Fighting Online Antisemitism

Manifestations of Holocaust Denial on Social Media

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Introduction

'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.

We believe that promoting cooperation between Governmental organisations, national and international Non-Governmental Organisations, civic society, and social media platforms is a key component of our activity. Such collaboration is necessary to remove hatred in general, and antisemitism in particular.
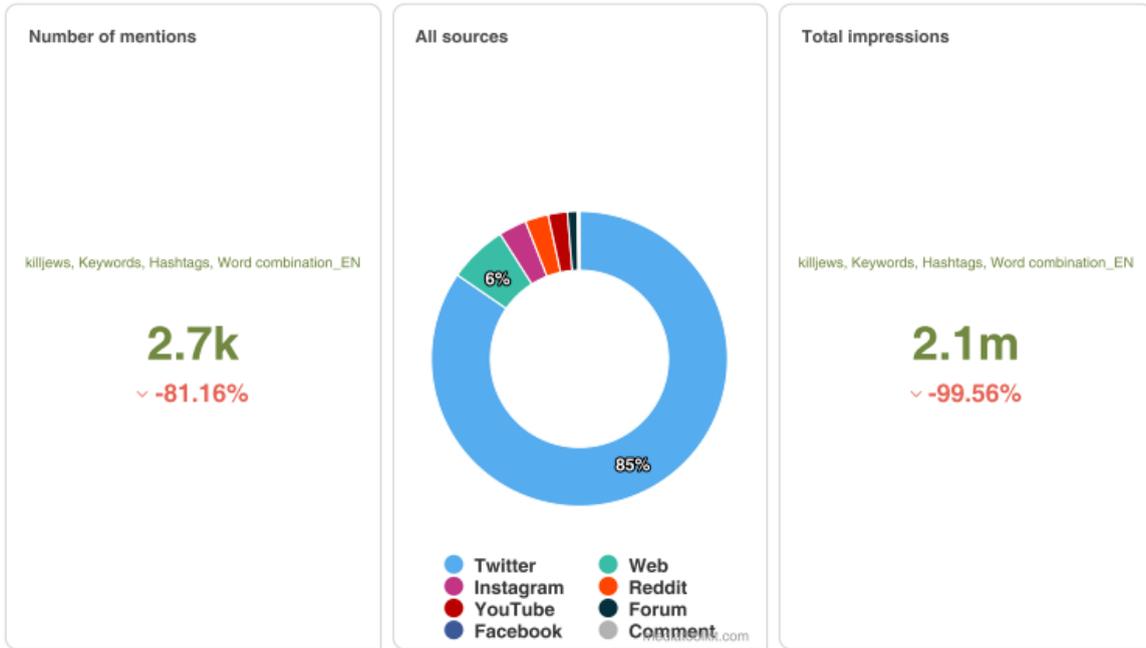
This report reviews FOA's activities pertaining to Holocaust denial on social media in the last year, and presents its most prominent manifestations on Instagram, Twitter, Tiktok, YouTube, Facebook, VK and Telegram. Content presented in the report was monitored manually by FOA's volunteers in Israel and around the world. All monitored content was sent to the social network twice: once, by the volunteers who found it (as per usual), and a second time, by FOA.

Warning: The following includes disturbing content.

Antisemitic Hashtags on Social Media

Over the past three months leading up to the publication of this report, FOA has monitored relevant hashtags and keywords. These were found to have been mentioned over **two million** times on various social networks, mainly on Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. Most of the content originated in the United States, followed by the United Kingdom and Israel. The most popular language of relevant content was English, followed by Spanish and Indonesian.

Locations		
mediatoolkit.com © Natural Earth		

Top locations	
United States	1.8k
United Kingdom	149
Israel	74
Yemen	55
Germany	37
India	37
Morocco	36
Netherlands	36
Italy	31
Mexico	31

Top languages	
English	2.5k
Spanish; Castilian	59
Indonesian	29
Dutch	29
German	18
Italian	15
Estonian	14
Portuguese	13
Norwegian	12
Danish	10

Number of mentions	All sources	Total impressions
killjews, Keywords, Hashtags, Word combination_EN		killjews, Keywords, Hashtags, Word combination_EN
2.7k ⌄ -81.16%		**2.1m** ⌄ -99.56%

All sources chart: 85% Twitter, 6% Web

Legend:
- Twitter
- Instagram
- YouTube
- Facebook
- Web
- Reddit
- Forum
- Comment

