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## **QANON CONSPIRACISTS ARE EVADING SOCIAL MEDIA CURBS**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Washington, D.C. (September 1, 2020): The Coalition for a Safer Web (CSW) ([www.coalitionsw.org](http://www.coalitionsw.org)) - a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization\* based in Washington, DC revealed today that despite claims by Facebook and other social media websites they are successfully de-platforming QAnon websites and accounts, CSW's research reveals how QAnon anti-Semitic conspiracists are successfully evading these web scrubs by creating new websites, "#"hashtags, and cross-linking QAnon accounts to white extremists websites and the website of a Republican Congressional candidate.

Due to lack of oversight by major social media platforms registrars, and internet host services, this is enabling QAnon's ecosystem to burrow back onto mainstream social media platforms - sometimes relying on Russian government-sponsored accounts, including RT and Sputnik.

### **What is QAnon?**

QAnon conspiracy theories originate from the troll-infested fringes of the web by person identifying him or herself as "Q" - a high-ranking intelligence official. Sometime in October, 2017 an anonymous person named "Q" emerged on the radical white nationalist imageboard website "4Chan." "Q" asserted that a cabal of Democrats and Jews, and A-list entertainers are plotting to overthrow Trump.

"Q" alleges that the world is run by this cabal of Satan-worshipping pedophiles who operate a global child sex-trafficking wing. Followers particularly zero in on

Bill Gates (he created the virus and wants to insert microchips into everyone who is vaccinated), and George Soros, the billionaire Jewish philanthropist (who is funding this cabal).

These satanic worshippers are buttressed by the dreaded “deep state” which is the evil force plotting Donald Trump’s downfall.

According to QAnon myth, President Trump was recruited by top generals to run for president in 2016 to break up this criminal conspiracy and its control over the media. “Q” predicts that this “war” would soon culminate in “the Storm” when Trump finally unmasks the cabal. Followers latch on to any coded Q signs Trump utters to them, including: use of the number “17” (Q is the 17<sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet), or Trump’s embrace of Republican candidates trafficking in QAnon conspiracies which espouse Anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, and racist tropes.

“Where we go one, we go all” (#WWG1WGA) is the catchphrase ascribing adherence to the invisible “Q.”

### **QAnon Adherents Incite Domestic Terrorism & Bigotry**

According to the FBI, QAnon poses a potential terror threat. One of QAnon’s New York supporters cited QAnon conspiracy theories to threaten to “take out” Democratic Presidential nominee Joseph R. Biden. She was arrested for conspiracy to commit murder. Others have been charged with murder, domestic terrorism, and planned kidnapping.

American and transnational neo-Nazi white nationalist groups have discovered a recruiting bonanza with Trump-supporter QAnon believers. CSW has uncovered dozens of QAnon social media accounts cross-fertilizing with flagrantly anti-Semitic neo-Nazi social media accounts on GAB, 8Kun, TELEGRAM, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

In recent days, QAnon accounts on Facebook have directed Trump-supported radical white nationalists to Portland to engage in violence. CSW intercepted many such QAnon Facebook communications involving QAnon supporters and Portland. Here is a sample:

- Q anon Facebook Page Q amplified posts to CSW over this weekend of August 29 - 30 on The Killing of Patriot Prayer Member on Saturday Night in Portland

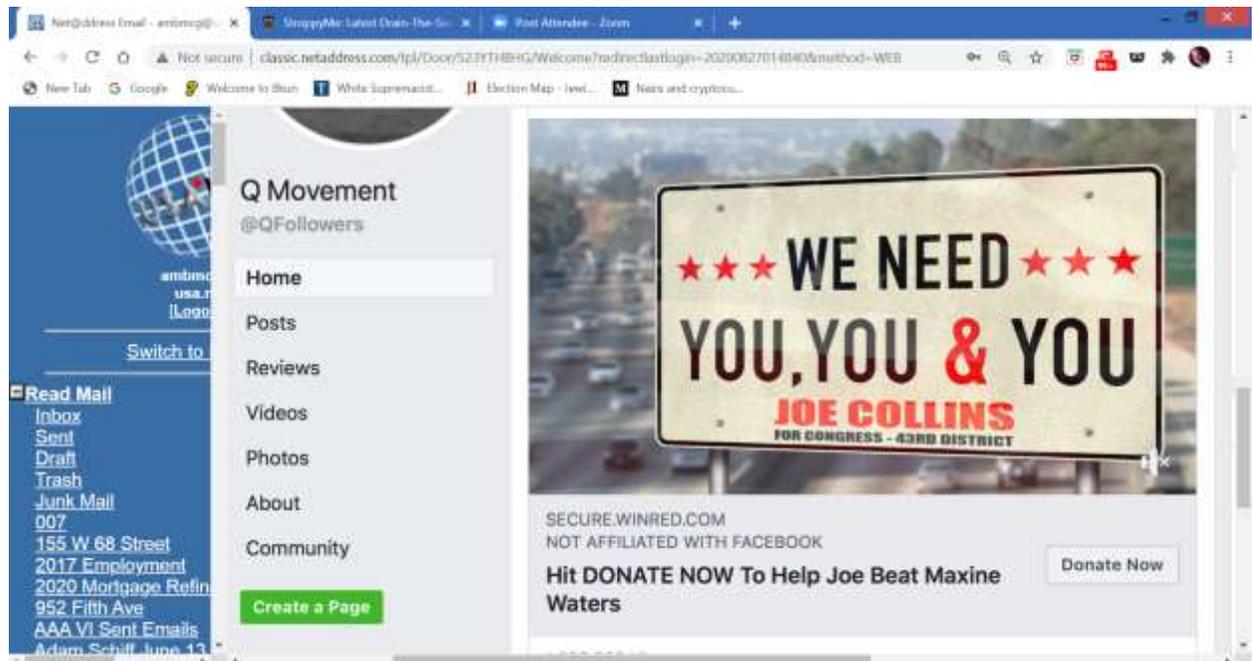
[https://www.facebook.com/Qsentme1776/?eid=ARCpSmA14N2rBpwxoIclpOv0pFTSDG0QmjcYQh0w-83JaUHm8k7JVqQrYo5-Sc\\_O814rqag\\_jFeSCL\\_9](https://www.facebook.com/Qsentme1776/?eid=ARCpSmA14N2rBpwxoIclpOv0pFTSDG0QmjcYQh0w-83JaUHm8k7JVqQrYo5-Sc_O814rqag_jFeSCL_9)

## President Trump & QAnon “Infected” Republican Congressional Candidates

This toxic QAnon incitement has obliquely received the blessing of President Trump (who has retweeted QAnon followers over 201 times) and who proclaimed “...they are people who love our country.” QAnon cultists assert Trump is regularly dispatching coded signals of encouragement as they promote rabid anti-Semitic themes (e.g., Jews, especially George Soros, control the “Deep State” and control development of Covid vaccines).

There are more than a dozen Republican candidates for Congress who have publicly dallied in QAnon lunacy. In addition to Georgia Republican candidates Marjorie Taylor Greene and Angela Stanton King, the growing list includes Florida Republican Laura Loomer, Oregon Senate candidate Joe Rae Perkins, Colorado Congressional candidate Lauren Roebert, California Congressional candidate Mike Cargile, Illinois Congressional candidate Theresa Raborn, California Congressional candidate Eriz Cruz, and California Republican Joe Collins.

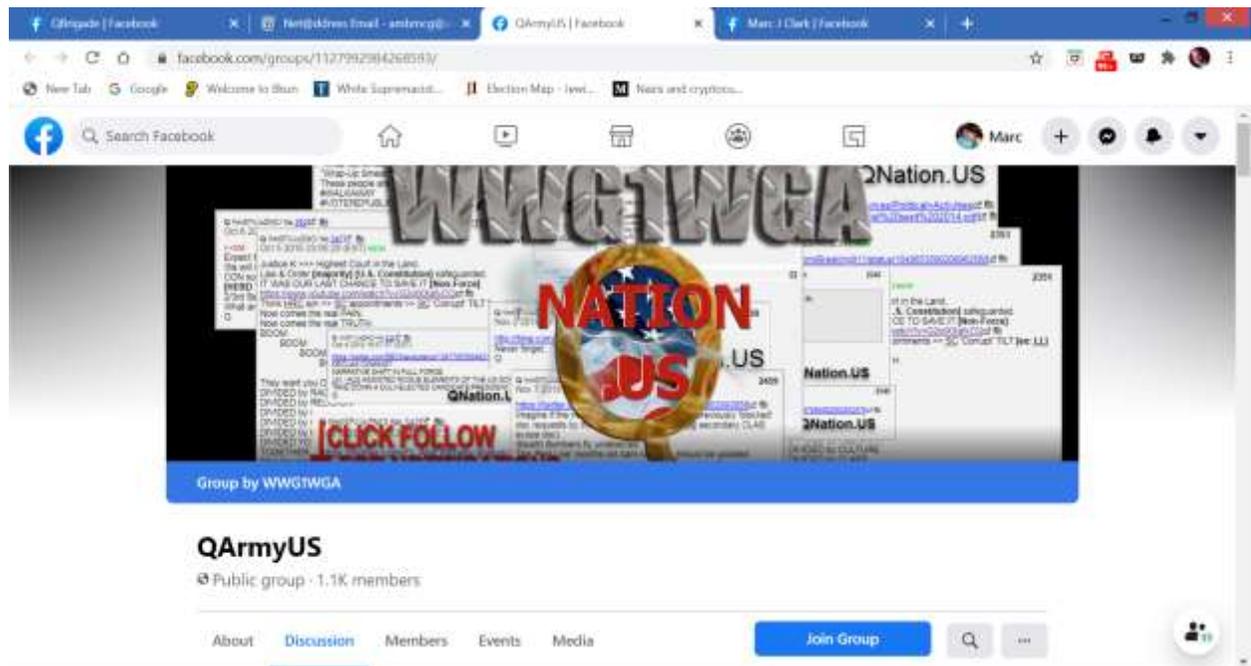
CSW uncovered a “Q” account Facebook page soliciting donations to Collins using the GOP’s WINRED account (see below). Moreover, Facebook’s own algorithm amplification (“Related Pages”) continues to push QAnon supporters landing on this “Q Movement Page onto other QAnon accounts.



## QAnon's White Nationalist Webmasters

With the technical support of white nationalists webmasters, and vendor tech companies providing “back of the house” assistance, new QAnon websites are cropping up on infamous extremist anti-Semitic fringe internet web sites, including GAB, 8Kun, and on “dark web” neo-Nazi community chat rooms.

For example, CSW uncovered the role played by an MJC (name withheld) from Kentucky who is registering new QAnon websites, including “Birthofanation.” Website on Facebook Page WWG1WGA Birthofnation .us registrar information [launchpad.com](http://launchpad.com) lists name of registrar MJC as of Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.



