are shared online often spread to a variety of lists and sites - including sites that are not antisemitic in nature - and thus the pervasiveness and persistence of antisemitic materials is enabled by the nature of the Internet. Once an item is posted online, it can be downloaded, reused and reposted by anyone located anywhere in the world who is connected to the Internet.