



International Network Against Cyber Hate

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Intervention by Michael Whine on behalf The International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH),

On Monday, October 6, 2008 - working session 10: Tolerance and non-discrimination II (continued): Review of the implementation of commitments, promotion of mutual respect and understanding and addressing hate crimes: Combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions; Combating anti-Semitism; Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.

OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 29 September to 10 October 2008 Warsaw, Poland

INACH is an International Network born out of Dutch-German cooperation. We counter cyber hate in 18 countries within the OSCE region, including Canada and the United States. As a result of our advocacy since 2002, in 2004 the French government hosted the Paris conference on the relationship between racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet and hate crimes. The conference hardly scratched the surface of the subject, but it generated a number of commitments which were take over by the 2004 Sofia ministerial council, most importantly, to follow-up the work on Internet and hate Crime.

Now, four years later we have to conclude that the seriousness of online incitement to hate crime is mounting. Human rights defenders and minorities like Jews, Roma, Muslims, Gays and Lesbians and others, e.g. in the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic, but also in Western Europe, are threatened constantly on the Internet through online hit lists and in other ways. Some of those threats are carried out, resulting in violence against persons and property, and murder. An additional worrisome fact is that neo-

nazi groups whose sole purpose it is to terrorize society and destabilize democracy perpetrate a large part of this violence.

Incitement to hate crime via the Internet has become an integral part of the current 'hate crime structure'.

In order to take effective measures against this phenomenon, we need to work on data gathering, definitions and possible solutions. While the impact is getting bigger every day, the problem has too little attention within the ODIHR Tolerance agenda. This is why we like to recommend the participating states and the ODIHR to:

- Look at the possibility of putting certain neo-nazi groups that have shown a history of violence and terror on terrorist lists.
- Hold a follow-up meeting to the Paris 2004 conference, in the form of a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting or an expert meeting, with the express purpose of looking in depth at the relationship between online incitement to violence and hate crime in real life,
- Report what has been done with the other decisions of the 2004 ministerial Council in Sofia relating to Internet and hate, inter alia action taken against violence and criminal threats of violence, motivated by racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic or other related bias on the Internet; the training of law enforcement agents and prosecutors on how to address said crimes and; fostering exchanges directed toward identifying effective approaches to the issue of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet.