

Holocaust Remembrance Day Report: The Rise of Holocaust Related Content on Social Networks

FIGHTING ONLINE ANTISEMITISM

May 7th, 2024

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About 'Fighting Online Antisemitism'

Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA) is at the forefront of combating online antisemitism, employing a comprehensive strategy that integrates content monitoring, educational programs, global partnerships, advocacy, and advanced technology. As an Israeli-based NGO, we focus on training volunteers, monitoring social media platforms, and raising awareness about the dangers of antisemitism and online hate speech.

Since our founding in 2020, FOA's worldwide team of volunteers has worked tirelessly to identify and remove tens of thousands of antisemitic posts from major social media platforms, thereby preventing the dissemination of violent, false, and hateful messages. Our efforts go beyond content removal; we also engage in educational initiatives to combat the roots of antisemitism and promote a more inclusive online environment.

FOA collaborates with a diverse array of partners, including Israeli academic institutions and municipalities, international NGOs, and social media companies. This network of partnerships strengthens our ability to tackle online antisemitism from multiple angles and create a safer digital space for all.

Executive Summary

Following the beginning of the Gaza War, a conflict between Israel and Hamas commenced on October 7th, 2023, the FOA's monitoring team identified a worrying trend- an increase in Holocaust related content on social media, alongside content that appears to justify the Holocaust. Despite being a sensitive and historically significant topic, this type of content has increased, often violating social media community guidelines. This report includes an overview of key trends observed by the monitoring team (please refer to the relevant chapters for concrete examples):

Calls for Another Holocaust- After the events of October 7th, 2023, there was a surge in social media content calling for another Holocaust. This type of content incites violence against Jews and Israelis and is generally considered a violation of most social media community guidelines. Although much of this content was removed following FOA's reports, its initial presence indicates a dangerous escalation in rhetoric.

Holocaust Inversion and Comparisons of Israel to Nazi Germany- Holocaust inversion involves drawing parallels between Israel's policies towards Palestinians and Nazi policies towards Jews. This misleading comparison portrays Israelis as the new Nazis and Palestinians as the new Jews, blurring the distinction between historical perpetrators and victims. While such content does not always violate social media community guidelines, it distorts historical truths and fuels antisemitism.

Holocaust Denial- Holocaust denial has been a long-standing issue, but there has been a notable surge since October 7th. This content often attempts to delegitimize the Jewish people's historical connection to Israel, with some individuals suggesting that Jews fabricated the Holocaust to justify seizing Palestinian territory. Antisemitic groups leverage the conflict to promote Holocaust denial and call for the destruction of the Jewish state.

Referring to Israeli Airstrikes as "The Gaza Holocaust"- Following Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, several Arab media outlets referred to them as "The Gaza Holocaust." This narrative has fueled further debate about the representation of Holocaust-related events in Arab discourse and led to increased anti-Israel sentiment.

Analysis of Social Media Content- Charts and graphs provided by FOA's monitoring team help visualize trends relating to Holocaust-related content on social media, alongside variations in content removal rates across social networks (with some platforms taking more robust action than others).

The above points summarize the disturbing trends observed by FOA's monitoring team in the Holocaust Remembrance Day Report: The Rise of Holocaust Related Content on Social Networks. Alongside providing an outline of key issues and analysis of relevant content monitored, this report calls for heightened vigilance and more effective content moderation to curb the spread of harmful hateful Holocaust related rhetoric.

Introduction

The October 7th massacre marked one of the deadliest incidents involving Jewish casualties since the Holocaust, with Hamas being responsible for the killings. In the wake of the tragic events surrounding the October 7th massacre, social media platforms have witnessed a concerning surge in content drawing parallels between Israel and Nazi Germany. Such comparisons, often laden with antisemitic undertones, not only but also perpetuate harmful stereotypes and narratives. The use of inflammatory language that trivializes the atrocities of the Holocaust, and imagery to equate the actions of the Israeli government or military with those of the Nazi regime is deeply offensive and undermines efforts to promote understanding and peace in the region. This trend underscores the urgent need for heightened vigilance and proactive measures to counter antisemitism and hate speech on digital platforms.

Holocaust imagery is deliberately exploited to fuel hate speech. Those who harbor animosity towards Jews recognize that evoking the trauma of the Holocaust can intensify the impact of hateful content and incite further hostility towards Jewish people.

This report examines antisemitic content pertaining to the Holocaust collected by the FOA monitoring team between January 23 and April 7, 2024 and highlights the various types of such content, monitored after October 7th.

Examples of Holocaust Denial and Antisemitism on Social Networks

Holocaust Justification

The 2024 Gaza War between Israel and Hamas, also known as 'Iron Swords' and the Israeli incursion into Gaza was deemed a necessary measure for Israel's self-defense and in order to secure the release of Israeli hostages held by Hamas. While the Israeli Defence Forces repeatedly declared that measures were being taken to minimize civilian casualties, the conflict has regrettably resulted in many casualties among Palestinian civilians in the Gaza strip.

As a response to Israel's actions against Hamas in Gaza, FOA's monitoring team has observed an increasing amount of social media content that justifies the holocaust. Such content may be considered a violation of (most) social media community guidelines, under the category 'Glorification of violence' . Unfortunately, due to the platform's inadequate content moderation, much of this content remains available despite being repeatedly reported.

Below are six examples of content identified by FOA's monitoring team, including posts, images, videos, surveys, and relevant hashtags within this category.