## **WHOIS search results**

Domain Name: birthofanation.us  
Registry Domain ID: D16AED16E41674563A98488139EF5C8CD-NSR  
Registrar WHOIS Server: www.launchpad.com  
Registrar URL: www.launchpad.com  
Updated Date: 2020-03-25T19:10:55Z  
Creation Date: 2018-12-05T21:39:14Z  
Registry Expiry Date: 2020-12-05T21:39:14Z  
Registrar: Launchpad.com Inc.  
Registrar IANA ID: 955  
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: abuse@websitewelcome.com  
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.8669642867  
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited <https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited>  
Registry Registrant ID: CFE2AF4D1871444B1AFE70F5F4C9AC80D-NSR

Registrant Name: MJC  
Registrant Organization: None  
Registrant Street: \_\_\_\_\_ (intentionally omitted)  
Registrant Street:  
Registrant Street:  
Registrant City: Bowling Green  
Registrant State/Province: KY  
Registrant Postal Code: 42101  
Registrant Country: US  
Registrant Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (intentionally omitted)  
Registrant Phone Ext:  
Registrant Fax:  
Registrant Fax Ext:  
Registrant Email: marcclark@hotmail.com  
Registrant Application Purpose: P3  
Registrant Nexus Category: C11  
Registry Admin ID: CFE2AF4D1871444B1AFE70F5F4C9AC80D-NSR  
Admin Name: MJC  
Admin Organization: None  
Admin Street: \_\_\_\_\_ (intentionally omitted)  
Admin Street:  
Admin Street:  
Admin City: Bowling Green  
Admin State/Province: KY  
Admin Postal Code: 42101  
Admin Country: US  
Admin Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (intentionally omitted)  
Admin Phone Ext:  
Admin Fax:  
Admin Fax Ext:  
Admin Email: [MJC]@hotmail.com  
Admin Application Purpose: P3  
Admin Nexus Category: C11  
Registry Tech ID: CFE2AF4D1871444B1AFE70F5F4C9AC80D-NSR  
Tech Name: MJC  
Tech Organization: None  
Tech Street: \_\_\_\_\_ (intentionally omitted)  
Tech Street:  
Tech Street:  
Tech City: Bowling Green  
Tech State/Province: KY  
Tech Postal Code: 42101  
Tech Country: US  
Tech Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (intentionally omitted)  
Tech Phone Ext:  
Tech Fax:

Tech Fax Ext:

Tech Email: [MJC]@hotmail.com

Tech Application Purpose: P3

Tech Nexus Category: C11

Name Server: arch.ns.cloudflare.com

Name Server: paityn.ns.cloudflare.com

DNSSEC: unsigned

URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form: <https://www.icann.org/wicf/>

CSW conducted similar searches which revealed many links between extremist webmasters and their vendor tech service companies and QAnon supporters. Given the growing social media links among QAnon supporters with pro-Trumpers, anti-vaccers, and deep state conspiracists, major social media companies confront a major technological headache fulfilling their QAnon deplatform pledges.

Since Facebook declared it had removed QAnon pages and groups over a week ago, CSW continues to uncover more QAnon pages and groups on Facebook a week later, including:

- Facebook accounts still up as of September 1 attacking senior Democratic leaders, including Joe Biden, and former President Obama and Michelle Obama:



[https://www.facebook.com/QBrigade/?eid=ARBYLnWDfwgHBVf0myajjaKvDy9\\_9iYiXR\\_OtrhTRNZnxNje7z9W0ly5huDnMS1lwZ8ukHbMX4d0tPNR](https://www.facebook.com/QBrigade/?eid=ARBYLnWDfwgHBVf0myajjaKvDy9_9iYiXR_OtrhTRNZnxNje7z9W0ly5huDnMS1lwZ8ukHbMX4d0tPNR)

[https://qnation.us/american-ppl-see-demslies/?fbclid=IwAR0C37slyAps0rNUVyI7Ho3H52zjFFxYFDaGo\\_9lovAuRzvgQeGi4C32KAY](https://qnation.us/american-ppl-see-demslies/?fbclid=IwAR0C37slyAps0rNUVyI7Ho3H52zjFFxYFDaGo_9lovAuRzvgQeGi4C32KAY)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/216756302793478/>

[https://www.facebook.com/Q-Trump-fanpage-101477551681339/?\\_tn\\_=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARB2Jf3HX\\_2gVcMNUS4Moua3nLuVCO3f3-eTo2W-bVI0kXAKV\\_emomfq1j-DyO4FndHTFy973AYQ8YzM](https://www.facebook.com/Q-Trump-fanpage-101477551681339/?_tn_=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARB2Jf3HX_2gVcMNUS4Moua3nLuVCO3f3-eTo2W-bVI0kXAKV_emomfq1j-DyO4FndHTFy973AYQ8YzM)

[https://www.facebook.com/Srpske-patriote-za-Trampa-129775548551557/?\\_tn\\_=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARDNpE\\_dkvVDEUwSFEela160yrUrYFyfryOZzVTGT8votgFPaw7TxCW08rFRsVG2FWrpMvNW72oNno-X](https://www.facebook.com/Srpske-patriote-za-Trampa-129775548551557/?_tn_=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARDNpE_dkvVDEUwSFEela160yrUrYFyfryOZzVTGT8votgFPaw7TxCW08rFRsVG2FWrpMvNW72oNno-X)

[https://www.facebook.com/gmamauk/?\\_tn\\_=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARADLMC3DxKJ3MmNpVEjX2vxGiE91SGqik3\\_C8e\\_Z6SaAyP2c\\_b8UJeknmCd-A0kjLMR7NhbSBh29f4](https://www.facebook.com/gmamauk/?_tn_=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARADLMC3DxKJ3MmNpVEjX2vxGiE91SGqik3_C8e_Z6SaAyP2c_b8UJeknmCd-A0kjLMR7NhbSBh29f4)

<https://www.facebook.com/WWG-1-WGA-391065924713618/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wwg1wga/>

<https://www.facebook.com/QAnonArtsWWG1WGA/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2083352668584533>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Cause/Q-Canada-WwG1WgA-505047579961793/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/284606649538419/>

[https://www.facebook.com/QFollowers/?\\_tn\\_=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARAVXIWJUC7pqGq3z4bYv20sXCiCDtHRY0bU2i2yW0up2uNSECBCfkxVu25Dm9nJX8IRPujMd20jwjQl](https://www.facebook.com/QFollowers/?_tn_=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARAVXIWJUC7pqGq3z4bYv20sXCiCDtHRY0bU2i2yW0up2uNSECBCfkxVu25Dm9nJX8IRPujMd20jwjQl)

This represents another failure by Facebook to understand the logic of their own artificial intelligence vs. CSW's more superior machine learning technology which can zero in on Q communications and hashtags. This is another unfortunate example of Facebook misrepresenting its ability to identify and scrub large toxic accounts, including the prevalence still of Christchurch videos and ISIS accounts and posts which CSW continues to monitor and catalogue.

Moreover, the challenge is not limited to Facebook alone. CSW continues to identify and catalogue QAnon accounts on TELEGRAM – the subject of a major CSW investigation in recent months for enabling domestic terrorists, racists, and anti-Semites to incite, plot, and execute violence (see CSW's website for our TELEGRAM research ([www.coalitionsw.org](http://www.coalitionsw.org))).

As CSW has reported, the TELEGRAM App has also become a convenient platform for QAnon channels, but unlike Facebook, TELEGRAM's management based in the UAE approves the existence of anti-Semitic and QAnon channels. Here are several of the many CSW uncovered:

<https://t.me/WWG1WGAlove>

<https://t.me/WWG1WGAGlobal>

[https://t.me/wwg1wga\\_love\\_news](https://t.me/wwg1wga_love_news)

**Fmr. Amb Marc Ginsberg, President of CSW stated:**

*“Just as social media platforms have failed to fulfill their de-platforming pledges in the past to remove radical Islamic incitement, bogus Covid vaccine and drug remedies, or videos of the Christchurch massacre, so too we are now witnessing more empty pledges. Without independent oversight, the pledges to de-platform will seize the headline, but when the spotlight turns away -- the pledges prove to be empty, time and time again.”*

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## **TELEGRAM APP DEPLOYED BY EXTREMISTS TO FOMENT JULY 25 “IT’S GOING DOWN” VIOLENCE AGAINST PORTLAND AUTHORITIES**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington, D.C. (July 22, 2020):** The Coalition for a Safer Web (CSW) ([www.coalitionsw.org](http://www.coalitionsw.org)) – a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization\* based in Washington, D.C disclosed today that it has uncovered dozens of TELEGRAM mobile phone application messages from extremist groups and anarchists to recruit individuals to Portland, OR to engage in violent protests against federal authorities and local police on their so-called July 25 “National Day of Protest.”

Earlier this year, CSW commenced an investigation into TELEGRAM’s growing popularity as the preferred “end-to-end” encrypted social media channel favored by Islamic radical terrorists, anti-Semitic transnational groups, extremist white nationalist organizations, and anti-black racists.

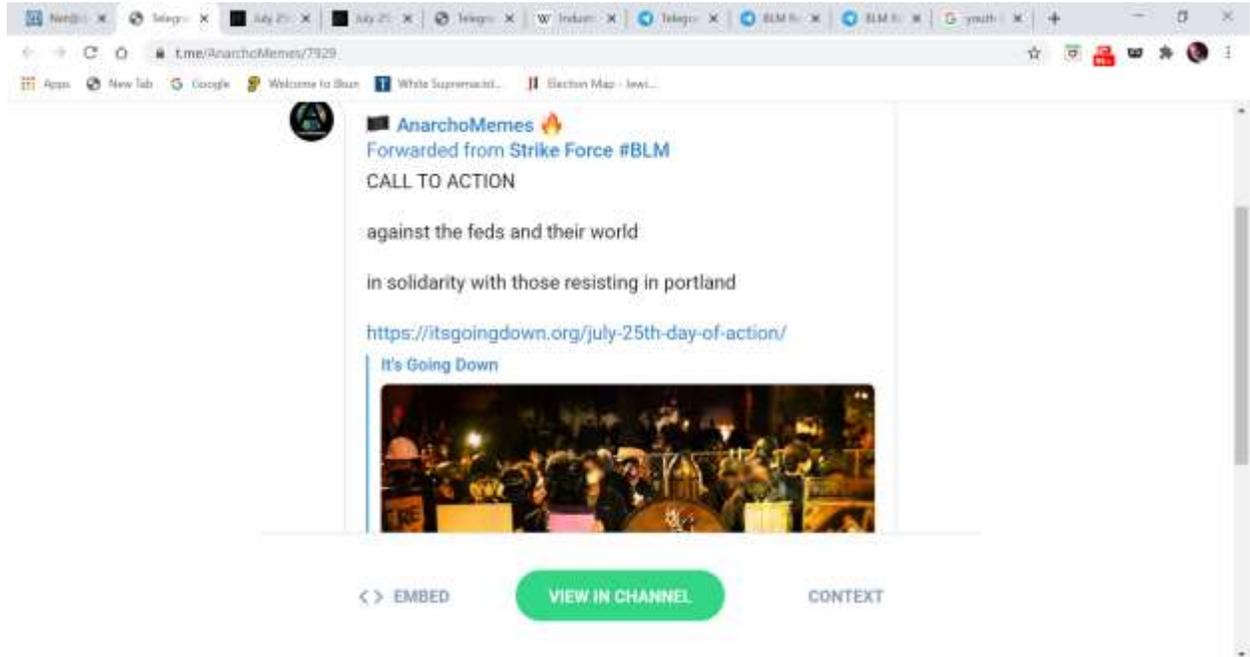
As reported by [VICE](#) last year, TELEGRAM enables extremist groups to upload unlimited videos, images, audio clips, and easily translate content – a veritable extremist’s supermarket of tech communications products, providing encrypted “chat rooms” for extremists to operate impervious to law enforcement.

On June 3, CSW issued a [Press Release](#) accusing Pavel Durov – the Dubai-based Russian owner of TELEGRAM – of condoning the increasing torrent of extremist incitement on his platform – while reveling in his platform’s ability to evade international and U.S. regulation under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.

Many of the TELEGRAM intercepts by CSW’s researchers are posted by radical left and anarchist groups deliberately hijacking the “BlackLivesMatter” hashtag and its derivatives, such as “Strike Force #BLM”, to sow racial division and camouflage their identities.

