

Countering Hate in the Digital Age: Analyzing Far-Right Extremist Responses to the Israel-Hamas War

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SPECIAL REPORT

Countering Hate in the Digital Age: Analyzing Far-Right Extremist Responses to the Israel-Hamas War

**Dr. Liram Koblentz-Stenzler,
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Abstract

In October 7th, 2023, Hamas, a Palestinian terrorist organization, that its' target is the destruction of Israel, launched a violent attack on Israel, instructing its members to target Israeli civilians, including women and children. This event led to devastating consequences, including the deaths of 1,400 people, the kidnapping of 210 individuals, dozens who are still missing, and more than 3,000 injured. On the same day, Israel Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, declared war against Hamas.

The aftermath of this attack has seen a significant increase in antisemitic incidents worldwide, with notable spikes in the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, and France. Far-right extremist groups online have aligned with Hamas due to shared antisemitic sentiments, resulting in the spread of propaganda, conspiracy theories, and calls to action against Jewish communities.

This paper examines the online far-right's response to the Israel-Hamas conflict, highlighting three key themes: the dissemination of propaganda that glorifies Hamas and promotes unfounded conspiracy theories, a call to action in both virtual and physical spaces, and the need for vigilance by policymakers and law enforcement to counteract the spread of hate and violence in the digital age. The interconnectivity of extremist ideologies across borders underscores the importance of addressing this concerning nexus between far-right groups and Hamas.

Keywords: Hamas Terrorists; Jew Communities; Israel; Swords of Iron; Far-Right

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Background

Hamas, a Palestinian terrorist organisation heavily funded by Iran,¹ violently took over the Gaza Strip in 2007 and has since governed 2 million Palestinian citizens. On October 7th, Hamas terrorists stormed Israel² by land, air, and sea on Simchat Torah, a major

1 Kleinman, D. (2023, October 13). *Hamas terror against Israel sponsored by Iran*. FDD. <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2023/10/07/hamas-terror-against-israel-sponsored-by-iran/>

2 Hamas goal as outlined in their charter is the destruction of Israel.

Jewish holiday, and according to a document left in Israel by terrorists, Hamas instructed its members to kill as many Israeli civilians as possible, including women and children.³ Hamas's tactics included kidnapping, burning, murdering and raping civilians, as well as the destroying Israeli villages, as well as occupying parts of Israel.⁴ Attendees at the Tribe of Nova international music festival, held three miles from the Gaza Strip, ran for their lives as Hamas terrorists fired into crowds of people. 260 attendees were murdered. Since the beginning of the attack and at the point of writing this paper, Hamas has fired thousands of rockets on Israel, murdered more than 1,400 Israelis, injured more than 3,500, and kidnapped 199 Israelis and foreign nationals into the Gaza Strip. Israel declared war on Hamas on October 7th, with the stated goal of destroying its capabilities.

We now know that, "Not since the Holocaust have more Jews been murdered on one day."⁵ Antisemitic rhetoric has increased sharply around the globe alongside this massacre. According to an Anti-Defamation League (ADL) report since October 07, there has been a 500% increase in antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom and 107 antisemitic incidents since October 7th in the United States.⁶ Jewish homes were marked with Stars of David in Germany, anti-Israel protesters chanted "gas the Jews" in Sydney, and there were 189 antisemitic incidents in France.⁷ The ADL also reports a staggering 488%⁸ increase in messages within far-right Telegram groups post-October 7th. While our analysis is not quantitative in nature, our observations corroborate the ADL's findings. The volume and intensity of far-right rhetoric during this period are unparalleled to previous periods of observation.

U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken compared Hamas's attack on Israel to Nazi massacres during his visit to Israel.⁹ Political leaders from Italy, Israel, Germany and

3 Document reportedly left behind by terrorists shows Hamas fighters were instructed to kill civilians. The Times of Israel. (2023, October 13). https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/document-left-behind-by-terrorists-shows-hamas-fighters-were-instructed-to-kill-civilians/#:~:text=The%20Kan%20public%20broadcaster%20says,of%20the%20town%20of%20Alonim.

4 Memri. (2023, October 11). *Senior Hamas official Ali Baraka: We have been secretly planning the invasion for two years; Russia sympathizes with us, benefits from U.S. embroilment in this war; any swap deal should include Hamas prisoners in Europe and the U.S.* MEMRI. <https://www.memri.org/tv/senior-hamas-official-ali-baraka-prisoner-swap-america-planning-invasion-two-years-russia-support>

5 Herzog, I. (2023, October 9). *Column: Israel's Darkest Hour casts a shadow on the world.* Time. <https://time.com/6321967/israel-president-isaac-herzog-hamas-attack/>

6 *J7 statement on antisemitism in the wake of the Hamas War on Israel.* ADL. (2023, October 17). <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/j7-statement-antisemitism-wake-hamas-war-israel>

7 Ibid.

8 *Hamas attack draws cheers from extremists, Spurs Antisemitism and conspiracies online.* ADL. (2023a, October 7). <https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/hamas-attack-draws-cheers-extremists-spurs-antisemitism-and-conspiracies-online>

9 Guardian News and Media. (2023, October 12). *Hamas attacks on Israel had echoes of Nazi*

other nations drew similar comparisons in speeches denouncing the terrorist group.