Julio Cesar Hernandez Contreras
@apitopapa31



Ahora sí creo q HITLER tenía razón en hacer lo que hizo el HOLOCAUSTO y tratarlos como una plaga humana, este SIONISMO es peor q HITLER

[Translate post](#)



This post was published on X, on November 14th, 2023. The text [Spanish] reads: “Now I do believe that HITLER was right in doing what the HOLOCAUST did and treating them like a human plague, this ZIONISM is worse than HITLER”. Despite being reported, the post that also includes an inciting video, remains available on the platform.

 **Master Shekoo00**
 @DrShekoo2016

You forget something that when u were fired from all around the world palestinian received u so now u return the favor by killing their children stteling their land Now i think holocaust was right u dont deserve less than it



This post was published on X, on March 24th, 2024. Including a short text and four images, one of which portrays the Israeli flag against the acronym 'ISIS'- Islamic State, a jihadist group, the post justified the Holocaust. Despite being reported, the post and the images remain available on the platform.



MHM @MhMhmbh · 3m

...

after I saw what The Israelis did to Palestine . I start thinking maybe Hitler **was** doing the **right** thing .

#Palestine #the_holocaust #IsraelisaGenocidalState
#Israel #IsraelPalestineWar



This post was published on X, on February 24th, 2024 and included a short text, justifying the Holocaust, and two pictures, one appear to portray Jewish prisoners during the Holocaust. Following FOA's reports, the post was removed from X.



