



Online responses to the Belleville Synagogue shooting, Yom Kippur, 2026.

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By Andre Oboler, Patrick Scolyer-Gray, Jasmine Beinart, Jonah Kaufman, and Eliyahou Roth.

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Executive Summary

On the evening of Yom Kippur, 20 September 2026, in Belleville, Ontario, Canada, a gunman carried out what police described as “a deliberate attack directed at members of the Jewish community”.¹ The attack targeted the Sons of Jacob Synagogue and resulted in an exchange of gunfire between the assailant and a police officer stationed outside, with bullets passing through the synagogue’s windows.² While none of the worshippers were injured, the officer, Constable Jeff Smith, was shot and hospitalised in a critical but stable condition.³ The assailant, Sean Ward, was shot by police and later died in hospital.⁴

This report examines the online response to the attack across eight online platforms. It shows glorification of the attack, disappointment Jews weren’t killed, denial the attack was real, denial it was targeted at the Jewish community, and claims it was a false flag carried out by the Jewish community, Mossad, Israel, or Canadian intelligence. This pattern of celebration and denial follows what we have seen in response to other attacks on the Jewish community around the world.

The responses advance the normalisation of antisemitism and antisemitic violent extremism. One narrative seeks to normalise the killing of Jews, and the public acceptance of violence targeting Jews. The other seeks to undermine empathy with the Jewish victims, eroding public and political will to confront antisemitism.

We saw these narratives erasing Jewish victimhood in the pro-Hamas disinformation campaigns after the October 7 terrorist attack, and in Iranian disinformation following multiple Iranian sponsored attacks on Jewish targets around the world. While the Belleville attack did not come from the same source, it highlights how these narratives have been normalised in online culture, particularly when Jews are the target.

¹ Sareen Habeshian, ‘Yom Kippur shooting outside Canadian synagogue was “hate-motivated”, officials say’, *BBC*, 25 September 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c6804n1r100eo>

² Guy Quenneville, ‘Belleville synagogue shooter had means to carry out ‘mass casualty’ event: police chief’, *CBC News*, 24 September 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/belleville-synagogue-shooting-9.7357676>

³ Associated Press, ‘Up to 30 shots fired after man opened fire on officer outside Ontario synagogue’, *PBS News*, 21 September 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/up-to-30-shots-fired-after-man-opened-fire-on-officer-outside-ontario-synagogue>

⁴ Toronto Star, ‘New Details About Belleville Synagogue Shooting Suspect Emerge Following his Death in Hospital’, *Toronto Star*, 26 September 2026, https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/suspect-in-belleville-shooting-outside-synagogue-has-died-in-hospital/article_82b14065-f318-434f-9625-db6683461b06.html

The report also shows how some people immediately asserted the attacker was Muslim, using news of the attack to promote anti-Muslim hate. In another section it explores the link between the attack and the spread of Covid conspiracy theories.

This report highlights the urgent need for greater action on online antisemitism, mis/disinformation, and extremism. When people are attacked in a place of worship on a holy day, the response online should be empathy, unity, and support. Online content that seeks to subvert that response, that justifies, excuses, or denies the violence undermines religious freedom, liberal democratic values, and society itself.

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The Belleville Attack

On Sunday Night, 20 September 2026, a gunman opened fire on the Sons of Jacob Synagogue in Belleville in Ontario, Canada.⁵ It was Erev Yom Kippur, the evening marking the start of the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. This is the festival when synagogue attendance is at its highest. The attack has echoes of the 2019 Yom Kippur attack on a synagogue in Halle, Germany, as well as the Yom Kippur attack in Manchester in 2025.⁶

A police officer, Constable Jeff Smith, was stationed near the synagogue to provide a protective presence. Norm Weddum, President of the Synagogue, told the media that the officer had been in an unmarked car in the synagogue's parking lot at the side of the building when the attacker approached the synagogue.⁷ After an initial reconnaissance of the area earlier in the day, in which he passed by Constable Smith, the attacker in his second approach ambushed Constable Smith, opening fire on him, while the officer was in his vehicle.⁸ The officer sustained multiple gunshot wounds to his head and body.⁹

Despite having been shot in the chest and head, Constable Smith exited the vehicle and engaged the attacker with return fire.¹⁰ Approximately three minutes after Constable Smith was wounded and while still engaging the attacker, a second officer, Constable Michael McCurdy, arrived and joined Constable Smith in returning fire.¹¹ At the time of

⁵ Sareen Habeshian, 'Yom Kippur shooting outside Canadian synagogue was "hate-motivated", officials say', BBC, 25 September 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c6804n1r100eo>

⁶ Andre Oboler, William Allington and Patrick Scolyer-Gray, Hate and Violent Extremism from an Online Sub-Culture: The Yom Kippur Terrorist Attack in Halle, Germany (Online Hate Prevention Institute. 2019), <https://ohpi.org.au/hate-and-violent-extremism-from-an-online-subculture-the-yom-kippur-terrorist-attack-in-halle-germany/>; OHPI, 'Manchester Synagogue Attack: Yom Kippur 2025', *Online Hate Prevention Institute*, 3 October 2025, <https://ohpi.org.au/manchester-synagogue-attack-yom-kippur-2025/>.

⁷ CBC News, 'Member of Belleville, Ont., synagogue describes hearing shots that left 2 wounded', CBC News, 21 September 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7351811>

⁸ Rachel Morgan, 'Belleville synagogue shooting a 'hate-motivated attack,' police say', *Global News: Canada*, 24 September 2026, <https://globalnews.ca/news/12072001/why-belleville-synagogue-shooting-hate-motivated/>

⁹ Maan Alhmidi, 'Belleville, Ont., synagogue shooting was a hate-motivated attack, police say', *Canadian Security*, 25 September 2026, <https://www.canadiansecuritymag.com/belleville-ont-synagogue-shooting-was-a-hate-motivated-attack-police-say/>

¹⁰ Joshua Smith, 'Ambush' outside Belleville synagogue was a hate-motivated attack targeting Jewish community, police say', *Toronto Star*, 24 September 2026, https://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/belleville-police-to-provide-update-on-synagogue-shootout-this-after-noon/article_24213ffd-af37-4da8-a5c2-5474e4c2bb7c.html

¹¹ Guy Quenneville, 'Belleville synagogue shooter had means to carry out 'mass casualty' event: police chief', CBC News, 24 September 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/belleville-synagogue-shooting-9.7357676>

writing this report, police have not yet released certain details around the final moments of the gunfight, but it is known that the attacker was severely wounded during the exchange of gunfire, and was eventually subdued and arrested.¹²

Constable Smith and the attacker, who police identified as 29-year-old Sean Ward of Quinte West, were both conveyed to hospital in critical conditions.¹³ At the time of writing, Constable Smith is still in hospital in a critical but stable condition.¹⁴ Ward died in hospital the day after the attack.¹⁵ Although multiple rounds from the gunfight pierced the stained glass windows of the Synagogue (shown on the cover of this report), no one inside was injured.¹⁶

Investigations immediately following the attack revealed further details about Ward and the nature of the attack. Ward was a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), and had served with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regiment from 2017 to 2022.¹⁷ Ward had brought supplies with him to the synagogue that strongly suggest he had the intention of carrying out a mass casualty event,¹⁸ including gasoline and a "significant amount of ammunition on his person".¹⁹

¹² Sareen Habeshian, "Yom Kippur shooting outside Canadian synagogue was 'hate-motivated', officials say", BBC News, 25 September 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c6804n1r100eo>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Associated Press, "Up to 30 shots fired after man opened fire on officer outside Ontario synagogue", PBS News, 21 September 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/up-to-30-shots-fired-after-man-opened-fire-on-officer-outside-ontario-synagogue>

¹⁵ Toronto Star, 'New Details About Belleville Synagogue Shooting Suspect Emerge Following his Death in Hospital', *Toronto Star*, 26 September 2026, https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/suspect-in-belleville-shooting-outside-synagogue-has-died-in-hospital/article_82b14065-f318-434f-9625-db6683461b06.html ; Jonathan Rothman, "'Surreal': Belleville's Jewish community returns to a bullet-scarred synagogue after Yom Kippur shooting", *The Canadian Jewish News*, 23 September, 2026, <https://thecjn.ca/news/surreal-bellevilles-jewish-community-returns-to-a-bullet-scarred-synagogue-after-yom-kippur-shooting/>

¹⁶ Guy Quenneville, 'Belleville synagogue shooter had means to carry out 'mass casualty' event: police chief', *CBC News*, 24 September 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/belleville-synagogue-shooting-9.7357676>

¹⁷ Toronto Star, 'Belleville gunman was suing the Canadian Armed Forces over COVID vaccine mandate', *Toronto Star*, 25 September 2026, https://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/belleville-gunman-was-suing-the-canadian-armed-forces-over-vaccine-mandate/article_f131b7ad-0338-4949-9026-4ec702ed4fdc.html

¹⁸ Guy Quenneville, 'Belleville synagogue shooter had means to carry out 'mass casualty' event: police chief', *CBC News*, 24 September 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/belleville-synagogue-shooting-9.7357676>

