ANTISEMITISM & ZIONISM ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FIGHTING ONLINE ANTISEMITISM

When "Zionist" Means Hate

This guide helps users recognize when antisemitism is disguised as "anti-Zionism" on social media. It explains how "Zionist" is often used as a stand-in for "Jew," identifies signs of hate speech, and outlines how various platforms handle this issue. With real examples and practical advice, this guide empowers individuals to detect and report antisemitic content effectively.

1. Understanding Anti-Zionism vs. Antisemitism

Zionism means the right to self-determination, the right to a country, in Israel. It does not mean blind support for government policies. Antisemitism arises when critiques of Israel or Zionism morph into hate and attacks on Jewish peoplehood. Surveys show 70–80% of Jews worldwide view Israel as essential to their identity.

2. Defining Antisemitism

The IHRA definition states:
"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews..."

This includes hate targeting Israel or Zionism when it demonizes Jews . While not legally binding or universally adopted by social media platforms, this standard helps differentiate between valid critique and hate.

3. What Changed After October 7

Following Hamas's attack, FOA data revealed:
- A surge in antisemitic content masked as anti-Zionism.
- Increased use of "Zionist" as a slur for Jews.
- A 10% rise in calls for violence against Jews and Israelis.
- Many such posts evade moderation by being labeled "political opinion."

4. How "Zionist" Masks Hate Online

Instead of directly saying "Jew," hate speech often uses "Zionist."

> *Quick Test:*
> Replace "Zionist" with "Jew" in a sentence.
> If it sounds hateful — it probably is antisemitic.
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>
> *Red Flags:*
> - "Zionist pigs" (dehumanizing)
> - "Death to Zionists" (violent)
> - "Zionists run Hollywood" (conspiratorial)
> - "Zionists are the new Nazis" (Holocaust inversion)
> - "All Zionists are responsible for war" (collective blame)