Indeed, Our consistent monitoring of online far-right extremists boards shows that since October 7th, they glorify and support of Hamas and its actions. The alignment between Hamas and far-right online communities isn't based on mutual geopolitical interests but rather on shared antisemitic sentiments. This convergence of hate has led to unexpected collaborations, including the sharing of propaganda that supports Hamas's cause, shared conspiracy theories, and motivation to bring the Hamas-Israel war to the Jewish communities outside of Israel.

Understanding the far-right's reaction to Hamas's war on Israel is critical to protecting Jewish communities around the world, as well as providing security agencies with the context to adequately combat the spread of this hate. The goal of this paper is to outline the current trends within the online far-right, extremist channels in response to the Israel-Hamas war. We observed 3 primary themes: I. Propaganda II. Conspiracy theories III. Call for action, both in cyberspace and in the real world.

Propaganda

Far-right individuals and groups have begun crafting and disseminating propaganda. The explicit celebration and endorsement of harm towards Jews remains constant in their narrative and anchors their support for Hamas and opposition to Israel.

Within hours of the attack, far-right users were creating and distributing images that celebrated the violence, using symbols that are widely recognized as representative of the alt-right movement. For example, as seen in Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4, there are images of Pepe the Frog¹⁰ as a Hamas terrorist in various scenarios.

In addition, we noted a significant rise in the use of the antisemitic slogan — 'Total K*ke Death' often abbreviated to 'TKD' — a slogan often associated with a neo-Nazi desire to kill all the Jews globally. The speed at which far-right online users began disseminating propaganda in favour of the attacks is alarming. Not only does it indicate a level of preparedness, but it also underscores the efficiency of their networks.

massacres, says Antony Blinken. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/12/hamas-attacks-on-israel-had-echoes-of-nazi-massacres-says-antony-blinken>

¹⁰ Pepe the frog. ADL. (2022, May 3). <https://www.adl.org/resources/hate-symbol/pepe-frog>



Figure 1 - Users discussing the Hamas incursion on Israel using antisemitic slurs along with an illustration of Pepe the Frog as a paragliding Hamas terrorist (4chan; October 7th, 2023)



Figure 2 - Illustration of Pepe the Frog with a swastika shooting a Jewish caricature in the head (4chan; October 16th, 2023)



Figure 3 - Illustration of Pepe the Frog as a terrorist from the Hamas military wing, Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades launching rockets (4chan; October 14th, 2023)



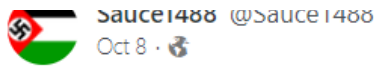
Figure 4 - AI-Generated image of Pepe the Frog as a terrorist with dead Israeli soldiers in the background (4chan; October 16th, 2023)

We observed people holding White supremacist Neo-Nazi ideology who support the Hamas attacks and rallying in opposition to Israel. This support was demonstrated through the blending of the Nazi and Palestinian flags, drawing parallels between the

Hamas terror attack and the Holocaust, as well as, in their eyes, positively comparing Hamas to the Nazis. These individuals and groups have a deep admiration for the extreme antisemitic actions and ideologies of Hamas and see them as allies in their fight against world Jewry.



Figure 5 - Neo-Nazi Telegram channel expressing solidarity with the attacks on Israel and encouraging users to change their profile pictures to a combined Nazi and Palestinian flag (Telegram; October 11th, 2023)



Total kike death: 600 sent to hell, 100 captives, 2000 missing and still counting (we need number 1488)

#TKD #EndJewishSupremacy #Palestibased



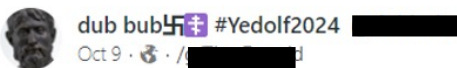
Figure 6 - User celebrating the increasing count of deaths in Israel following the Hamas attack when numbers were still unknown (Gab; October 8th, 2023)

Anonymous ID:TKeXZR/O Sat 07 Oct 2023 22:24:36 No.443675482 🇫🇷 Report

🔥>>443671306

So much kikery propaganda on this board, it's unbelievable. I stand with my Arab brothers. Christians and Muslims united in our jew hatred. HamasWaffen is Based & Takbir.

