
Fighting Online Antisemitism

Annual Report 2021

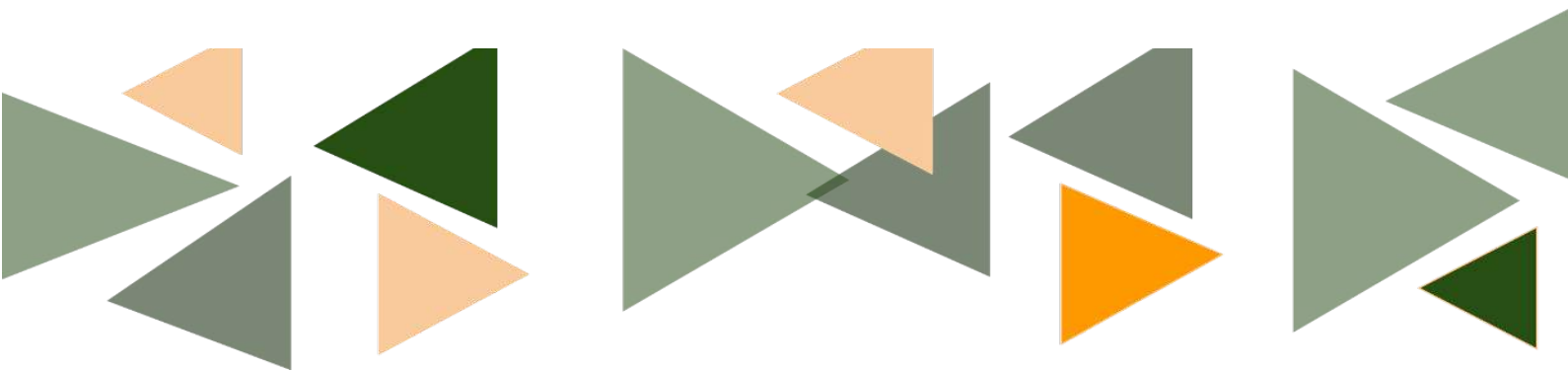


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Disclaimer: Translation of texts from languages other than Hebrew and English was machine-assisted, and may not be entirely accurate.

About Us

‘Fighting Online Antisemitism’ (FOA) is a Non-Governmental Organization established in 2020. Our goal is to combat online antisemitism through volunteer training, reporting hateful content online, and raising awareness of the phenomena of cyberhate (in online/offline seminars, workshops, and training sessions).

Though young, FOA has over 200 international volunteers who regularly monitor antisemitic content in multiple languages and across seven leading social media networks. Founded in Israel, our staff and volunteers based in many different countries worldwide help us make a difference on a global scale.

In addition, we maintain a database of manifestations of online antisemitism. Such data is utilized in periodical reports examining contemporary trends pertaining to online antisemitism on social media and removal rates of hateful content across various platforms.

Promoting cooperation between Governmental organizations, national and international Non-Governmental Organizations, civic society, and social media platforms is a key component of our activity. Such collaboration is necessary to combat cyber hate in general and antisemitism in particular.

We believe that removing antisemitic content from the internet, especially from social media, reduces offline antisemitism worldwide. We strongly feel that the fight against antisemitism is not in the sole interest of the Jewish people. Combating cyberhate, promoting diversity, equality and tolerance is a goal shared by many who wish to create a better world, not only for Jews but for all of humanity.

Introduction

In 2021, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, antisemitism on social media was on a constant rise. Similar to the trend noted already in 2020, much of the antisemitic content monitored on social media dealt with conspiracy theories involving Jews and the Covid-19, accusing the jews of spreading the virus and trying to take over the world by spreading vaccinations (among other things). Such theories initially appeared with the first outbreak of the virus and are still gaining popularity, mainly among antisemites, nazi sympathizers, and anti-vaxers.

At the same time, the popular social networks seem to have relatively increased their enforcement measures against such content. As a result, specific antisemitic hashtags associated with Holocaust denial and distortion (such as #hitlerwasright, #holocaustwasright, #hitlerdidgood) were removed. Many antisemites and instigators were thus forced to find alternatives online forums to spread hatred and abandon popular social networks.

In the first half of 2021, military operation 'Guardian of the Walls' resulted in millions of hashtags and antisemitic posts circulating online. Further increase in the publication of antisemitic content was also witnessed in the second half of 2021. For example, in September (2021), 500 antisemitic items were monitored- a significant increase compared to previous months.