The following figure describes the distribution of hashtags by keywords according to their exposure on social networks:
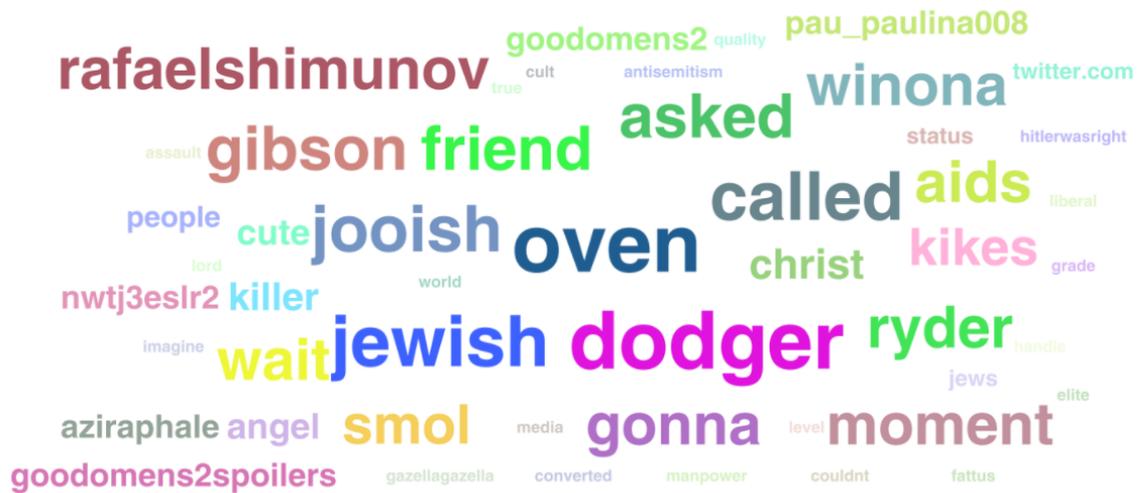
Social Networks' Policy & Removal of Relevant Content

In October 2020, several leading social networks, including Twitter, Tiktok, and Meta (Facebook and Instagram), decided to change their policy regarding Holocaust denial and ban the distribution of such content on their platforms. According to various publications, one of the reasons for the critical policy change was "*the well-documented rise in antisemitism around the world and the alarming level of ignorance regarding the Holocaust, especially among young people*."

At the same time, we found that the policies of the various networks regarding the removal of content that denies the Holocaust is inconsistent: While some of the content FOA reported to the networks was removed, content of similar nature is still available on the platforms. Our examination shows that the various networks provide almost no content related to Holocaust denial. The little enforcement is also presented in various reports, including a comprehensive report published by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in December 2021. More information about the policy and other popular antisemitic hashtags can be read here (HE) and here.

In the past year, we have manually monitored in various languages on various social networks, more than 500 contents showing expressions of Holocaust denial. We reported this content, but only about 2% of it was removed. In contrast, the annual removal percentage for 2021 in all networks was about 25% (average), which is unsatisfactory but is undoubtedly more significant than the data shown in the graph below. It should be noted that the most blatant and shocking content was found on Twitter. In contrast, on Tiktok, most of the content dealt with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and spread fake news theories related to it.

The following graph describes the amount of content monitored and the percentage of its removal across social media networks.

Anti-Semitic Content On Social Media

Total (533) / Online(97.94%) / Removed(2.06%) Content - Year 2021
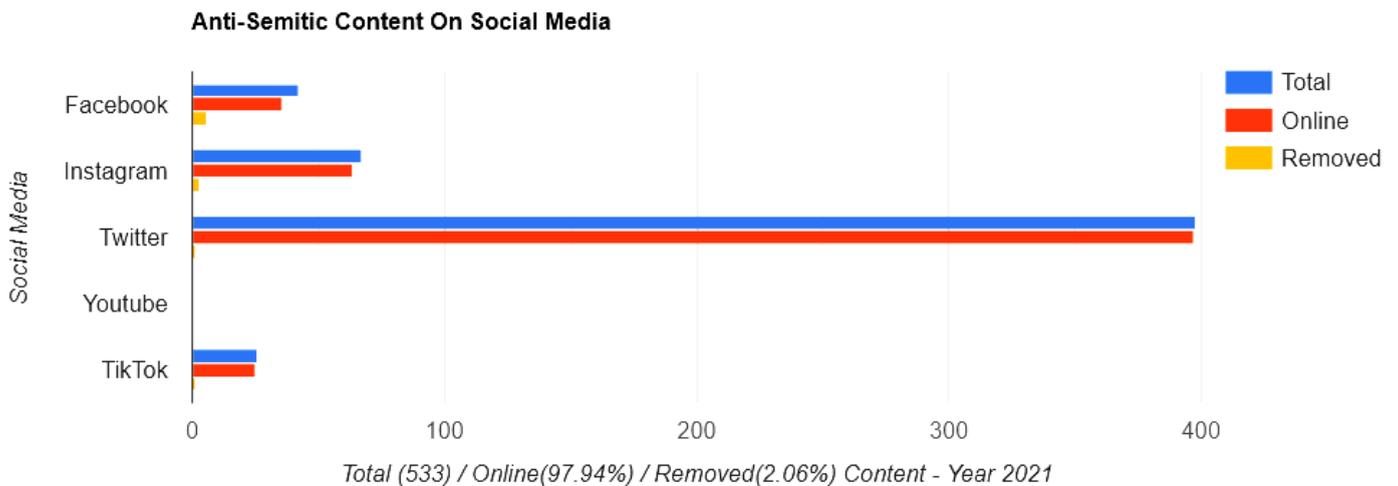
Manifestations of Holocaust Denial on Social Media

Content that includes Holocaust denial, distortion, contempt, and various forms are published online and receives broad exposure. Individuals or groups distribute this content with a neo-Nazi ideology, white racial supremacy, and pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel views and beliefs combined. Monitoring thousands of content in the last two years in the field of Holocaust denial and antisemitism, in particular, helps us divide the various content into different categories, each of which has diverse expressions on different social networks and languages.

   We chose to focus on four categories of Holocaust relating content: Holocaust denial, Holocaust justification, a comparison between the Nazi regime and the Israeli regime, and Holocaust Trivialization.

Holocaust Denial

The argument expressed in many post is that the Holocaust was a lie, invented by Jews, mainly in order to gain empathy from the rest of the world to, and an independent Israeli state. In this category, we also identified content arguing that the Holocaust did took place, but on a much smaller scale. According to this narrative, Jewish elements of influence, and wealth "inflated" what took place and rewrote history.

Popular hashtags in this category are 'Holofau'x, 'HoloFraud', 'Holohoax', and '6MiLiars'.

Вся нацистская верхушка еврея Гитлера состояла из евреев, о ЛОХОКОСТЕ И РЕЧИ НЕ МОЖЕТ БЫТЬ! 😂😂😂
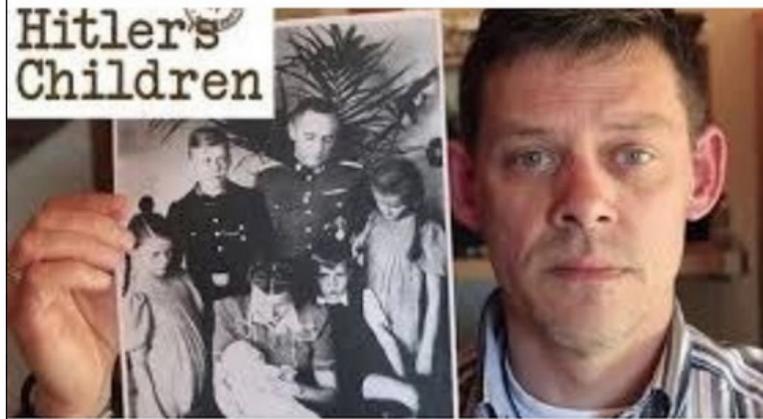
ШАХАР - Израиль у тебя на странице
19 Apr 2017 at 20:00