Other intercepts can be traced back to the TELEGRAM channel of *Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)*, a socialist union, whose leaders – known as “wobblies” – have ties to

anarchist-oriented unions actively encouraging IWW members to participate in “street actions” in Portland. A representative TELEGRAM intercept appears below:



CSW also uncovered numerous TELEGRAM channel “calls to action” to provoke a massive turnout on Portland streets this coming Saturday, July 25 posted by the Youth Liberation Front (YLF) under the slogan “It’s Going Down.” YLF TELEGRAM posts provide tactical advice to engage in violent confrontations with police. The YLF is an extremist, anti-fascist revolutionary underground student group active in schools and campuses actively involved in violent looting and confrontations with Portland law enforcement.



According to Portland’s Herald Mail Media, YLF leaders portray acts of vandalism as part of the broader struggle to make big changes in America. They reject any effort — by police or other groups — to divide the protest movement into those who are peaceful and those who turn to violence. YLF activists have been arrested for directing arson

attacks on African American businesses and buildings in downtown Portland to provoke BLM protestors to engage in violence against authorities.

The contagion of intercepted TELEGRAM posts to other social media channels was also uncovered by CSW. For example, the “It’s Going Down” YLF anarchist group stoking the July 25 “Day of National Protest” are now located on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. Representative links uncovered by CSW are below:

<https://www.facebook.com/IGDnews/> [facebook.com]

[https://twitter.com/IGD\\_News/](https://twitter.com/IGD_News/) [twitter.com]

<https://www.instagram.com/its.going.down/> [instagram.com]

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ItsGoingDown> [youtube.com]

CSW researchers also reviewed other end-to-end encryption APPS such as Signal and WhatsApp. Neither of these two applications are serving in any discernible way as social media megaphones by fringe and anarchist groups to stoke confrontations in Portland.

CSW has launched a call to action urging the Government of the UAE as well as Apple and Samsung to pressure TELEGRAM’s management to take immediate steps to end TELEGRAM’s role as the preferred social media channel of extremist groups – on either side of the radical terrorist spectrum. TELEGRAM’s role as THE social media megaphone to incite violence leading up to July 25 demands accountability.

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X

X



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## **COALITION FOR A SAFER WEB DEMANDS ACTION AGAINST THE “TELEGRAM” WHITE NATIONALIST/ANTI- SEMITIC/ANTI-BLACK RIOT INCITEMENT APP**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington, D.C. (June 3, 2020):** The Coalition for a Safer Web (CSW) ([www.coalitionsw.org](http://www.coalitionsw.org)) – a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., called on Apple and Samsung to deny the TELEGRAM application (app) access to its mobile device app stores so long as TELEGRAM serves as the preferred neo-Nazi/white nationalist communications channel fanning anti-Semitic and anti-black incitement during the current wave of protests across America.

Since the outbreak of demonstrations in the wake of George Floyd’s murder in Minneapolis last week, CSW has been closely monitoring white supremacist/neo- Nazi communications on all social media platforms, including encrypted end-to-end applications such as Facebook’s WhatsApp, Signal, TELEGRAM, and others.

Our research reveals a torrent of incitement and anti-Semitic hate content also encouraging African Americans and other minorities to engage in violent “actions” against Jewish-owned shops. More insidiously, white supremacists groups are threading a narrative in their postings asserting Jews are instigating the unrest – a message promoted also by social media postings attributable to the Black Hebrew Israelites, who also use TELEGRAM to incite black-on-Jew hatred and violence.

The TELEGRAM APP is not the only encrypted end-to-end preferred means of exhortation by anti-Semitic and anti-Black extremist groups, but it has become the most utilized by them. In addition to unencrypted postings by extremists CSW has also found that TELEGRAM’s encryption capacity has enabled extremist groups to use information from police monitors to help direct their supporters to instigate violence where police presence is minimal, if non-existent.

In today’s [Washington Post](#) CSW’s TELEGRAM research was highlighted, citing our identification of a trending hashtag “#DC Blackout” which utilizes derogatory anti Black and anti-Jewish incitement to provoke violence.

TELEGRAM would largely remain a relatively obscure web-based bulletin board without its encryption technology – utilized on any given day by approximately 300 million users

– testament to its power in the social media marketplace. TELEGRAM’s United Arab Emirates-based management turns a blind eye to these extremist fringe accounts with full knowledge of their existence and lethality.

For example, TELEGRAM enables global neo-Nazi groups to link up in encrypted exchanges. Dubbing themselves “The Terrogram” these groups are highly connected, sharing outlandish tropes intended to promote a race war in the U.S. Several of these groups running roughshod on TELEGRAM include Atomwaffen Division (which is responsible for committing deadly acts of domestic terrorism), the White World Union of National Socialists (see one of their TELEGRAM postings, below), and an all-too-long list of so-called “pop-up” extremist groups which emerge from their encrypted hiding places to incite others to engage in violence while cowardly sitting at their computers.

TELEGRAM’s owner – the shadowy Russian-born Pavel Durov and part of his management team are headquartered in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates following stints in Dublin and Singapore.

TELEGRAM is not funded by its subscribers, but by its founders and shadowy investors who savor TELEGRAM’s role as a platform free of US or other government regulation or accept any duty of care to moderate its role as THE preferred extremist incitement APP.

Given TELEGRAM’s ability to elude regulation (including it being shielded from U.S. regulation under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA)) from content liability, the American people cannot afford to enable TELEGRAM’s management to continue to operate without sanction and consequence.

CSW is announcing the launch of a new public advocacy campaign -- urging major iOS mobile phone device manufacturers (i.e., Apple) and Android mobile phone device manufacturers (Samsung) to bar the TELEGRAM app from their respective “app stores” until TELEGRAM’s management adopts a code of conduct barring extremist accounts and communications and evidences technical intent to enforce such a code of conduct..

- **TELEGRAM and the United Arab Emirates & Other TELEGRAM Locales:**

CSW also calls on the Trump Administration and the American Jewish community to place pressure on the Government of the United Arab Emirates to force TELEGRAM’s management to end its tolerance of accounts which promote anti-Semitic, African American, minorities, and Islamophobic incitement. The UAE’s leadership -- which has developed very positive ties with American Jews -- must hear from the American Jewish community that a facilitator of global anti-Semitism is based in its country and should be prohibited from enabling the UAE to become a haven of extremist hospitality. The same holds true for other nations where TELEGRAM operates, including the UK.

Amb. Marc Ginsberg, President of CSW stated:

***“When social media platforms such as TELEGRAM knowingly facilitate acts of incitement and extremism, they no longer deserve to be shielded from content liability under Section 230 of the communications Decency Act.***

***Neither should TELEGRAM’s owner and part of its management be accorded the hospitality of a foreign ally such as the United Arab Emirates, which has been a force for good against Islamic extremism and a friend of the American Jewish community. Jewish and African American victims of TELEGRAM’s extremist incitement deserve justice in the form of a new strategy to hold it accountable – and the UAE can help. No social media channel should remain out of reach from accountability for fostering global extremist violence!”***

Set forth below are representative TELEGRAM interceptions by CSW’s VP for Content Moderation Eric Feinberg in the past few days, which reflects the tip of the TELEGRAM extremist iceberg:

<https://t.me/CatholicNazi>

<https://t.me/boogiewoogieshitmayne>

<https://t.me/nggrz>

<https://t.me/aussiesurvival/4180>

<https://t.me/aussiesurvival>

<https://t.me/justwhitegoyimthings>

<https://t.me/JackDawkins>

<https://t.me/whatchadoinrabbi>

<https://t.me/KikeFreeOC>

[https://t.me/Sniper\\_Tower](https://t.me/Sniper_Tower)

<https://t.me/AbolishLice>

<https://t.me/FellowNationalist>

<https://t.me/EconomicHitList>

<https://t.me/CatholicNazi>

<https://t.me/boogiewoogieshitmayne>

<https://t.me/nggrz>

<https://t.me/aussiesurvival/4180>

<https://t.me/aussiesurvival>

<https://t.me/justwhitegoyimthings>

<https://t.me/JackDawkins>

<https://t.me/whatchadoinrabbi>

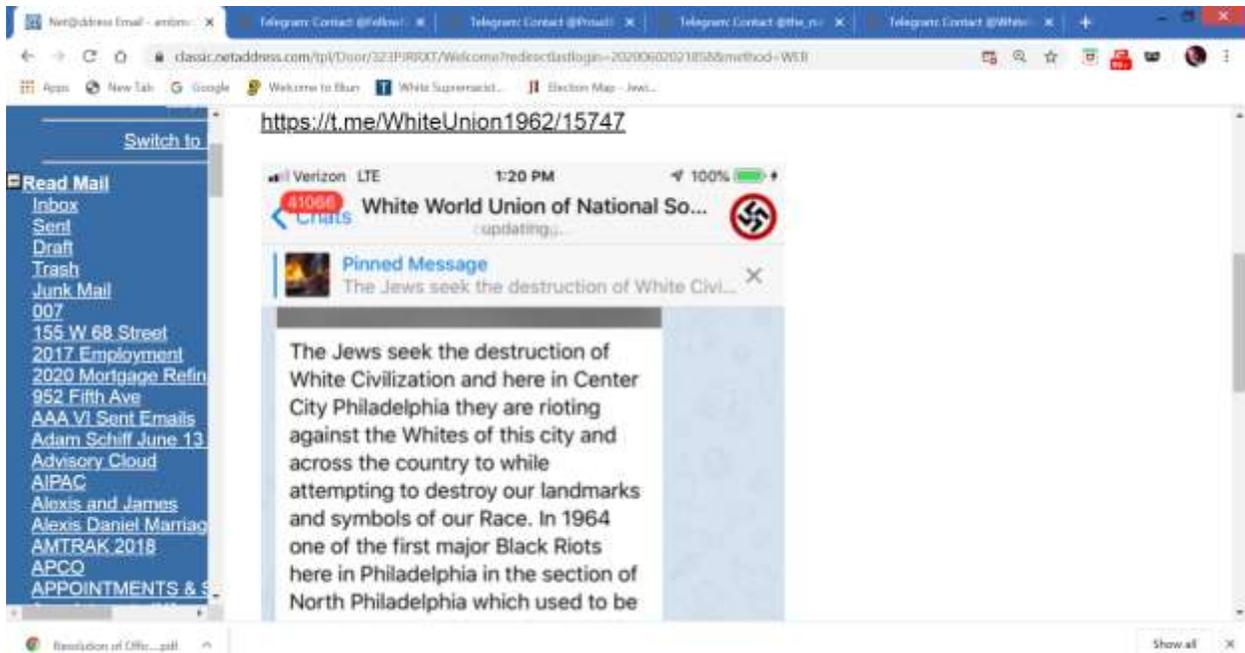
<https://t.me/KikeFreeOC>

[https://t.me/Sniper\\_Tower](https://t.me/Sniper_Tower)

<https://t.me/ProudBoysOfficial>

<https://t.me/FellowNationalist>

<https://t.me/EconomicHitList>



- Switch to
- Read Mail
- Inbox
- Sent
- Draft
- Trash
- Junk Mail
- 007
- 155 W 68 Street
- 2017 Employment
- 2020 Mortgage Refin
- 952 Fifth Ave
- AAA V1 Sent Emails
- Adam Schiff June 13
- Advisory Cloud
- ALPAC
- Alexis and James
- Alexis Daniel Mariag
- AMTRAK 2018
- APCO
- APPOINTMENTS & S

North Philadelphia which used to be predominately White until the 1950s. The Jews incited the Blacks to riot and Police Commissioner Howard Leary used very little force to stop these Blacks however he used all the force in the world to stop a few American Nazi Party Stormtroopers from beating back a mob of Jews attacking them in 1962 then allowing the Jews free reign to run into Police Headquarters and beat up Captain Ralph Forbes as he's getting his stuff while the Police inside do can do nothing about it. This Commissioner Leary was a Marxist Irish Cuck a

Mute Discuss



## **Facebook ad boycott is unlikely to solve the problem — a social media standards board would**

As more major U.S. corporate advertisers join the Facebook "Stop Hate for Profit" ad boycott what happens when the boycott ends? The boycott's leaders proposed "10 Recommended Next Steps" to Facebook's management to accelerate removal of racist and hate incitement. Boycott leaders acknowledge these are not new proposals. Which poses the same question raised over and over again in recent years: what will it take to finally compel social media companies to make the critical technical and policy reforms to counteract the avalanche of misinformation, and extremist hate which triggered this latest ad boycott?