Throughout the passing year, alongside dealing with such specific and ongoing events, we continued our struggle to eradicate antisemitic content on social media by reporting such content daily in multiple languages and networks. This report reviews data resulting from FOA's monitoring and reporting activity in 2021. While monitoring focuses on the most popular social media platforms, the report also includes information regarding antisemitic content found on three alternative platforms: Telegram, VKontakte (VK), and LinkedIn. These platforms have yet to effectively prevent the publication and circulation of such offensive content.

We believe that it is only a matter of time before senior executives of these networks will take a hard line against rising antisemitism. Yet, increased enforcement will likely lead to further migration of haters to new, less regulated online forums where hateful content can proliferate.

Tomer Aldubi,
Founder and Executive Director

Activities in 2021

Volunteer Recruiting and Training

- We trained over **200** volunteers in Israel and around the world.
- Over **70** international volunteers from **30** countries took part in REACH (Remove and Eradicate Antisemitism & Cyber Hate), FOA’s global training program. This unique learning program combines theory and practice to best equip individuals and communities with the knowledge necessary to combat cyberhate on social media. Three cycles of REACH were held online, ranging between six and eight weeks each.
- As depicted in figure 1, while most of our volunteers are young adults (ages 18 to 35), roughly 25% belong to other age groups (15-18, 35-65, 65+).

