

Action Alert From Greater Philadelphia ZOA: Massachusetts Anti-Jewish “Mapping Project” Is a Danger to Jews and Others Everywhere

Alert:

An anonymous collective of individuals and groups has created a website <https://mapliberation.org/index.html> featuring an interactive map with the names and addresses of Jewish individuals, Jewish organizations and Jewish institutions -- plus businesses, educational institutions, government offices and law enforcement agencies. This targeting, combined with a series of manifestos that incite hatred of Jews, Israel and Zionists as well as against corporations, government and law enforcement on the website are a danger to thousands of Jews as well as anyone who could be at a location listed on the map.

Though the project is limited to Massachusetts at this time, it will likely be replicated elsewhere -- anti-Jewish activists have already called for it to be expanded, and those responsible for the website have stated that they are willing to assist its spread. This would intimidate more Jews and broaden a potential chilling effect on Zionist and pro-Israel activities and endanger more people.

This project is bent intimidating Jews and anyone who has any connection to Israel whatsoever, and also those behind it have called for “physical” efforts to “disrupt” pro-Israel activities and to “dismantle” Jewish organizations and institutions.

There are a number of advocacy steps and actions items that may be beneficial. There are also two sample emails/letters below.

Actions:

Suggested actions should seek to accomplish multiple goals: **To inform as many as possible about this, to alert those who may be in danger;** to press **law enforcement** and appropriate agencies to act to diminish or eliminate the danger; to **expose** the identities of those who have created the danger and to prosecute them if they have broken any laws; to pro-actively **prevent** a similar project from endangering others throughout the country; and to **disseminate** factual current and historical information about Israel, Zionism and the Jewish People **to counter**

anti-Jewish/anti-Israel/anti-Zionist lies and propaganda and thus **reduce Jew-hatred**.

It is important to state clearly that to be anti-Israel and/or anti-Zionist is to be anti-Jewish. These euphemisms are merely an effort by Jew-haters to make their anti-Jewish activity more accepted.

Action Item 1: Please alert anyone who you know in Massachusetts about the website and the “mapping project” <https://mapliberation.org/index.html> . While there have been some news reports about this latest threat to the Jewish People – primarily in Jewish outlets and from Jewish organizations in Massachusetts -- news about this danger is not widespread. There are nearly 500 entities labeled on the project’s map. Each entity on the map should heighten their situational awareness. This article <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-target-on-your-head/> offers details and analysis.

Please let your contacts know about this project so that they in turn can also inform others. The best way to do this is to forward this Action Alert, article link and the entire email to your email list, and to post them on social media. **The goal is not to create panic, but rather to create awareness.**

Action Item 2: It is also important to make law enforcement and communal leaders elsewhere aware of this danger in any location where this mapping project could spread. Please contact law-enforcement agencies at the federal, state and local levels to inform them about what is going on so that they can take preventive measures or monitor the internet now to protect the public. Making sure that they are aware can avert problems later. Make sure that clergy, lay leaders and organization officials in your area are also aware of this project.

The FBI and Massachusetts attorney general must investigate those responsible for endangering Jews and others, and for inciting Jew-hatred. They must use any and all law enforcement tools to reduce or eliminate the threat of violence and the taking of lives including shutting down the website and charging those responsible with offenses including ethnic intimidation, incitement to violence, and public endangerment where applicable.

Contact information for all of the above is readily available on the internet.

Action item 3: The Zionist Organization of America has created a number of fact sheets and advocacy tools that together tell the true story of Israel, Zionism and the Jewish People, and will help guide advocates to disseminate the facts. It is

these facts which are rarely reported in the news media that can help confront and combat the lies and propaganda that serve as the basis for the mapping project's anti-Jewish incitement and conspiracy theories. See:

<https://zoa.org/resources/> and <https://philly.zoa.org/pdf-resources/> and <https://philly.zoa.org/join-zoa-philly/advocacyactivism-how-to/>

Background:

Jew-hatred and crimes against Jewish people, Jewish institutions and Jewish-owned businesses have risen sharply in recent years in conjunction with the increase and mainstreaming of anti-Israel/anti-Zionist propaganda and media-bias. This new mapping project provides more anti-Jewish incitement and gives those who are anti-Jewish the tools to locate and attack the objects of their hatred. It actually calls for physical attacks against those it designates as the sources of societal ills.