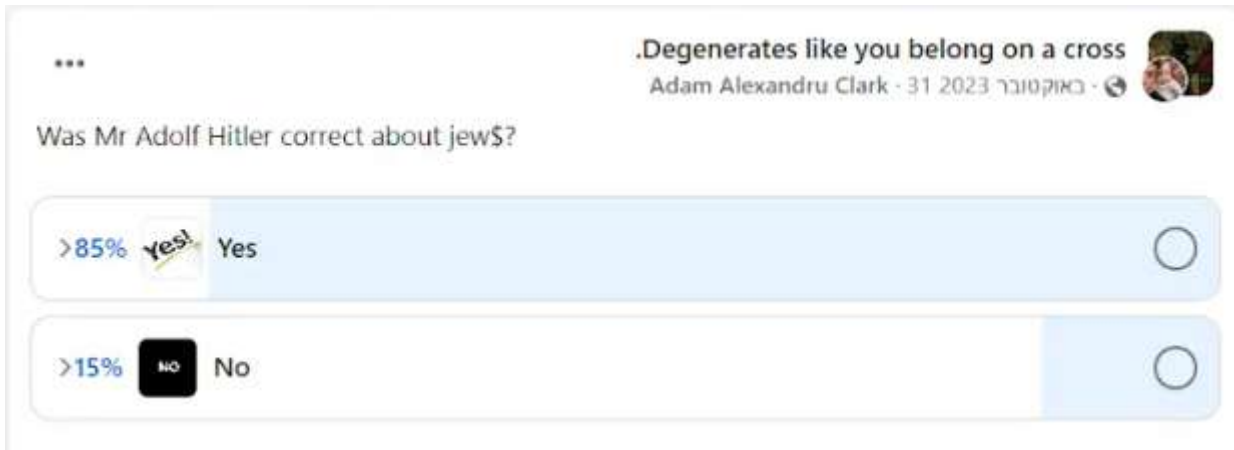
Mohamed Milli

11 January · 🌐

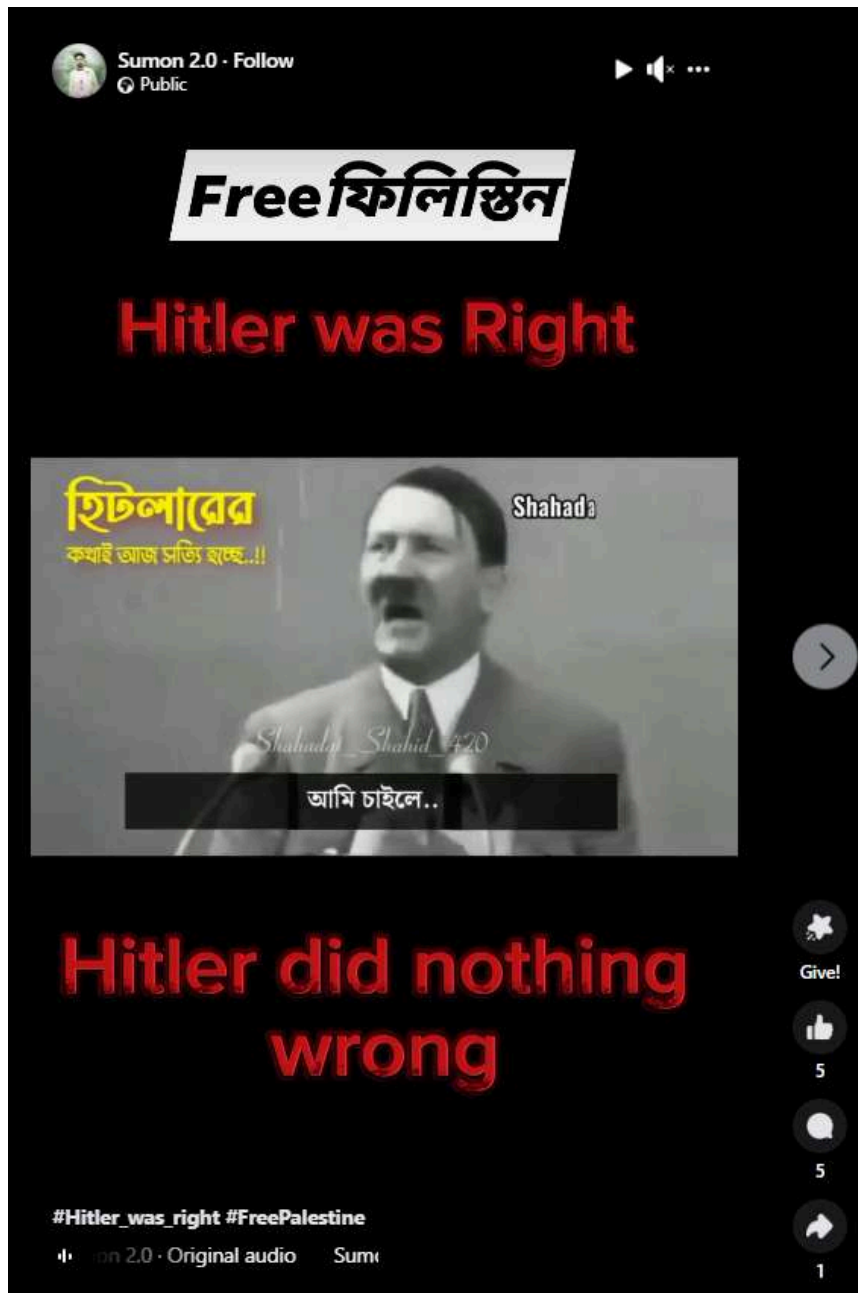


**Les juifs méritent la seule place que
l'histoire leur a donné.
Un four crématoire.**

This post was published on Facebook, on January 11th, 2024. The text [French] reads: “*The Jews deserve the only place that history has given them. A crematorium oven*”. Despite being reported, the post that also includes an inciting video, remains available on the platform.



This is a survey posted on Facebook, on October 31st, 2023, asking users whether Hitler was “correct about Jews”. Following FOA’s reports, the survey was removed from the platform.



This post was published on Facebook, on February 24th, 2024 and included a short video. “Hitler was Right”, a common phrase depicted in many manifestations of antisemitism related to the Holocaust, appears in the video, alongside a relevant hashtag (“hitler was right”). Despite being reported, the post remains available on the platform.

Calling for another Holocaust

Following the events of October 7th, FOA's monitoring team identified a significant increase in hateful content referencing recent events, and advocating for another Holocaust to take place. Such content may be considered a violation of (most) social media community guidelines under the category 'incitement to violence'. Following FOA's report, most of the content identified under this category was removed from the platforms.

What follows are two examples of such content, including posts, images, and a video that were monitored by FOA's team.



This post was published on X, on December 28th, 2023. Including a picture of Hitler and another of Holocaust victims, this post calls for another Holocaust to take place, noting "May Allah gives world another Hitler. Ameen". Following FOA's report, the post was removed from the social network.



This post, published on Instagram on January 24th, 2024 includes a video and a short text noting “*Really We Need New Hitler for some People*”. Following FOA’s report, the post was removed from the social network.

Holocaust Inversion; Comparing Israel to Nazi Germany

Drawing parallels between Israeli policies towards Palestinians and Nazi policies towards Jews is a form of Holocaust inversion. This distortion flips reality, portraying Israelis as the "new" Nazis and Palestinians as the "new" Jews. It also twists morality by suggesting that the Holocaust serves as a moral lesson against Jews. This undermines efforts to combat contemporary antisemitism by blurring the distinction between perpetrators and victims. Some engage in Holocaust inversion to morally discredit Israel, while others use it to deflect from Nazi atrocities or absolve guilt. It is important to emphasize that such content is currently not considered as a violation of the social media community guidelines. This content encompasses comparisons between the Israeli state and Nazi Germany, often used as criticism against Israel's actions in Gaza. It involves likening IDF soldiers to Nazi soldiers, equating Jewish leaders with Nazis, and drawing parallels between Zionism and Nazism or Zionists and Nazis.

Below are seven examples of content identified by FOA's monitoring team within this category.



Noa Gresiva ✓
@NoaGresiva



Israel es la nueva Alemania nazi 2.0. Ya no hay ninguna duda.

[Translate post](#)



This post was published on X on April 2nd, 2024. From Spanish: “Israel is the new Nazi Germany 2.0. There is no longer any doubt”. Despite being reported, the popular post (with over 4,000 views) remains available on the platform.



Sherif Osman
@SherifOsmanClub



Israel is a Jewish Nazi state.
IDF is formed by 3 Jewish terrorist organizations.



This post was published on Facebook X on April 8, 2024. Despite being reported, the popular post (with over 7,500 views) remains available on the platform.



This post was published on Instagram, on November 10th, 2023. The post openly compares the actions of Hitler, the leader of Nazi Germany during the Holocaust, and the actions of Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister during the Israeli-Hamas war. Despite being reported, the post remains available on the platform.



Ismail Sirri TEKIN
@ismailtekin34



These genocidaires are Hitler's representatives in 2024.

#Gazaagencide
#GazaHoloucast
#gaza
#GazzedekatlialmVar



12:24 PM · Mar 10, 2024 from Samsun, Türkiye · 345 Views



This post was published in X on March 10th, 2024 by a Turkish user. The post portrays western leaders (American President Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, French President Macron and others) as Hitler-like/Nazis. Despite being reported, the post remains available on the platform.



NæsGæs

@NsGs34522754



Zionazis! Your actions are straight from the Nazi play book.



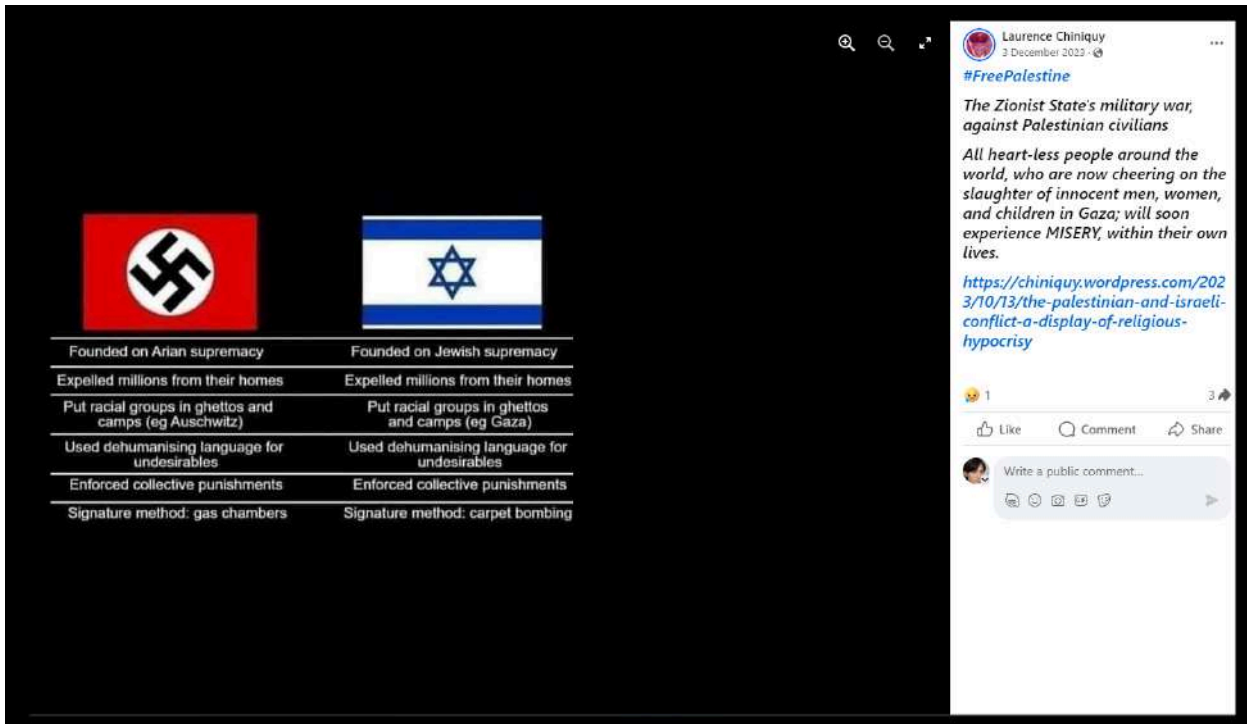
Ghada Oueiss غادة عويس @ghadaoueiss · Dec 7, 2023

1: Nazi Germany

2: Gaza Today



This post was published on X on December 7th, 2023. The post compares the actions of the “Zionists” (Jewish Israelis) during the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, to those of Nazi Germany during the Holocaust. Despite being reported, the post remains available on the platform.



This post was published on Facebook, on December 3rd, 2023. The post includes a table, comparing Israel to Nazi Germany. Despite being reported, the post remains available on the platform.



This post was published on X on December 10th, 2023. Despite being reported, the post remains available on the platform.

Holocaust Denial

Holocaust denial is a form of antisemitism that involves denying, downplaying, or distorting the historical reality and scale of the Holocaust, a systematic genocide of Jews perpetrated by Nazi Germany during World War II.

Holocaust denial on social media is a concerning and persistent problem, reflecting a broader trend of misinformation, hate speech, and antisemitism in digital spaces. This form of denial seeks to negate, minimize, or distort the historical facts of the Holocaust, one of the most well-documented genocides in history.

While Holocaust denial has been an ongoing issue on social media, since the events of October 7th there has been a notable surge in this type of content. This increase is often fueled by efforts to delegitimize the Jewish people's historical connection to the land of Israel. Some individuals claim that Jews fabricated the Holocaust as a pretext for seizing Palestinian territory. Antisemitic groups exploit the events of October 7th, 2023 and the conflict in Gaza to propagate Holocaust denial and advocate for the elimination of the Jewish state. They justify slogans like "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" as part of this agenda, alongside relevant hashtags, such as #HolocaustIsALie .

Here is a concrete example:



Haj.Seyed.Morteza
@haj_s_morteza



The false holocaust novel is the root of lies, this unreal novel was created only and only to occupy the Palestinian land.