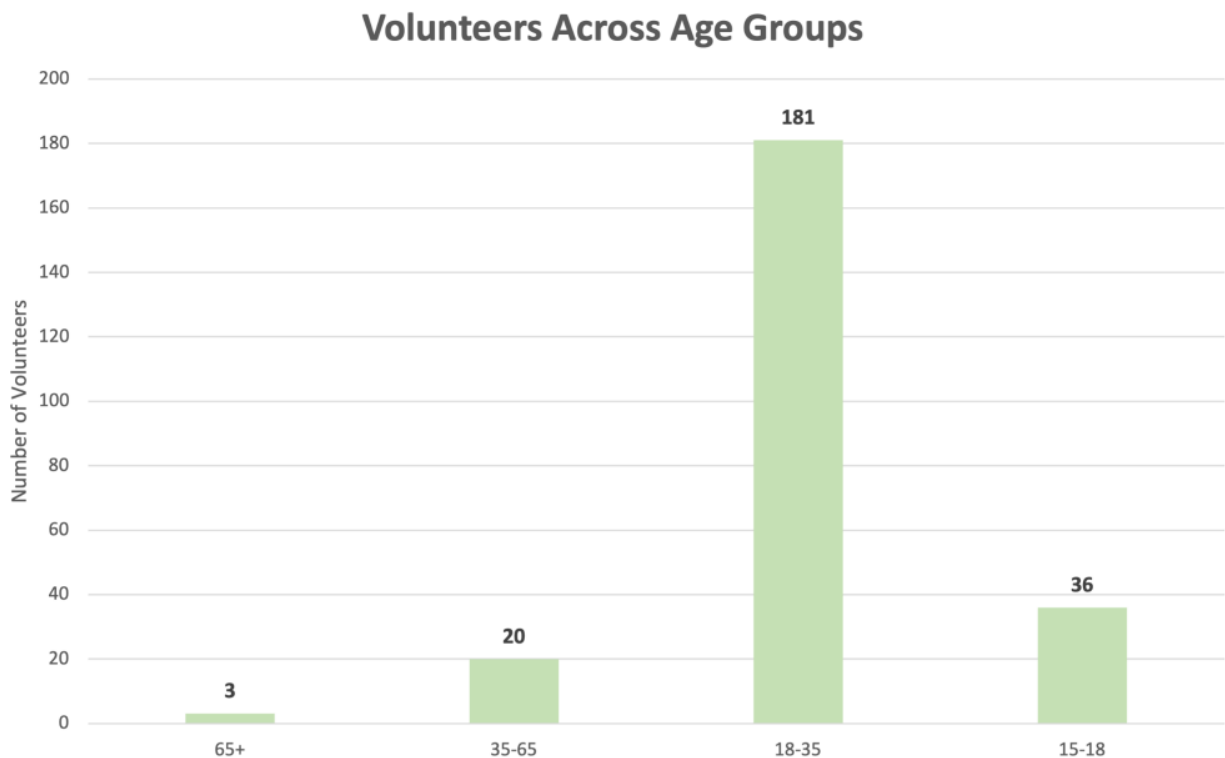


Figure 1: FOA Volunteers Across Age Groups

Monitoring, Reporting, and Removal of Antisemitic Content

The data presented in this report is a product of the daily work of hundreds of volunteers around the world. The data includes antisemitic content reported to the social media platforms and regularly monitored. In the past year, we have expanded the number of languages and networks in which antisemitic content is monitored to include LinkedIn (a professional network), VK, and Telegram (social networks). Antisemitic content was identified and reported in **16 different languages** and on **seven social networks** (Instagram, Twitter, Tiktok, YouTube, Facebook, VK, and Telegram). While **4,000 Antisemitic items** (text, pictures, and videos, according to IHRA's working definition of antisemitism) were monitored by FOA's volunteers and staff members, only about 25% were removed by the networks (further information is available in the next chapter).

Educational Activities

In 2021, we held training sessions for Israeli youth and young adults in cooperation with a few local municipalities, including Ashdod, Rishon Lezion, Ramat Gan. Such sessions (approved by the Israeli ministry of education) empowered the youth by providing participants with practical knowledge to deal with offensive content online.

Additional activities in the field of education conducted by FOA in 2021 included:

- Over **15 educational workshops** with dozens of participants.
- **Seven international online seminars** (webinars), hosting 15 panelists. Webinars examined 'hot topics' and explored current trends in cyberhate in general and antisemitism in particular. Webinars were open to the public free of charge and were attended by local and international NGOs, representatives of social networks, senior government officials, our volunteers, and the general public.
- We **published [six reports](#)**, mirroring a rise in online antisemitism and Holocaust denial following current events (Covid-19, Guardians of the Walls, etc.). Reports also discussed the nexus between current events and antisemitic content on social media and explored antisemitic trends on designated social media networks.
- We participated in various **international conferences** and events (online and offline), in which we presented our activity, data, and recommendations for an effective fight

against online antisemitism. Such events included the Global Antisemitic Forum (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem), The Zionist General Council Session XXXVIII/2 (online), and the annual conference of INACH (International network against cyberhate, where the FOA is the only Israeli representative, online).

Monitoring Antisemitic Content on Social Media Platforms

In the past year, alongside monitoring antisemitic content on the most popular social media platforms (Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and Tiktok), we started monitoring relevant content on three additional platforms: VK, Telegram, and LinkedIn (the world's largest professional online network).

Extensive content was manually monitored by FOA volunteers and staff (Text, pictures, and Videos) in 16 different languages and on seven social media platforms.

Antisemitic content (in accordance with the IHRA working definition of antisemitism) was identified and reported to the social media platforms by FOA volunteers (as 'normal' users) and staff (e.g., as trusted flaggers on YouTube). Out of 4,000 links sent to the various platforms, about 25% were removed.

While monitoring focuses on the most popular social media platforms (see figures 2 and 3), the report also includes information pertaining to antisemitic content found on three alternative platforms: Telegram, VKontakte (VK), and LinkedIn. These platforms have yet to effectively prevent the publication and circulation of such offensive content.