Figure 7- User expressing support for Hamas, equivalating the organisation with the Waffen-SS¹¹ (4chan; October 7th, 2023)



Kys kike lover. Jews aren't human, but demons. Parading dead demons in the streets is unfathomably based. TKD

Air Jaws [redacted]
Oct 7 · 🌐 / [redacted] · Edited

I agree. I'm not pro Israel but parading and spitting on the naked dead body of a woman through the streets is unspeakable evil

Figure 8 - Neo-Nazi user defending the actions of Hamas, dehumanising Jewish victims (Gab; October 7th, 2023)

¹¹ The military wing of the SS in Nazi Germany largely responsible for many of the actions of the Holocaust (in <https://encyclopedia.usmm.org/content/en/article/waffen-ss>)

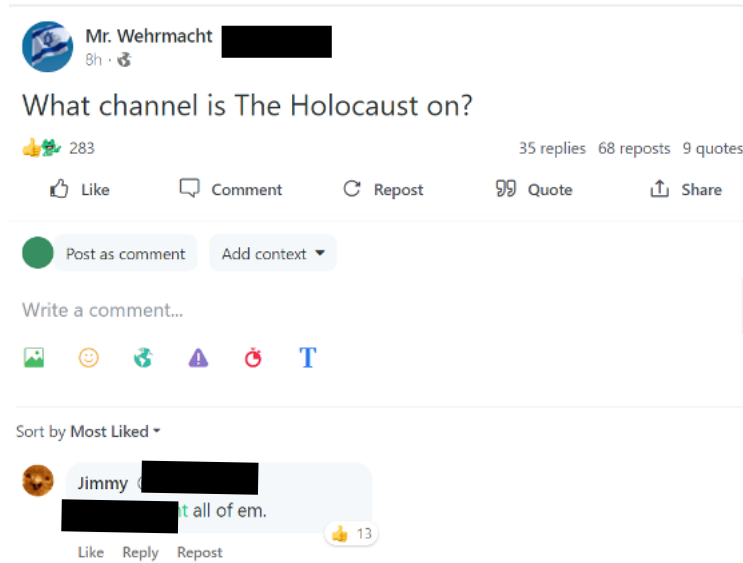


Figure 9 –Neo-Nazi user asking where developments can be watched, calling the event “The Holocaust” (Gab; October 10th, 2023)

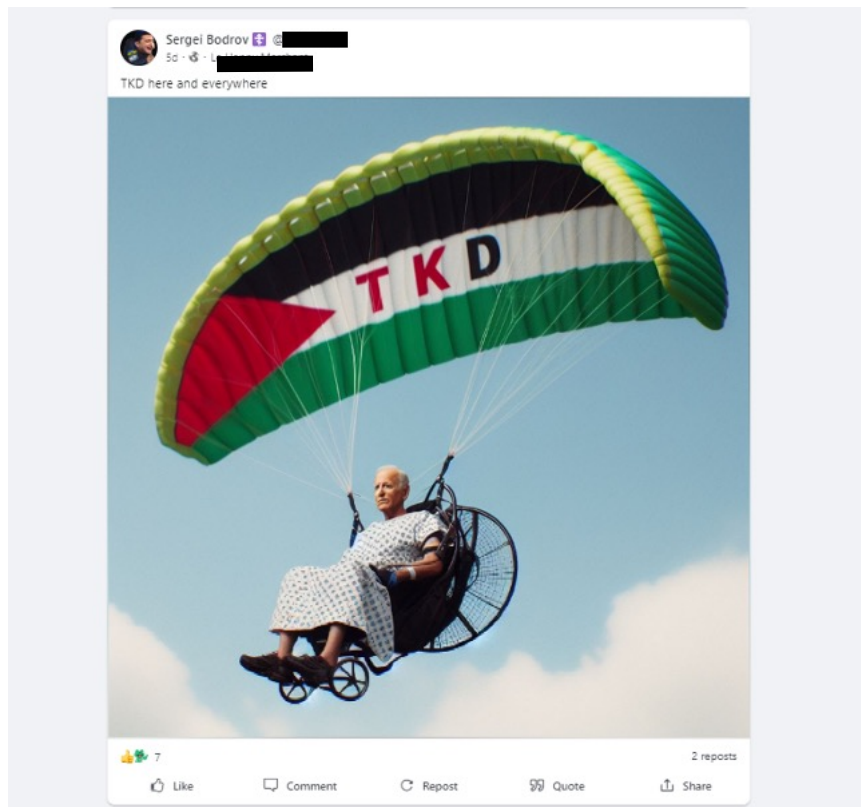


Figure 10 - User sharing an illustration of Joe Biden paragliding on a wheelchair. The paraglider is decorated with a Palestinian flag and the antisemitic slogan “TKD” (Gab; October 11th, 2023)

Throughout the week following the Hamas attack, far-right live streaming websites such as Odysee and GoyimTV¹² were hosting popular streams following the unfolding events.