¹⁹ Toronto Star, 'Belleville gunman was suing the Canadian Armed Forces over COVID vaccine mandate', *Toronto Star*, 25 September 2026, https://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/belleville-gunman-was-suing-the-canadian-armed-forces-over-vaccine-mandate/article_f131b7ad-0338-4949-9026-4ec702ed4fdc.html

Police confirmed at a press conference on Thursday 24 September that the attack was “hate motivated”, and that Ward had targeted the synagogue and the Jewish community.²⁰ Police also released a video captured by a witness at the scene during the firefight between Ward and Constable Smith in which Ward shouts at Constable Smith while taking cover behind a vehicle, “you are going to die for the Jews”.²¹

Available evidence strongly suggests that Ward was motivated by antisemitic sentiments that had become visible in his behaviour prior to the assault on the synagogue. After five years of service and having achieved the rank of Corporal in the CAF, Ward’s military career terminated in 2022 because he refused COVID-19 vaccinations (a compulsory requirement for CAF personnel).²² Persons from the same regiment who had known Ward while he was serving in the CAF revealed that shortly before his discharge from the service, Ward had taken to voicing antisemitic conspiracy theories, including claims that the Jews were to blame for COVID-19.²³

Ward did not leave the service voluntarily, and was discharged under 5(f) - an article that governs conditions for compulsory discharge from the CAF if an officer or NCO is found to be “unsuitable for further service”:

*Because of factors within the officer or non-commissioned member’s control, develops personal weaknesses or has domestic or other personal problems that seriously impair their usefulness to, or impose an excessive administrative burden on, the Canadian Forces.*²⁴

Ward had also filed a statement of claim as part of a “large class action suit suing the CAF over vaccine mandates in the military”.²⁵ In part, Ward’s case cited damages

²⁰ Rachel Morgan, ‘Belleville synagogue shooting a ‘hate-motivated attack,’ police say’, *Global News: Canada*, 24 September 2026,

<https://globalnews.ca/news/12072001/why-belleville-synagogue-shooting-hate-motivated/>

²¹ Joshua Smith, ‘Ambush’ outside Belleville synagogue was a hate-motivated attack targeting Jewish community, police say’, *Toronto Star*, 24 September 2026,

https://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/belleville-police-to-provide-update-on-synagogue-shootout-this-after-noon/article_24213ffd-af37-4da8-a5c2-5474e4c2bb7c.html

²² Jeff Semple and Stewart Bell, ‘Belleville gunman spouted COVID-19 conspiracies while in army, say sources’, *Global News: Canada*, 22 September 2026,

<https://globalnews.ca/news/12068908/belleville-gunman-covid-conspiracies-military/>

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ National Defence, “QR&O: Volume I - Chapter 15 Release”, Government of Canada, 2 June 2026.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/policies-standards/queens-regulations-orders/vol-1-administration/ch-15-release.html>

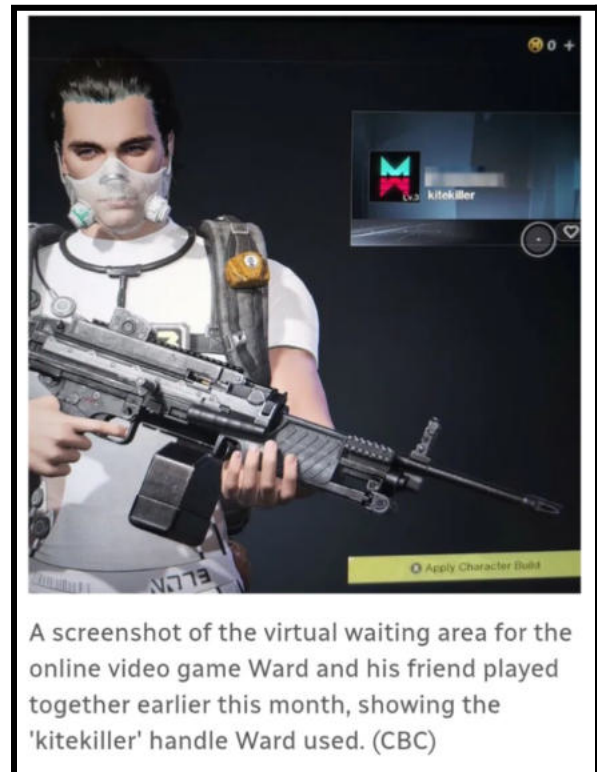
²⁵ Raju Mudhar, “Belleville gunman was suing the Canadian Armed Forces over COVID vaccine mandate”, *Toronto Star*, 25 September 2026,

https://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/belleville-gunman-was-suing-the-canadian-armed-forces-over-vaccine-mandate/article_f131b7ad-0338-4949-9026-4ec702ed4fdc.html

associated with the stigma attached to a discharge under 5(f).²⁶ Evidence available at the time of writing suggests that Ward may have believed in Jewish power conspiracy theories, and that this power was manifest in the COVID-19 pandemic (and potentially so too the vaccine), and was ultimately to blame for an unjust and premature termination of his career.

Although it is impossible to determine the specifics of Ward's reasoning, the presence of antisemitism appears to have been a major theme in his life. One of Ward's friends, speaking under conditions of anonymity, reported to CBC Canada that Ward had used the username 'Kitekiller' while playing the video game *Once Human*.²⁷

The moniker is an antisemitic dogwhistle that alludes to the murder of Jewish people, and was reportedly selected by Ward after the original spelling (presumably "KikeKiller") was blocked by Xbox's automatic triggers.²⁸ Analyses of Ward's recorded communications and online activities more broadly converge on recurring themes of antisemitism and xenophobic sentiment as well as perceived victimisation.²⁹



Prior to the availability of more detailed information on Ward and his potential motivations, the combination of news media coverage and responses to the incident triggered a variety of reactions. Statements of support and solidarity for the Jewish community from Canada's Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition,³⁰ and well as from many regular Canadians. Online reactions to the attack were almost immediate, and have persisted up to and including the time of writing of this report. The nature of responses varied, with many offering their sympathies for Constable Smith and expressing a sense of gratitude that the attack had not escalated further. However,

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Eric Szeto, Christian Paas-Lang, Jordan Pearson and Megan McCleister, 'Synagogue shooter's online username alluded to killing Jews weeks before attack, friend says', *CBC News*, 23 September 2026. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/synagogue-shooting-suspect-9.7355704>

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Sareen Habeshian, 'Yom Kippur shooting outside Canadian synagogue was "hate-motivated", officials say', *BBC News*, 25 September 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c6804n1r100eo>

many others posted content supportive of violence targeting the Jewish community, regretting the lack of casualties among the Jewish worshippers, calling the attack a “false flag”, or claiming the Jewish community, or claiming that either Israeli or Canadian intelligence were behind the attack. Anti-Muslim sentiment and xenophobic content were also notable.

Methodology and empirical results

In preparing this report, the Online Hate Prevention Institute collected 202 items (posts or comments) containing messages of hate or extremism (or in rare cases other content of interest) from across eight online platforms. Content was found by searching for Belleville or related terms, then reviewing both posts and the comments on them.

A team of analysts assessed and archived items of interest, storing both an image of the content and its URL. Two additional senior analysts were used for validation. One would classify the collected data, while a second reviewed the classifications. Each senior analysts classified half the data while acting as reviewer for the other half. Disagreements were discussed by the classifier and reviewer to reach consensus. Disagreements were few and mostly related to interpretation of the posters meaning, or resolving whether borderline cases should be included or excluded from a category. Five items were resolved as not being relevant and were instead included in “other”, along with six items the initial analysts included to provide background information.

Table 1: Data by platform

Platform	Items collected
4Chan's /pol/	26 (including 24 antisemitic items)
X (Twitter)	22 (including 17 antisemitism items)
Facebook	29 (including 23 antisemitic items)
Instagram	56 (including 48 antisemitic items)
YouTube	14 (including 13 antisemitic items)
Reddit	10 (including 5 antisemitic items)
Gab	12 (including 9 antisemitic items)
TikTok	33 (including 23 antisemitic items)
TOTAL	202 items (162 antisemitic)

Table 2: Data by narrative

Platform	Items collected
Glorification of violence	38
Dismissal / Denial / Minimisation Includes “false flag” in the sense of fake	73
False attribution - includes “false flag” in the sense of real but part of a conspiracy to frame someone else for the attack	31
Other - interesting but not hate	11
General antisemitism e.g. including antisemitic slurs or tropes	62
Anti-Muslim	23
Racism against Palestinians / hate against pro-Palestinian activists	2
Anti-immigrant	11
Anti-Covid	11
TOTAL	262 narratives

Thematic analysis

In this section of the report we discuss the common narratives seen across the data gathered online in the wake of the attack. Where further examples can be seen through the platforms section of this report, fewer examples are provided in this section.

Glorification of violence against Jews

Glorification of violence is content that celebrates, praises, or endorses an act of violence, its perpetrator, or its outcome. This can take the form of direct praise of the attack or attacker ('martyr' framing, or heroisation), regret when a violent event was prevented or harm minimised, or calls for the event to be repeated or copied.