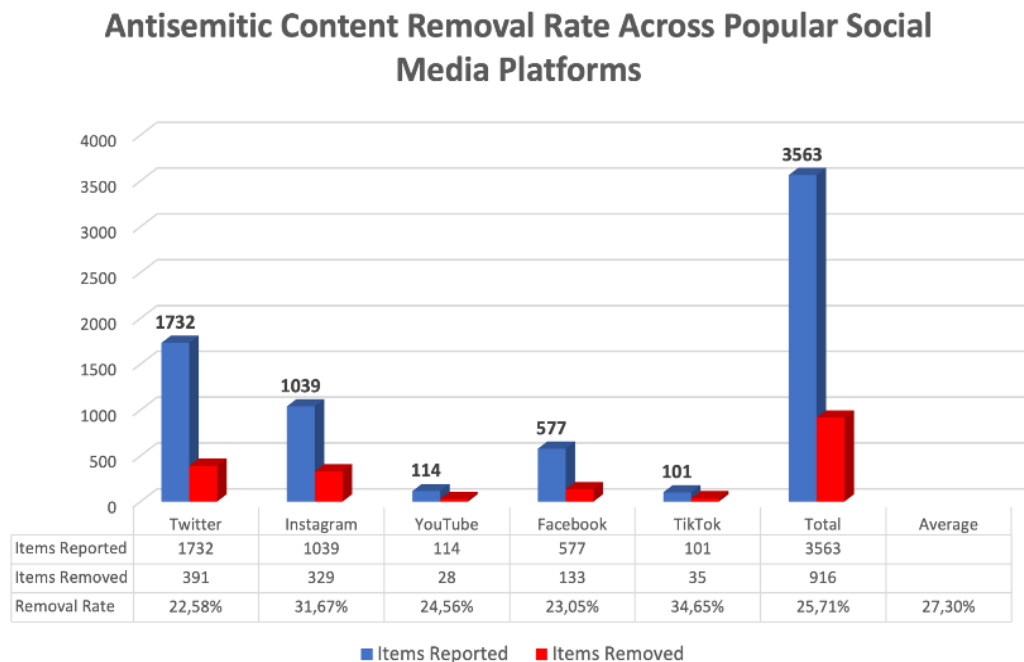
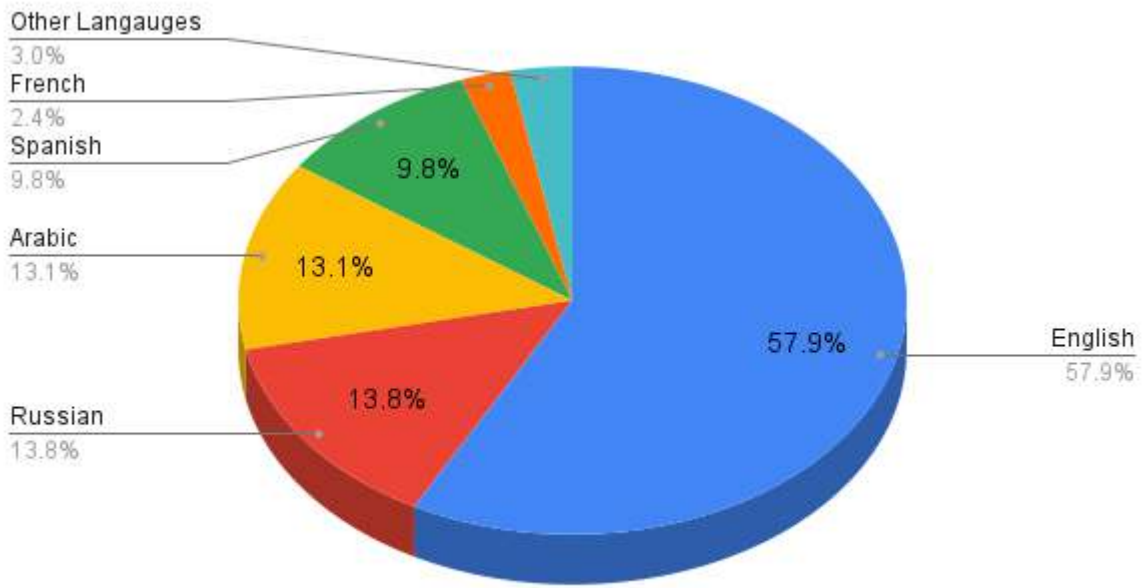


Figure 2: Antisemitic Content Removal Rate Across Popular Social Media Platforms



*Other languages include Portuguese, German, Indonesian, Lithuanian, Italian, Polish, Ukrainian, and Turkish.

Figure 3: Reported Content Across Languages

Antisemitism on Vkontakte (VK)

VK (Russian: Вконтакте, English: “Connected”) is a social media platform, popular among Russian speakers. As of [2020](#), VK has over 60 million active users. Similar to other social media platforms, VK users can communicate using messages, create groups and public pages, publish events, and share and tag photos, audio, and video files.

In January 2021, FOA issued a [report](#) drawing attention to the spread of antisemitic content on VK. Such content was predominantly in Russian and included antisemitic blood libels, conspiracy theories regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, Holocaust denial, and incited violence against Jews.

In order to increase FOA’s monitoring efforts on VK, Russian-speaking volunteers were recruited throughout 2021, and their number within the monitoring team- doubled.

Between January and September 2021, FOA volunteers reported 70 antisemitic links to VK. With the additional staffing, 300 antisemitic items were reported between October and December of that year. A second [report](#) published in October 2021 provided updated data and examples of antisemitic items reported to VK, removal rate, the languages of the posts (German, English, and Hungarian alongside Russian), and their classification.

Manifestation of Antisemitism on VK

- Antisemitic content detected on VK, compared to other platforms, was hard to watch, both graphically and visually.
- Unlike other social media platforms, most of the antisemitic content found is reminiscent of blood libels circulated over a hundred years ago in the press. Among other things, the contents include a comparison of Jews to rodents and leeches, depiction of Jews as large-nosed beings who aspire to take over the world or who already control it and work to poison the food and water sources of humankind. In addition, many users have posted content that denies the Holocaust and or justifies its occurrence, admires Nazi rule and fascist movements, and incites violence against Jews.