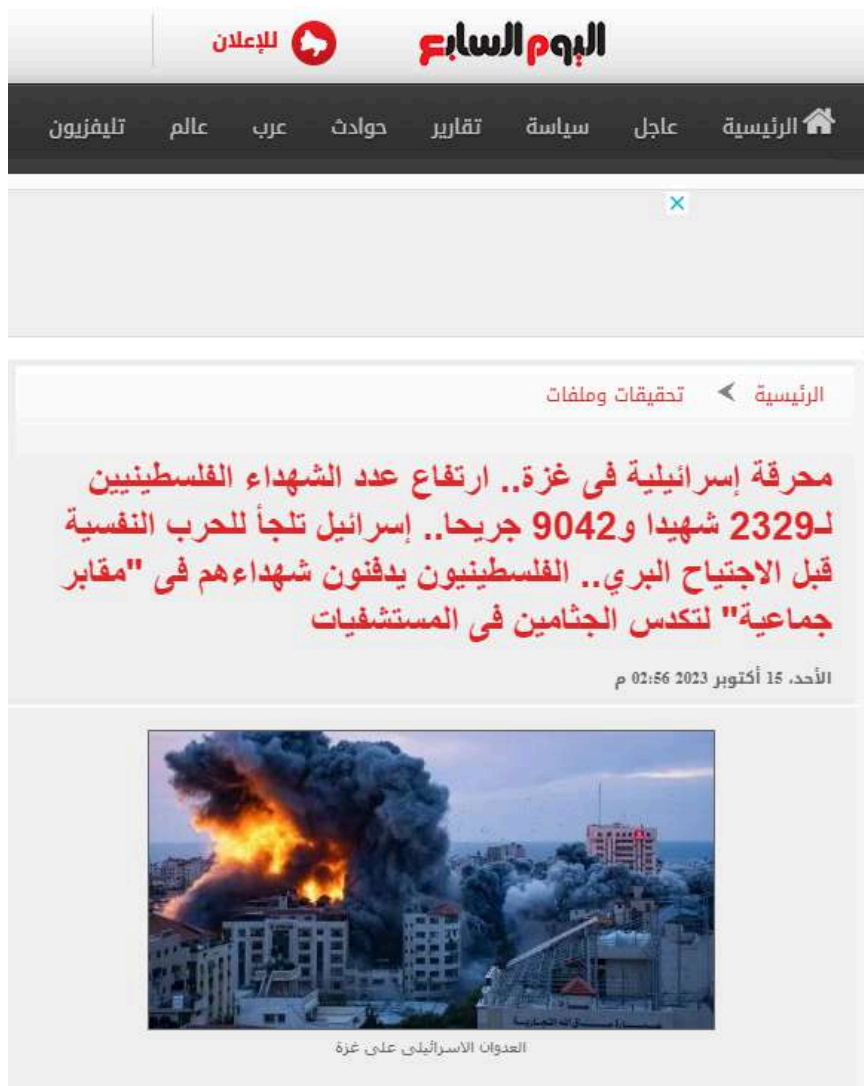
[#HolocaustIsALie](#)

8:21 PM · Feb 13, 2023 · 33 Views

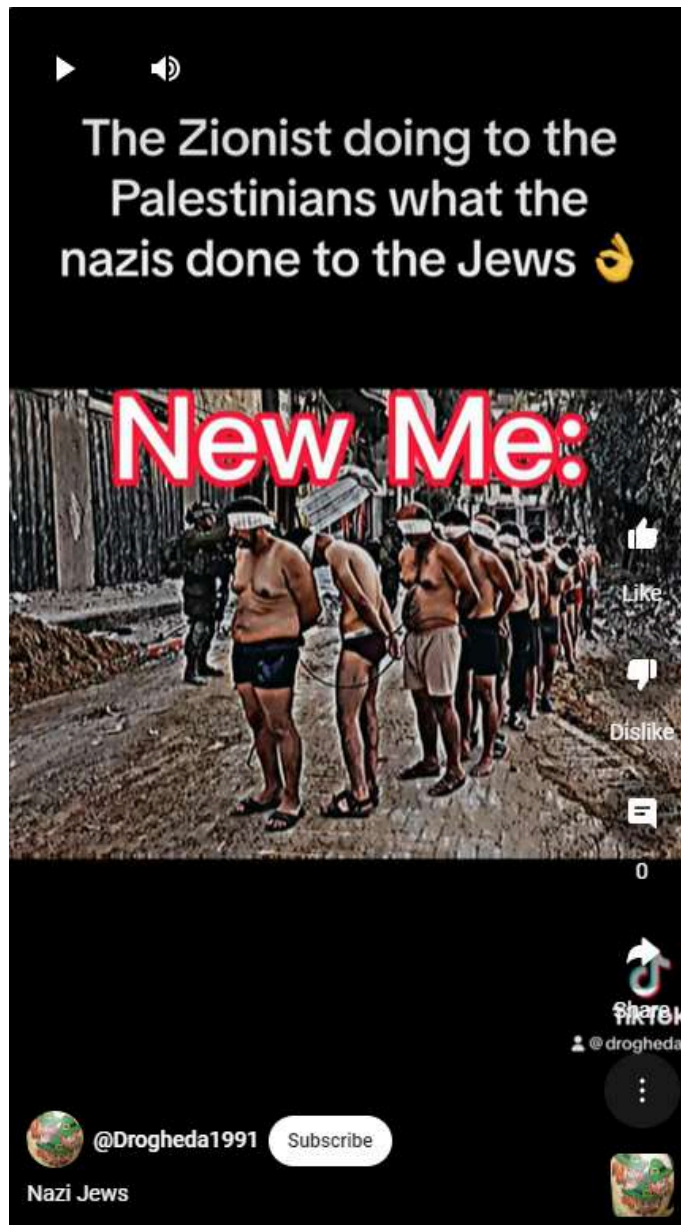
This post was published on X on February 13th, 2023. Despite being reported, the post remains available on the platform.