If the first 2017 ad boycott which was then directed at Google and YouTube is any guide, this new embargo will fall short of its objective.

In 2017, The London Times reported that digital ads on YouTube placed by The Guardian newspaper were appearing alongside ISIS promotional videos. The Guardian reacted by revoking its ad purchases from YouTube ushering in the first digital ad boycott against a social media platform. The Guardian's ad revolt soon triggered a broader exodus of other major American digital advertisers from YouTube and Google, including AT&T, Walmart, General Motors and Walmart when they found out their own ads were popping up alongside extremist websites – leading consumers to believe that blue chip companies were endorsing extremist content. In all, over 250 brands pulled their ad spending. The boycott cost YouTube and Google a combined \$700 million in lost revenue, which relatively speaking, was a drop in bucket in Google's ad income.

Nothing like the loss of ad revenue gets the undivided attention of Silicon Valley executives.

Confronted by the boycott, Google and YouTube launched a PR offensive promising advertisers to develop new technical safeguards on the automated technology algorithms which migrated corporate ads to terrorist and extremist hate content. The companies introduced new internal artificial intelligence short circuits to protect brands from extremist contagion. Miraculously, within weeks of a concerted technical repair job the volume of ads appearing alongside extremist content was substantially curtailed.

Initially mollified, boycotting advertisers ramped up their ad spending once again. They could not afford to keep their brands' advertising off Google and YouTube very long for fear of losing consumer sales. But it did not take long for the crushing volume of hate and extremist content to overwhelm the technical fixes. Within months after the boycott petered out, ads once again began reappearing alongside extremist content.

The lesson from the 2017 boycott: without some form of independent monitoring social media companies will inevitably fall back on their time worn pledges they are making progress taming the extremist beast -- just leave them alone to decide when and how.

### **Formation of the Ad Industry's Global Alliance for Responsible Media (GARM)**

The 2017 ad boycott, however, opened the eyes of corporate advertisers to the need to better protect their brands on social media. To ensure better brand safety the Association of National Advertisers (ANA) unveiled early in 2019 a new partnership with the World Economic Forum to create GARM -- the Global Alliance for Responsible Media. The brainchild of P&G's Chief Brand Office Marc Pritchard (who is also the ANA's President) GARM's mission was to create an unprecedented coalition of advertising agencies, media companies, and social media platforms to oversee social media's efforts to rapidly improve brand safety and urgently develop and impose a new code of conduct on social media companies to independently monitor their progress to severely curtail the magnitude of hate and extremist content engulfing their platforms.

Since its birth over 18 months ago, GARM remains a good idea with no public face or code of conduct in search of an organizational structure to leverage its potential financial leverage over social media companies. Had GARM taken off and began fulfilling its mission, perhaps the latest ad boycott would not have been necessary.

Meanwhile, as public demand for reform and regulation of social media escalates, Congress and the Trump Administration have tied themselves up in knots incessantly debating whether and how to impose some form of legislative oversight

on social media companies. Competing solutions unfailingly devolve into a false choice: whether Congress should or should not end social media's Holy Grail in the form of content immunity under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.

### **CSW Proposes Creating A New Private Sector Social Media Standards Board (SMSB) – A Private-Sector Social Media Consumer Watchdog Organization**

To transform GARM into a workable solution and dodge further legislative deadlocks denying the public some form of third-party oversight over social media CSW proposes creating a new Social Media Standards Board (SMSB).

The SMSB would constitute a private, voluntary regulatory body formed by a new partnership composed of corporate brand advertisers, social media companies, and independent consumer watchdog internet experts.

Modeled after the successful Financial Accounting Standards Board, the SMSB would oversee compliance by social media companies of their own customer contracts and pledges to remove extremist and hate incitement under a new social media corporate-wide code of conduct. The SMSB would have a staff of independent web monitors serving as content moderators protecting the public and private industry, and issuing regular reports analyzing Silicon Valley's compliance with this new code of conduct envisioned by GARM's founders. Social media companies which consistently breach this new industry code of conduct would be sanctioned by a forfeiture of ad revenue – and a forfeiture of Section 230 immunity if code of conduct violations persist. The latter depends on Congress. The SMSB is intended to solve Congress' dilemma over what to do about Section 230 by deploying a scalpel and not a sledgehammer against social media companies.

The SMSB would also serve as an innovation hub to identify and promote new technologies to support the acceleration and interception of harmful web-based content endangering safety and security, including brand safety.

Short-term ad boycotts tend to produce good PR for corporate advertisers. They help mollify consumer anger at social media companies without permanently damaging the symbiotic tie between the digital ad space buyer and the social media company ad space seller. But they do not lead to permanent fixes to social media mischief and mayhem. That is why a new private sector watchdog agency such as the SMSB may begin solving the problem that a temporary ad boycott alone cannot.

*Marc Ginsberg served as US Ambassador to Morocco under President Bill Clinton; he previously served as Deputy Senior Advisor to the President for Middle East Policy, and was a legislative assistant to Sen. Edward Kennedy. He is currently president of the Coalition for a Safer Web.*



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# COALITION FOR A SAFER WEB RELEASES LETTERS TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, APPLE, & GOOGLE ON TELEGRAM'S ANTI-SEMITIC/ ANTI/ZIONIST INCITEMENT & VIOLENCE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington, D.C. (September 15, 2020):** The Coalition for a Safer Web (CSW) ([www.coalitionsw.org](http://www.coalitionsw.org)) - a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization\* based in Washington, DC - released today the text of letters dispatched to the United Arab Emirates, Apple & Alphabet/Google on the day Israel and the UAE enters into a peace accord urging the UAE (along with Apple & Google) to take action against the Dubai-based owner & management of TELEGRAM for facilitating anti-Semitic & anti-Israel terrorism and incitement.

Since early 2020, CSW conducted an exhaustive investigation into TELEGRAM's role in enabling trans-national neo-Nazi/anti-Semitic groups to incite acts of extremism. Our research disclosed:

- The Dubai-based TELEGRAM management knowingly enables extremist acts to be planned and perpetrated.
- TELEGRAM facilitates a torrent of incitement against Jews in Europe and the United States.
- TELEGRAM is the preferred communications channel for anti-Semitic QAnon conspiracy believers and enables QAnon account holders to evade restrictions imposed by major social media companies to de-platform QAnon extremist incitement.

- TELEGRAM is utilized by white nationalist groups to plot and plan attacks against Black Americans and to enable white extremist groups to organize violence in Portland, Seattle, Rochester, and other American cities.
- TELEGRAM enables global extremist white nationalist groups to link up in encrypted exchanges, often buttressed by trolls emanating from Russia's notorious Internet Research Agency.

In its June 19, 2020 correspondence to the UAE's Ambassador to the U.S. – The Honorable Yousef Al Otaiba, CSW proposed to meet with officials of the UAE to lay out our concerns regarding TELEGRAM's operations in the UAE. Our goal is for the UAE to end TELEGRAM's ability to use UAE territory as its base of operations unless TELEGRAM adopts measures to end its role as the extremist channel of choice. Unfortunately, despite repeated efforts to follow up with the Embassy we have not received a reply.

In its July 24 correspondence to Apple's CEO, CSW reminded Tim Cook when he accepted the Anti-Defamation League's "**Courage against Hate**" award in 2018 he stated:

*"We only have one message for those who seek to push hate, division and violence: You have no place on our platforms."*

Amb. Marc Ginsberg, President of CSW stated:

*"The United Arab Emirates has taken a courageous step today to enter into a peace treaty with Israel. TELEGRAM's owner and management is based in Dubai. CSW calls on the leaders of the UAE, as well as the CEO's of Apple and Alphabet/Google to demand that TELEGRAM cease facilitating acts of incitement and extremism against the citizens of Israel and Jews in Europe and the United States."*

*Attachments:*

- June 09, 2020 letter to H.E. Dr. Al Rashid Al Nuaimi, ED of HEDAYAH, UAE*
- June 19, 2020 letter from CSW to UAE U.S. Envoy Yousef Al Otaiba*
- July 24, 2020 letter from CSW to Apple CEO Tim Cook*
- July 30, 2020 letter from CSW to Alphabet/Google CEO Sundar Pichai*

See [www.coalitionsw.org/inthenews](http://www.coalitionsw.org/inthenews) for copies of CSW's research on TELEGRAM

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August, 2020

**[For Further Information](#)**

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**SOCIAL MEDIA STANDARDS BOARD**

*PROPOSAL BY*

**THE COALITION FOR A SAFER WEB**

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**Introduction**

The Coalition for a Safer Web ([www.coalitionsw.org](http://www.coalitionsw.org)) (CSW) was established in 2019 to develop innovative policy and technological solutions to accelerate the permanent de-platforming of hate and extremist content – as well as divisive disinformation and misinformation especially during the pandemic and leading up to the 2020 elections from social media platforms. CSW is a non-partisan, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose advisory board is chaired by Gov. Tom Ridge, first U.S. Secretary for Homeland Security. CSW’s founding President is former U.S. Ambassador Marc Ginsberg.

Since its inception CSW has many undertaken ground-breaking initiatives, including:

- TELEGRAM App: Commenced a global policy initiative to curtail the role of the mobile app “TELEGRAM” as the principal conveyor of terrorist, anti-Semitic, and racist incitement instigated by transnational extremist groups.
- RUSSIA & “THE BASE”’: Uncovered the role which the Russian Government is playing to support the operations from St. Petersburg of Rinaldo Navarro – the purported leader of the most violent neo-Nazi terrorist group known as “The Base.”
- “THE VIRUS OF ANTI-SEMITISM FEEDS OFF THE “JEW FLU”’: CSW’s “Special Report” details how the Covid-19 pandemic has been leveraged by Russian-backed neo-Nazi groups by fabricating anti-Semitic conspiracies and tropes implying Jews are responsible for spreading the corona virus.
- “NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT HATE & EXTREMISM”’: CSW issued a report proposing specific recommendations for Congress and presidential candidates to consider, in order to expedite the de-platforming of extremist incitement from social media sites.



- “AN ‘AD-DEMIC’ OF CORONAVIRUS CURES”: CSW reported that Internet scammers looking to capitalize on the panic brought on by COVID-19, unleashed an onslaught of ads selling sham vaccines and fraudulent remedies on social media platforms.
- HOLDING TECH INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE: In conjunction with the LawFare Project, CSW developed an international strategy to hold accountable the tech support companies vital to enabling fringe extremist groups to operate on the web.
- SALE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS ON THE INTERNET: CSW published a report detailing the sale of illegal drugs on social media platforms in conjunction with the non-profit Digital Citizens Alliance (DCI) and the Taylor Hooton Foundation. The Report was disseminated to the media and generated a major front page article in the Washington Post.