In the context of the Belleville attack, online commenters repeatedly framed the assailant as a defender of Canadian values against a Jewish enemy. This suggests that there is value in attacking Jews, and transfers responsibility for the violence to its victims. It also positions potential future attacks as "reasonable" and "necessary" helping to nudge others into carrying out violent extremist acts. Glorification also functions to encourage similar 'copycat' style attacks, and can be a driver of further real-world violence.

An explicit example of glorification, and incitement to further violence, can be seen below in a comment responding to a news post on Instagram about the shooting. The user responds, "Shoot more of them".



Dismissal and denial

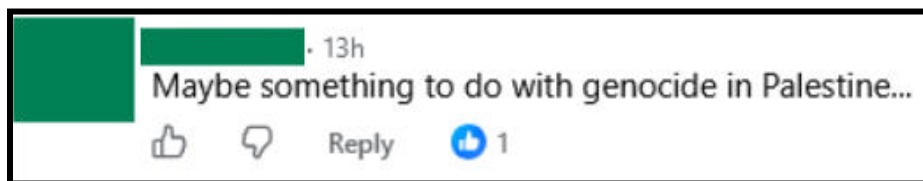
Dismissal and denial examples generally suggested the attack was either a hoax and had not taken place, or that it was insignificant. Some explicitly asserted the attack was not real, and that the news coverage was fabricated. Others suggested information was being manipulated to inflate the importance of the incident, and that a random crime unrelated to the synagogue was being hijacked to create sympathy for Jewish interests.

Some of the ways dismissal and denial manifested were:

- By implying that the attack had been staged.
- That the absence of Jewish casualties indicated the attack was not 'genuine'.
- Suggesting that Jews were not targeted and there was not an antisemitic motive.
- Claiming that the attack and/or news coverage of it was a distraction.

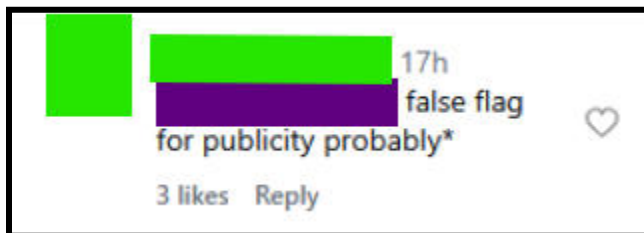
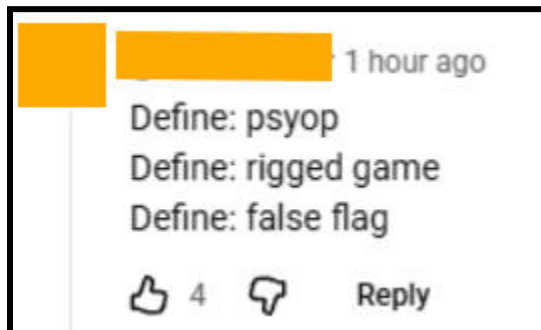
Many classically antisemitic tropes are based on narratives about Jewish persecution and victimhood being fabricated or on conspiracy theories about Jewish power and influence. Holocaust denial content, for example, often claims the Holocaust is either fake or grossly exaggerated and often alleges this is done so that Jews can use their "victimhood" status for political or material gain. Incidents like the shooting at the Sons of Jacob Synagogue demonstrate that antisemitism is very real and dangerous. For those seeking to deny the existence of antisemitism, or who wish to undermine efforts to prevent it, incidents like this clash with their narratives and view of reality. Denying the attack makes it easier for them to continue as before, ignoring this shock of reality.

The example below dismisses the attack by "justifying" it. It highlights how the genocide libel is used to justify antisemitic violence, just as blood libels were in the Middle Ages.³¹



³¹ Strawson, John. "Israel, Genocide, and Gaza: The Law and Politics of an Accusation" *Journal of Contemporary Antisemitism*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2026, pp. 79-96. <https://doi.org/10.26613/jca/9.1.204>; Goda, Norman JW. 2025. "The Genocide Libel: How the World Has Charged Israel with Genocide." ISCA Research Paper 2025-3. <https://isca.indiana.edu/publication-research/research-paper-series/norman-jw-goda-research-paper.html>; Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, "From blood libel to genocide libel", *Time of Israel Blogs*, 14 February 2024 <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/blood-libel-and-genocide-libel/>; Sam Halpwen, "Prominent scholars, legal experts among 6,000 signatories to letter rejecting Gaza genocide charge", *Jerusalem Post*, 25 September 2025. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-909646>; Rabbi Irving Greenberg, "Stop the Blood Libel Before It Kills Again...and Again", *Jewish Journal*, 4 February 2026. <https://jewishjournal.com/commentary/opinion/386833/stop-the-blood-libel-before-it-kills-againand-again/>;

These next examples claim the attack was a “false flag”, in the sense that it was staged. The first claims it was a psyop and the second claims it was done as a publicity stunt.



The next example does not call it a false flag, but explicitly asserts that the attack was “staged” and “fake”, adding that “October 7 and Bondi beach” were fake as well. As we have discussed in previous reports, these claims were made at the time after both October 7 and the Bondi beach massacre.³²

³² A. Oboler, E. Roth, J. Beinart & J. Beinart Online Antisemitism After 7 October 2023, (Online Hate Prevention Institute, 2024). <https://ohpi.org.au/afteroct7/>; A Oboler, T Barkley, A Gild, P Scolyer-Gray, and L Levin. The Bondi Beach Chanukah Massacre. (Online Hate Prevention Institute, 2026). <https://ohpi.org.au/bondi-report/>

“Free Palestine”

Some people responded to news of the attack with “Free Palestine” comments. In the context of a comment on a post about an attack on a synagogue, these messages are not activism but endorsements of worldviews that range from seeing Jewish lives and attacks on them as unimportant, to seeing Jews – all Jews everywhere – as an enemy that should be targeted and killed.

The message of Jews as targets is promoted by the slogan “Globalise the Intifada” which recalls the Second Intifada, a campaign of terror unleashed on Israel between 28 September 2000 and 8 February 2005. It advocates for that violence to be reignited, this time on a global scale, and attacking Jewish targets worldwide.³³ The Second Intifada involved suicide bombings, shootings, stabbings, and car rammings that killed over 1,000 Israelis while injuring an additional 50,000.³⁴ One of its deadliest attacks was a suicide bombing in the Sbarro pizzeria which killed 15 people, mostly children, with a further 100 people injured. The “Free Palestine” slogan posted in response to a shooting targeting a Synagogue must be understood in this context.

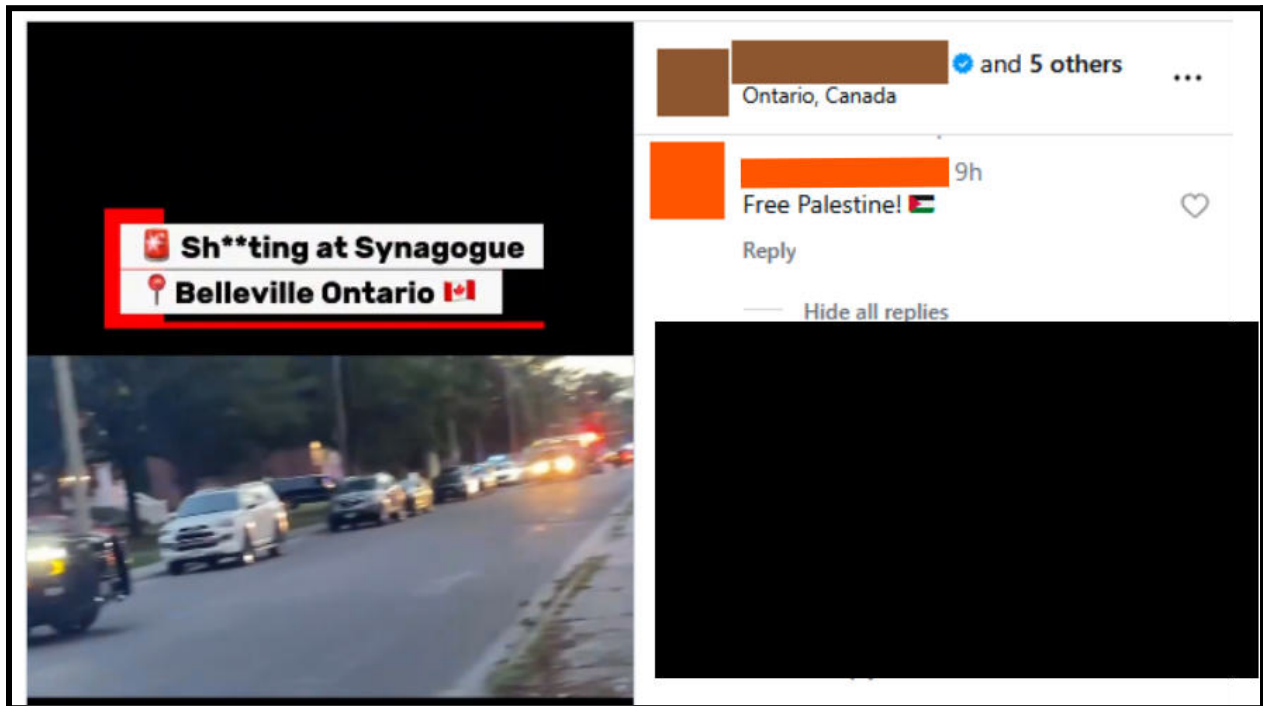
Even in an armed conflict, the targeting of civilians is a war crime. The targeting of a place of worship is an additional and specific war crime under the Geneva Conventions.³⁵ This attack did not occur in a place of conflict. It was a hate crime targeting a part of Canadian society. Seeking to minimize that, justify it, or contextualise it as part of a foreign conflict - which responses of “Free Palestine” do - undermines Canadian social cohesion and rejects Canadian values. With Jews in Canada, and indeed around the world, concerned for their safety, and fearful of further attacks, empathy and support should follow. Indeed, many of the responses did express shock, empathy, and support. However, the “Free Palestine” comments were deliberately aimed at undermining that sentiment and rejecting the concept of Jewish victims. This contributes to an environment in which violence against Jews, and antisemitism more generally, has room to grow.