ПОТОМКИ НАЦИСТОВ В ИЗРАИЛЕ.
НЕИСПОВЕДИМЫ ПУТИ ГОСПОДНИ

Удивительны повороты истории. Потомки людей, сжигавших евреев в газовых камерах, обращаются в иудаизм. Одним из таких новообращенных стал правнук Адольфа Гитлера,который живет в
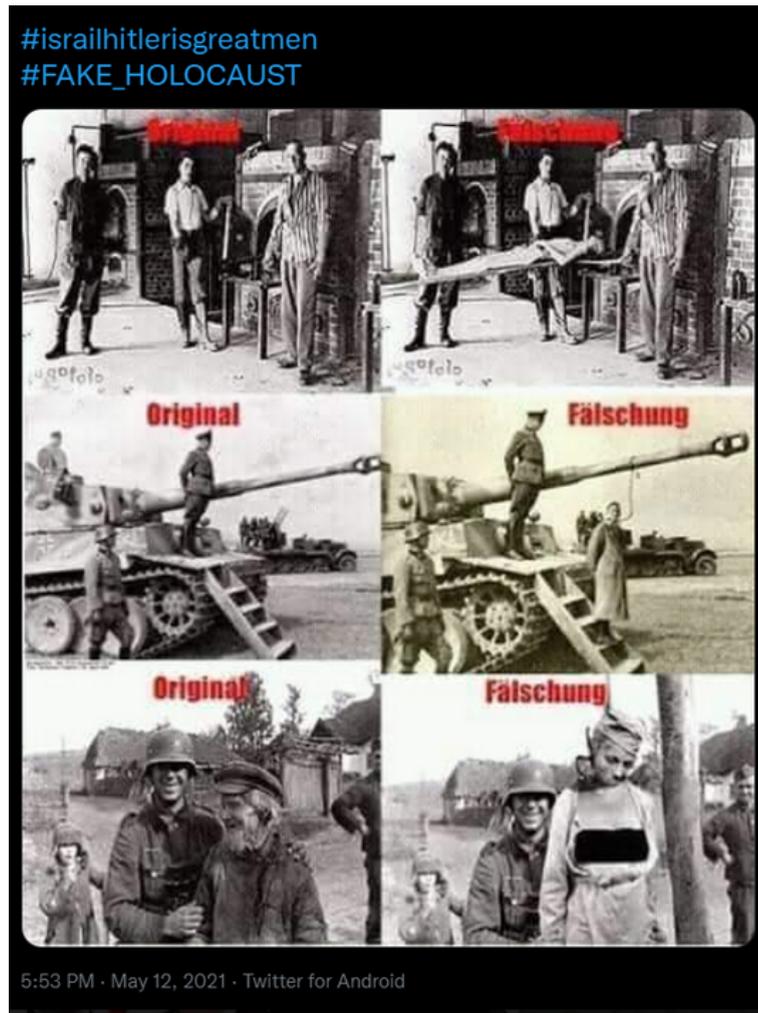
Show more...

Translation [Russian]: "Hitler and his government were all Jews, and therefore the Holocaust could not have happened" (VKontakte, Apr. 17 2017)

(Twitter, Apr. 21 2021)

[Russian]: A song expressing doubt about the Holocaust (VKontakte 24 Feb. 2018)

(Twitter May, 12, 2021)

FOA also found similar content of a 'humorous nature', including a comparison between Jews and soaps, lamps, a comparison between Jews and pizzas or bread burned in the oven, and a comparison between crematoriums in extermination camps and bakeries. Popular phrases and hashtags that accompanied such content were "Oven-Dodger" a nickname for Holocaust survivor (literal translation from English- a man who escaped the ovens), and "Pon Jabon" (literal translation from Spanish- put soap) to denote Jews who were murdered in the camps.
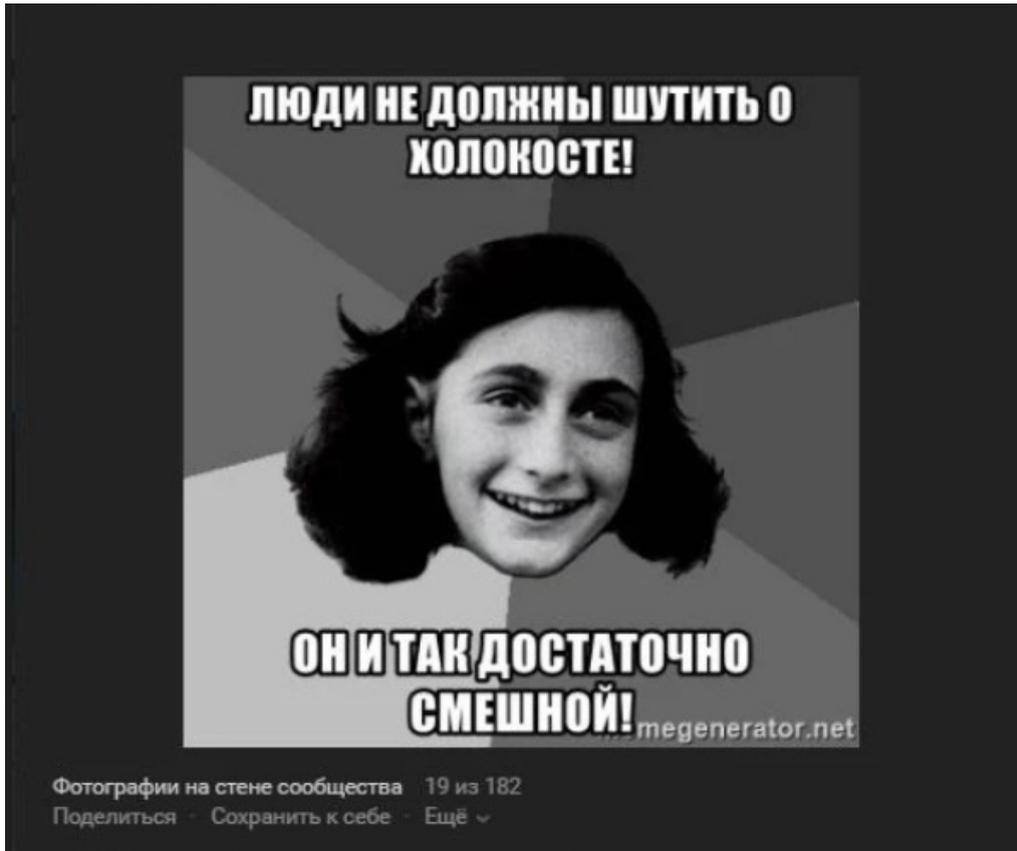
No jews were harmed
in the making of this pizza

