

### Anti-Semitism in the Anti-Israel Movement

While anti-Semitism in the United States is often highly palpable – violent attacks against Jews or individuals perceived to be Jewish or bullying of Jewish students because of their religious identity – there are far more nuanced and subtle forms of anti-Semitism.

There are certain manifestations of criticism of Israel that can only be characterized as anti-Semitic in nature, the most predominant of which involves the comparison of Israelis and Israeli policy to Nazism and the Holocaust. Holocaust analogies in the anti-Israel context cross the line into anti-Semitism because such comparisons employ the worst evil in modern history to demonize Israel, and by doing so, target not just Israel but Jews as a whole. Invoking this aspect of Jewish history in the Israel context not only minimizes Jewish suffering during the Holocaust but also serves to conflate Israelis and Jews.

In 2013, a handful of anti-Israel programs that took place on university and college campuses featured the allegation that Israel's treatment of the Palestinians is tantamount to a Holocaust. In one particularly egregious example of this, in January, a member of University of California, San Diego's Student Senate showed a video at a student government meeting that claimed that the Israeli government engages in eugenics with the Ethiopian Jewish community. The video, which featured clips from a *Russia Today* program called "Breaking the Set," claimed that the "same group of people" who were victims of the Holocaust "now use Hitler's methods against another minority to maintain a Jewish majority."

In February, Jewish anti-Israel students at Brooklyn College held a protest on campus featuring signs that used the slogan "Never Again" in order to call for a Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. The signs read, "Never Again To Anyone...It Is Time To Boycott," "Never Again To Anyone...It Is Time To Divest," and "Never Again To Anyone: It Is Time To Sanction." A pro-Palestinian "Right of Return" conference at Boston University in April also featured similar Holocaust-related language. Salman Abu Sitta, a co-founder of [Al-Awda](#), the Palestine Right to Return Coalition, alleged that early Zionists forced Palestinians into "concentration camps" in the era during and after Israel's War of Independence in 1948.

Similarly, at the University of South Florida in May, an anti-Israel student group held an event to commemorate the Palestinian "Nakba," an Arabic term that means "catastrophe" and refers to the creation of Jewish state of Israel in 1948. The event was called "Palestinian Nakba: Holy Land Holocaust."

Off campus, rallies in August commemorating the Iranian-organized [Al Quds Day](#), which calls for the liberation of Jerusalem from Jewish control, featured similar language as well. At a rally in Houston, protesters chanted "U.S. money is the cause, it's another Holocaust." One protester held a sign that read, "Children are buried alive, Holocaust is revived." At a protest in Washington, D.C., one of the speakers addressing the crowd of demonstrators claimed that there's a "Holocaust going on in Palestine." And a protester affiliated with the [Neturei Karta](#)

movement held up a banner at an Al Quds rally in New York that read, “Israel Much Worse Than The Nazis” with a large swastika prominently featured on the sign.

In addition to the exploitation of the memory of the Holocaust to demonize Israel, an oft-made accusation about Israel and its supporters involves the claim that Jews in the U.S. have some sort of nefarious power over the government, the media and other institutions and that they use this control to pressure these institutions to support Israel.

[Alison Weir](#), the leader of a well-known anti-Israel organization called “If Americans Knew,” argued as much in an interview in May with *American Free Press*, a conspiracy-oriented anti-Semitic newspaper. Weir claimed that the “Israel lobby” pressures Congress to give foreign aid to Israel and suppresses any opposition to Israel, Zionism or “Jewish power.” She also claimed that Jews are “very powerful in politics” and agreed with the interviewer that it should be legitimate to have discussions about Jewish power.

### **Domestic Extremism & Anti-Semitism**

#### *The Nation of Islam Continues to Promote Anti-Semitic Conspiracies*

Throughout 2013, the [Nation of Islam](#) (NOI) espoused its notorious brand of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories about Jews controlling the American government, economy, media, and other sectors.

In February, for example, during the annual [Saviours’ Day](#) convention in Chicago, Illinois, NOI leader [Louis Farrakhan](#) used his keynote address to propagate his typical anti-Jewish conspiracies. He stated to a crowd of approximately 8,300 that the Anti-Defamation League, the Federal Reserve Bank, and the Internal Revenue Service were set up by Jews in tandem to control the fiscal policies of the United States and also listed statistics regarding the number of Jewish politicians before concluding, “Special interests along with Zionist AIPAC are robbing America of the principle of democracy.”

The NOI expanded its online presence in 2013, launching a [52-week online lecture series](#), which began in January of this year. Throughout the series, titled “The Time and What Must Be Done,” Farrakhan has spewed his anti-Semitism, including describing the Talmud as being used by Jews to “master the original people with that system of tricks and lies and unrighteousness,” characterizing the Jewish people as “Satanic,” and claiming Jews “rule Hollywood” and use this power to “place [Blacks] in a degraded state.” He also made bizarre allegations during one installment by instructing his listeners to look for a [hidden Star of David on the back of the one-dollar bill](#) and then implying a connection between this Jewish symbol and the Satanic symbol of 666, “the Star of David, 6 angles, 6 sides, of 60 degrees. Who are you?”