The post below shows news of the attack breaking on Instagram, and a “Free Palestine!” comment being provided in response.

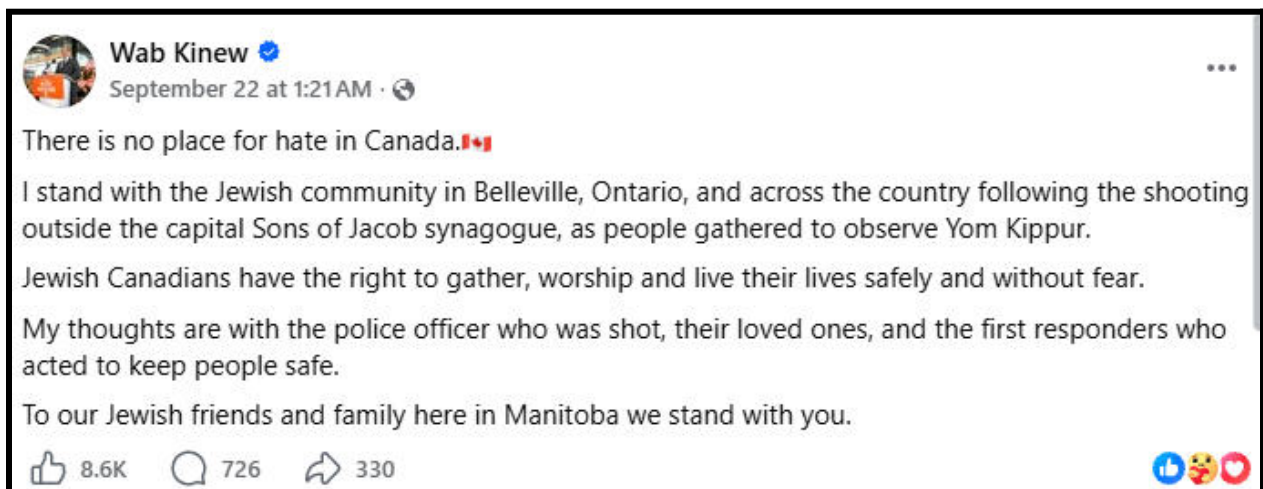
³³ Myth: The phrase “globalize the Intifada” is not a call for violence, The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA). https://www.cija.ca/the_phrase_globalize_the_intifada_is_not_a_call_for_violence

³⁴ Tobias Holcman, “On this day: Second Intifada triggered following Ariel Sharon's visit to Temple Mount”, *Jerusalem Post*, 26 September 2026. <https://www.jpost.com/history/article-909986>

³⁵ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, Article 53. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/api-1977/article-53>



The post below from Facebook is a message from Wab Kinew, the Premier of Manitoba, expressing empathy and support for the Canadian Jewish community. It received strong support from the public, with over 8,600 reactions. Almost all of them are positive endorsements (5.3k likes, 1.9k support, 1.2k love), with only 40 responses of derision (the “Ha Ha” emoji).



A Muslim Canadian responded to Wab Kinew’s post, expressing support for the Jewish community and condemning hate.



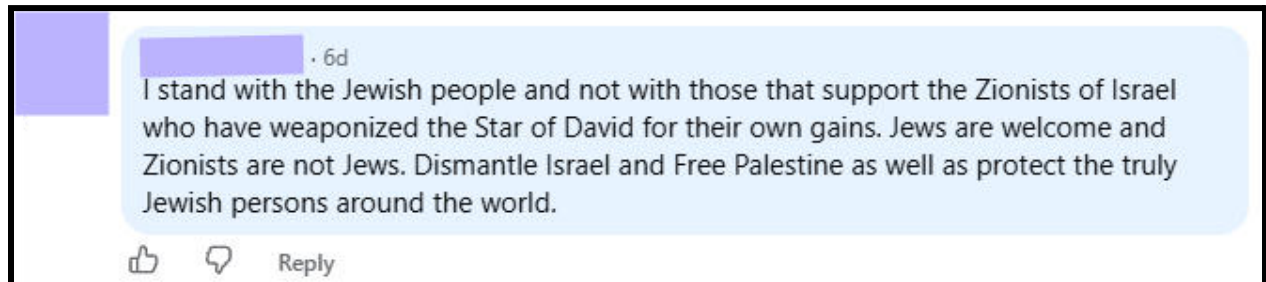
In reply to the above expression of support, someone responded by calling Israel a “terrorist state”, and saying it will be “stopped by any means necessary” - a clear call for violence. This person went on to assert that the Muslim supporter against violence was standing “against Indigenous people” because of their expression of support for the Jewish community. This shows a radical left-wing ideology which is not just against Israel, but which has defined Jews, and anyone not conforming to this person’s views, as the enemy.³⁶ The weaponisation of the discussion was followed by another user replying “free palestine”. A German speaking user responded to the exchange by observing how the first comment promotes hatred of Jews.



In another response to Premier Kinew’s post, a user said they “stand with the Jewish people and not with those that support the Zionists of Israel”. That user went on to claim “Jews are welcome and Zionists are not Jews”. This non-Jewish person sought to define Jewish people’s identity for them, telling Jews that they will only support their

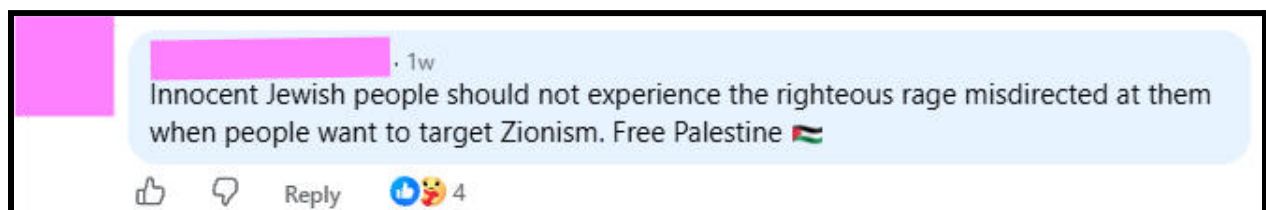
³⁶ For clarity, the redacted red in the comment is the same name as the redacted red in the comment above.

safety if they conform to this person's wishes. At the end of their comment they reiterate that their support for protection of Jews only applies to those they have decided are "the truly Jewish persons". They end with a call to "Free Palestine" and to "Dismantle Israel". For this person this is not just as a position on a foreign conflict, but a basis for whether worshipers in Canada should be safe from being massacred or not.



Another response to the premier's post says that "Innocent Jewish people should not experience the righteous rage misdirected at them when people want to target Zionism." It correctly highlights that violence targeting Jews is not a valid form of pro-Palestinian activism, but the comment wrongly implies that that targeting "Zionism" is legitimate.

Zionism is the movement for Jewish self-determination in the historic homeland of the Jewish people. It means supporting Israel's right to exist. It does not mean supporting any particular government or political party, nor any specific policies or actions of the State of Israel. The rage this person speaks of is clearly a reference to responses to the policies of the Israeli government that should not be directed at Jews or Zionism. Nevertheless, the comment's reference to an ostensibly "acceptable" desire to "target Zionism" when combined with "Free Palestine" can be seen as an endorsement of the elimination of Israel, or "dismantling", as the post above referred to it. If one supports a Palestinian State out of human rights principles (i.e. the right of the Palestinian people to self determination) denying the same to the Jewish people (i.e. targeting Zionism) is a demonstration of discrimination and racism.



These comments show the widening of what some consider acceptable in the name of pro-Palestinian advocacy. They highlight how since 7 October 2023 some in the

pro-Palestinian movement have embraced the idea of violence. This extends not just to violence in the Middle East, and potentially support of terrorist movements and their actions, but also to hate crimes around the world as the Intifada is globalised.

