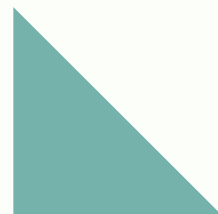


Online Antisemitism Amid Israel-Hamas War: Month One

**FIGHTING ONLINE
ANTISEMITISM**



November 22, 2023

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Table of Contents

Main Findings.....3

Introduction.....6

Antisemitic Content Found on Social Media.....8

 Antisemitic Content Monitored Across Platforms.....9

Removal Rates of Antisemitic Content Across Platforms.....10

New Trends in Antisemitism and Anti-Israel Hate..... 11

 The Paraglider Icon..... 11

 Moataz Matar’s YouTube Channel..... 14

 Aisha AlSayed, an Egyptian Blogger Active on X..... 15

Examples of FOA Reported Content that was Removed from Social Media..... 17

Examples of FOA Reported Content that was Not Removed from Social Media..... 19

Main Findings

Since the beginning of the war, FOA has facilitated more than 30 online workshops, training sessions, and webinars, providing participants with the skills and knowledge necessary for monitoring, reporting & removing antisemitic, anti-Israel, and violent content, alongside content with false information and terrorist narratives from the digital sphere. The multilingual training sessions (conducted in Hebrew, English and Spanish) have thus far reached more than 3,000 volunteers from the USA, Latin America, Australia, China, Europe and Canada.

Webinars mainly focused on raising awareness of the phenomenon of online antisemitism, detecting and removing antisemitic content from social media, specifically from TikTok and LinkedIn, using Artificial Intelligence to monitor content, maintaining a database of manifestations of online antisemitism and advocating collaboration between government agencies, social and civic organizations and social media platforms to promote positive change in hate content publication standards. In addition, webinars provided volunteers with useful tools for regaining a sense of security, resilience and confidence- an extremely relevant and necessary topic to address since the beginning of the War.



30

Social media monitoring
workshops

3K

New activists

34K

Antisemitic posts
monitored and reported

3x

Increase in antisemitic
content from same
period in 2022

26%

Average removal rate of
antisemitic content on
social platforms

6%

Increase in the amount
of posts removed

9

Number of social media
platforms monitored

During the first month of the war (October 7th to November 7th, 2023), FOA monitored and reported a total of 34,182 antisemitic (based on the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism), anti-Israeli, pro-Hamas, violent items, alongside fake news regarding the war. Hateful content was monitored across nine social media platforms: X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, VKontakte, Telegram, Reddit, and LinkedIn.

The majority of the content was published on X (56%, 19,240 items), Facebook (21%, 7,262 items), Instagram (13%, 4,520 items), and TikTok (8%, 2,862). Only 2% of the content (478 videos) was found on YouTube. The content was monitored in 8 different languages, mainly in English (47%), Russian (27%), French (12%), and Arabic (9.5%). 4.5% of said content was in Turkish, Polish, Serbian, and German.

The average removal rate of above-mentioned content monitored and reported by FOA in the relevant timeframe across platforms is 26%, higher than the average removal rate in 2022 (20%). The highest percentage of content was removed by Facebook (35%), followed by X (28%), YouTube (27%), Instagram (27%), and TikTok (24%). Since FOA is recognized as a 'Trusted Flogger' by these platforms, FOA contacts them directly and propel them to remove hateful content. This direct involvement of FOA resulted in a higher removal rate of content monitored on the platforms.

A comparison between the volume of content monitored and reported on social media during the relevant time in 2022 and 2023 yields a shocking, yet unsurprising finding—three times the antisemitic and anti-Israel content was monitored and reported in 2023.

The report also discusses the utilization of the paraglider icon by antisemitic and anti-Israel individuals and organizations, alongside white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups. The paraglider icon became the symbol of the 'Al-Aqsa Flood', a term coined by Hamas, referencing the October 7th massacre and their anti-Israel campaign. The icon gained global attention and quickly spread as a meme on social media.