The “Gaza Holocaust”

In the aftermath of the Hamas terror attack, media outlets across the Arab world have been likening the Israeli airstrikes on Gaza to the Holocaust. This has sparked a renewed examination of how Holocaust narratives are presented in Arab discourse. For instance, on October 15, the Egyptian newspaper al-Youm a-Sabi, which is affiliated with the regime, described the conflict in Gaza as "the Gaza Holocaust," echoing a sentiment prevalent in media circles. For the original article, see <https://rb.gy/hkmukj>.



The article from the Egyptian newspaper al-Youm a-Sabi, published on October 15th, 2023, focusing on palestinian casualties in Gaza starts with the sentence “An Israeli Holocaust in Gaza”.



This video was published on YouTube in February, 2024. Despite being reported, the video remains available on the platform.



M mondoweiss • Follow ...

M mondoweiss Michelle Weinroth writes, "The horror of the past has returned in a new guise, & the comparison of the Jewish ghetto under Nazism with the Gaza ghetto under Israel's current fascistic authority must cease to be sacrilegious."

<https://bit.ly/48yJ6Pv>

Cartoon by Carlos Latuff

#Palestine #Gaza #CeasefireNOW
#OperationAlAqsaFlood
#AlAqsaFlood #Israel #occupation
#apartheid #colonization
#settlements #WestBank #GazaStrip
#IDF #IsraelDefenseForce #MiddleEast
#HumanRights #InternationalLaw
#Antisemitism #Israel

♡ 🔍 📌

4,049 likes
February 15

Log in to like or comment.

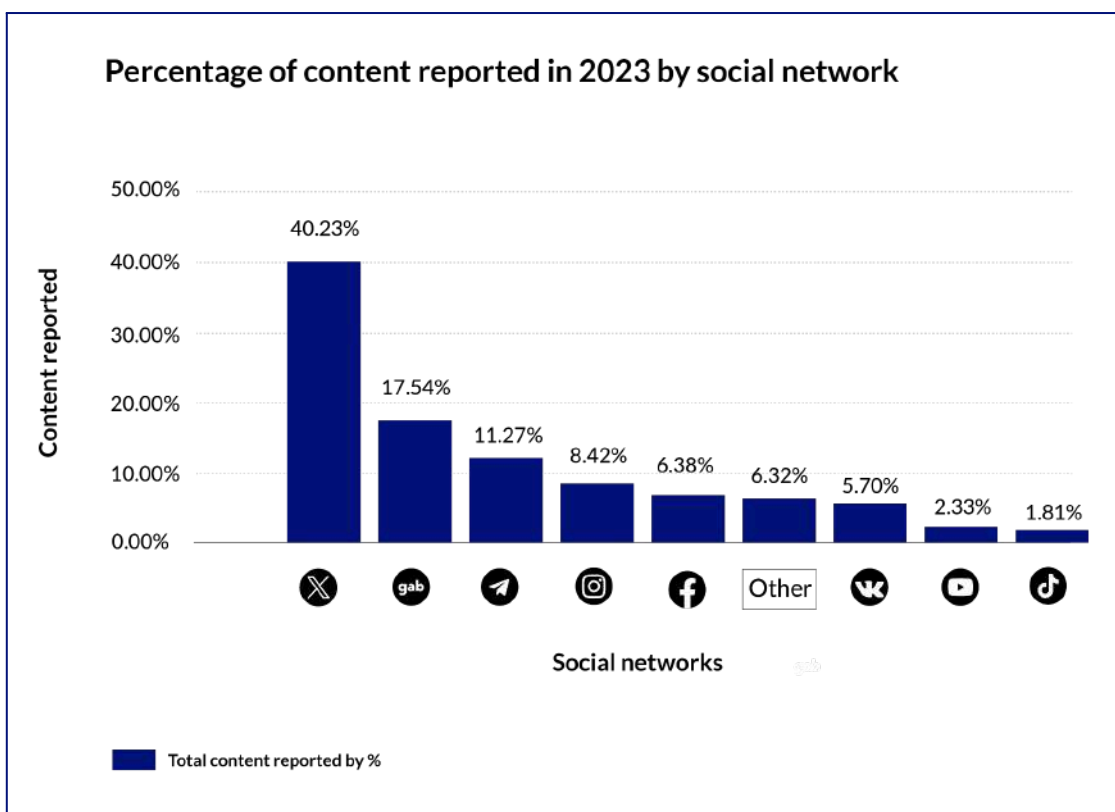
This post was published on Instagram in February 2024. Despite being reported, the post remains available on the platform.

Analysis of Holocaust Related Content

The charts and graphs featured below are based on Holocaust related content that was monitored by FOA’s monitoring team and volunteers, from January 2023 until early May, 2024 on eight popular social media platforms, including YouTube, X, Facebook, TikTok and Instagram. This helps visualize trends relating to Holocaust-related content on social media, alongside variations in content removal rates across social networks (with some platforms taking more robust action than others).