This next comment, while not saying “Free Palestine”, repeats another common disinformation narrative promoted in pro-Palestinian circles to undermine empathy with Jewish victims of racism. It argues “It’s Zionism that hates semitic Arabs”, the implication being that Jews are not semites and not native the region (i.e. this is consistent with the false narrative of Jews as “European settler colonialists” rather than indigenous to the region) and that Palestinians are the “real semites”, an argument made to suggest both that Palestinians and those who support them “can’t be antisemitic” and that claims of antisemitism are nonsense as “Jews can’t be victims of antisemitism”. These narratives run counter to history, in terms of the Jewish connection to the region, and counter to the use of the term antisemitism since it was first coined.³⁷



While we don’t know how prevalent antisemitic views are within pro-Palestinian movements, whether in Canada or globally, the existance of antisemitism within the movement and the general tolerance of it by the wider pro-Palestinian movement is concerning. We see this tolerance when antisemitic signage and slogans are openly displayed in pro-Palestinian marches,³⁸ and when pro-Palestinian comments online open the door to a flood of outright antisemitic posts. We see the tolerance of antisemitism in both the lack of push-back against this hate, and the positive support that it receives. The use of a discussion thread about an attack on a synagogue in Canada as a vehicle for pro-Palestinian advocacy shows at best a complete disregard for the Jewish community and at worse an effort to undermine empathy and deny the Jewish community the same support that would be offered to any other segment of the Canadian community that came under attack.

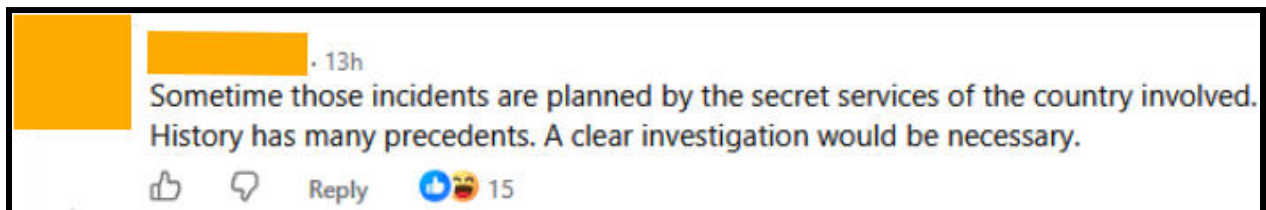
³⁷ “Spelling of antisemitism”, International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

<https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/spelling-antisemitism>

³⁸ E.g. discussed in footage of a march in Melbourne, Australia, in *Vorchheimer v Tayeh* [2026] VCAT 134 https://www.smh.com.au/interactive/hub/media/tearout-excerpt/55042/VorchheimervTayeh_ukwycoq8.pdf

False attribution

Data classified as false attribution generally refers to the other kind of “false flag”, content that alleges the attack was real but that it serves some hidden purpose and was carried out by a hidden hand other than what appears. It overlaps in some ways with dismissal and denial, as it suggests all is not as it appears. The claim is often of some sort of “inside job”, either by the Jewish community that was attacked (victim blaming), by Israel or its intelligence agency Mossad, or by local intelligence services.



Minimisation

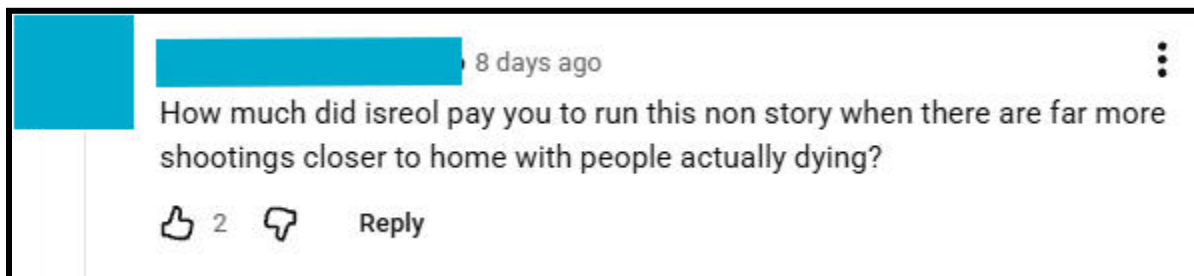
Distinct from outright denial, minimisation is the downplaying or softening of the severity, scope, motive or impact of a violent attack, without going as far as denying that it occurred. In an online environment, minimisation is often harder to moderate because individual comments can read as sceptical or conversational rather than hateful.

It typically manifests as:

- Reducing the scale of the event;
- Recasting the motive as personal, opportunistic or unrelated to ideology
- Claiming the local was only coincidental and not targeted
- Characterising the response as exaggerated, hysterical or opportunistic
- Whataboutism, suggesting the attention is less deserving than other matters

Whether an attack causes deaths often depends on factors outside the attacker's control, such as security measures, intervention or chance. An attempted mass-casualty attack on a place of worship is an attempted atrocity, and the intent and target are the same regardless of outcome. Treating the overall death toll as the sole measure of severity obscures the ideological motive and distorts public understanding. It invalidates the experience of the targeted community, which experiences the fear and insecurity of the attack irrespective of casualties. In this case the attack put a police officer in hospital in a critical condition, terrorised the targeted community, and put Jewish communities around the world in fear of further attacks.

Minimisation disrupts the public conversation that follows an attack. By presenting the incident as trivial, it argues that resources should not be dedicated to preventing recurrences: the attack is downplayed as insignificant, so any formal response to it is dismissed as disproportionate. This reframes prevention, security funding and community protection as overreaction rather than a reasonable response to a demonstrated threat. It shifts the burden to the targeted community to justify its concern.



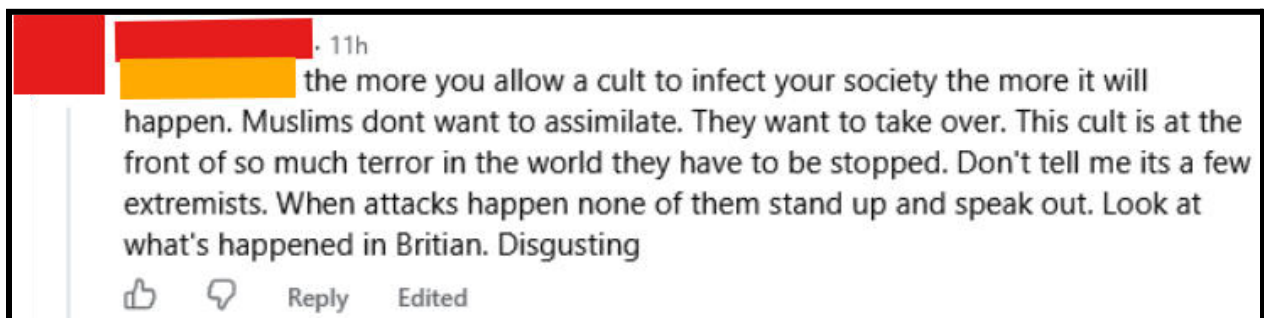
Anti-Muslim Hate

While the identity of the attack was released early on, including that they were Canadian-born, claims that Muslims were responsible for the attack were still asserted by some social media users. This draw on the anti-Muslim hate trope that presents Muslims as terrorists.

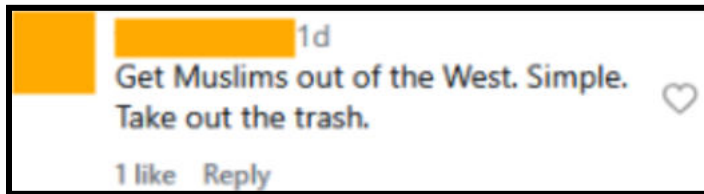
In response to an Instagram news post about the attack one commenter asked “was it Mohamed or Muhammad?” asserting the attacker had to be Muslim and the attack one of religiously-motivated extremism. The same sentiment was echoed on /pol/ on 4chan where a generic-sounding Arabic name was postulated for the attacker.



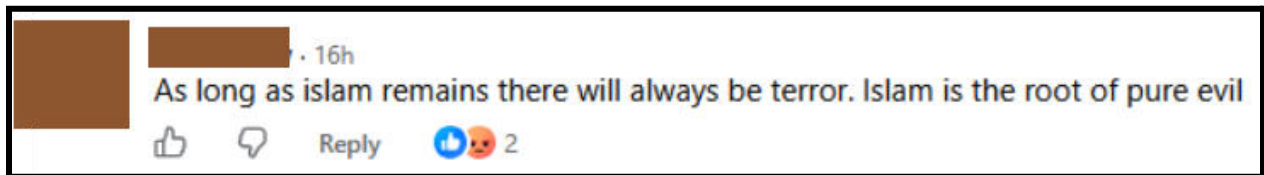
A Facebook user referred to Muslims as a “cult” that doesn’t want to assimilate and is the front of “so much terror in the world”. They claim “none of them speak up” after an attack, a point refuted by another example in this report.



A post on Instagram that reshared an article from the Toronto Sun about the attack attracted the comment “Get Muslims out of the West. Simple. Take out the trash.”