Lastly, the report surveys FOA's efforts to halt significant propagators and disseminators of antisemitic and anti-Israel content from social media, such as Moataz Matar and Aisha AlSayed. While both are still available on YouTube and X, respectively, FOA's involvement has led to the deletion of a video published on Matar's Youtube channel in which Matar interviewed Abdelhakim Hanini, one of Hamas leaders. In the video, Hanini called for acts of violence to be perpetrated against Israeli and Western nations' embassies and points of interests. Likewise, FOA's 'Trusted Flagger' status and direct contact with X have led to the removal of 26 posts by AlSayed, an Egyptian social media influencer, in which she expressed joy at the murder of Israeli soldiers and encouraged her 57 thousand followers to send hateful messages to the families of the deceased.

Introduction

On October 7th 2023, Hamas, a designated terror organization, attacked Israel, affecting both Jewish and Israeli Arab communities. Approximately 2,500 Hamas terrorists commenced a coordinated assault against Israeli civilians in a music festival, in Kibbutzim, towns and cities, and against military targets. The attack resulted in significant casualties and the taking of hundreds of Israeli and other nationalities hostage into Gaza, many of which were women, babies and elderly people. This event of the 'Black Saturday', the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust, caused widespread fear and anxiety among Jewish communities worldwide. In response, Israel launched the 'Swords of Iron' military operation against Hamas and declared war shortly after.

Against the backdrop of the Israeli-Hamas war, there has been a surge in antisemitic incidents globally, with diasporic Jewish communities experiencing increased threats and a stark reminder of historical persecution. This crisis underscored the global unity among Jewish people in and outside of Israel, and the significant impact of events in Israel on Jews worldwide. As the situation escalated, online antisemitism intensified.

Against this backdrop, Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA) launched a vital initiative - an international online boot camp for global volunteers, seeking to join the digital battlefield. Over 3,000 activists, primarily Israelis and Israel supporters spanning from Australia to the United States, had signed up.

Training was designed to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively monitor and combat antisemitic content, on a range of popular social media platforms, in accordance with the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and in multiple languages. This included identifying content that is classic antisemitism, anti-Israeli, inciting violence, containing misinformation, support of Hamas/terrorism and fake news.

This report outlines FOA's activities in the first month of the war (since October 7, 2023). In response to the surge of online antisemitism and calls for Israel's destruction, FOA has used its expertise to deploy automated tools to simplify the process of monitoring and removing of antisemitic content from social media. Thousands of volunteers have been working around the clock to remove offensive content, achieving notable success and higher removal rates compared with 2022.

We thank our donors, supporters, and thousands of volunteers who enable us to continue working for a better future and an online space free of hate.our activities and work towards make FOA's work possible and successful.



TOMER ALDUBI
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Antisemitic Content Found on Social Media

During the first month of the war (between the 7th of October to the 7th November), FOA automatically monitored a total of 34,182 antisemitic items based on the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism, in eight languages and across nine social media platforms: X, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, Tiktok, VKontakte, Telegram, Reddit and LinkedIn[1].

The most prevalent antisemitic hashtags identified were 'IsraeliCrimes', 'GenocideinGaza', 'ApartheidIsrael', 'IsraelTerroristState', 'IsraeliISIS' and 'FuckIsrael'.

In order to monitor relevant content on various social media outlets, FOA utilizes an external interface, facilitated by the Israeli high-tech companies Vetric and Brightdata. This innovative AI system enables efficient and instantaneous monitoring of manifestations of antisemitism content within a specific social network, thereby enhancing the capacity to report and remove such content.