¹² Goy is a reference to Non-Jewish person/people

These live streaming platforms provide real-time coverage and commentary, often from a biased perspective that heavily opposes Israel and often glorifies Hamas. In these live streams, we observed many discussions promoting conspiracy theories and explicit antisemitism. Such platforms not only served as a medium for information but also as echo chambers, reinforcing extremist views and sentiments.

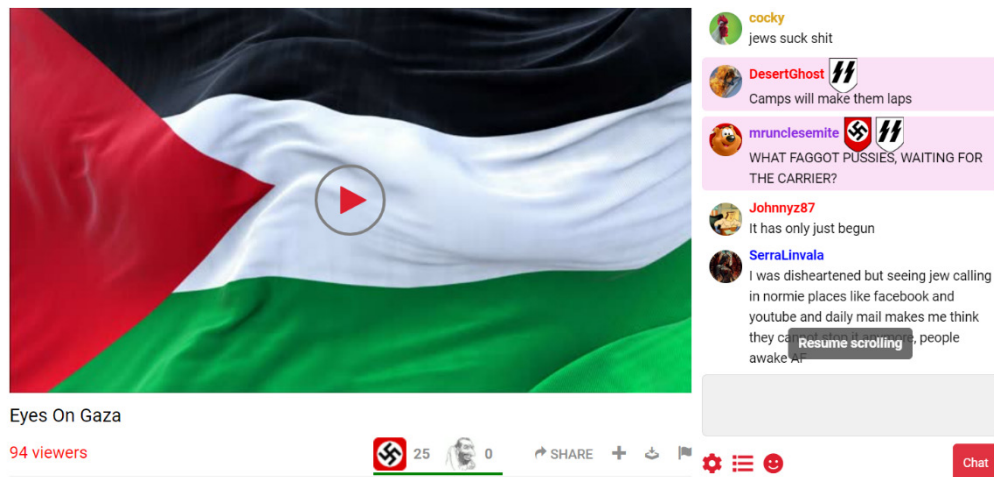


Figure 11 - Neo-Nazi livestream of ongoing events in Gaza (GoyimTV; October 11, 2023)

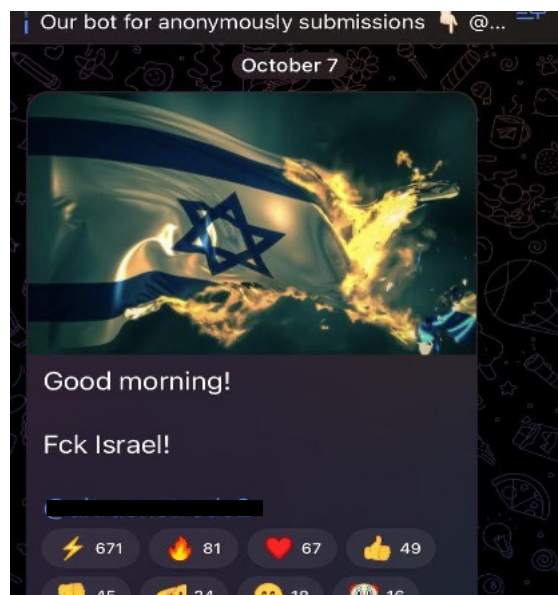


Figure 12 - Popular far-right telegram channel posted a burning Israeli flag a few hours after the Hamas attack began (Telegram; October 7th, 2023)

Conspiracies

The most rampant content on far-right networks are conspiracy theories. A recurring theme is the belief that the actions taken by Hamas were orchestrated by Jews with ulterior motives. These communities suggest that the October 7 attack and Hamas' call

for the 'Global Day of Jihad' on October 13 are part of a larger Jewish strategy. The purported reasons vary: some believe Israel's goal is to instigate World War III, others argue it is to justify a complete ethnic cleansing of the population in Gaza, and many see it as a move to strengthen Jewish influence both regionally and globally.

Israel Knew Attack was Coming and Did Nothing, Egyptian Intelligence Official Says

Elvis Dunderhoff October 10, 2023



The Jews always pretend that everyone hates them for no reason.