A Facebook user asserted that “Islam is the root of pure evil” and that “As long as islam remains there will always be terror”.



Another Facebook user claimed “Muslims are only responsible for 65000 terrorist attacks since 9/11”.



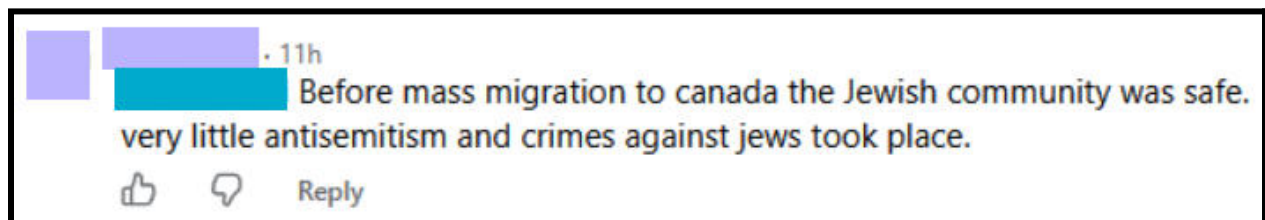
Anti-Immigrant Hate

Some used the attack to promote anti-immigrant sentiment. The following post on X links the shooting at Belleville with the Bondi Massacre, implying that authorities in both Canada and Australia (countries with “strong borders”) let these events happen via negligence, implying that progressive immigration policies necessarily result in violence. This disregards the fact that in both instances, the attackers were citizens of the countries in which the attacks took place. In fact, both the Belleville attack and the Bondi attack involved an attacker (one of the two in the case of Bondi) who was born in the country. The post below received over 1.1k likes, attracting a lot of engagement.

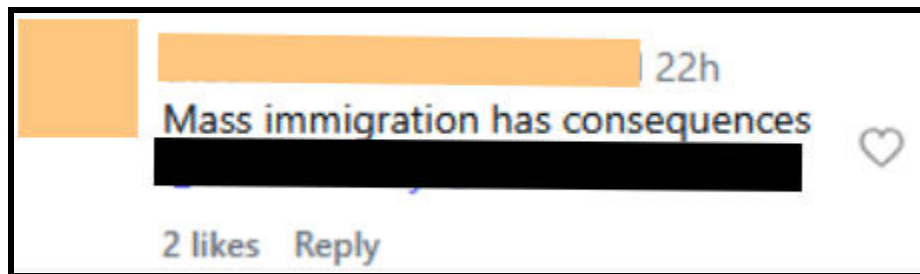


Posts and comments of the kind examined here reflect a widely circulated set of ideas and beliefs that promote perceptions of immigrants and Muslims as “imported” threats.

These ideas work to reinforce divisions in society by cultivating fear and reinforcing exclusionary attitudes. These narratives promote the idea that societal problems, including hate motivated violence such as the attack on the Sons of Jacob Synagogue, can be attributed to the mere *presence* of targeted social groups without reference to any actor or evidenced behaviour. This helps explain how hostility towards immigrants and Muslims were integrated into the online discussion of the attack despite having been objectively absent from the event.



An Instagram user commented, “Mass immigration has consequences”.



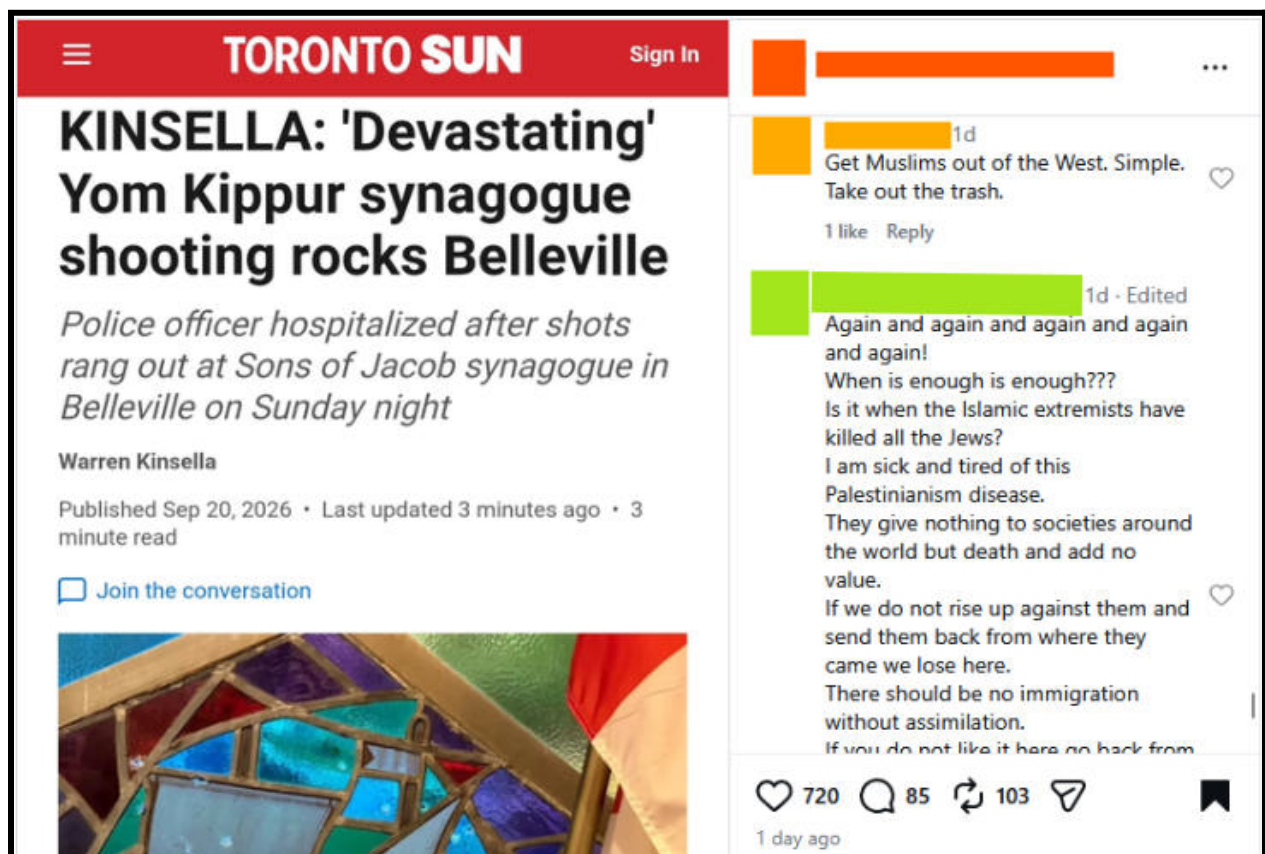
By presupposing that immigrants, immigration and Muslims are responsible for societal ills, it is not necessary to explain how or why this is the case; it is assumed that it *is* the case. As a result, even when confronted with information that would seem to contradict this presumption, such as Ward’s ethnic and religious background, those who consume these ideas assume that the same hostile “others” are still somehow responsible. The flexibility of xenophobic ideas of this nature contributes to their proliferation because they are readily integrated into preexisting belief systems and individualised perceptions of circumstances. This is demonstrated by the gunman, Ward, who was known to assert that societal ills of relevance to him personally, such as unemployment, were ultimately attributable to “immigrants”.³⁹

³⁹ Eric Szeto, Christian Paas-Lang, Jordan Pearson and Megan McCleister, ‘Synagogue shooter’s online username alluded to killing Jews weeks before attack, friend says’, *CBC News*, 23 September 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/synagogue-shooting-suspect-9.7355704>

Anti-Palestinian Racism

Racism against Palestinian people is a less common form of online hate. Our past research has shows that anti-Muslim hate and anti-Arab racism occur far more regularly.⁴⁰ While some research inflates numbers by using an overly expansive definition of Anti-Palestinian Racism (APR), we treat racism against Palestinians as we would general racism against any group.

An example on Instagram asks “When is enough, enough? When the Islamic extremists have killed all the Jews?” then goes on to say “I am sick and tired of the Palistinianism disease”. The first part is anti-Muslim, as is the comment by another user saying “Get Muslims out of the West” and calling Muslims “trash”. The second part, calling Palestinianism a disease, is an example of anti-Palestinian racism.



⁴⁰ Oboler, A., Roth, E., Noonan, C., Steiner, K., Mohammed, A., Beinart, J., Beinart, J., Oliver, W., and McNamara, S. (2024). Online Anti-Muslim Hate and Racism Against Palestinians and Arabs: October 2023 - February 2024. Melbourne: Online Hate Prevention Institute. <https://ohpi.org.au/afteroctober/>

Another example we saw on Instagram implied the attack was carried out by a “pro-Palestinian loser”. This is not strictly anti-Palestinian racism as it is deliberately aimed at the pro-Palestinian movement, rather than at Palestinians themselves. Such comments are still concerning as they falsely accuse pro-Palestinian supporters of being involved in hate motivated violent attack.