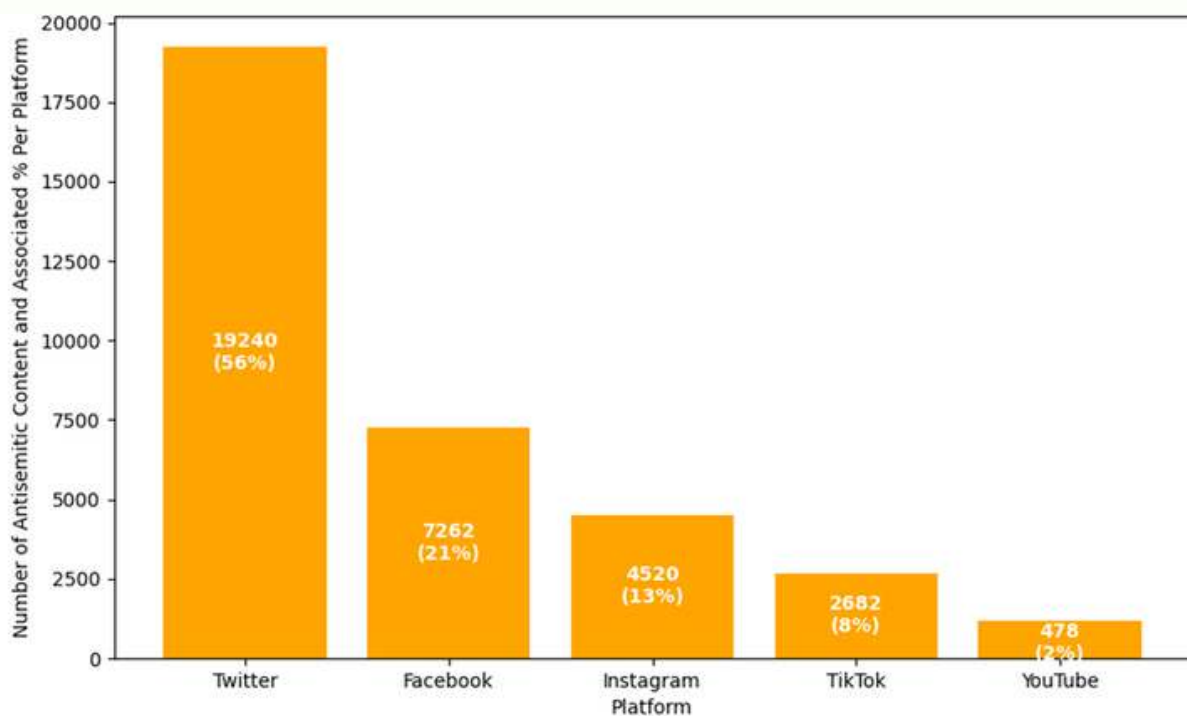
The system empowers FOA-trained volunteers to monitor, report, and eliminate significantly higher volumes of antisemitic content than manual monitoring. This unique system automatically aggregates content through an external interface. Leveraging the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI), each post undergoes assessment in order to determine its degree and score of antisemitism, based on the IHRA definition and new trends. Content identified as most antisemitic is sent to FOA's volunteers for further examination, prompting them to review and subsequently report the offensive content to the social media outlet, requesting its removal. If the content is not taken down, FOA, as a 'Trusted Flagger', directly approaches the platforms and propels them to take immediate action.

Antisemitic Content Monitored Across Platforms

FOA reported diverse content, including antisemitic, anti-Israel, pro-Hamas, violent content, and fake news regarding the war. The content monitored was published on X (56%, 19,240 items), Facebook (21%, 7,262 items), Instagram (13%, 4,520 items), TikTok (8%, 2,862 items), and YouTube (2%, 478 items).

MONITORED ANTISEMITIC POSTS

A comparison between the volume of antisemitic content monitored by FOA during the same period in 2022 and in 2023 (October 7th - November 7th) yields a shocking result- relevant content has tripled in extent in 2023.