Figure 13 - An article on The Daily Stormer states that Israel knew Hamas's attack was imminent but did nothing to stop it. (4chan; October 7th, 2023)¹³



Figure 14 - A user calls the attack on Israel a "Jew false flag" event. (4chan; October 7th, 2023)

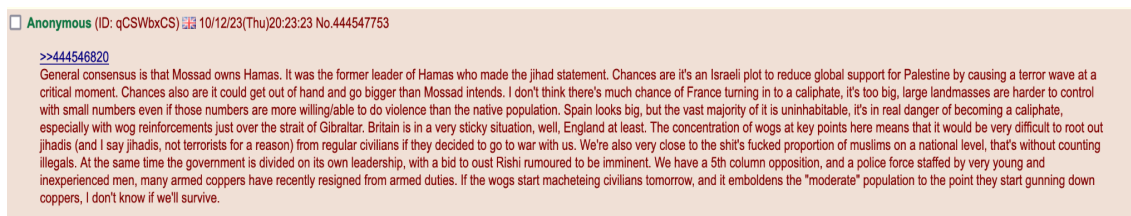


Figure 15 - A user states that the Mossad owns Hamas and the attack on Israel was a plot to decrease international support for the Palestine movement. (4chan; October 7th, 2023)

13 The Daily Stormer, created by Andrew Anglin, is a far-right news site that is infamous for xenophobic, misogynistic, antisemitic, Islamophobic, and white supremacist content. <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/individual/andrew-anglin>



Figure 16 - Hamas leadership called for a Global Day of Jihad on Friday, October 13th. In response, users state that this is “fake news propagated by the Zionist Occupied government media.”¹⁴ The user also states that no one believes the atrocities carried out by Hamas are factual.¹⁵ (4chan; October 7th, 2023)



Figure 17 - QAnon affiliated Telegram channel alleging the attacks were orchestrated by the Mossad in order to create “Greater Israel” (Telegram; October 8th, 0223)

14 ZOG is an acronym that stands for Zionist Occupied Government. White supremacists use this term to demonstrate that the U.S. government is controlled by Jews. <https://www.adl.org/resources/hate-symbol/zog>

15 Former Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal called for the Global Day of Jihad to bring the fighting to the West. Jewish institutions and government buildings across the world were on heightened alert and increased security due to the remarks. <https://ktla.com/news/local-news/lapd-stepping-up-security-amid-reports-of-global-day-of-jihad/>

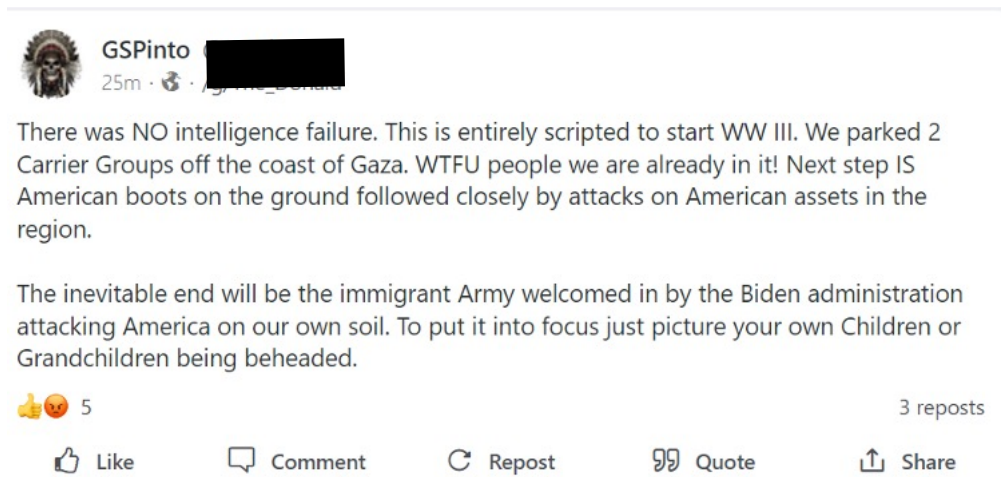


Figure 18 - User alleging the events are scripted to start WWIII. (Gab; October 11th, 2023)

Call for actions

There are many posts calling for action in the digital realm and in physical, real-world arenas. This is an alarming situation that must be taken seriously by security agencies.

Action in the Digital Realm

According to analyses from blockchain forensics groups, between 2021 and 2023, Hamas reportedly raised \$41 million in cryptocurrency.¹⁶ Our online monitoring reinforces these findings. Far-right discussions prove there is an established infrastructure for donating cryptocurrency to Hamas. This infrastructure was already established during the May 2021 conflict between Hamas and Israel, as seen in figures 19 and 20.