(VKontakte,Dec. 11 2020)

What's the difference between a jew and a pizza? The
pizza doesn't scream when it goes in the oven.
#killjews #HitlerWasRight #Gaza

12:12 AM · Jul 15, 2014 · Twitter for BlackBerry®

(Twitter Jul. 15 2014)

Translation [Russian]: There is no need to tell jokes about the Holocaust. It's funny anyway (VKontakte, Mar. 24 2019).
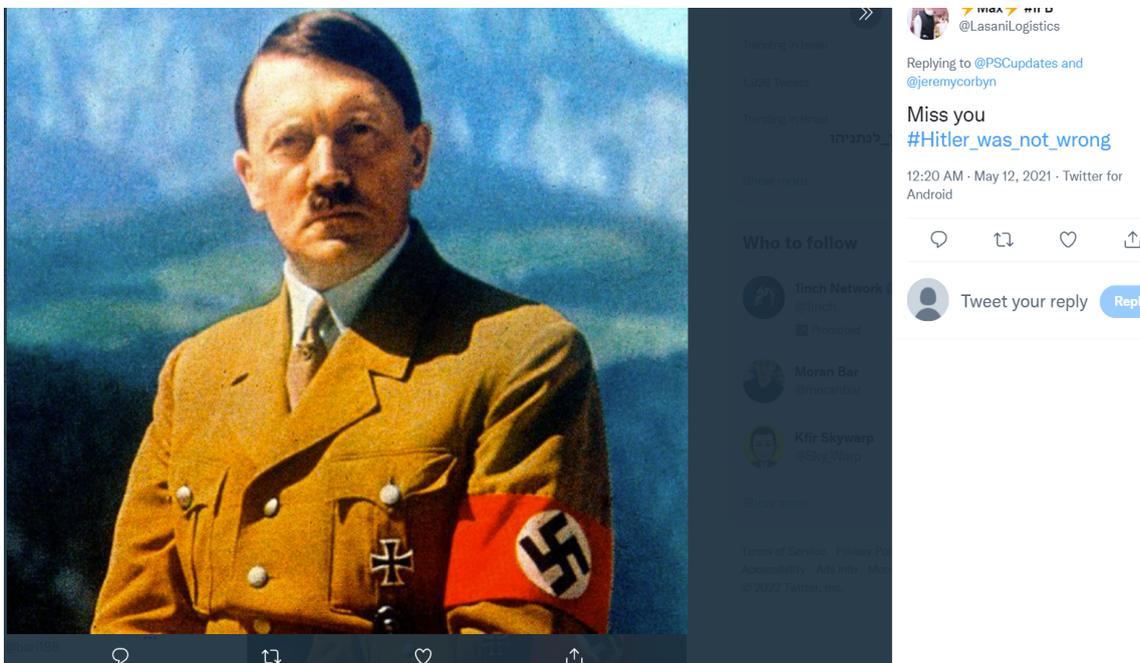