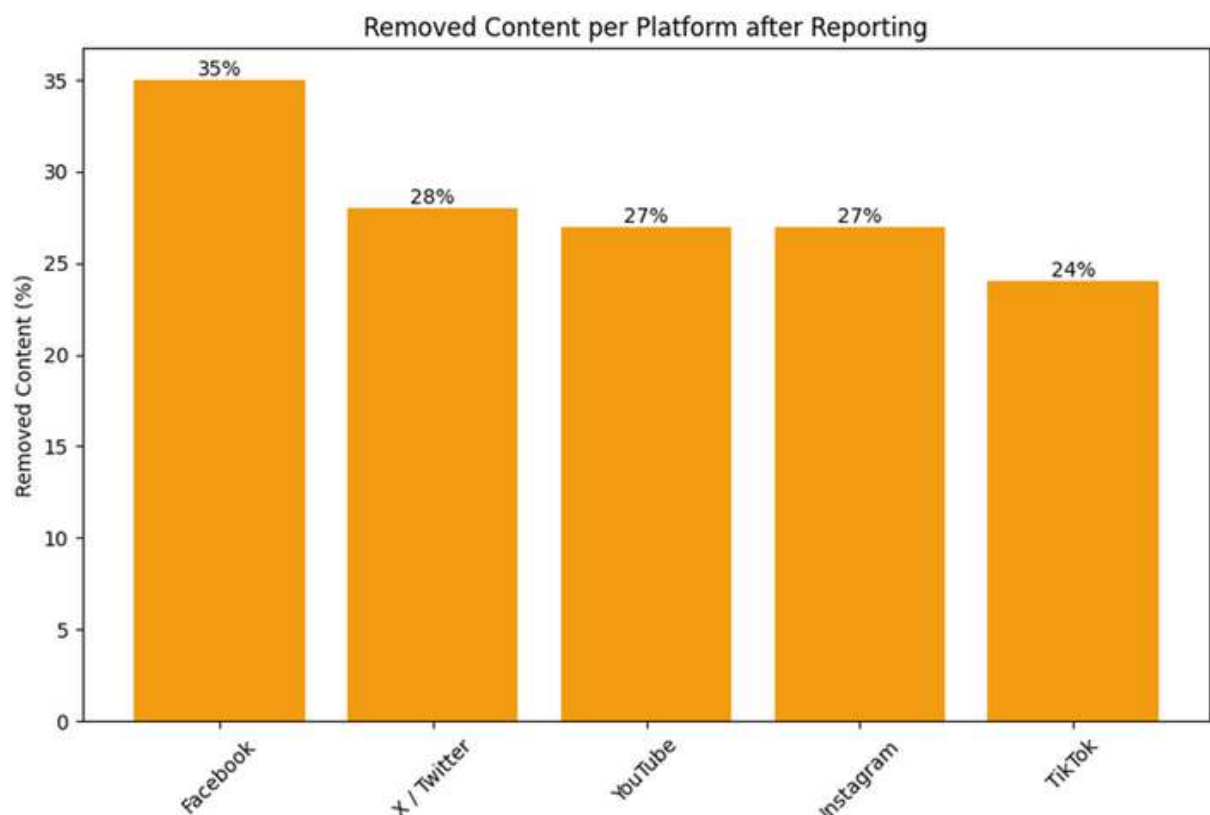


Graph 1: Number of Antisemitic Items Monitored on each Social Platform (percentage of total)

Removal Rates of Antisemitic Content Across Platforms

FOA is recognized as a 'Trusted Flagger' by the five leading social media platforms: X, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. As such, FOA is able to contact these platforms directly. Consequently, removal rates of content reported by FOA are often higher compared to content reported by FOA volunteers and other social media users.

The average removal rate of antisemitic content monitored and reported by FOA during the first month of the war across platforms is 26%. The highest percentage of content was removed by Facebook (35%) followed by X (28%), YouTube (27%), Instagram (27%), and TikTok (24%).



Graph 2: Removal Rate of Reported Content Across Platforms (in percentage)

New Trends in Antisemitism and Anti-Israel Hate

The Paraglider Icon

The utilization of paragliders by Hamas during the October 7th massacre became the symbol of the 'Al-Aqsa Flood' a term coined by Hamas to refer to the massacre and their anti-Israel campaign. The paraglider icon gained global attention and quickly spread as a meme on social media, shared widely by antisemitic and anti-Israel individuals and organizations.

White supremacist and neo-Nazi groups use the paraglider to celebrate violence against Jews, sharing images and hateful messages in online forums and on various social media platforms. What follows are a few examples of such posts.

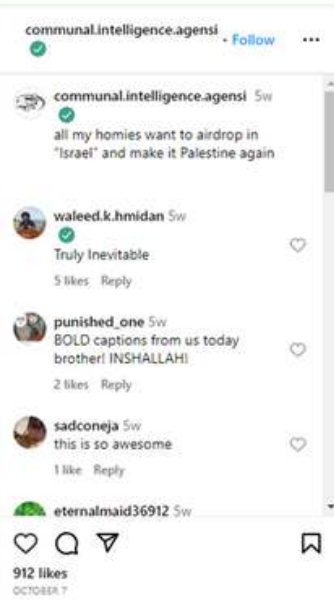


Gab, October 29th, 2023



Vkontakte, October 9th, 2023

The utilization of paragliders by Hamas during the October 7th massacre became the symbol of the 'Al-Aqsa Flood' a term coined by Hamas to refer to the massacre and their anti-Israel campaign. The paraglider icon gained global attention and quickly spread as a meme on social media, shared widely by antisemitic and anti-Israel individuals and organizations.