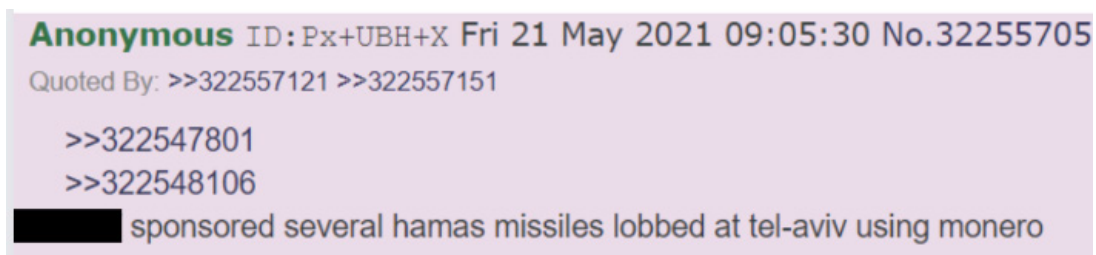


Figure 19 - User discussing how a 4chan board sponsored Hamas missiles using Monero in the last conflict of May 2021 (4chan; May 21, 2021)

¹⁶ <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/stock-market-today-dow-jones-10-10-2023/card/militants-behind-israel-attack-raised-millions-in-crypto-1LyGWuBJ4dDoZEBTzn8z>



Figure 20 - User states he has crowdfunded hundreds of thousands of dollars in Monero for Hamas (4chan; May 14, 2021)

During our current monitoring, we found a large discussion surrounding donations to Hamas, especially by using Monero.¹⁷ Using Monero allows individuals to maintain anonymity while funding and supporting Hamas. It appears far right extremists ask other users to provide them with information on how to donate.



Figure 21 - User promoting Monero, stating donations can't be traced and sarcastically stating no one should donate to Hamas because they will be responsible for "dead babies"(4chan; October 11th, 2023)

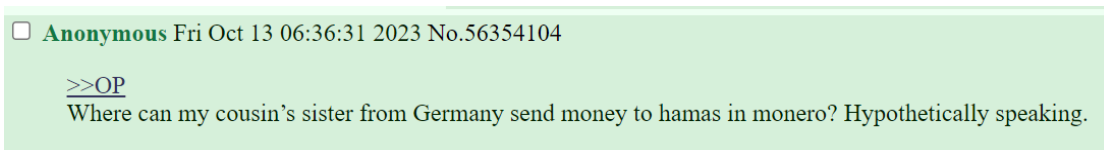


Figure 22 - User requesting information to send Monero from Germany to Hamas (4chan; October 13th, 2023)

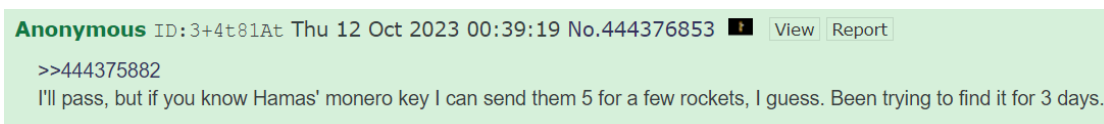


Figure 23 - User requesting information to send Hamas a donation through Monero(4chan; October 12th, 2023)

17 Monero's strong privacy features mean that transactions are untraceable, making it a favoured cryptocurrency for individuals seeking anonymity

Anonymous ID: 5unXRQv/ Mon 09 Oct 2023 22:34:58 No.444035555
 >>444034738
 Only if you donate to Hamas, otherwise no pics for you. Only hairy men ass

Figure 24 - User telling another user to donate to Hamas in exchange for pictures of Israeli victims of the Hamas attacks (4chan; October 9th, 2023)

Anonymous ID: zYX0En3o Mo
 Quoted By: >>445021321
 >>445003686
 This
 How do I donate to Hamas?

Figure 25 - Users requesting information on how to donate to Hamas (4chan; October 9th, 2023)

Some of these posts go so far as to specify the intended destination of the donations, such as purchasing drones for Hamas.


Anonymous ID: XwZJC82x Sun 08 Oct 2023 17:13:22 No.443811644  [View](#) [Report](#)
 >>443811336
 PRAY FOR TOTAL KIKE DEATH
 DONATE SO WE CAN BUY DRONES FOR HAMAS
 [wallet address censored]

Figure 26 - User calls for cryptocurrency donations to supply arms to Hamas in order to kill Jews. [wallet address censored] (4chan; October 8th, 2023)

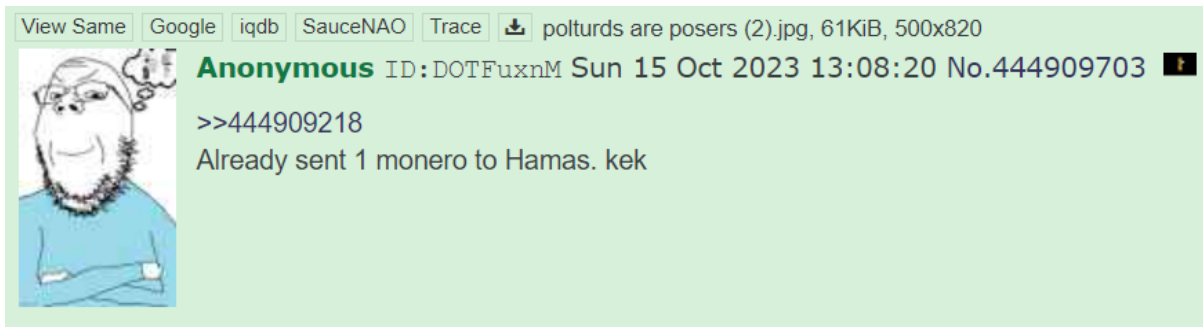


Figure 27 - User stating he donated Monero to Hamas (4chan; October 7th, 2023)