(VKontakte, Jan. 01, 2022)
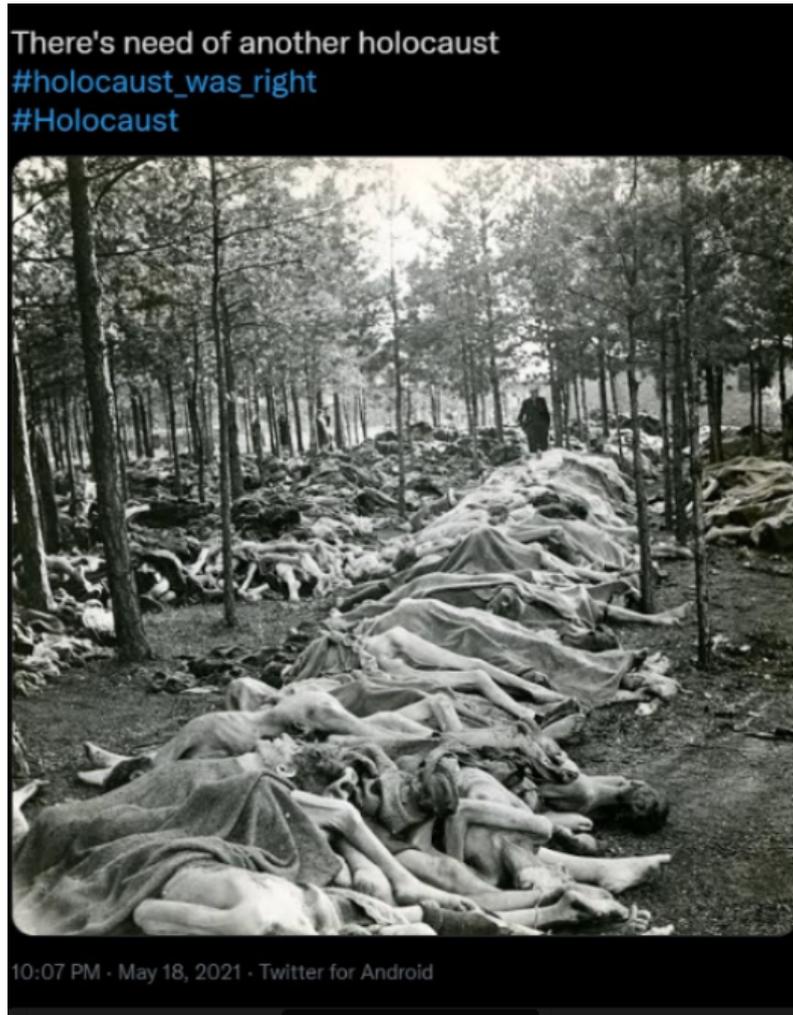
Holocaust Justification

These contents often express support for the Nazi regime and Adolf Hitler and praise their actions. This is on the antisemitic claim that Jews are parasites and the source of all evil in the world. Popular hashtags: Hitler_was_not_wrong, Hitler_was_right hitlerdidgood, hitlerdidnothingwrong, hitlerwasright, holocaust_was_right.

Similar content included admiration for Hitler and Nazism and their actions. There are posts in which they do not directly praise the Holocaust or harm Jews but praise the actions of the Nazis and admire Hitler. Popular hashtags: RespectHitler, hailhitler, hitlerthegreat, ifiwereanazi.

Also, in this category, we identified contents that claimed that another Holocaust was needed to reduce the number of Jews in the world or to finish the work that Hitler had begun. Popular hashtags: Hostthejews, deathtoallkikes.

(Twitter, May 12,2021)

There's need of another holocaust
#holocaust_was_right
#Holocaust

10:07 PM · May 18, 2021 · Twitter for Android

(Twitter, May 18 2021)

Sir Adolf Hitler, a great man of 20th century. Now world needs another Hitler to start an actual #Holocaust so they can forget the previous fake #Holocaust.

#Holocaust
#Freedomofspeach
#burnjews

8:39 PM · Feb 8, 2020 · Twitter for Android

(Twitter, Feb 08, 2020)

#Holocaust
#FreedomOfSpeech
 #IloveHitler

(Twitter, Aug 27, 2018)

Replying to @BemusedBunny and @Dan_GT2

You would have just loved living under Hitler. The way they kept all those dirty jews in ghettos. Just too bad they didn't finish the job with the gas chambers huh?