Instagram, October 7th, 2023

Handsome Truth @HandsomeTruth
Oct 7 · Edited
BREAKING NEWS
⚡ PALESTINIANS ARE AT WAR WITH THE SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN ⚡
God bless the brave men of Palestine! May GOD protect you!



Gab, October 7th, 2023. This item was posted by 'Handsome Truth', the head of the antisemitic GDL movement (Goyim Defence League) in the US.

White supremacist and neo-Nazi groups use the paraglider to celebrate violence against Jews, sharing images and hateful messages in online forums and on various social media platforms. What follows are a few examples of such posts.

On October 9th, 'Africa for Palestine', a Johannesburg-based organization dedicated to supporting Palestine tweeted this image (left) of a paraglider in order to show their support for Hamas' actions against Israel. The following day, an independent, Chicago-based faction of the 'Black Lives Matter' movement demonstrated support for Palestine by sharing the paraglider image on their X account (right).



Moataz Matar's YouTube Channel

Moataz Matar is a UK-based Islamist, a founding-member and main broadcaster of the UK-based 'Al Shoub' TV channel that promotes acts of terrorism. Matar plays a leading role in the UK-based network of Islamists, promoting support for Palestinian terrorist organizations and radical Islamist ideologies. Matar denies Israel's right to exist and often expresses antisemitic views, particularly in relation to Jewish control of the world and of Arab leaders. Due to his vocal public support of Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations banned under UK laws, Matar is in violation of UK anti terrorism laws.

With over 4 million subscribers, close to 4,500 videos, and millions of views per video, Matar's YouTube channel is undeniably a significant presence on the platform. Matar uses the channel to spread hate speech and incitement, and glorifies violence against Israel and the West. Matar also used the channel to fundraise for Hamas.

In a video published in the channel on October 27th, Matar interviews Abdelhakim Hanini^[1], one of Hamas leaders. During the video, which was broadcasted live, Hanini endorsed and called for acts of violence to be perpetrated against Israeli and Western nations' embassies and points of interests.



A Screenshot of Matar's interview with Abdelhakim Hanini, a Hamas terrorist, published on YouTube on October 27th 2023, removed on October 30th, 2023.

The video was reported to YouTube by FOA's volunteers, but it was not removed. On October 29th, FOA directly reported the video to YouTube under its trusted flagger status. The video was removed the following day.

[1] Hanini was arrested and imprisoned in Israel in 1993 for co-founding the 'Izz Ad-Din Al-Qassam' Brigades. He was released in 2011, among others, in exchange for the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, and was exiled to Qatar.



Matar's channel on YouTube is still available on the platform. Matar is also active in other social media platforms such as X and Facebook.

Aisha AlSayed, an Egyptian Blogger Active on X

Aisha AlSayed, an Egyptian social media influencer whose father is affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, has been using her X profile since the beginning of the Iron Sword War to disclose personal details of IDF soldiers murdered by Hamas during the war.

Aisha takes pride in spending hours gathering information on the soldiers' families' social media accounts, and encourages her 57K followers to send hateful messages celebrating the murders to the families.



AlSayed's post on X, November 5th, 2023, expressing joy due to the death of Lt. Colonel Jear Davidov, the chief of the Rahat Police, Israel, who was murdered by Hamas terrorists.



Right: AlSayed's post on X, November 5th, 2023, sharing the social media profiles of Colonel Davidov's family members, encouraging her followers to harass them and asking them to send them photos of the late Colonel.

FOA volunteers reported AlSayed's posts, but the social network refused to remove them, arguing that no violation was detected. Consequently, FOA reached out to its contact people at X, and shared with them a review detailing the reported posts alongside explanations of their content and the way it violates X's community guidelines (expressing joy over the murder of Israeli soldiers, sharing information about their family members' account, urging followers to harass them). Subsequently, all of the reported posts (26 in total) were removed by X within a few days. AlSayed's X account remains active, and FOA is currently working on removing it from the social platform.