Farrakhan also promoted similar themes in his public appearances as well. In May, [at a church in Detroit, Michigan](#), Farrakhan referred to “Satanic Jews” and the “Synagogue of Satan” controlling America’s government and other sectors, claiming that the Jewish people “have mastered the civilization now, but they’ve mastered it in evil.” He continued, “The same people that control your press, the same people that control your media, the same people who are the

publishers, the same people who are the distributors, the same Synagogue of Satan, and they put you before the world in this disgraceful manner.”

[Farrakhan was also invited by public officials to a rally in front of the Alabama State Capitol](#),

where he told the crowd that Jews “know the value of money” and “misuse their power.”

Farrakhan was endorsed by public officials at the event including Alabama State Senators Hank Sanders and Bobby Singleton as well as Tuskegee, Alabama Mayor Johnny Ford.

In December, Farrakhan’s [first public appearance after suffering a heart attack](#) in October featured a number of anti-Semitic claims about Jewish control. During his remarks, he bluntly stated his theory about who controls the U.S. government: “We’re gonna bring you up to speed. The American government is under control of the Zionists.”

*New Black Panther Party Announces New Chairman, Same Hateful Message*

New Black Panther Party (NBPP) National Chairman [Malik Zulu Shabazz](#) announced in October 2013 that [he is stepping down](#) from his leadership position in the racist and anti-Semitic [New Black Panther Party](#) to focus on his career as a lawyer with Black Lawyers for Justice, an organization he founded in 1996.

Shabazz’s replacement, [Hashim Nzinga](#), previously served as the NBPP’s Chief of Staff. Like [Shabazz](#), Nzinga has a long history of racism and anti-Semitism. In a June 2013 online radio broadcast, for example, Nzinga claimed that Jews conspire to promote a negative image of Black youth through their supposed control of the media. He stated, “The Jews’ news...shows us before the world looking like damn fools” and called for a boycott of companies that “continue to help the Jews’ news make our youth look like buffoons before the world.”

This year also marked the [15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NBPP’s Million Youth March in Harlem](#). In honor of the anniversary, the group held a rally in Harlem in September which managed to attract mainstream support from some elected officials and figures from the entertainment and business worlds.

Not surprisingly, Malik Zulu Shabazz used his platform at the event to employ a Jewish slur and to single out Jewish-owned stores for a boycott, stating “If I had it my way, we would blackout and boycott every bloodsucker on 125<sup>th</sup> Street and start with these so-called Jewish owned diamond stores.”

The NBPP also announced plans to expand its international activity and outreach this year after a [NBPP delegation returned from a March trip to South Africa and Zimbabwe](#). In South Africa, the delegation met with members of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, a minor pan-African political party, and in Zimbabwe they met with President Robert Mugabe’s cabinet. The group is currently planning another trip to Africa for 2014.

## *Homegrown Islamic Extremists*

In the years since the 9/11 attacks, a significant number of American citizens and residents involved in terror plots in the U.S. have been influenced by violent ideologies developed by Al Qaeda and other foreign terrorist organizations that promote hatred of Jews and Israel.

According to these ideologies, Jews are the eternal enemy of Muslims and the embodiment of true evil. These anti-Jewish themes have increasingly been propagated online, including in English-language terror propaganda intended to appeal to Western audiences.

For example, [Inspire](#) magazine, which the [Tsarnaev brothers](#) allegedly used to build the bombs they used in the Boston Marathon, has been filled with either direct threats against Jews and Jewish institutions or diatribes against Jews and Israel since it was first launched in 2010.

The May 2013 issue of Inspire, which [celebrated the April 15 Boston Bombing](#) and encouraged future attacks against the U.S., included an article titled *The Inevitable* by Abu Ziyad Al-Muhajir and described the “Blessed Boston Bombings (BBB)” as an “absolute success” and quoted Osama bin Laden thusly: “As you kill, you will be killed until you leave our lands and stop supporting Israel.”

Unlike in previous years, however, 2013 did not see plots or conspiracies by domestic Islamist extremists against Jews or Jewish institutions. However, one American arrested on terror-related charges did evince anti-Semitic sentiment as part of their broader set of hatreds. [Eric Harroun](#), a former American soldier from Phoenix arrested on March 27, 2013 for fighting with Jabhat al-Nusra, an Al Qaeda linked rebel group in Syria, wrote on his Facebook page that the “only good Zionist is a dead Zionist” and, according to an FBI affidavit, explained the post by saying that he equates “Zionism with Nazism and Fascism.”