Call for Localised Actions

Far right extremists often called for local action. This is a concerning trend that can escalate to violence against Jewish communities outside of Israel. One stated motive for this is to create a new world order for the white population.

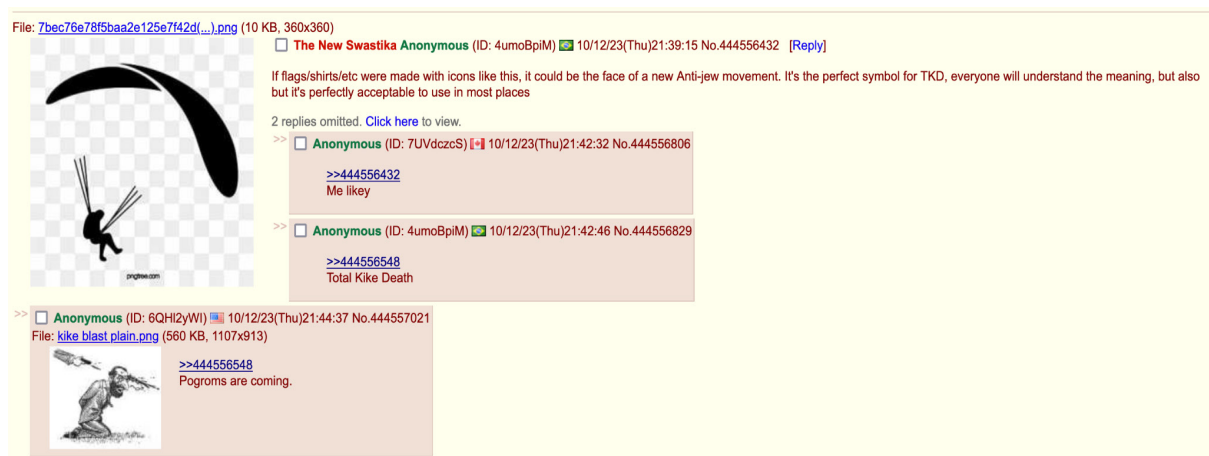


Figure 29 - Users calling for spreading new antisemitic imagery to invigorate support for antisemitic causes. The symbol will be of a parachooter with the acronym TKD (Total Kike Death) (4chan; October 12th, 2023)

Kinetic Threats

Users on far-right boards shared printable materials that followers can use in their communities and called for using the political situation to attack local Jewish individuals and institutions.

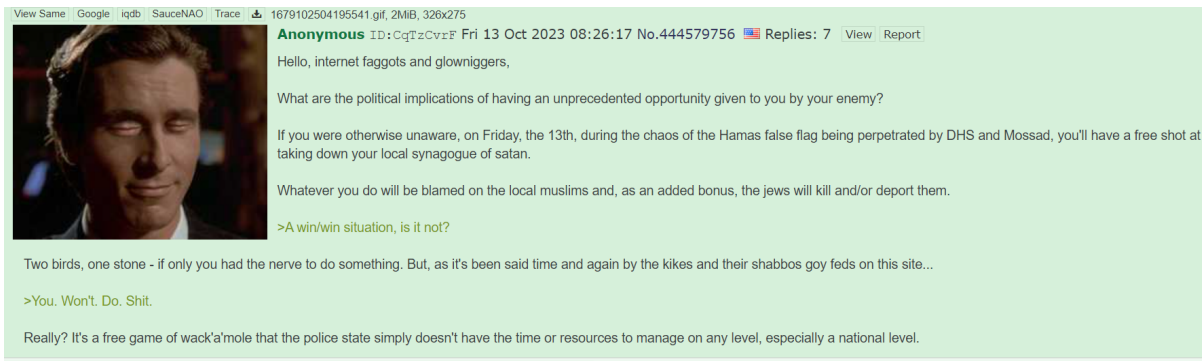


Figure 30 - user encouraged attacks on synagogues calling it an “unprecedented opportunity”, as the blame will be put on Muslims (4chan; October 13th, 2023)

There have been explicit threats targeting public transportation in New York City during the “Global Day of Jihad.”¹⁸



Figure 31 - In response to a user asking about the “Global Day of Jihad,” another user requests people to not use the NYC subway around 5pm, unless they are a Jew. (4chan; October 12th, 2023)

Others voiced ambitions to travel and join the conflict zone as mercenaries with the intent to amplify the violence.