Content Reported Across Social Networks

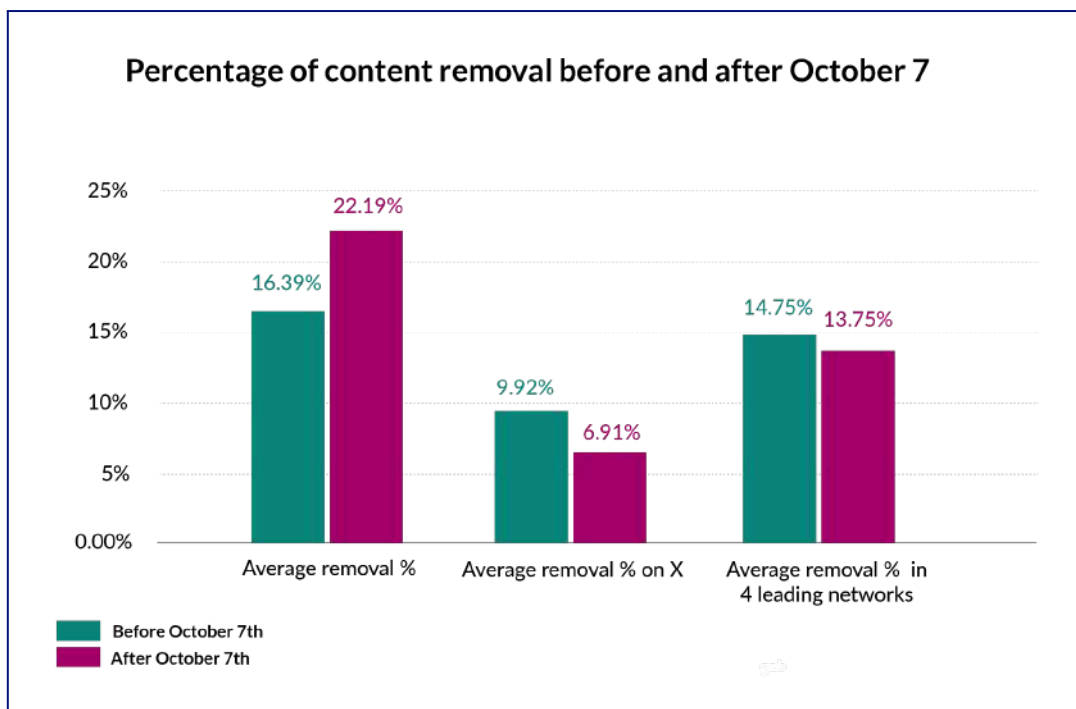
This bar chart mirrors the percentage of Holocaust-related content found on various social media platforms. The vast majority of the content monitored and reported by FOA (just under 40%) was found on X (formerly Twitter), with Gab being a somewhat distant second (17.54%). The least amount of relevant content (1.8%) was monitored and reported on TikTok.



*The “Other” category includes LinkedIn, LiveJournal, GETTR, Reddit, Pinterest, Dzen, GOYIMTV, and BitChute.

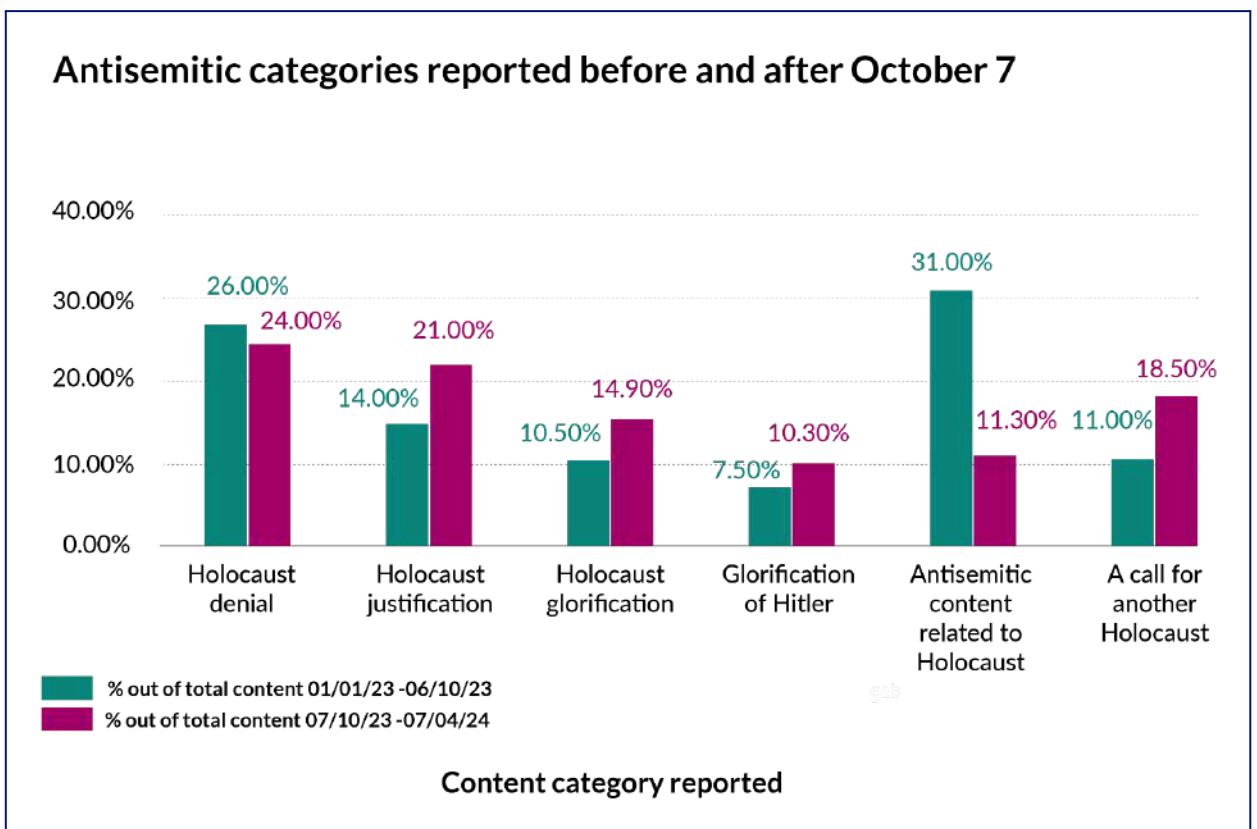
Content Removal Rate Before and After October 7th, 2023