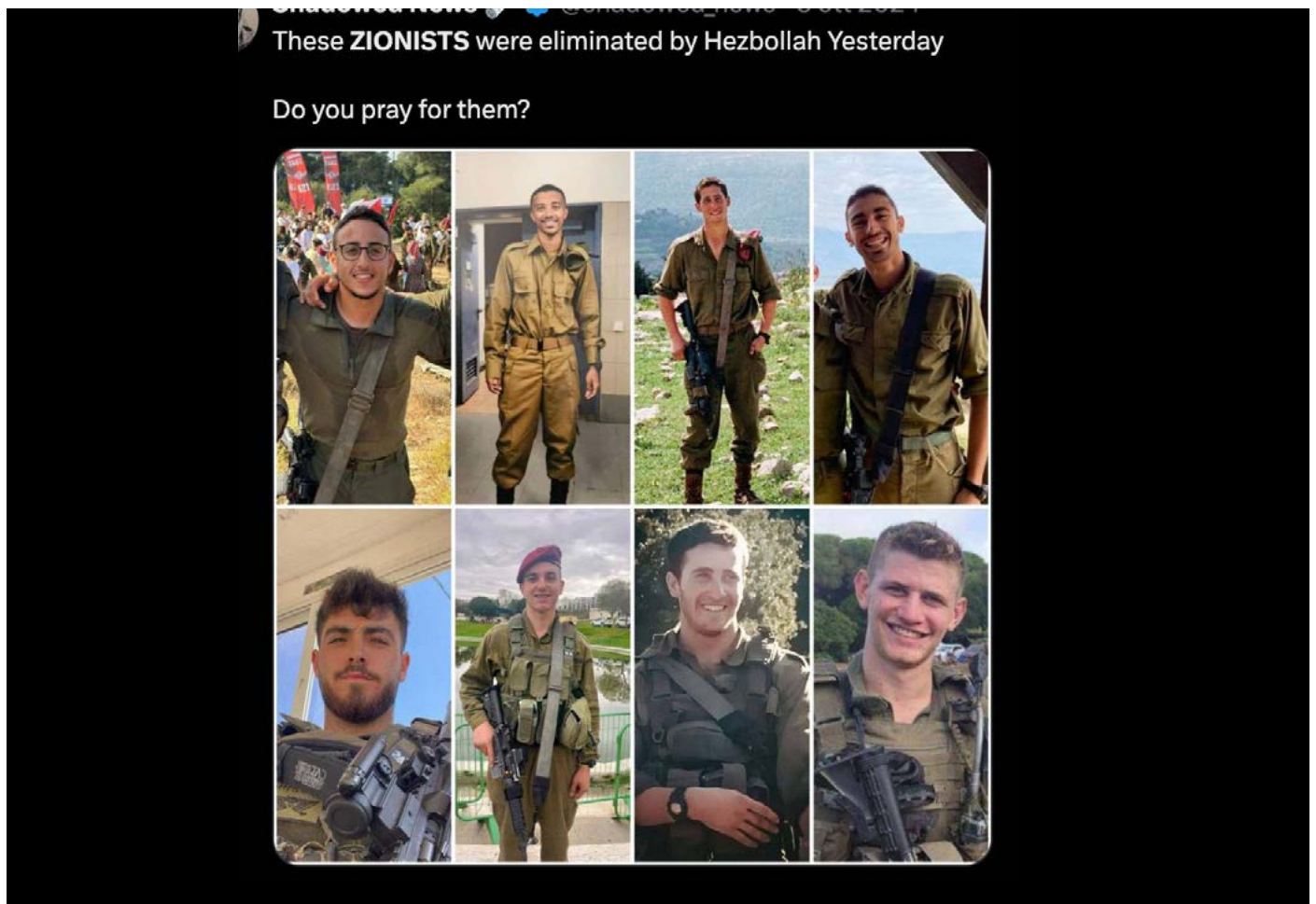## 5. Spotting Coded Antisemitism

Common phrases hiding antisemitism:

"Zionist pigs"

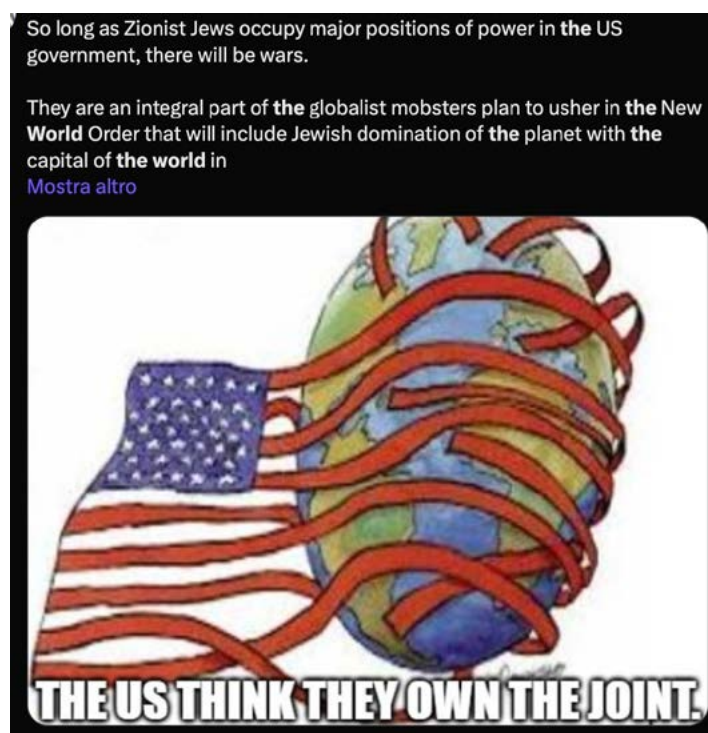Another **ZIONIST** Pig was eliminated by Hezbollah
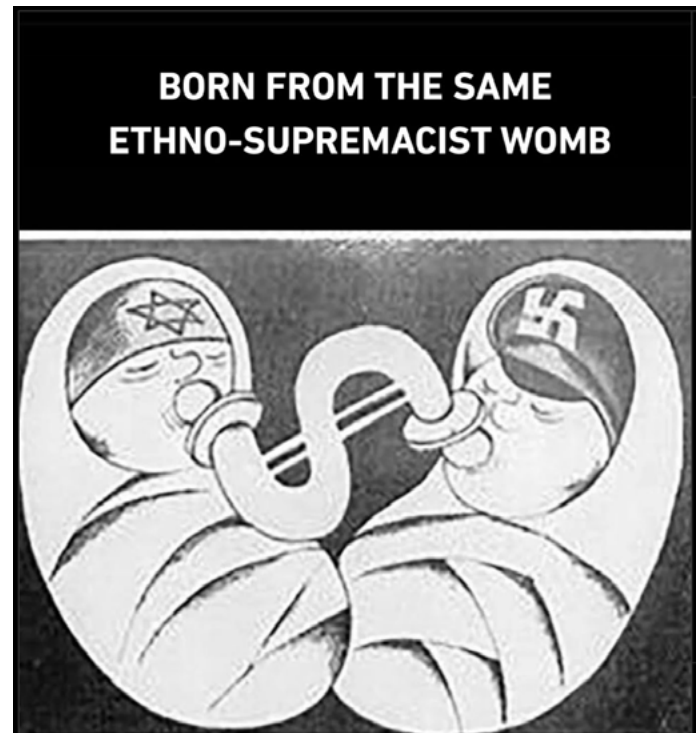
"Death to Zionists"