2:42 PM · Jan 16, 2022 · Twitter for Android

(Twitter, Jan 16 2022)

Comparing the Nazi regime and the Israeli Government

Content claimed that the State of Israel was carrying out the extermination of the Palestinian people in the name of the Zionist entity / Zionist movement and is acting precisely as the Nazis and their aides did during World War II. Such content compared the State of Israel in all its aspects (Israeli government, Israeli politicians, the Israeli government, etc.) and the Nazi regime in its aspects and compared the Israel Defense Forces and the army of the Nazi regime.

Popular hashtags: 'ZioNazi', 'IsraelNazi', 'nazisrael', and 'nazizionism'.
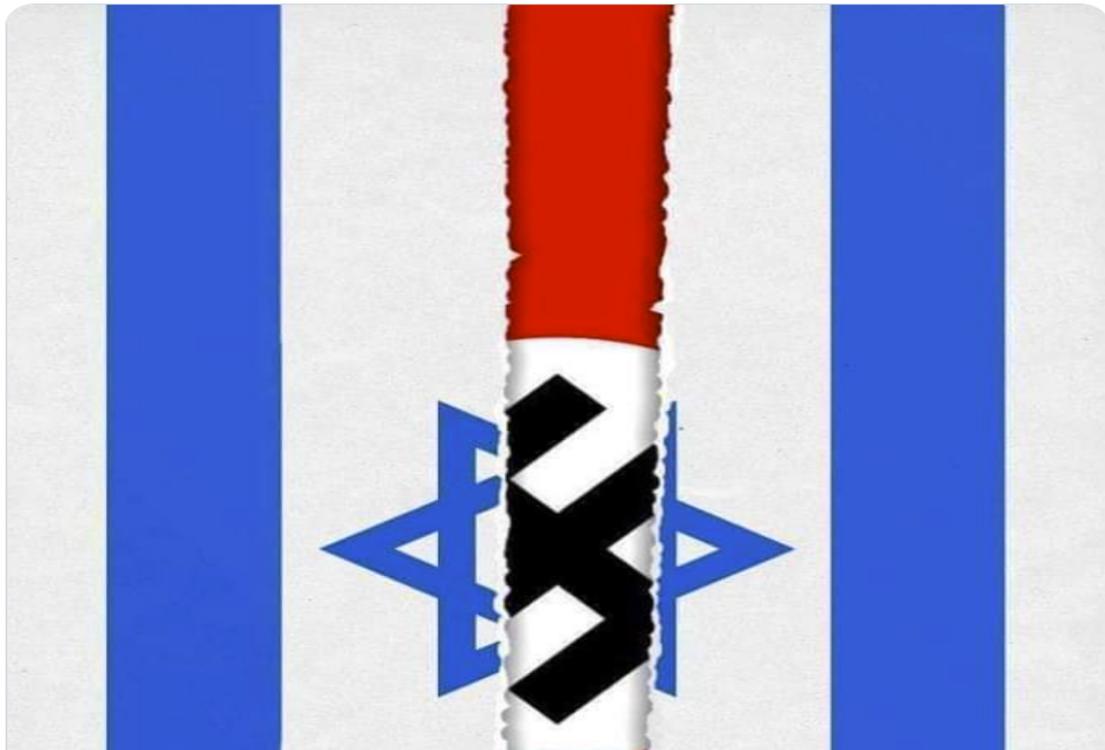
(Instagram, May 23 2021)

(Twitter May 16, 2021)

Such content also included a comparison of the Nazi oppressor to famous Jews, including former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Such content mostly included pictures of the two figures displayed side by side with external features characteristic of Hitler, such as the moustache, or the swastika, affixed to the Israelis.

(Twitter,Jan 28 2021)

(Facebook Nov. 29, 2021)

Holocaust Trivialization

Though not a new phenomenon, manifestations of Holocaust trivialization greatly increased in past years, mostly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Unlike material that can be classified according to the aforementioned categories, content pertaining to Holocuast Trivialization was found to be quite popular within the Israeli public. More information concerning Holocaust trivialization can be found in 'The CAM Guide to Identifying Holocaust Trivialization' published by the Combat Antisemitism Movement.

(Twitter, Dec 16, 2020)