In addition, [Yusef al-Khattab](#), the co-founder and former leader of [Revolution Muslim](#) (RM) pleaded guilty in October to using the internet to threaten Jewish organizations. Al-Khattab is the third member of RM to plead guilty for making online threats in the past few years.

The extent of Al-Khattab’s [threats against the Jewish community](#) on the RM site was jarring. They included a video encouraging viewers to seek out the leaders of Jewish Federation chapters in the U.S. and “deal with them directly at their homes;” directions to specific Jewish facilities alongside a link to a manual for constructing and using explosive devices and a message encouraging readers to “make EVERY attempt to reach these people and teach them the message of Islam;” and a poem listing ways that Jews can be hurt including throwing “liquid drain cleaner in their faces” and burning “their flammable sukkos while they sleep.”

## *American White Supremacy and Anti-Semitism*

Another significant source of violent anti-Semitism in the United States continues to be the various white supremacist movements active in the country. Though overall the United States has experienced a resurgence of right-wing extremism since 2009, the movements that have

enjoyed the greatest increase have been anti-government extremists such as militia groups and sovereign citizens, rather than white supremacists.

White supremacy has been fairly stagnant in the United States for the past several years, with no overall noticeable growth. Neo-Nazis continue to operate at their lowest ebb in decades. In 2013, a deceased Canadian extremist left \$250,000 to the neo-Nazi National Alliance (creating an ongoing legal battle) but the National Alliance, once the largest neo-Nazi group in the United States, is virtually defunct and recently declared it would no longer be a “membership” organization, largely because it had virtually no members left. Faring better than neo-Nazis are racist skinheads and particularly racist prison gangs. Despite their stagnation, white supremacists remain one of the most prolific sources for anti-Semitic propaganda in the United States (and help to export it to other countries).

One new white supremacist group that has emerged is the Traditionalist Youth Network (TYN), founded in May 2013 by Matthew Heimbach and Matthew Parrot. TYN wants to attract high school and college students to the white supremacist movement. The group asserts that it is against “decadence, individualism, Marxism and Modernity,” as well as globalism and secularism. TYN also is anti-Semitic. Heimbach, in particular, has made many anti-Jewish statements. He has accused “powerful Jews” of pushing “the Western world into a war against Germany” and of enriching “themselves by selling the Goyim the weapons of war to kill one another.” On an anti-Semitic radio show, Heimbach argued that Jews should be separated from the rest of the population. He said, “Jews are not our folk, they’re not our family, and they don’t belong here. They belong with their own people, somewhere else, not meddling in our own affairs, not using our resources...” In the same interview, Heimbach said that Jews should be barred from churches, the media, and the country. On the TYN blog, Heimbach has promoted Father Coughlin, an anti-Semite who broadcasted a popular radio show in the 1930s, and traditionalist Catholics, those who reject many of the changes instituted by the Catholic Church and openly espouse anti-Semitic views.

Additionally, a group of white supremacist Christians who call themselves Kinists had a more pronounced presence on the internet in 2013. Kinists believe that whites have a “God-given right” to live and worship separately from other races. They are also vehemently anti-Semitic. Even though Kinists frequently claim they are benevolent toward other races, this benevolence does not extend to Jews. Kinists often refer to Jews as “anti-Christ.” They see Jews as plotting to destroy both Christianity and the white race.

The white supremacist movement does remain the most violent extremist movement of any kind in the United States in terms of assaults and murders. Jews and Jewish organizations continue to be among the targets of white supremacists in the United States, though not the most common target. Selected incidents from 2013 include:

- In November 2013, Missouri prison officials executed white supremacist serial killer Joseph Paul Franklin, convicted of eight racially-motivated murders between 1977 and 1980 and thought to have committed over a dozen more. He received the death penalty in 1997 for the 1977 murder of Gerald Gordon outside a synagogue in Richmond Heights, Missouri.

- In October 2013, a federal grand jury in Salt Lake City, Utah, indicted white supremacist Macon Michael Openshaw on civil rights and weapons violations for a 2012 incident in which Openshaw allegedly fired shots at a synagogue, breaking windows and damaging the building. On one white supremacist website, Openshaw wrote “this is a war, the goal, death to zog. Even if it means getting dirty” (punctuation as in original). “ZOG” is a white supremacist acronym standing for the “Zionist Occupied Government.”
- In July 2013, white supremacist Richard Schmidt pleaded guilty to weapons charges in Toledo, Ohio, after law enforcement uncovered a significant arsenal of weapons. Items seized during the investigation led investigators to suspect he might have been planning some sort of attack against Jewish and Black organizations in nearby Detroit, Michigan.
- In May 2013, a Massachusetts jury convicted white supremacist Keith Luke on a variety of charges related to deadly rampage Luke embarked on in 2009. He shot and killed two African immigrants and raped and shot a third before police captured him while he was on his way to a synagogue in Brockton to open fire on Jews playing bingo.