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“Safer Web = Safer America”

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A NEW SOCIAL MEDIA EARLY WARNING CENTER IS URGENTLY NEEDED

Former DHS Secretary Gov. Tom Ridge to Help Lead Initiative

CSW Uncovers Increase in anti-Semitic incitement from German-based Neo-Nazi Groups

The Coalition for a Safer Web (CSW) announced today that former (and the nation’s first) Secretary of Homeland Security -- **Governor Tom Ridge** – will help lead CSW’s expanded nationwide plan to forge a new private/public sector Social Media Early Warning Center (Center). Gov. Ridge is a member of CSW’s Advisory Board.

In recent days, CSW began intercepting an increase toxic trove of anti-Semitic/neo-Nazi incitement originating from newly minted or newly renamed extremist groups based in Germany, many tied to the German AfD (Alternative for Deutschland) far right party, or whose members are activists in the AfD.

Although CSW has not uncovered imminent violence incitement, one of the Center’s objectives is to focus more resources on such intel to enable law enforcement authorities to quickly assess the level of potential threat to incitement and violence which could occur in the U.S.

These German extremist inciters are egging on US militia and extremist groups (e.g., QAnon, Boogaloo Bois and Proud Boys) -- which affiliate with Germany-based counterparts -- to engage in anti-Semitic incitement cloaked around calls to participate in new “White Lives Matter” and anti-vax-oriented “World Wide Freedom” rallies in major U.S. and European cities on May 15.

According to statements made in March 2020, Germany's domestic intelligence agency, Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (BfV), was aware of 32,000 far-right extremists in the country—13,000 of whom the BfV considers violent.

One “new” German-based group goes by the name “NS Wolfsschanze 14/88” which flies under social media surveillance radar until recently uncovered by CSW. The group takes the name from Hitler's military headquarters. It boasts links to Spanish and South American neo-Nazi/anti-Semitic groups in Chile and Argentina. The group vectors anti-Semitic incitement into the U.S. via the notoriously terrorist-supporting TELEGRAM Apple and Google mobile phone application.

According to CSW's European advisers, NS Wolfsschanze 14/88 has ties to extremist movements including “Reichsbürger” (Citizens of the Reich) and “Selbstverwalter” (Sovereigns) – networks of neo-Nazi/anti-Semitic groups that refuse to accept the legitimacy of the German state, and which also serve as German bed-rock proponents of QAnon conspiracy theories. NS, along with its brethren German neo-Nazi groups, QAnon conspiracists, and anti-vaxxers have a huge social media presence on TELEGRAM via an umbrella movement called Querdenken (German for “lateral thinking”).

Another group goes by the acronym “NSU.2.0” – is a far-right terrorist group that killed 10 people, planted bombs, and committed robberies for more than a decade, starting in 1999. CSW has tracked its followers lurking inside TELEGRAM.

A representative list of German extremist neo-Nazi groups recently identified by CSW which are vectoring incitement in English to the U.S. can be found at the end of this press release.

And CSW has traced new links between right wing German extremist QAnon organized groups, including “QPatrioten24” which promote more vitriolic anti-Semitic and U.S.-based QAnon accounts operating through TELEGRAM. Its leader, who goes by the “nom de guerre” *Connectis* shared a translated article via TELEGRAM claiming survivors of the Holocaust would receive additional aid during the pandemic: "More than 70 years of robbery of Germans!" his caption read, "This has to stop!"

This increase in trans-national extremist incitement now vectoring from German neo-Nazi groups is one more reason why a new Center is urgently needed.

The Center's concept was unveiled by CSW in a January 20 OP ED in [The Hill](#) following the January 6 Capitol insurrection. The Center's purpose is to expedite the dissemination of social media extremist incitement content obtained by national and international social media watchdog groups to the media and law enforcement authorities.

Unfortunately, the Capitol insurrection came as no surprise to social media watchdog groups -- the extremists were plotting in plain sight online on social media. U.S. and international web

watchdogs which monitor Big Tech, and their extremist fringe web inhabitants began dispatching red flags before the insurrection. The proverbial digital tree was on fire in the forest, and no one who had the power to prevent a full-blown conflagration was ready (or willing) to prevent it.

CSW commenced alerting media as far back as December 30 of a dangerous escalation of social media content promoting violence in Washington. CSW issued two pre-January 6 alerts to every major media outlet as well as to the Office of the Mayor of District of Columbia.

One key goal of a Center is to ensure that social media watchdog group warnings of probable violence are no longer dismissed or willfully ignored.

CSW's research reveals that many social media watchdog groups neither have the bandwidth nor key contacts to ensure their excellent forensic product reaches the right people in real time who can act on intercepted extremist content. Consequently, great digital research conducted by social media monitors often falls through the cracks instead of on the desks of law enforcement and the media which can benefit from this valuable forensic research.

The unheeded early warnings from social media monitors of probable violence in Washington requires a better approach and greater cooperation among law enforcement authorities and social media monitors.

Amb. Marc Ginsberg, President of CSW stated:

"CSW is grateful to Gov. Ridge for providing inspirational support to transform the Center from a vision to a reality. As the first Secretary of Homeland Security, Gov. Ridge secured the homeland against domestic terror attacks after 9/11. And as the United States faces a growing threat from domestic extremists, his highly respected leadership will provide further impetus to fulfill the Center's vision."

"The recent escalation of German neo-Nazi/anti-Semitic extremist incitement compels more coordination and information sharing among social media watchdogs and law enforcement to thwart more domestic violence triggered by these groups."

The following are other German neo-Nazi groups linking up to American extremist groups via TELEGRAM:

<https://t.me/internationalblackshirts>

<https://t.me/Weimerica>

<https://t.me/NazBol>

<https://t.me/fashwave4>

https://t.me/Zoomer_Waffen

<https://t.me/AngelWaffen88>

<https://t.me/PhotoshopWaffen>

<https://t.me/WaFFeNSS8>

<https://t.me/WaffenSSSS>

<https://t.me/PaganWaffen>

<https://t.me/hypskyline2/71>

<https://t.me/valkyrwaffen/6062>

<https://t.me/valkyrwaffen>

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CSW is a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to promote policies and technologies to expedite the permanent removal of extremist incitement on foreign and domestic social media platforms.