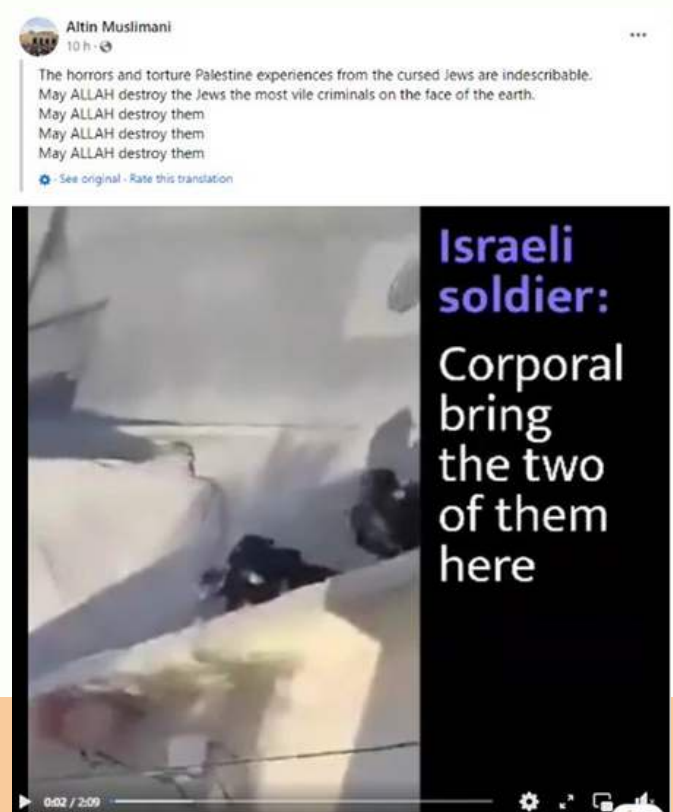
AlSayed's post on X, November 12th, 2023

Examples of FOA reported Content that was Removed from Social Media



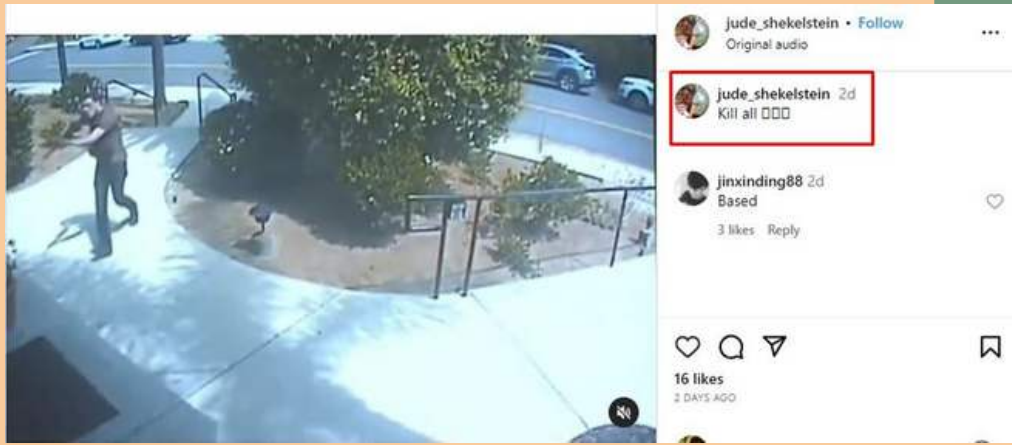
Facebook, November 1st, 2023

This post in Albanian contains a warning sign of potential aggression against Israel, unless it ceases its actions in Gaza. The post was removed by the social platform.



Facebook, October 30th, 2023

This post and video includes an inciting message in Arabic that glorifies violence against jews. The post was removed by the social platform.



This comment on a post, inciting Jew killing following the October 7th massacre was removed by the social platform.



This video contains messages of support for Hamas, praise of Hamas leaders and a call to join the struggle against the Israeli occupation until "Jerusalem is ours". TikTok refused to remove the video, stating that it did not violate its community guidelines. FOA reached out to its contacts at TikTok with a request for a thorough review of the content, and indeed, the content was removed after a few days.



This post in Arabic was published by a Yemani blogger and has gained significant exposure. The post contains a Hitler quote about jews, noting that "They are unwilling to coexist, and perceive you as their slaves". The post was removed by the social platform.