### **Executive Summary: Social Media Standards Board**

CSW proposes a ground-breaking private/public sector voluntary Social Media Standards Board (SMSB) which would serve as: 1) a transparent content moderation auditing organization to monitor compliance by social media companies of a new social media industry "code of conduct"; and 2) a forum to incubate and promote new technologies to assist social media companies to fulfill their own customer and vendor obligations to better manage and de-platform illicit content.

The SMSB model intends to forge a solutions-oriented voluntary monitoring organization with the support of social media corporations, the digital advertising industry, social media watchdogs, and Congress to finally establish an independent monitoring organization to ensure compliance by social media companies with a new harmonized industry-wide code of conduct.

The SMSB is loosely modeled after the successful banking industry’s Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). The SMSB would represent a transparent initiative among social media companies, the digital advertising industry, concerned citizens groups, and Congress to harmonize industry content moderation standards the violation of which would result in financial penalties and the possible loss of content immunity under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 (Section 230).



## **Section 1: Why Create a Social Media Standards Board?**

Americans are increasingly victimized by the unaccountability of social media companies due to extremist incitement, disinformation and dangerous misinformation uploaded daily on their platforms. According to a new Gallup and Knight Foundation Report issued this week, “Americans’ concern around the spread of misinformation eclipses their concerns related to various forms of media bias, inaccuracies, or sensationalism.”

Although Section 230 grants blanket legal immunity from content liability, major social media platforms are increasingly censoring the very content they profess they are under no legal duty to monitor. Their decisions to leave up or take down content are haphazard and subjective, without any industry-wide policy guard rails or consistent, accountable third -party monitoring. An entire industry of non-profit organizations has materialized in recent years to shine a light on social media deficiencies.

Despite deploying new technologies and recruiting thousands of content moderators, the terrain of social media content moderation resembles the Wild West. Each company has their own terms of service and subjective views governing what content to edit, de-platform, or maintain. While Silicon Valley is determined to preserve its immunity under Section 230, social media companies acknowledge they are overwhelmed by adverse content and by an avalanche of demands to make their platforms safer and their content monitoring decisions more transparent. Meanwhile, what comes down often finds its way back up, and the criticism of bias by social media executive in their de-platforming decisions has impaired regulators and Congress to arrive at a united approach

Facebook recently unveiled a new quasi-independent global “Oversight Board” to adjudicate de-platforming decisions. Whatever may be its merits, Facebook executives reserve to themselves final decisions over content. Meanwhile, no other mainstream social media platform has created such an “oversight board.” The interpretation of each company’s terms of service and customer agreement is undertaken by nameless, faceless, private sector bureaucrats. The lack of transparency and accountability expected by average Americans who rely on social media is frustratingly hard to come by.

Meanwhile, in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, a new regime of laws has been enacted compelling social media companies to submit to government accountability or face major fines for their failures to cleanse their platforms of illicit content. In some new legal regimes social media executives may be subjected to criminal prosecution for failing to comply with these new laws.

The trans-Atlantic divide over social media accountability could not be wider.



As Congress considers many legislative proposals to impose more social media accountability -- in the areas of data privacy, political censorship, illicit sale of products, or incitement to violence – the public’s safety is increasingly at risk.

There are no easy answers to the nation’s social media challenges.

On July 10, 2020, The Hill newspaper published a [CSW op ed](#) entitled “Facebook Ad Boycott is unlikely to solve the problem – a social media standards board would.” Public demand for reform and regulation of social media platforms has dramatically escalated, but there is little consensus in Congress or in the Executive Branch regarding what form reform and regulation should take. Meanwhile, the #StopHateForProfit coalition ad boycott’s recommendations to Facebook were rebuffed by Mark Zuckerberg, leaving the digital ad industry uncertain what their ad boycott will achieve.

Facebook’s refusal to accept the coalition’s reasonable recommendations coupled with Congress’ inability to reach consensus in how to hold social media companies accountable compelled CSW to undertake a review of existing private sector organizations which have succeeded in promoting voluntary, private sector solutions in industries where arbitrary and dysfunctional compliance with desirable harmonized standards was deficient.

Sometimes, government intervention compelled industries to bring order out of chaos; other times industries recognized the urgent need to voluntarily self-regulate because of public pressure and corporate interest.

Highly respected Silicon Valley entrepreneur turned social media critic Roger McNamee correctly observed that hate speech, conspiracy theories, misinformation, rabid political discourse, and illegal product sales have all served as “...the lubricant for their business” because it drives up customer usage, and thus, digital ad sales. No wonder when it comes to reducing dangerous content social media executives wind up taking down the bare minimum to keep their critics at bay.

## **Section 2: The Financial Accounting Standards Board as a SMSB Model**

Established in 1973, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) is the independent, private-sector, not-for-profit organization based in Norwalk, Connecticut, which establishes financial accounting and reporting standards for public and private companies and not-for-profit organizations that follow Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The FASB is funded via annual grants from its banking industry stakeholders.

The FASB is recognized by the Securities and Exchange Commission as the designated accounting standard setter for public financial companies. FASB standards are recognized as authoritative by many other organizations, including state Boards of Accountancy and the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA). The FASB develops and issues financial



Accounting standards through a transparent and inclusive process intended to promote financial reporting that provides useful information to investors and others who use financial reports.

The FASB created a new collaborative initiative between the financial and banking industry and a non-governmental oversight organization which harmonized disparate industry accounting and reporting standards into a coherent, transparent system of standards.

The following is lifted from the FASB Website:

### FASB MISSION

The collective mission of the FASB, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF) is to establish and improve financial accounting and reporting standards to provide useful information to investors and other users of financial reports and educate stakeholders on how to most effectively understand and implement those standards.

The FASB, the GASB, the FAF Trustees, and the FAF management contribute to the collective mission according to each one's specific role:

- The FASB and the GASB are charged with setting the highest-quality standards through a process that is robust, comprehensive, and inclusive.
- The FAF management is responsible for providing strategic counsel and services that support the work of the standard-setting Boards.
- The FAF Trustees are responsible for providing oversight and promoting an independent and effective standard-setting process. Transforming the FASB Model to Promote Private Sector Social Media Customer Standards Harmonization

### **Section 3: The Digital Advertising's Global Alliance for Responsible Media (GARM)**

CSW proposes forming a SMSB working group to develop a plan of action to kickstart the launch of the SMSB among social media companies, and representatives of the Global Alliance for Responsible Media (GARM) — an initiative of digital corporate advertisers, major U.S. corporations, and public advocacy organizations.

GARM is a new digital advertising concept to voluntarily compel social media companies to better protect corporate brands from migrating onto illicit and extremist content. The symbiotic relationship between social media companies and digital advertisers results in billions of dollars of ad revenue generated for social media companies. In recent years, many digital consumer



advertisers, notably AT&T, Nestle, and others have withheld digital advertising purchases due to the proliferation of purchased advertising appearing on illicit and extremist content. The 2020 Facebook ad boycott is the latest iteration of public pressure being exerted on digital advertisers to withhold ad buys from major social media platforms.

GARM is a welcome corporate ad industry initiative, but it would greatly benefit from a durable structure to adequately fulfill its mission. GARM's creators envision a new code of conduct to establish new "rules of the road" by which social media companies would prevent corporate brand contamination from appearing on extremist and illegal content.

Most importantly, GARM's concept behind a new code is to establish industry-wide standards governing technological goals to accelerate extremist content de-platforming and compel more transparency in the metrics social media companies could and should adopt to assuage consumers, impacted private companies, and the U.S. government of the progress (or lack thereof) they are achieving to meet their own extremist content de-platforming customer terms of service and public pledges.

#### **Section 4: The SMSB Represents a Private Sector Remedy to a Public Safety Challenge**

CSW is fully cognizant that social media companies have no legal or regulatory obligation to cooperate to create a SMSB. Indeed, their track record to date is to avoid any third-party, independent oversight of their content and zig-zagging moderation policies. Convincing them to test pilot a SMSB for an initial 2-3 years will require leveraging the threat of potential loss of Section 230 immunity, Congressional and state regulation, the digital advertising ecosystem's financial influence over social media companies, and concerned stakeholders, including corporate shareholders.

Digital corporate advertisers either directly via the GARM or independently — have not endorsed a SMSB. However, the GARM's advertising liaisons have requested CSW to submit the SMSB proposal to it for its consideration.

Moreover, the proposed SMSB is NOT a Congressionally mandated public regulatory institution. However, Congress' role as a recipient of SMSB recommendations and reports is vital. Without the leverage of Congressional support and impetus social media companies may refuse to expose themselves to oversight, even to a watchdog organization they themselves must help create.



## **Section 5: The Role of Section 230 in a SMSB Sanctions Regime**

Congress' leverage to bring social media companies to the SMSB table exists via Section 230 enforcement and the SMSB's effectiveness depends, in part, on Congress' review of SMSB audit reports.

The SMSB proposal envisions passage by Congress of an amendment to Section 230 delegating to the SMSB the power to suspend Section 230 immunity until a violating social media company restores its compliance with new industry code of conduct. The loss of Section 230 immunity would represent the ultimate penalty imposed on code violators for sustained violations. Lesser sanctions against social media companies imposed by the SMSB code could conceivably include: 1) de-certification from code compliance; 2) forfeiture of digital ad revenue; and 3) a referral by the SMSB for administrative action to the Federal Trade Commission.

CSW acknowledges that Section 230's role in a SMSB enforcement regime requires further consultation with Congress. We are working with legislative counsel. Our goal is to develop consensus among key stakeholders to arrive at a legally transparent and enforceable mechanism which only selectively resorts to a temporary revocation of Section 230 immunity as a last resort. CSW requested Congressional staff and its counsel to arrive at alternative Section 230-type solutions, including a possible referral to Congress by the SMSB of consistent code violations by social media companies.

## **Section 6: Overview of Proposed SMSB Mission & Administrative Structure**

The SMSB is to serve as a "mission control" to undertake the following public policy goals and objectives:

1. Establish a third party, independent content moderation board to oversee social media company compliance with a new industry-wide code of conduct to be drafted by SMSB.
2. stakeholders (social media companies, the digital advertising industry, and concerned citizens groups).
3. Provide the SMSB content moderation board the authority to propose harmonizing the respective terms of service and customer agreements of social media companies with the new industry-wide code of conduct.
4. Determine whether social media companies are maintaining compliance with a code of conduct (i.e., via a certification of compliance issued by the SMSB).



5. Develop a SMSB management architecture, to include:

- Executive management and content moderation staff oversight structure
- Schedule for submitting to the public and Congress regular reports detailing code compliance and code violations committed by social media companies and actions taken by the SMSB against violations.
- Initial annual budget
- SMSB mission statement
- Code of conduct sanctions and remedies to provide enforcement authority for the code of conduct (including revoking Section 230 immunity).

The following activities should surround the bi-annual certification process in order to ensure adequate compliance and enforcement."

Participating social media companies would enjoy a presumption of compliance if they are "certified" by the SMSB, but presumption would be overcome by showing of willful and knowing or grossly negligent compliance of a code of conduct.

## **Section 7: Model SMSB Structure**

### **SMSB Compliance Board Qualifications**

- No board member shall have any financial interest in a regulated entity, nor has served as an employee, consultant, agent, or adviser for two years prior to service.
- The Board may consist of nine (9) members:
  - 2 content moderation/logarithm amplification technology experts.
  - 2 technology innovation experts.
  - 2 representatives from regulated entities to be designated by a social media advisory committee made up of social media companies and web infrastructure management companies.
  - 2 representatives from the digital corporate advertising ecosystem (to be designated by the GARM (Global Alliance for Responsible Media) industry group.
  - 1 representative from a citizen advocacy organization.