These **ZIONISTS** were eliminated by Hezbollah Yesterday

Do you pray for them?

"Zionists control the media/the world"

So long as Zionist Jews occupy major positions of power in **the** US government, there will be wars.

They are an integral part of **the** globalist mobsters plan to usher in **the** New **World** Order that will include Jewish domination of **the** planet with **the** capital of **the world** in

Mostra altro

THE US THINK THEY OWN THE JOINT.

Trump is our first Jewish president

THE JEWISH PLOT TO DESTROY AMERICA

Deception

Corruption

TRUMP: THE FACE OF BETRAYAL
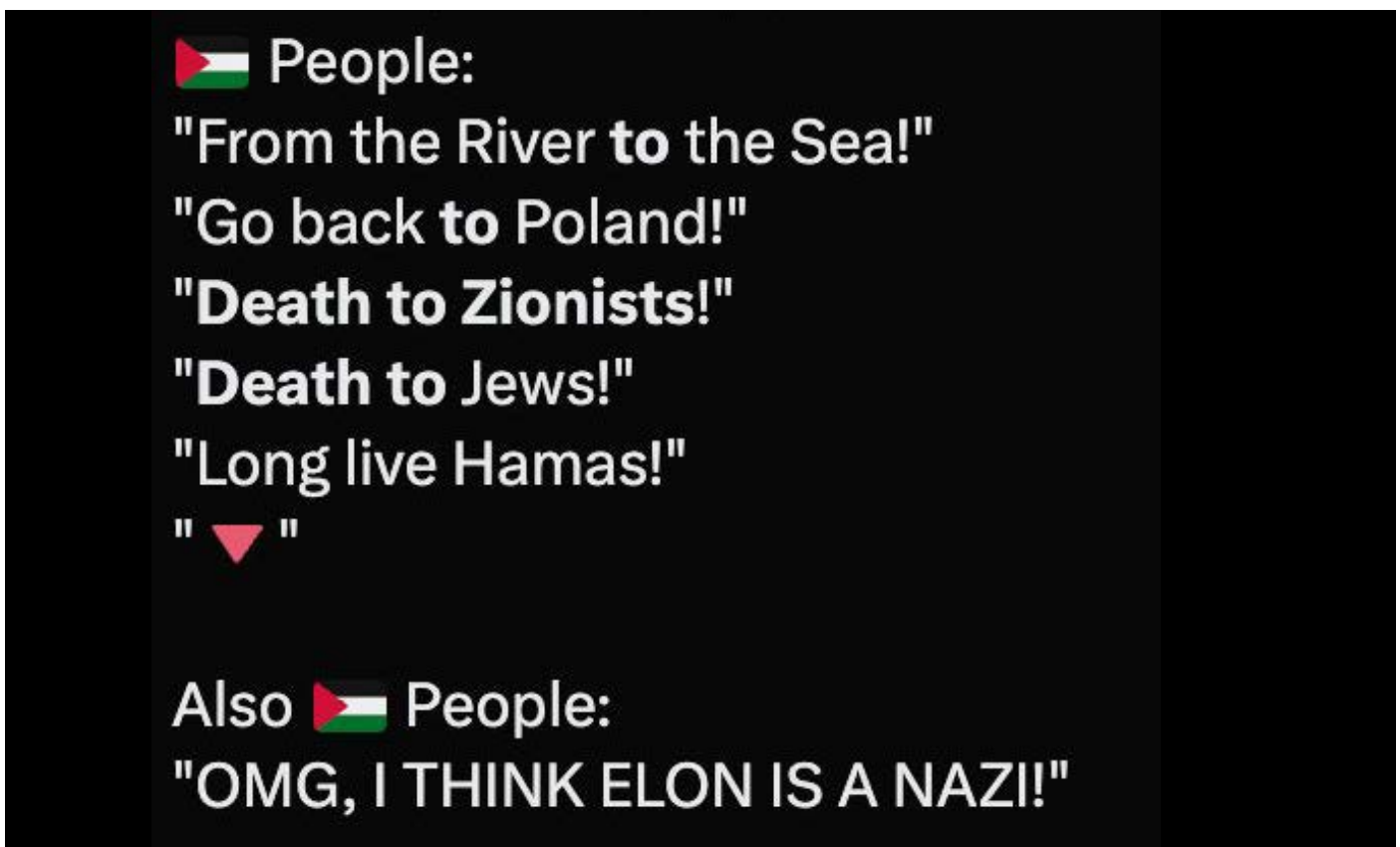
4:16 · 23 Oct 25 · **422** Views