While we staunchly support the First Amendment and freedom of speech, society has deemed some speech beyond the pale, and courts have ruled that there can be limitations to protect the public. These include speech that threatens, that incites violence and that endangers the public. The website and those behind it may be engaging in such activities.

It is incumbent that Jewish communal leaders throughout the country alert the Jewish community about the dangers, publicly condemn behavior and actions that threaten Jewry, and appeal to law enforcement to eliminate the danger. There has been a lot of misinformation about Israel and Zionism that many communal leaders have failed to address – that they must address and correct now.

Now is the time – before any more Jews are murdered, injured or intimidated to stop the threats to American Jewry and to recognize that attacks against the Jewish state and attacks against the Jewish People's liberation movement – Zionism – are attacks against Judaism and Jewry.

Additional actions: The collective that created the website takes advantage of website hosts, registries and email platforms that protect the anonymity of its users. While we understand and respect the need for privacy, those bent on terrorizing and targeting minorities should not be able to operate in secret since this secrecy and anonymity allows them to act with impunity to incite hatred and to terrorize Jews. Please contact internet-domain registration company Domains

By Proxy, domain registrar and web hosting company Godaddy and email service Protonmail to let them know that their platforms are being abused, and that they could be complicit if anyone is harmed as a result of their enabling the collective. Each company has information about reporting abuse by its customers on its website.

Please see below examples/suggestions of what you might say or write as you engage in advocacy/activism on this matter.

Contact information for law enforcement agencies, government offices, media outlets and offices of Jewish communal agencies and institutions is readily available on the search engine of your choice.

As always when you engage in advocacy or activism, be polite, clear and concise.

Sample email 1:

Dear Sir or Madam (or the person's name and/or title if you know it),

I am writing to inform you about a threatening and potentially violent situation that needs your immediate attention. An anonymous group centered in Massachusetts has called for physical actions against Jewish people, places and organizations as well as against others, and has listed names and addresses on a map of the state on a website. The website includes incitement of hatred. This website and those behind it have placed thousands of people in immediate danger and they may expand their effort to other areas. You can see the website, map and their manifestos here: <https://mapliberation.org/index.html>.

I am calling on you to publicly condemn this project and those who created it, to expose them and to use the tools you have to remove the threat to human life that the collective and the website pose to so many people.

Sample email 2:

Dear Sir or Madam (or the person's name and/or title if you know it),

I am writing to inform you about a potentially violent situation that needs your immediate attention. An anonymous group centered in Massachusetts has called for physical actions against Jewish people, places and organizations as well as against others, and has listed names and addresses on a map of the state on a website. The website includes incitement of hatred. This website and those

behind it have placed thousands of people in immediate danger. You can see the website, map and their manifestos here: <https://mapliberation.org/index.html>.

I am calling on you to alert the community, to do your best to make sure that targets and potential targets understand and practice situational awareness and protect themselves to the best of their ability. I ask that you further reach out to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to ask that they increase their efforts to protect the Jewish People, Jewish institutions and others who are targeted by this group.

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To learn more about advocacy, to report threats to the Jewish community or to get involved in helping and defending Israel, Zionism and the Jewish People, contact the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Zionist Organization of America at office@zoaphilly.org . Please support our vital work by making a donation to our chapter today.

To donate electronically, go to: <https://zoa.org/donate/philly/>

To donate by check, send to:

ZOA

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Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

We appreciate each and every donation! Please make your donation today while you are thinking about it.