### **SMSB Staff**

- The Compliance Board shall appoint such staff as may be required to undertake the auditing and prepare compliance reports under the direction of a SMSB Executive



- Director (ED) who shall report to the Compliance Board. The qualifications and requirements of the ED shall be approved by a Compliance Board.

#### Web Content Voluntarily Subject to Independent Analysis

- A SMSB Compliance Board shall establish web content parameters to be subject to a code regulation and an audit focused exclusively on content deemed to promote medical misinformation, extremism, incitement, hate and instruction content in support thereof.

#### SMSB Budget

- An annual budget shall be derived from contributions from social media corporate members and the GARM pursuant to a budget proposed by the Board. Failure to timely meet required donations in a timely manner shall result in loss of certification.

#### Compliance Operational Parameters

A bi-annual certification process of major social media companies would be undertaken by SMSB staff and approved by a compliance board. This bi-annual audit of compliance with the code of conduct would be shared with the public and Congress.

- Certification/Compliance/Monitoring/Enforcement

#### Certifications:

- + Annual compliance reviews/audits
- + Interim special code compliance reviews triggered by majority vote of Compliance Board.
- + Annual audit reports
- + Determination and issuance of fines and revocation of "certification."
- + Code standard compliance monitored regularly by staff reporting to Compliance Board.
- + Certification (suspension or revocation) to be published by the SMSB AND prominently displayed by regulated entities on their respective websites.



Suite 1150 North  
600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 2005

July 24, 2020

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Tim Cook  
Chief Executive Officer  
Apple  
1-6 Infinite Loop  
Cupertino, CA 95014

RE: TELEGRAM APP'S ROLE INCITING EXTREMIST VIOLENCE

Dear Mr. Cook,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the Washington and New York-based Coalition for a Safer Web (CSW) ([www.coalitionsw.org](http://www.coalitionsw.org)). CSW is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization. Our Advisory Board is chaired by former Homeland Security Secretary Governor Tom Ridge.

CSW's mission is to accelerate the de-platforming of extremist and hate incitement from social media platforms. Our accomplishments have been widely reported in media coverage, most recently in *The Hill*, *Washington Post* and in *POLITICO Tech*.

When you accepted the Anti-Defamation League's "Courage against Hate" award in 2018 you stated, "We only have one message for those who seek to push hate, division and violence: You have no place on our platforms."

It is with your gracious pledge in mind I wish to draw to your attention to the increasingly dangerous role which the TELEGRAM mobile phone application in Apple's Application store is serving to facilitate and incite violence against Jews and African Americans by transnational white nationalist extremist groups - many affiliated with the Russian Government's Internet Research Agency.

Because of the increasing prevalence of Russian and Eastern-European anti-Semitic extremist neo-Nazi groups utilizing TELEGRAM, CSW commenced an in-depth research investigation earlier this year into its role. Our research revealed serious instances whereby TELEGRAM's end-to-end encryption service was enabling

Mr. Tim Cook  
July 24, 2020  
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Russian Government-back anti-Semitic/neo-Nazi extremist groups to recruit, organize, and inspire global terrorist networks, including enabling extremist groups to hawk merchandise to support their organizations. Our research was shared with the media and with federal authorities.

Subsequently, the murder of George Floyd triggered a massive volume of anti-black incitement on TELEGRAM. In fact, CSW was able to intercept real time communications on TELEGRAM by domestic white nationalist extremists directing its followers to specific urban locations to attack protesters and instigate instances of looting to cast blame on peaceful black protesters. This research was disclosed in CSW's initial June 3 press release (enclosed).

On June 18, CSW issued a second TELEGRAM-related press release (also enclosed) further disclosing TELEGRAM's role as the primary communications channel for Russian government and affiliated neo-Nazi and white nationalist groups, sowing misinformation and racial division in the United States and in Europe, with the goal of provoking black-on-Jew violence.

TELEGRAM is owned by Russian-born Pavel Durov who, along with his management team, operates from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). CSW has provided the UAE Government with a summary of our research and has requested it to urge TELEGRAM's management to take immediate action to curtail TELEGRAM's role facilitating racial and religious violence in the United States and elsewhere. We have not yet had the benefit of response to our request.

TELEGRAM's management certainly must be aware of the mounting complaints against it since 2017. Many reputable investigative organizations have conducted their own research onto TELEGRAM (referenced below) which have been cited in the media. In fact, TELEGRAM has provided such a hospitable open-door environment to ISIS, Nazis, racists, and the far-right conspiracy group QAnon, that many refer to it as "Terrorgram."

To support its operations TELEGRAM commenced in late 2017 a cryptocurrency venture known as the "TELEGRAM Open Network (TON)." TON has enabled the Russian Imperial Movement - a designated extremist neo-Nazi U.S. designated terrorist group - to buy and sell supplies to raise funds. TELEGRAM was able to raise \$1.7 billion from "investors" and TON continues to enable extremist groups to engage in encrypted financial transactions even though the SEC designated TON an

Mr. Tim Cook

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July 24, 2020  
Page Three

illegal financing venture and a federal court blocked any further TON transactions, but by the time the SEC acted the genie was out of the bottle. TON enabled TELEGRAM to raise \$1.7 billion for its users to expand its global footprint.

I was in the audience when you received your ADL award. I was greatly inspired by your gracious pledge. That is why I am calling on Apple to (temporarily) de-platform the TELEGRAM app from Apple's Application Store until TELEGRAM's management adopts a responsible, and verifiable, code of conduct which bars anti-Semitic/racist content, extremist accounts, and incitements to violence. By taking this action Apple will serve notice on TELEGRAM that it will no longer condone TELEGRAM's role as a purveyor of hate, racism, and terrorism - transforming your pledge into to meaningful action.

Of course, we realize that it would be impossible for Apple to remove the TELEGRAM App from iPhones and other Apple devices already in use by its customers. However, as with the current ad boycott against Facebook declared by the #StopHateForProfit coalition, social media platforms and applications must be held accountable for their conduct enabling hate and extremism. TELEGRAM's record of ambivalence, indeed contempt, for those calling on it to take remedial measures (as referenced in the many research reports cited below) compels Apple to step in as one of the few corporations which can hold TELEGRAM's financial feet to the fire.

CSW and its partners look forward to collaborating with Apple's management in the immediate days to serve the public's interest. Please note that CSW is sending a comparable letter to Samsung's management to request it to (temporarily) remove TELEGRAM from its Android app store until TELEGRAM's management takes remedial actions, as well.

Set forth below is a representative compilation of recent releases and reports issued regarding TELEGRAM. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Very truly yours,

Amb. Marc C. Ginsberg  
President  
Coalition for a Safer Web

Enclosures: As Stated

COALITION FOR A SAFER WEB research & press releases

June 03, 2020 - CSW Demands Action Against the TELEGRAM White Nationalist/Anti-Semitic/Anti-Black Riot Incitement App

June 18, 2020 - TELEGRAM App is the Misinformation "Super Spreader" to Foment U.S. Racial Division & Violence

June 22, 2020 - TELEGRAM App Deployed by Extremists to Foment July 28 "It's Going Down" Violence Against Portland Authorities

THIRD PARTY REPORTS & PRESS ON TELEGRAM - Select References

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<https://medium.com/the-innovation/nazis-and-cryptocurrency-the-evolution-of-telegram-10b30681c240>
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## TELEGRAM APP IS THE MISINFORMATION "SUPER SPREADER" TO FOMENT U.S. RACIAL DIVISION & VIOLENCE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington, D.C. (June 18, 2020):** The Coalition for a Safer Web (CSW) ([www.coalitionsw.org](http://www.coalitionsw.org)) – a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization\* based in Washington, D.C disclosed today that numerous Eastern European and Russian-based white nationalist groups – several linked to the Russian Government -- are inciting racial violence during BLM protests in the U.S. via the TELEGRAM mobile phone application (“app”) via its “end-to-end” encryption technology.

Earlier this year, CSW commenced an investigation into TELEGRAM in to construct an international initiative to curb TELEGRAM as the preferred social media channel of Islamic radical terrorist groups, extremist white nationalist organizations, and anti-black violence incitement. As reported by [VICE](#) last year, TELEGRAM enables far right extremist groups to upload unlimited videos, images, audio clips, and easily translate content – a veritable extremist’s super market of tech communications products, providing encrypted “chat rooms” for extremists to operate impervious to law enforcement.

On June 3, CSW issued a [Press Release](#) accusing Pavel Durov – the Dubai-based Russian owner of TELEGRAM -- of condoning the increasing torrent of extremist incitement on his platform – while reveling in his platform’s ability to evade international and U.S. regulation under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.

Indeed, while so much critical attention is focused on other major social media platforms, TELEGRAM’s UAE-based management is literally getting away with lethal extremist incitement.

CSW also discovered that TELEGRAM is increasingly one of the Russian Government's favored channels to spread misinformation via fake hashtags developed by the notorious Internet Research Agency (IRA) -- based in St. Petersburg. The IRA has evolved into a virtual camping ground for white nationalist & neo-Nazi organizations - many also based in St. Petersburg -- leading up to the 2020 election.

The IRA has also provided a digital safe haven to extremist content created by and on behalf of The Base (whose leader has been given refuge in St. Petersburg), and the trans-national violent neo-Nazi group known as the Atomwaffen Division - whose members have been digitally "tagged" as inciters of racial violence in the U.S. Several months ago, CSW urged Congress to impose new economic sanctions on Russia for granting refuge to The Base's leader - Rinaldo Nazzaro.

In recent weeks, CSW launched a multi-track strategy calling on the United Arab Emirates to examine whether hosting TELEGRAM is in its best interest, and also advocating a new call to action against TELEGRAM's mobile hosts: Apple and Samsung.

Amb. Marc Ginsberg, President of CSW stated:

*TELEGRAM's toxic facilitation of anti-Semitic and black extremism and violence during the BLM protests must no longer go unnoticed, nor unpunished. The evidence is clear and convincing that TELEGRAM's UAE-based owner and management are accomplices to extremists especially on behalf of Russian-based extremist white nationalist/neo-Nazi groups fomenting racial hatred and incitement."*

During its assessment of TELEGRAM, CSW's team examined over 250 TELEGRAM extremist channels - focusing on channels translating content from Russian into English.