"Zionists are the new Nazis"

Hashtags like #DeathtoZionists, #ZionistAgenda

These terms swap in "Zionist" for "Jew", avoiding moderation filters.

6. Criticism Vs. Hate Speech

Legitimate:
Critiquing Israeli policies or leadership

Antisemitic:
- Denying Israel's right to exist
- Attacking Jews collectively
- Using stereotypes or Holocaust comparisons

For example:

Guideline Category	Definition	Real-World Examples
Legitimate Criticism	Critique of specific policies, actions, or leaders of the Israeli government or military.	Israel's recent settlement expansion in the West Bank is a violation of international law and counterproductive to peace efforts.
Hate Speech: Denying Existence	Rejecting the State of Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation-state.	The State of Israel has no right to exist and must be dismantled from the river to the sea.
Hate Speech: Collective Attack	Attributing the actions of the Israeli government to Jews as a collective group globally.	Jews are collectively responsible for the actions of the Israeli government and should all be punished.
Hate Speech: Collective Attack	Using Holocaust analogies or classic antisemitic stereotypes to malign Israeli actions.	The Israeli military is acting exactly like the Nazis.

7. Platform Policies on the Use of the Term "Zionist" and How Well They Enforce Them

Platform	Policy Summary
Meta	Bans hate using "Zionist" as proxy for Jew; removes dehumanizing content; enforcement inconsistent.
YouTube	No direct mention of Zionism. Prohibits content that promotes violence or hatred against individuals or groups based on protected attributes, including religion and ethnicity. Covers hateful use of terms like "Zionism" when employed as a proxy to target Jews or Israelis with antisemitic abuse.
TikTok	Does not relate directly to the term "Zionist" Bans antisemitic hate and violent rhetoric; enforcement inconsistent; political labeling can shield hate.
LinkedIn	Zionism as a political ideology is protected under its hate speech rules, but content using "Zionism" or "Zionist" as hateful proxies targeting Jews or Israelis is removed. Harmful misuse to promote antisemitism is prohibited.
Reddit	Bans explicit hate; weak enforcement allows antisemitic language to persist.
X	Minimal moderation; hate-coded hashtags and terms often remain online.

Overall, policies are fragmented and inconsistently enforced.

FAQ

Q: Is all anti-Zionist content antisemitic?
A: No. But if it targets Jewish identity or uses coded hate, it crosses into antisemitism. Criticism of Israel's policies is legitimate.

Q: How can I report antisemitism?
A: Use in-platform reporting tools or submit content directly to FOA.

Q: Why do platforms fail to catch this hate?
A: Platforms struggle with nuance. "Zionist" appears political, allowing hate to evade detection.