- On VK, conspiracy theories that link Jews to the Covid-19 pandemic proliferate extensively, emphasizing the Jewish people rather than the State of Israel (classic antisemitism).
- VK's community standards in general, and the ones related to hate content, in particular, are vague, and their enforcement is inconsistent. As such, removing antisemitic content on VK is particularly challenging even though the content significantly incites violence.

A Concrete Threat to Jewish Life

Several months ago, FOA volunteers identified a VK user, apparently a resident of South Carolina (USA), who frequently circulated antisemitic and racist content, targeting Jews and other minorities living in the US. This user turned out to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan, an American white supremacist hate group. While the user was reported to VK, no action was taken. The user continued to disseminate antisemitic content on the social network unhindered and was continued to be monitored by FOA.

In November 2021, the user posted a picture of a weapon and stated that he would happily use it against Jews, adding derogatory sexual remarks to Holocaust victim Anne Frank. Following this apparent threat to the lives and safety of Jews in South Carolina, we reported the information to relevant authorities as well as the Israeli press. As a result, the aforementioned post was removed, and the user was blocked. A further review conducted by VK following this case exposed additional individuals and groups that violated community standards. They were blocked immediately.

Antisemitism on Telegram

Telegram is an instant messaging platform that allows users to communicate anonymously, with little to no supervision of the content circulated. Telegram enables users to freely exchange and distribute messages, including antisemitic, violent, pornographic, and fake news. Therefore, Telegram is considered a breeding ground for antisemitic and racist users, often blocked by other social platforms.

Manifestation of Antisemitism on Telegram

Notwithstanding, allowing users to operate under the guise of confidentiality has a silver lining when monitoring antisemitic content is concerned- Our Cyber HUMINT team utilizes Telegram to gather intelligence about antisemitic users operating on other social networks.

Monitoring content on Telegram leads to:

- The removal of antisemitic content, such as caricatures, disseminated on other social networks.
- Uncover dates and the identity of participants in offline meetings, in which events publicizing antisemitic conspiracy theories are planned. Such events may include traditional Nazi symbols, such as swastikas and "Hail Hitler" cries and hand gestures.
- Uncover funds raised using cryptocurrencies (such as "Bitcoin") meant to support illegal activity and acquire weapons (see further information on the next page).

Until mid-2021, removing antisemitic and hateful content from Telegram was extremely challenging. However, an apparent shift in policy led to more action regarding such content. Feedback from Telegram following reports of malicious content/users arrived promptly, users were blocked, and groups reported as violating the community rules were locked. In a few instances, users were also prevented from using the Telegram app on their mobile devices.

Telegram as an Outlet for Antisemitic Terrorist Organizations

In the second half of 2021, FOA's Cyber HUMINT team detected suspicious activity on the platform: an international campaign to raise funds for the Palestinian territories. The money was being used, among other things, to fund demonstrations and hostile activities in Jerusalem and the West Bank. Bitcoin wallets, owned by thousands of individuals around the world, were found to have wired funds to 'Aman Palestin Berhad', an organization based in Malaysia with secondary headquarters in Iran. The organization is also operating various branches in Gaza and Ramallah. The latest fundraising amounted to over half a million shekels (about 142k Euros at the time of writing). The organization's website indicates that the campaign was intended to fund demonstrations supporting 'the liberation of Jerusalem': transportation, equipment, and weapons used in such protests. FOA's [report](#) in this regard, published in Hebrew, also notes that a surge in donations was observed during the Guardian of the Walls military operation in May 2021. These findings were also published in Ma'ariv, one of Israel's leading daily newspapers.

Antisemitism on LinkedIn

LinkedIn is a popular professional/social media platform with nearly [800 million members](#), including over [2 million Israeli users](#). During and following the ‘Guardian of the Walls’ military operation (May 2021), antisemitic content was identified by FOA volunteers on LinkedIn. As a predominantly professional community, LinkedIn members share different personal characteristics compared with social media users (e.g., demographics). The potential damage from exposure to, and dissemination of antisemitic content on LinkedIn is similar, if not more significant, compared with other platforms, as such content is published by educated individuals, opinion leaders, senior executives of various companies and organizations around the world.