¹⁸ Hamas leaders were calling for a global Jihad day on October 13 against Jewish targets in and outside of Israel.

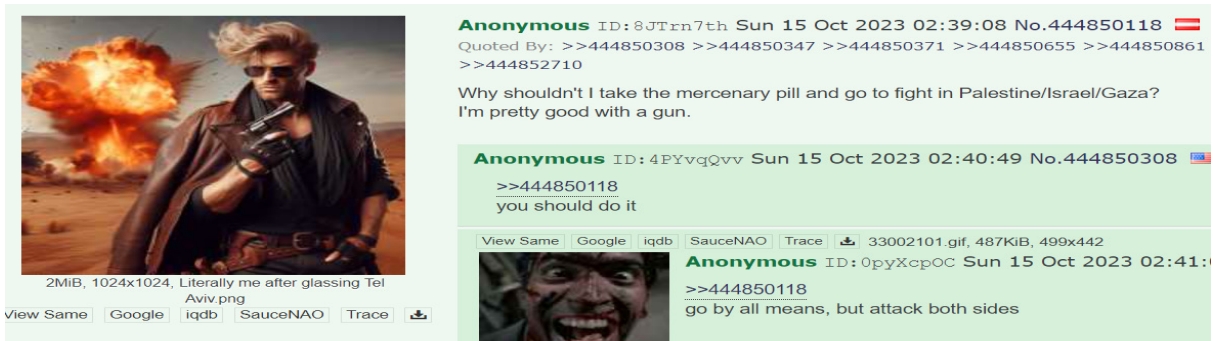


Figure 32 - User discussing his desire to go and fight in Gaza (4chan; October 7th, 2023)

Users and influencers are also pushing a narrative that the attacks by Hamas present an opportunity to target Jewry worldwide. Given the urgency of these messages, there's a risk that individuals could be motivated to transition from online discussions to kinetic actions.

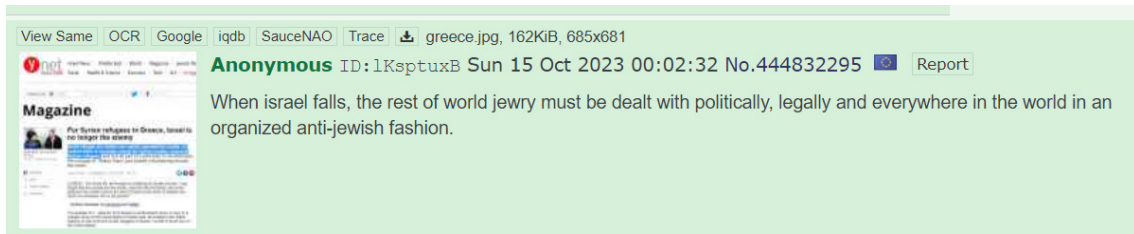


Figure 33 - Users discussing the Hamas incursion on Israel using antisemitic slurs (4chan; October 7th, 2023)



Figure 34 - An Australian white supremacist leader stating that following the Hamas attacks, soon will be the chance to “finish the job on the jewish question”(Telegram; October 8th, 2023)

Conclusion

In conclusion, the events of October 7th, 2023, and the tragic loss of Israeli lives have shed light on a concerning nexus between Hamas and online communities of far-right extremists. This study has underscored few disconcerting trends that demand our attention. First, the dissemination of propaganda, including memes and posts that glorify Hamas terror attacks and advance unfounded conspiracy theories implicating Israel, poses a grave risk of inciting kinetic violence. These distorted narratives can dangerously radicalize individuals, leading them to perceive real-world events through a skewed and harmful lens, often resulting in unfounded acts of aggression against Jewish communities.

Furthermore, we have identified a second alarming trend: a call to action, both in the virtual and physical realms. This includes solicitation of cryptocurrency donations, as well as support for kinetic attacks on synagogues, Jewish individuals, or even a willingness to travel to Israel to assist Hamas. The far-right’s preoccupation with Hamas’s attacks on Israel and their efforts to sow chaos by endorsing global terrorism are unmistakable warning signs for the intelligence community. These developments serve as a stark reminder of the interconnectivity of extremist ideologies transcending borders.

As we face challenges in the digital age, where information and propaganda spread at unprecedented speeds, it is important that policymakers and law enforcement agencies remain vigilant in monitoring and taking proactive measures to counteract the dissemination of hate and violence.