COVID-19 Conspiracism

Days after the attempted massacre, on 24 September 2026, Canadian Armed Forces confirmed to Global News that Sean Ward joined the military in July 2017, and was released in June 2022.⁴¹ He was never deployed. National Defence sources subsequently revealed that Ward was considered “unsuitable for service”, having refused the COVID-19 vaccine.

According to Global News, Ward declined the vaccine on religious grounds, and according to the court claim filed in 2023, he was refused an exemption.⁴² The same sources outlined that Ward had voiced antisemitic COVID-19 conspiracy theories while serving, specifically, the sharing of memes with claims that the pandemic was an intentional Jewish plot, an antisemitic canard that has roots in the late middle ages when Jews were blamed for the Black Death.⁴³

As these details have emerged online Ward has been turned into a culture war “martyr” by those at the intersection of far-right COVID-conspiracism and antisemitism.⁴⁴ This hate space involves a synthesis of conspiracism and traditional antisemitic tropes and was recognised in the early months of the 2020 pandemic, and the gunman’s reported beliefs are consistent with other examples of this form of online radicalisation.⁴⁵

⁴¹ Jeff Semple and Stewart Bell, ‘Belleville gunman spouted COVID-19 conspiracies while in army, say sources’, *Global News: Canada*, 22 September 2026, <https://globalnews.ca/news/12068908/belleville-gunman-covid-conspiracies-military/>

⁴² Louise Smith, ‘Synagogue shooting suspect was suing military over vaccine-related discharge: reports’, *Canadian HR Reporter*, 24 September 2026, <https://www.hrreporter.com/news/hr-news/synagogue-shooting-suspect-was-suing-military-over-vaccine-related-discharge-reports/394937>

⁴³ Tzafrir Barzilay, *Poisoned Wells: Accusation, Persecution and Minorities in Medieval Europe* (University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2022), pp. 1321-1422.

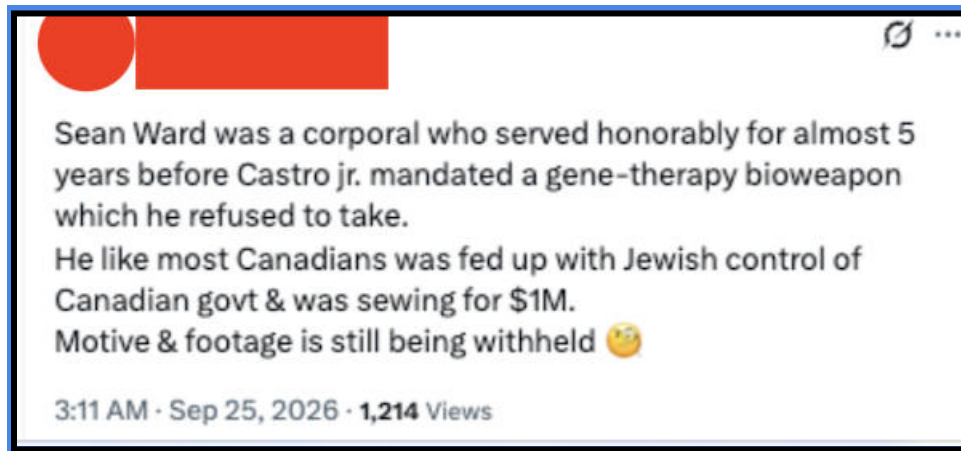
⁴⁴ D. Allington, D. Hirsh and L. Katz, “Correlation between coronavirus conspiracism and antisemitism: a cross-sectional study in the United Kingdom”, *Scientific Reports*, vol. 13, no. 1, Dec. 2023, doi: 10.1038/s41598-023-41794-y.

⁴⁵ Stewart Bell, ‘Neo-Nazis, extremists capitalizing on COVID-19, declassified CSIS documents say’, *Global News: Canada*, 7 December 2020, <https://globalnews.ca/news/7501783/neo-nazis-extremists-capitalizing-coronavirus-covid-19-csis/>

The following post from X, while not directly blaming the attack on the COVID-19 vaccine mandate, claims that the shooter was a victim of hate and implies his response might have been justified.



An X user fused glorification of the attacker, COVID-19 denialism, and conspiratorial theories of Jewish control of government institutions. The post mentions “Castro Jr”, which is a reference to former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau since there is a conspiracy theory that he is the son of Fidel Castro.



Another X user calls the attack a “cover up” and implies that the media is manufacturing a narrative to discredit those who were against COVID-19 vaccines and mandates.



An Instagram post from a Canadian anti-vaxxer account led to comments with false flag allegations and support for conspiracy theories and misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine.



Platform Analysis

Our platform analysis focuses on antisemitic examples from each platform.

4chan's /pol/

4chan is a fully anonymous image-based Bulletin Board Service (BBS) designed for theme/topic-oriented threaded discussions on thematically organised subsections of the platform called 'boards'.⁴⁶ 4chan has a comparatively small user base relative to mainstream social media, but it nevertheless has repeatedly proven to exert a disproportionate degree of influence, including and especially with regards to the production of hateful and extremist content.⁴⁷ The demographic particulars of 4chan remain mostly obscured because of the platform's technical architecture and culture of anonymity, but it is generally accepted that 4chan, as a whole, is host to roughly 20 million unique monthly visitors.⁴⁸

/pol/ is a board on 4chan devoted to "Politically Incorrect" discussions, and was created in 2011 in an attempt to quarantine neo-nazi, white supremacist and other extremist content from the rest of 4chan's boards.⁴⁹ This strategy failed, and instead consolidated users and their production of content into a single environment. The discourses produced by /pol/ are notoriously anti-social and have been directly linked to a range of criminal and terrorist activities. Radicalisation on /pol/ was a major driving force behind a similar antisemitic attack on a Synagogue in Germany in 2019.⁵⁰

4chan featured a distinctively antagonistic and xenophobic reaction to the Belleville attack, but on a relatively small scale. Observation of 4chan within the 72 hours immediately following news media coverage of the attack indicated that with the exception of a single off-hand comment in a discussion on an unrelated topic, discussion of the incident was contained to a single thread on /pol/ that remained active

⁴⁶ Patrick Scolyer-Gray, *Artistic Works of Fiction and Falsehood: An Analysis of the Production and Consumption of Knowledge on 4chan* (Patrick Scolyer-Gray, 2022), pp. 45-46.

⁴⁷ Patrick Scolyer-Gray, *Artistic Works of Fiction and Falsehood: An Analysis of the Production and Consumption of Knowledge on 4chan* (Patrick Scolyer-Gray, 2022), pp. 44-46.

⁴⁸ Patrick Scolyer-Gray, *Artistic Works of Fiction and Falsehood: An Analysis of the Production and Consumption of Knowledge on 4chan* (Patrick Scolyer-Gray, 2022), pp. 79-80.

⁴⁹ Patrick Scolyer-Gray, *Artistic Works of Fiction and Falsehood: An Analysis of the Production and Consumption of Knowledge on 4chan* (Patrick Scolyer-Gray, 2022), p.60.

⁵⁰ Andre Oboler, William Allington and Patrick Scolyer-Gray, *Hate and Violent Extremism from an Online Sub-Culture: The Yom Kippur Terrorist Attack in Halle, Germany* (Online Hate Prevention Institute. 2019) p. 18-19.

<https://ohpi.org.au/hate-and-violent-extremism-from-an-online-subculture-the-yom-kippur-terrorist-attack-in-halle-germany/>

for about 6 hours. Although brief, the contributions of 4chan users to the thread featured intensely antisemitic, violent and generally xenophobic sentiment.

On /k/, a board on 4chan devoted to discussions of weapons (predominantly firearms), a thread intended for general discussion of topics concerning weapons as relevant to Canada (called a 'Canada General'), included commentary about the attack and the shooter (see below). The reply-post's author points to certain characteristics of Ward, namely his apparent conviction in COVID-19 and antisemitic conspiracies, as being closely aligned with the sociopolitical preferences of the board's userbase:

"He perfectly fits the profile of a couple of you guys but I doubt he posted here because otherwise he would have done better than to use a Realtree Auto 5".



The user implies that 4chan users who browse /k/ are likely to have knowledge of firearms that would be best suited for the execution of a mass casualty event.

On 4chan's Politically Incorrect forum /pol/, posters clearly signalled their approval of the attack. The examples below feature comments posted to a thread dedicated to discussion of the attack. Some users glorified the shooting, such as by describing the Belleville attack as "beautiful", and that the news "made my day".



Another user expressed their disappointment in the lack of Jewish casualties, and described the injury to the police officer as if it were the sole redeeming aspect of an otherwise disappointing incident (see below).



The below example echoes the discourse of the officer's injury as a 'silver lining' in the user's treatment of the victim as a "Zogbot", which is a reference to an antisemitic conspiracy theory of global jewish political control (i.e., Zionist Occupied Government).