Manifestation of Antisemitism on LinkedIn

- Most antisemitic content monitored on LinkedIn can be placed on the fine line between freedom of speech and explicit antisemitism. Such antisemitism can also be classified as ‘Intellectual/white-washed antisemitism’. However, during the ‘Guardian of the Walls’ military operation, a greater volume of blunt ‘classic’ antisemitic content registered on LinkedIn than earlier that year.
- Antisemitic content disseminated on LinkedIn originates in/shared by academics and otherwise educated individuals (e.g., medical practitioners, professors, lecturers, senior executives). The (allegedly) authoritative source adds credibility to the content in the eyes of beholders, regardless of its veracity.
- FOA’s communication with LinkedIn (user reports, e-mails) was better than with VK and Telegram. However, similarly to the latter social platforms, LinkedIn’s policy regarding hate speech and its enforcement are vague and incoherent. Despite repeated applications made by us, propelling LinkedIn to remove antisemitic content, albeit the speedy automatic response, we were unable to find a pattern explaining the criteria according to which content is removed.

Endnote

Over the past two years, relations between civil society organizations and social media platforms have improved and become more efficient, partially due to the increasing use of these networks against the backdrop of the covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, this report stresses that further communication channels must be developed to increase and improve future cooperation with social media platforms.

In addition, advanced AI tools should be further developed and used to monitor cyberhate by relevant NGOs. Such AI should support the identification of hate in text-based content by understanding context, humor, and satire. Ideally, qualified human agents should complement such AI to ensure that content is correctly monitored and removed. Human monitors will also be able to identify new, dynamic antisemitic trends. This way, both the quality and the volume of content observed across social media platforms will be increased.

While this report summarizing FOA's activities in 2021 mirrors significant accomplishments, it also reflects the various challenges which are yet to be overcome. On social media, antisemitic and other hateful messages proliferate, primarily due to the rise in their popularity and the complex reality of the last 24 months (mental, economic, and other constraints brought about by the covid-19 pandemic, increased support for the political right in Europe and elsewhere, etc.).

The undeniable link between online antisemitism and offline violent events in the public sphere gets stronger each year and should also be considered in 2022. In the upcoming year, we will continue to develop new and practical courses of action to combat online antisemitism, alongside ways to disseminate our recently gathered knowledge worldwide. We will continue to relentlessly pursue our goal of creating a safer online space for the Jewish people and humanity as a whole.

Appendix: Antisemitic Content Removed From Social Media Platforms

What follows is an array of examples of antisemitic content, removed by the various social media platforms following FOA's intervention. Such examples are meant to illustrate the kind of content to which countless individuals are exposed daily and in multiple languages.

Example I (Figure 4: **Twitter**, 07.09.2021)

Jewish Zionism Policy ❤️ September11 attacks: By Israel, Intelligence Organizations abusing Arabs: Al Qaeda.
♦ 4000 Jews did not go to work at the World Trade Center on 11 September. See how the terrorist Israeli army treats innocent Palestinian children.

This tweet alleges that Israeli intelligence organizations perpetrated the 09/11 attacks.

Example II (Figure 5: Instagram, 01.09.21)

DES MILITANTS ANTI VACCINS, ANTI MASQUES PORTENT
L'ÉTOILE SAUNE, SE PLACANT EN NOUVEAUX SUIFS.



The post depicts a caricature with a caption in French (*The vaccine opposers are the new Jews*). The man wearing black invites the seemingly Jewish man wearing blue to a gas chamber to which he points, saying: *Come here, I will give you a good reason to present yourselves as Jews*”.

Example III (Figure 6: VK, 24.09.2021)

Let's take a look at the Elsan group, a network of (((private hospitals))).

The Kikes must replace the staff fired by Jews Macron and V éran for refusal of vaccination, if possible with brown apes imported from all over the world, just to kill two birds with one stone.

Thank you to the Sephardic Jew Thierry Chiche, CEO of Elsan, for this quick reaction.

If there is no more money to treat French Goyim or if they are refused entry to (((hospitals))), all hospitals belong to Kikes, Goyim know that it is not lost on everyon

The narbonoid project is progressing as planned.

And beware of the goyim if they flinch!

The fight against "racism and anti-Semitism" is at stake, in short, the survival of Semitic parasitism.

Measnrwhile, the (((public prosecutor))) requires a 3-month suspended prison sentence and 3 years of ineligibility against a Jewish anti-Coronist female dissident, Cassandre Fristot, for naming the Jew Rothschild as the main Coronist criminal. The jewdgment will be rendered on October 20.



