

Strong increase of antisemitism on the Internet due to Gaza conflict

More antisemitism on the Internet than during the 17 years MDI is in operation.

Given the current critical situation with regard to antisemitism in the Netherlands (and Europe), calls for violence against Jews and expressions such as "Jews must die", the Dutch Complaints Bureau Discrimination on the Internet (MDI) thinks it is important to publish a short overview about the current situation on the Internet.

Complaints

On average the MDI receives 4 to 5 complaints per week about online antisemitism. During the past 2 weeks only, the MDI got 122 complaints about 412 expressions of antisemitism, all related to the Israel-Gaza conflict.

What's out there?

Apart from incoming complaints the MDI sees a huge explosion of antisemitism on the Internet of thousands of expressions per day, mainly in the social media (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) and notes a clear shift from antisemitism under the guise of anti-Zionism to overt antisemitism. The tone is extremely aggressive and distasteful, and everything seems to go; Jews are equated with Nazis, Jews are accused of genocide and support of "the monstrous SS-state in the Middle East," all Jews in the world are held accountable for what is happening in Gaza, the Jews have the power, the Jews have the power over all media in the Netherlands, the Netherlands are actually Jew-controlled...the list is long. It is notable that "Jew" and "Israeli" are not only used interchangeably, but are by now synonymous with each other. On both Facebook and Twitter, wishing Jews dead in a great variety of ways is currently one of the most popular expressions.

Facebook

The Facebook page '*The Jews have to die like if you are against the Jews free palestine*' got hundreds of likes' and was not initially seen by Facebook as violating its rules. After pressure from the MDI and others it was finally removed.

The number of Dutch-language antisemitic Facebook pages runs in the hundreds, the number of antisemitic expressions has become innumerable. Regular use of fake accounts to spread hate has also become a tactic. These accounts are removed fairly quickly, but new fake accounts are easy to create.

Examples of Facebook expressions (translated from Dutch)

'Tfoe, fuck the Jews, Jews must die'

'Not only Palestine, the whole world is occupied and should get rid of those nasty Zionists'

'Here is a picture of Jews drinking the blood of our brothers and sisters'

'The only real Holocaust is now in Gaza'

'Allah sees everything, Jews! You're dead!!'

'Jews have deliberately created websites against the Quran and Hadith! Beware!'

'Hitler come back and slaughter all those fucking shit Jews'

'Respect Hitler. Wallaha Hitler is boss. Yeaahhhh was Hitler here, all jews would be dead he really should come back. HEIL HITLER'

Twitter

On Twitter, the hashtag #hitlerwasright was used more than 10,000 times and became a so-called trending topic fast. The hashtag #hitlerdidnothingwrong was used nearly 3700 times. Both hashtags were used in connection with discussions on Gaza.

Examples of expressions Twitter (translated from Dutch)

'Did Jews not learn from history'

'I hope that once in my life I'm going to kill some Jews Fucking shit Jews #Free Palestine'

'All those fucking Jews can die, and I prefer to kill them #FREE PALESTINE'

'Now we know why Hitler gave the jews a shower #FREE PALESTINE we need a new Hitler 卐 '

'#Free Palestine fuck the Jews! Destroy the #Jews!'

'Fucking shit all the Jews dead #Free Palestine @Ismo_Music'

'Hitler sure was a master man, in a few years so many Jews dead, goddamn I love him'

'Hamas, Hamas, all Jews to the gas! #Free Palestine'

'Hoh see Muslims praise Jews because they shout #free palestine, they remain a Jew, mind you?? * facepalm *'

'Wake up people fucking shit Jews are destroying my brothers and sisters #Free Palestine Fucking shit Jews'

'Kill those dirty Jews Hitler has done nothing wrong'

'@Berkeniaa: Adolf Hitler: "You will one day call me names because I have not slain all the Jews" #FREE PALESTINE '

'@Kevitatjuuh_x: @_goldmocro_ Hitler must come back again to kill those jews #Free Palestine'

Where does it originate?

Sadly, the lion's share of the current online antisemitism (40 to 50%) is coming from the Dutch Muslim community. Mainly from Moroccans, but also the 'contribution' from the Turkish community is growing. A smaller share of 37% is coming from the Dutch left-wing and the last part of almost 13%, the more "traditional" antisemitism, comes from the far right.

General observations

Presently, the MDI notes more antisemitism on the Internet than during all the previous 17 years of its existence. In online discussions, Dutch Jews who do not distance themselves (or not enough) from Israel are immediately held responsible for murder and genocide. Only Jews who are anti-Israel are "good Jews." These "good Jews" live outside of Israel and don't support Israel. 'Bad Jews' are 'Zionists' and should (therefore) be killed.

Expressions that were recently carried on banners and signs during pro-Gaza demonstrations were already to be seen on the Internet from the beginning of the conflict in Gaza on. Regardless of 'generic antisemitism', also well-known Dutch Jews are insulted, threatened and demonized.

It is interesting to note that while the Jews in the Netherlands are held responsible for what is happening in Gaza, Chinese in the Netherlands are never addressed on the occupation of Tibet and neither are Dutch Syrians on the atrocities of the Assad regime.

It is very worrying that the boosting role the Internet plays in the spread of anti-Semitism is exacerbated by the silence on the part of politicians and authorities. The Hague Mayor Jozias Van Aartsen does not speak out since he believes that calls to kill Jews during a recent demonstration in his City do not exceed any boundaries.

The general atmosphere is that one does not need to act or speak out against calls (both during demonstrations and on the Internet) to kill Jews. This gives a license for even more antisemitism and incitement to violence, which in the neighboring countries, with France being the most glaring example, has already led to pogrom-like situations, while in the Netherlands, already the number of threats, antisemitic graffiti and other incidents are increasing.

Magenta Foundation, Complaints Bureau for Discrimination on the Internet, July 29, 2014