When comparing the average removal rates of relevant content across platforms before and after the start of the Israel-Hamas war, intriguing findings emerge. While the average removal rate of antisemitic and Holocaust-related content across social networks increased by nearly 6% after October 7th, when examining the content found on the four leading social networks only (Facebook, X, Instagram and TikTok), the average removal rate remained almost unchanged, with a rate of 14.75% before October 7th, and 13.75% after.



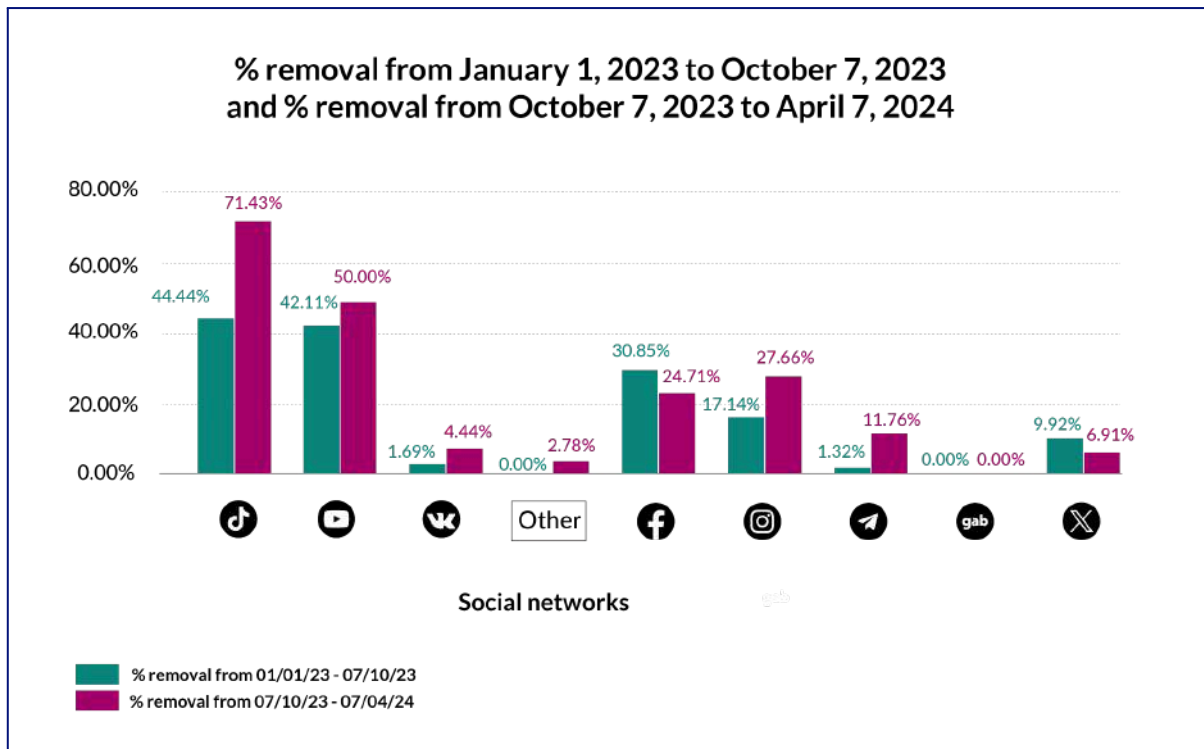
Categorization of the Reported Content - Before and After October 7th

When comparing different categories of antisemitic content found before and after the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war, the leading category before October 7th was antisemitic content linked to the Holocaust (31% of the total content). However, after October 7th, Holocaust denial became the most prevalent category (24% of the content) with Holocaust justification as a close second (21%). Additionally, post-October 7th, there was a notable increase in content that justified the Holocaust, glorified it, celebrated Hitler, and advocated for another Holocaust.



Removal Rate of Holocaust Related Content Before and After October 7th

Both before and after October 7th, the highest removal rate across social platforms was TikTok (>44%) with YouTube being a close second (>42%). While Tiktok’s content removal rate has significantly increased since the start of the war (44%=>71%), YouTube’s removal rate’s increase was more modest (42% => 50%). A small increase was also evident regarding the content removed by Instagram, VK and ‘other’ platforms as seen in the graph. A decrease in removal rate after the war was noted on Facebook (30%=> 24%) and X (10%=> 7%).



*The “Other” category includes LinkedIn, LiveJournal, GETTR, Reddit, Pinterest, Dzen, GOYIMTV, and BitChute.