The post alleges that Jews are spreading what is presumed to be a vaccine for the Covid-19 virus but is actually a lethal substance meant to kill all gentiles (non-Jews). Emmanuel Macron, The French President, is alleged to be part of this plot.

Example IV (Figure 7: VK, 24.09.2021)



The post alleges that the Jews are blamed for spreading the Covid-19 virus and producing the vaccine for the disease.

Example V (Figure 8: VK, 30.09.2021)

"КТО ЛЕЧИТ ,ТОТ ВИРУС И СОЗДАЛ!" ,-----
ИЗЯ ЭСЭСЭСЭРОВМАНН!



Translation [Russian]: *He who profits from the cure created the disease.*

Example VI (Figure 9: **Instagram**, 01.09.2021)

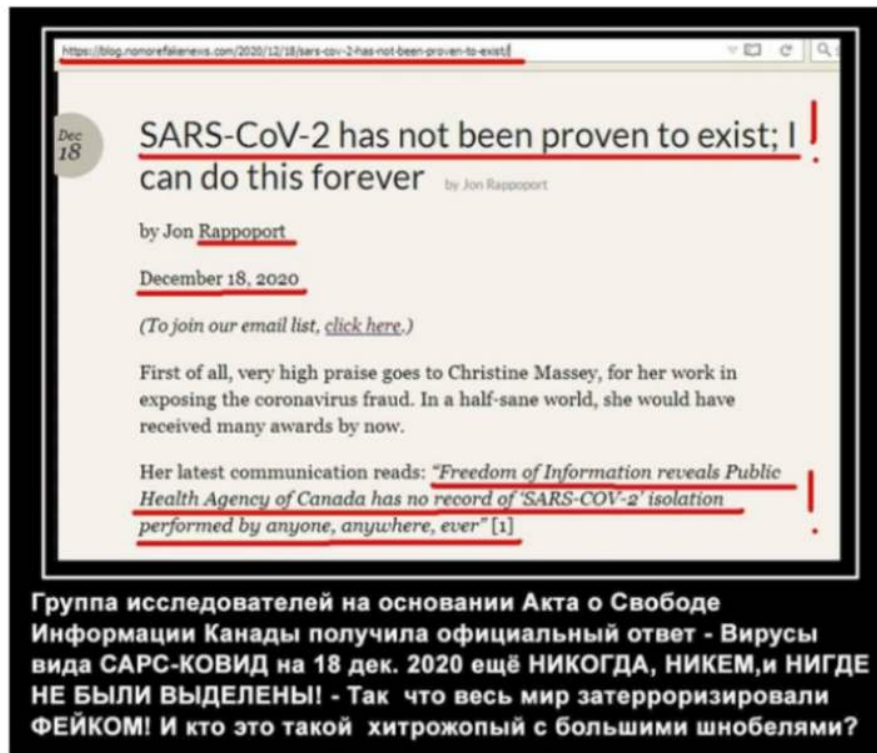


In this post, French anti-vaxers utilize the [Jewish yellow star](#)¹ to protest the restrictions posed by the French government on non-vaccinated individuals. The caption (in French) on the yellow star says “unvaccinated”. This post is an example of [Holocaust relativization/distortion](#) against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a most troubling, recent phenomenon, where the measures taken by democratic governments to protect their populations and contain the coronavirus are being equated with Nazi Germany's efforts to exterminate Europe's Jews, thereby diminishing the latter. Posts such as this often utilize National Socialist icons.

¹ Throughout Nazi-occupied Europe, Jews were forced to wear a badge in the form of a Yellow Star (representing the star of David) as a means of identification. The star meant to humiliate Jews and mark them out for segregation and discrimination.

Example VII (Figure 10: KV, 26.09.2021)

Модный "вирус" не выделен и по сей день, его нет?!
 И всё-же ... корона-вирус существует ... и это - тот самый шипованный спайк
 белок, который людям пытаются привить через ФАКцины 🇷🇺
 О механизме его действия откровенно рассказал главный его распространитель
 в России раввин Гинцбург (интервью см. ниже)
 Глобальный сионизм в действии 😏