Examples of FOA Reported Content that was NOT Removed from Social Media

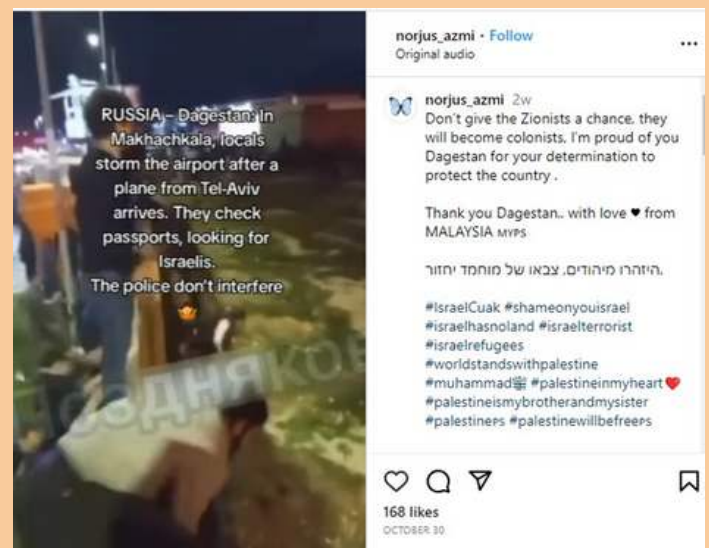


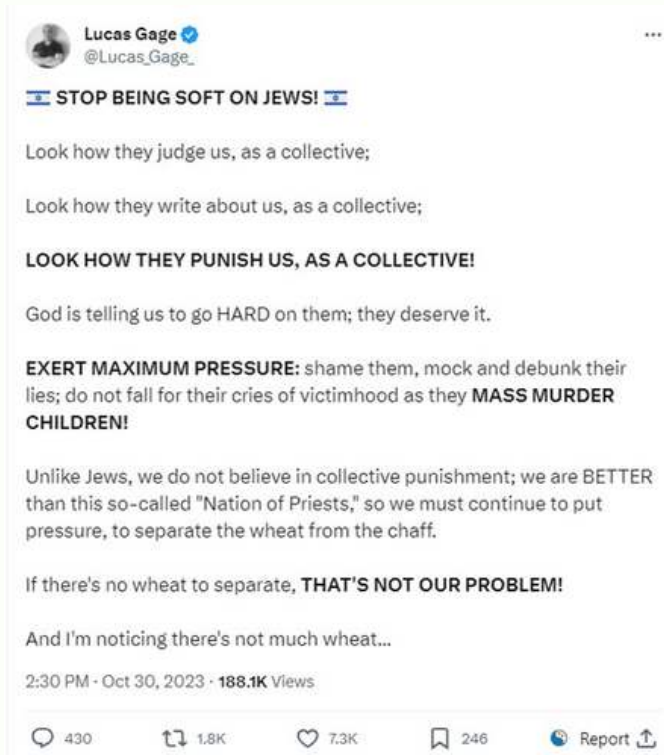
X, October 25th, 2023

This post is referencing the events of the October 7th massacre as a disturbing parallel to the opening of Auschwitz anew, expressing a desire for another Holocaust. The post was not removed by the social platform

Instagram, October 30th, 2023

This inciting post in English and Hebrew includes a warning to Jews and an endorsement of violence perpetrated against Jews and Israelis at Dagestan airport on October 30th. The post was not removed by the social media platform.





X, October 30th, 2023

This post, containing hate speech and inciting messages against Jews, was published by Lucas Gage, a familiar source of antisemitic content on the platform. The post was not removed by the social platform.



Facebook, November 15th, 2023

This multilingual post (Malay, Arabic, English and Hebrew) notes: "Jews be cautious, the forces aligned with Muhammad are expected to return shortly". This post was not removed by the social platform.



This video suggests that another Holocaust will likely occur following the October 7th massacre. The video was reported to the social platform but remained available. Since many TikTok videos don't convey a clear and direct message, they will often not be removed by the platform.

Israel-Hamas War: Month One

We thank you for your ongoing support of our project

Acknowledgements

As this impactful month concludes, we extend heartfelt thanks to our invaluable contributors and thousands of dedicated activists at the forefront of our fight against online antisemitism. Their efforts, alongside AI tools, have been instrumental in monitoring and combatting antisemitic content online. Your support fuels our progress toward a more inclusive online community. Together, we're on a mission to make the online world a kinder and more inclusive space.

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