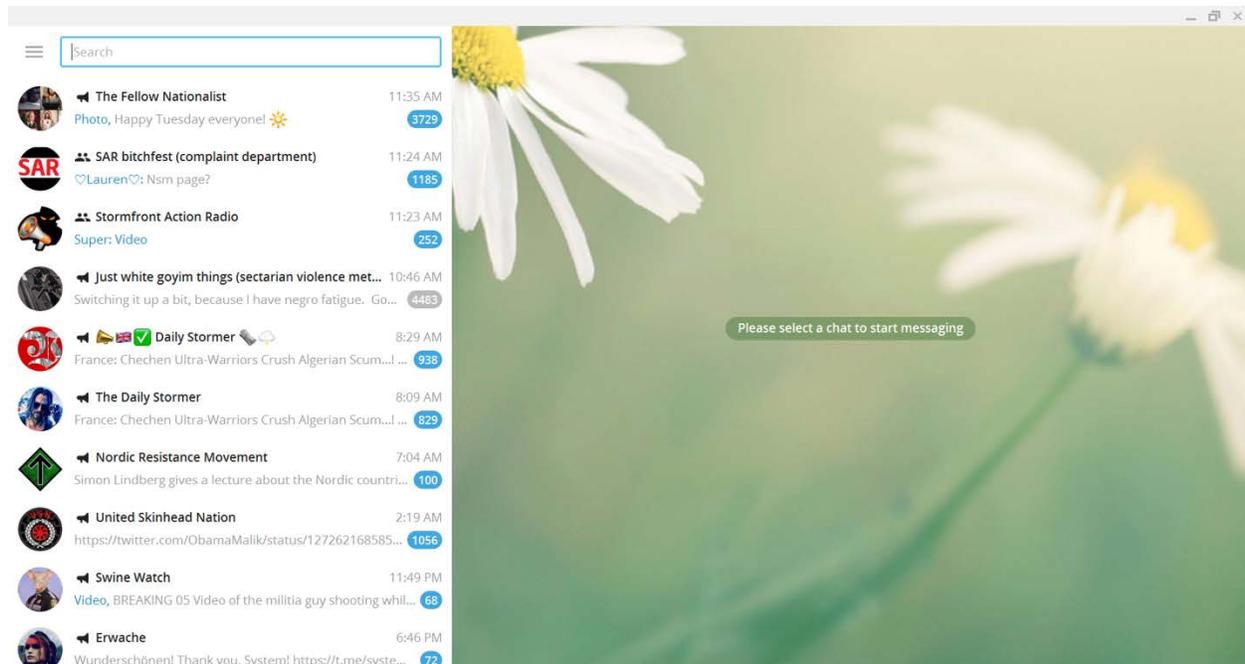
The volume of our intercepts is too numerous to include in this release.

The following is a representation of evidence accumulated by CSW:

1. The Ukraine-based Misanthropic Division (MD):

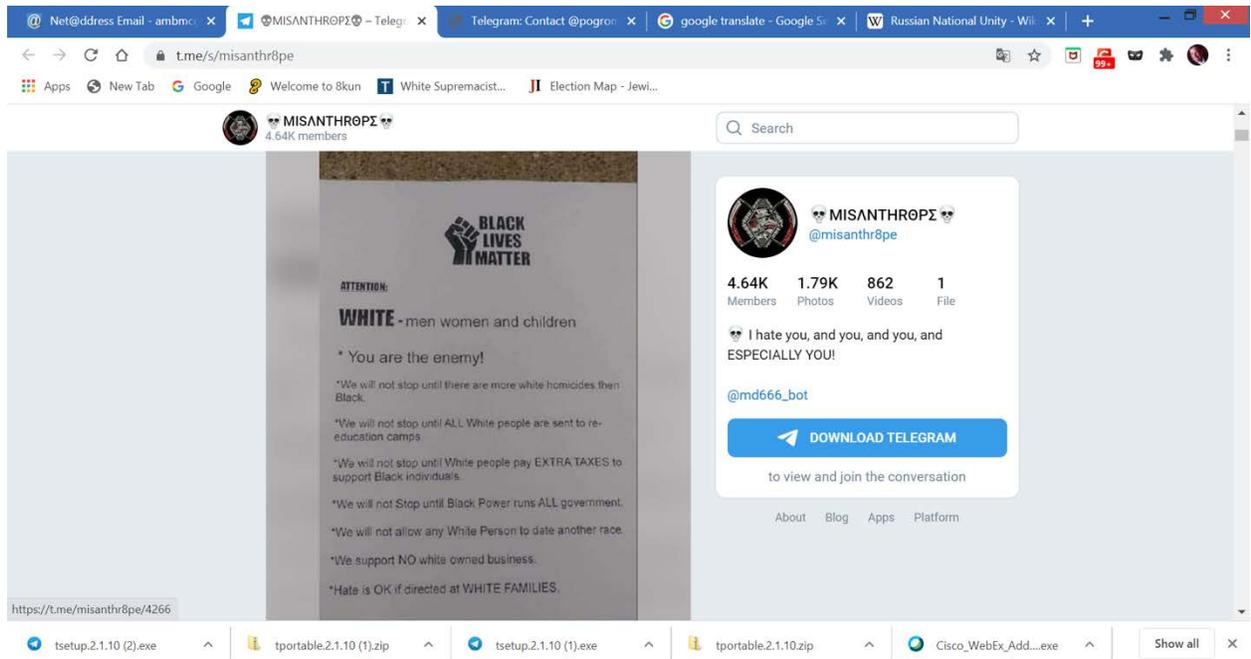


MD is regarded as the world-wide front and recruiting wing for pro-Nazi militias operating in the Ukraine under the Azov Battalion. Many of its TELEGRAM accounts are linked up to other white nationalist/neo-Nazi groups communicating via TELEGRAM as can be seen in the left

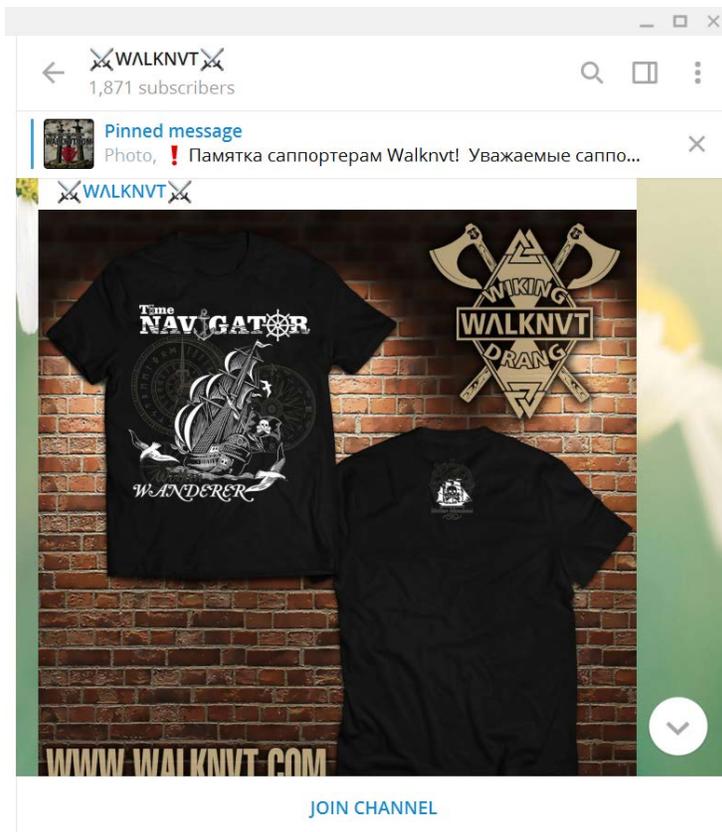


side of the following screenshot:

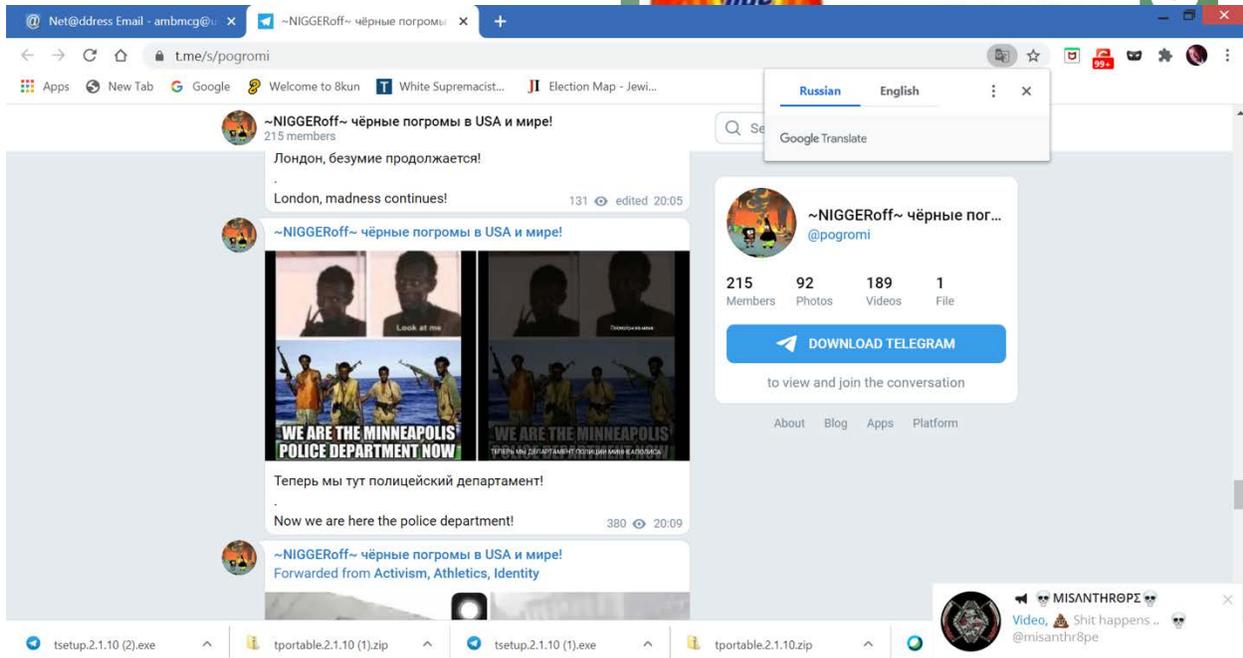
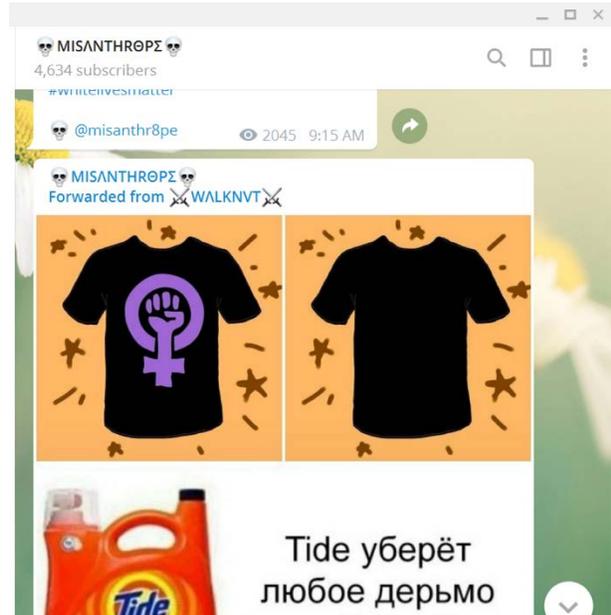
Another MD page contains a fake BLM poster inciting violence against white Americans:



- TELEGRAM also provides MD a merchandising outlet to market its extremist insignia adorned junk – the second ironically located next to an advertisement for TIDE detergent.



- This is from another Russian language

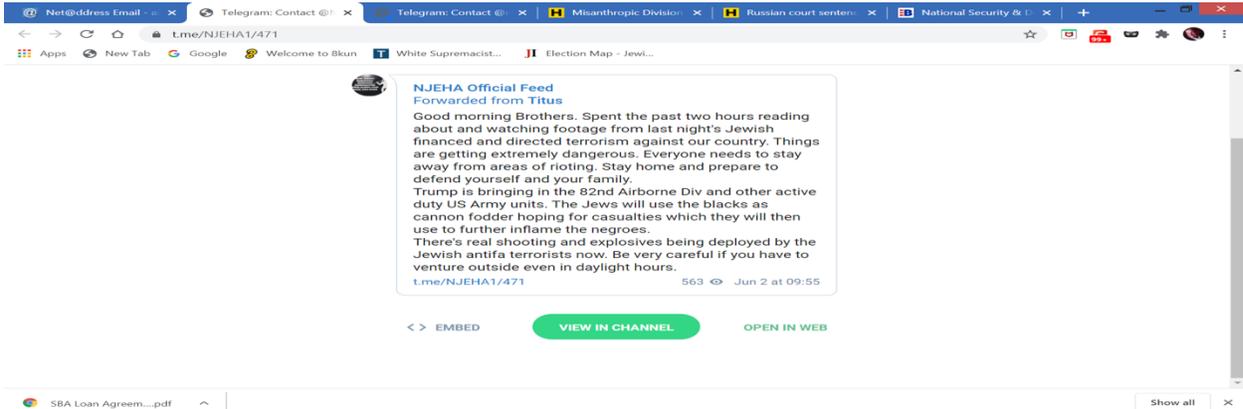


TELEGRAM channel “NIGGERoff”:

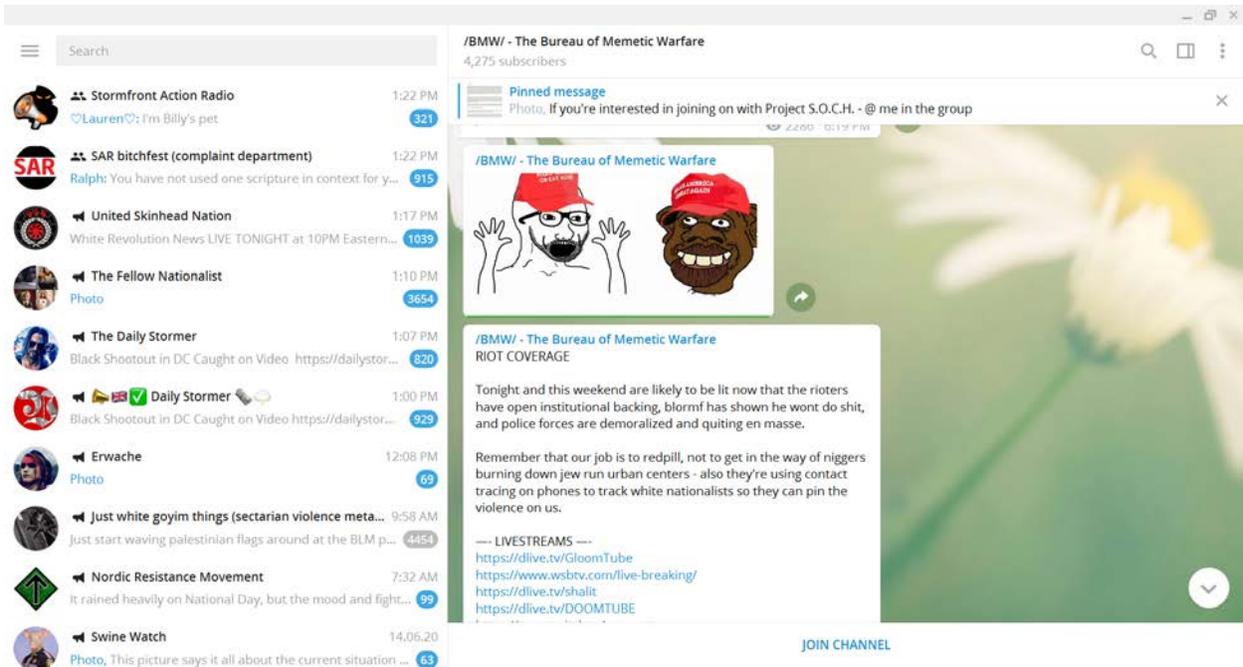
Found inside one of the handles promoting Atlanta violence with a picture depicting what appears to be Somali Al Shahab members as Minneapolis police department members:

“Blacks have not been killed for a long time in the USA for a long time. The cops from Atlanta decided to rectify the situation...”

TELEGRAM is also the favored social media site for a New Jersey-based extremist white nationalist group which goes by the name of New Jersey European Heritage Association. The NJEHA is on the FBI's radar. It's TELEGRAM feed focuses on blaming Jews for fomenting lawlessness and looting by African Americans.



- The so-called Bureau of Memetic Warfare – based somewhere in Eastern Europe -- uses extremist memes on TELEGRAM to incite violence:



[/BMW/ - The Bureau of Memetic Warfare](#)

## RIOT COVERAGE

Tonight and this weekend are likely to be lit now that the rioters have open institutional backing, blorfm has shown he wont do shit, and police forces are demoralized and quitting en masse.

Remember that our job is to redpill, not to get in the way of niggers burning down jew run urban centers - also they're using contact tracing on phones to track white nationalists so they can pin the violence on us.

- The following intercept is from a TELEGRAM-based neo-Nazi group “White World Union of National Socialism based in Latvia:

The image shows a browser window with multiple tabs open, including Telegram, Misanthropic, Russian cour, NIGGERof, National Sec, and Date George. The main content is a Telegram channel titled "White World Union of National Socialism based in Latvia" with the URL t.me/WhiteUnion1962/15583. The channel post contains the following text:

Black Riots Update if you notice Jew York City doesn't have the State of New York next to its name OY Vey. The Jew media incited these black riots as the Jews had always done in the United States this is no different then any other riot such as in San Francisco, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Watts, Los Angeles, Rochester, Trenton, Newark, Washington D.C, Harlem, NYC, Detroit and Chicago in the 1960s along with any other riot since that time.

#ReclaimAmerica  
#BlackRevolution  
#JewsOwnTheMassMedia  
#JewsBehindCommunism  
#EndJewishSupremacism

Below the Telegram channel is a screenshot of a Telegram channel named "Unbreakable Mindset" with 584 subscribers. The channel post contains the following text:

Be proud of your ancestors 2683 2:40 PM

Unbreakable Mindset  
Forwarded from The Honku Shoah

We are now in a time where the common memesmith has more power than the mainstream media. We need to rally our sticker ops behind the Kangz vs. Kikes op and capitalize on eager crowds of violent monkeys. We need to be uncompromising. If (((they))) want us to get into a race war, let's give them one so fast and definitive that they have no niggers left to pander to. George Floyd died of coronavirus and police stations are made to burn down.  
Fuck these nerds. 898 2:41 PM

Unbreakable Mindset  
Save this, it will be useful later. #HowTo 73 edited 2:47 PM

Unbreakable Mindset  
Forwarded from The Black Lives Revolution (BLM)

At the bottom of the Telegram channel screenshot is a "JOIN CHANNEL" button.

On the right side of the image, there are two social media posts from a user named "SAR bitchfest (complaint dep...". The first post says "Billy: My trigger finger works fine, mental patient." and the second post says "Lauren: Billy seems nice why are you being mean Rick".

- This is a likely

intercept was originally translated from Russian from IRA funded group called “Unbreakable Mindset”:



Suite 1150 North  
600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 2005

June 19, 2020

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

His Excellency Yousef Al Otaiba  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates  
3522 International Court N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

**RE: Coalition for a Safer Web**

Dear Yousef:

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the U.S. -based Coalition for a Safer Web ([www.coalitionsw.org](http://www.coalitionsw.org)). Based in Washington, D.C. and in New York, the Coalition is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to accelerate the de-platforming of extremist and hate incitement from social media platforms. Our research has been shared with Hedayah in the past.

The Coalition was created in 2019 to forge new technological and policy initiatives to inspire and promote anti-extremist social media de-platforming. Our mission also includes engaging in a variety of consumer-led civic actions and judicial initiatives against internet infrastructure support companies which provide essential tech services to fringe community extremist boards such as 8kun and GAB to cease serving as vendors for such operations.

The Coalition has a broad spectrum of private sector advertising and corporate supporters. The Chairman of our Advisory Board is former US Secretary of Homeland Security Gov. Tom Ridge. The Coalition's accomplishments have been the subject of many favorable media accounts; most recently in the Washington Post and in POLITICO Tech.

I specifically desire to draw your attention to the increasing challenges the Coalition has highlighted regarding the TELEGRAM mobile phone application, which has its headquarters in Dubai.

On June 3, 2020, the Coalition issued a press release (enclosed) accusing TELEGRAM of serving as the preferred APP of global extremist groups inciting anti-Semitic and anti-African

His Excellency Yousef Al Otaiba  
June 19, 2020  
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American violence during Black Lives Matter protests in recent weeks – a fact now confirmed by major global media outlets which have relied on our research.

As noted in the press release, the staff of the Coalition is monitoring white supremacist/neo Nazi communications on TELEGRAM in the wake of the murder in Minneapolis two weeks ago of George Floyd and the resulting global protests. Our research reveals a veritable torrent of extremist incitement notably anti-Semitic and anti-African American content on TELEGRAM. The Coalition uncovered encrypted capacity by extremist fringe groups to direct violence, including looting, where police presence is minimal.

Today, the Coalition issued a second TELEGRAM-related press release (attached) unveiling representational evidence that TELEGRAM is serving as communications channel for Russian Government and affiliated neo-Nazi and white nationalist groups to sow misinformation and racial division in the United States and in Europe, with the goal of provoking violence black-on-Jew violence.

TELEGRAM's owner – Pavel Durov, and his management team are based in Dubai. Durov has adopted the U.A.E. as TELEGRAM's principal place of business, having been previously lobbied by the governments of Ireland and Singapore to relocate elsewhere. TELEGRAM has other offices in Europe, but Durov himself has taken up residence there, to the best of our knowledge.

Mr. Durov and his staff are fully cognizant of the pernicious role TELEGRAM is serving as a vehicle of hatred and extremism. Indeed, his stated goal is to locate a permanent venue for TELEGRAM which would enable it to operate without any government or regulatory interference.

The Coalition is preparing a formal demarche to the Government of the United Arab Emirates to consider the evidence accumulated against Mr. Durov's role as a willing accomplice to the spread of violence and incitement, posing an increasing threat to law enforcement authorities. The Coalition is also preparing a new public advocacy campaign, as reported last week in POLITICO, to urge both Apple and Samsung to bar TELEGRAM from their respective APP stores during a period of time to be determined until TELEGRAM's management adopts a responsible code of conduct able to be monitored barring extremist accounts and violence incitement.

However, given my commitment over the years to US/UAE ties I wanted to engage initially with you to mutually explore how the UAE could contribute to altering TELEGRAM's extremist trajectory. I consider myself a strong supporter of the moderate and innovative policies of the

His Excellency Yousef Al Otaiba  
June 19, 2020  
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United Arab Emirates. I have often advised your Government on a variety of topics, including serving as an advisor for Dubai Ports, and advising your Minister of Trade in recent years. And, most importantly to me, as co-founding President of Layalina Arab Television Productions following 9/11, your government provided us the vital support to facilitate our first media productions with MBC to commence the long and arduous journey to extinguish Arab world support for Al Qaeda.

The UAE serves as a crucial gateway between America's Jewish community and the broader Muslim world. I am certain that the UAE government would be deeply concerned to learn that a social media channel whose major operations are in Dubai is a leading instrumentality of anti-Semitic and anti-black incitement and violence in the U.S. and abroad.

I welcome an opportunity to consult with you and your staff at your earliest convenience.

Yousef, you have my unyielding respect and friendship. I am especially supportive and grateful for your leadership reaching out directly to the Israeli public via your recent OP ED. You may recall I was raised in Israel and was the first U.S. ambassador of Jewish heritage to an Arab nation. All the more reason why I am a committed friend!

Sincerely yours,

Ambassador Marc Charles Ginsberg  
President  
Coalition for a Safer Web  
[mginsberg@coalitionsw.org](mailto:mginsberg@coalitionsw.org)  
(202) 352-1995 (M)

Attachment(s)

Coalition for a Safer Web Press Releases dated June 3 & June 18, 2020