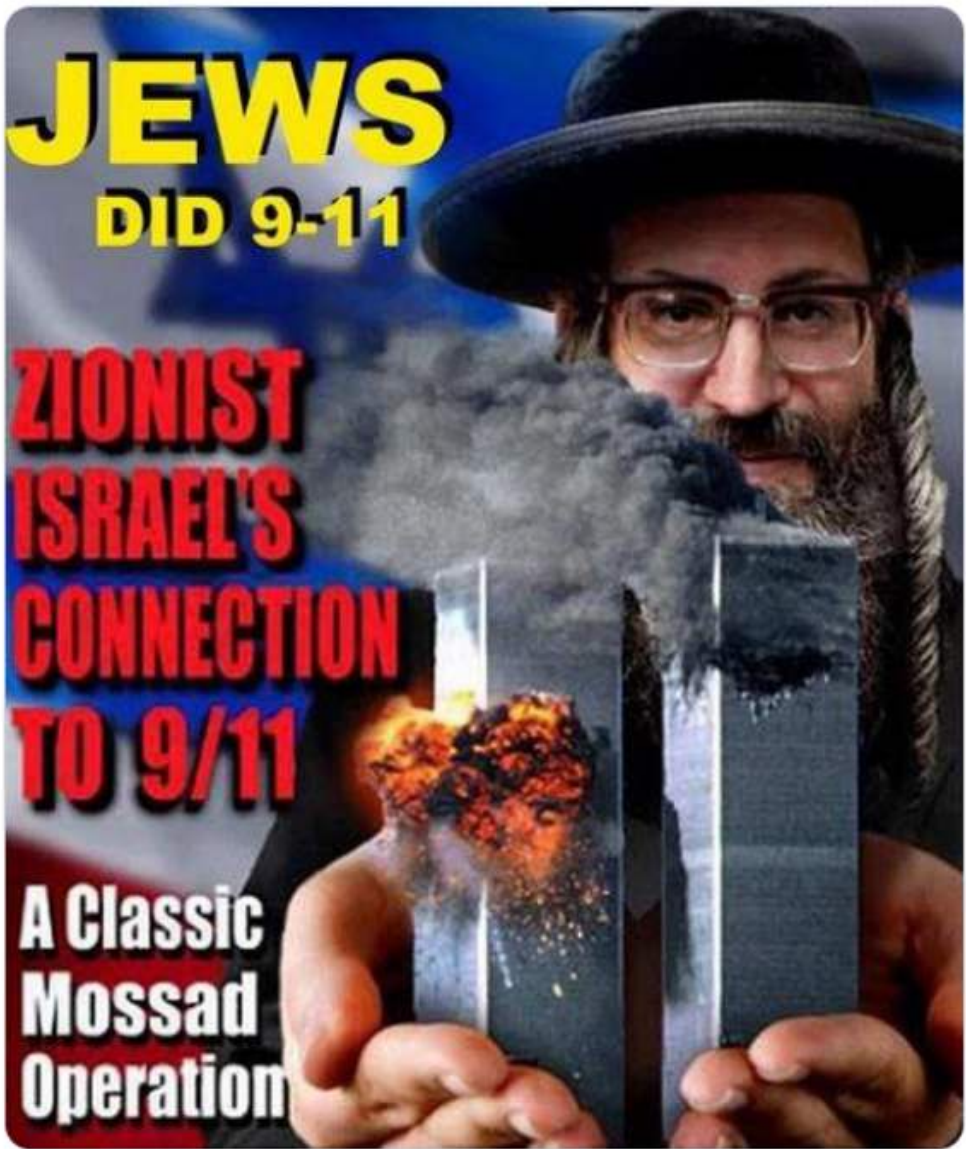
This post utilized data from an online article (seen in the center), to establish the author's argument that the Covid-19 pandemic is a global Zionist fraud (arguing that the SARS-COV-2 virus, aka the coronavirus, has not yet been isolated). The top caption reads [Russian]- *The fashionable "virus" hasn't been isolated to this day, isn't it there?! and yet ... the coronavirus exists .. and this is the same spike protein that people are trying to instill through vaccines distributed by Rabbi Ginzburg in Russia ... Global Zionism in action.* The lower caption reads [Russian]- *A group of researchers based on the Freedom Act Information in Canada received an official response on December 18, 2020- viruses of the SARS-COVID type have NEVER been allocated, by ANYONE, ANYWHERE! so the whole world was terrorized by a FAKE! and who is this smart-ass with big snobs?*

Example VIII (Figure 11: Twitter, 11.09.2021)



...

The Jews did 911. 🖱️ Classic Mossad Operation - Do the evil deed and blame it on others.



7:04 am · 11 Sep 2021 · Twitter for Android

This post depicts an infamous conspiracy theory alleging that Israel, the Mossad, and the Jews are responsible for the 09/11 attack.

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