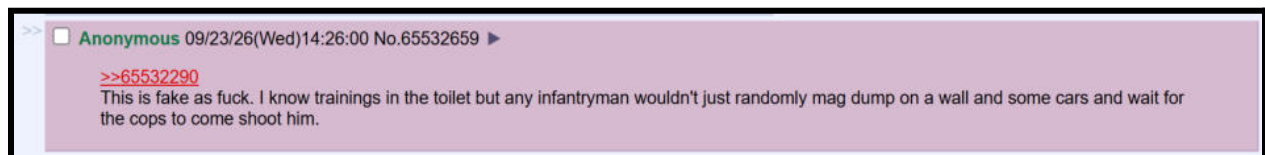


In a similar vein to the commentary glorifying the attack, another user complained that "No Jews were killed or even injured".

Caution is needed when drawing conclusions based on interpretations of content posted on 4chan because of the environment's inherently deceptive culture. That said, the comment featured below appears to be archetypal of the conspiratorial antisemitic discourses that are popular on 4chan, and are especially prominent on /pol/. There are a number of ways this comment could be interpreted, but the reference to "Kike fuckery" strongly suggests that the user is attempting to convey the idea that the attack itself warranted at least some degree of skepticism. Antisemitic conspiracy theories are widely circulated on 4chan, and in this context, it seems most likely that the user is suggesting that the event itself and/or its treatment in news media was indicative of some kind of Jewish scheme.



On /k/, a user asserted that the attack was faked because the behaviour of the attacker was inconsistent with the combat proficiency expected of a former Canadian infantryman (see below). Posts of this kind overlap with themes of glorification because they imply that there is a minimum ‘standard’ of performance for attacks on civilian targets.



In the same thread on /k/ (see below), another user complained that the attack failed to achieve a more desirable outcome (i.e., to “get a proper race war going instead of pointlessly shooting Jew shrine temple doors”). The comment implies that the attack and the associated harms were insignificant.



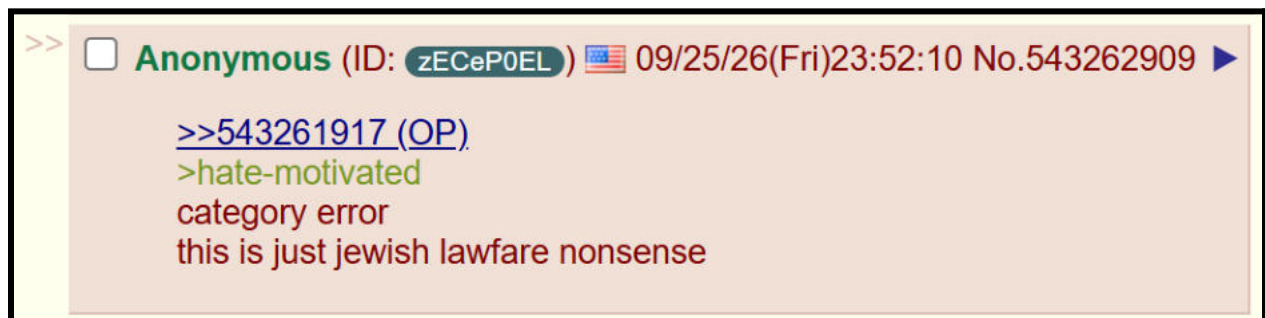
Other users more explicitly claimed that responsibility for the attack was attributable to parties other than the shooter, Ward, as identified by authorities. Again, antisemitic themes and conspiratorial discourses more broadly were readily integrated into the discussion of the attack on 4chan. In the comment below, a user asserts that the attack was orchestrated for the purposes of cultivating support for legislative changes by Canada’s parliament that better serve Jewish interests.



Another user claimed the attack was a false flag, blaming Israel's intelligence service, Mossad, for the attack.



Multiple 4chan-users advanced ideas of the attacks as having been intentionally orchestrated for the purposes of securing some kind of agenda. The comment below claims that the attack was an element of "Jewish lawfare".



The claim of "Jewish lawfare" was elaborated on in a subsequent reply-post, in which the user explained that the attack was part of an ongoing Jewish conspiracy to construct and maintain a falsified narrative of antisemitism as a means of securing sympathy and escaping culpability.

>> ☐ Anonymous (ID: zECeP0EL) 🇺🇸 09/25/26(Fri)23:55:54 No.543263058 ▶

>>543262108

its just jewish lawfare bullshit
literally jews cooking up ways to enhance charges
and push narratives about how some kooky guy with no motive
just hates for no reason
they will never acknowledge jewish behavior or crimes
which is why they use the false dichotomy of hate or not hate
to control the terms of the debate
and shut down any conversation
oldest jew trick in the book
substitute any pejorative for hater
and its the same formula
use emotional hysterics for bonus points
jews have been using this same trick forever
>terrorist
>conspiracy theorist
>anti semite
>anti science
>loser
etcetera. same formula every single time

Belittling the impact of the attack and engaging in victim blaming is offensive, but regular consumption of such ideas can increase the vulnerability of the consumer to accepting the ideas as true and valid. Similarly, continuous exposure to the kinds of antisocial discourses featured here, and on 4chan (particularly /pol) more broadly, can result in changes to the sociopolitical perspectives of consumers, and in some cases, lead to radicalisation and violence.⁵¹

⁵¹ Andre Oboler, William Allington and Patrick Scolyer-Gray, Hate and Violent Extremism from an Online Sub-Culture: The Yom Kippur Terrorist Attack in Halle, Germany (Online Hate Prevention Institute. 2019) p. 18-19.
<https://ohpi.org.au/hate-and-violent-extremism-from-an-online-subculture-the-yom-kippur-terrorist-attack-in-halle-germany/> ; Patrick Scolyer-Gray, Artistic Works of Fiction and Falsehood: An Analysis of the Production and Consumption of Knowledge on 4chan (Patrick Scolyer-Gray, 2022)

X (Twitter)

X, formerly Twitter, launched in 2006 and was renamed in July 2023, following Elon Musk's \$44 billion acquisition of the company in October 2022. It is now owned by SpaceX, which acquired X's parent company xAI in February 2026. Musk has claimed 600 million monthly active users, while independent analytics estimates are closer to 561 million.⁵² In Australia, X had an estimated 4.74 million users in late 2025.⁵³ X's approach to content moderation follows a "hands-off" model, prioritising "freedom of speech, not freedom of reach". Since its acquisition by Musk, he has reduced the staff of the platform's Trust and Safety teams, and third-party moderation contractors.⁵⁴ X does not screen content or remove potentially offensive content, and has moved towards a Community Notes model, a form of crowdsourced moderation.

It did not respond to correspondence from the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion, and counsel assisting said this showed a complete lack of interest in transparency about extremist material, including antisemitism.

Discussions of the Belleville shooting on X were diverse and numerous, but also prominently inscribed with a variety of hateful and conspiratorial themes. In addition to an assortment of glorification, denial, minimisation and accusation, discussion of the attack on X also featured calls for reduced immigration and anti-Muslim hate, such as in the example below.



Another X user, with an account from the UK, described the attacker as "based", a term signifying approval and presenting the attacker as courageous, and which we previously

⁵² "X (Twitter) Demographics & Stats (2026)", Posterly, 16 May 2026.

<https://www.posterly.com/guides/twitter-guide>

⁵³ Jacqueline Zote, "2026 Australian social media statistics: A strategic guide for marketers", Sprout Social, 16 April 2026. <https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-statistics-australia/>

⁵⁴ Kylie Robison, "Inside the shifting plan at Elon Musk's X to build a new team and police a platform 'so toxic it's almost unrecognizable'", Fortune, 6 February 2024. <https://fortune.com/2024/02/06/inside-elon-musk-x-twitter-austin-content-moderation/>

saw used on /pol/ after the shooting of a synagogue in Poway, California, in 2019.⁵⁵ Such glorification of extremists can lead to copycat attacks.



Another user claimed Jews had faked the attack – a trend we saw after attacks on Jewish (Hatzolah) ambulances in London,⁵⁶ attacks on synagogues in Melbourne,⁵⁷ Australia, and the Bondi Beach attack.⁵⁸



Another X user claimed the attack was fake, this time using the language of “Zionists” as code for Jews. They also referenced the Dural Caravan plot in Australia as evidence that attacks on Jews weren’t real. The Dural Caravan plot was found by police to be a fabricated terrorism plot concocted by criminals,⁵⁹ who sought to trade information on it for reduced sentences. The fear it caused in the Jewish community was quite real and police references to it as a “hoax” have had an unfortunate effect, feeding conspiracy theories.

⁵⁵ “Poway Synagogue Attack”, *Online Hate Prevention Institute*, 28 April 2019. <https://ohpi.org.au/poway-synagogue-attack/>

⁵⁶ A Oboler, R Kaye, P Scolyer-Gray, J Kaufman, and J Dabelstein. *Australian responses to the attack on London ambulances: Normalising antisemitism through disinformation and conspiracy*. (Online Hate Prevention Institute, 2026). <https://ohpi.org.au/london-ambulances/>

⁵⁷ A Oboler, C Noonan and A. Koubaridis. *Responses to the Melbourne Synagogue Attacks in 2024 & 2025* (Online Hate Prevention Institute, 2025). <https://ohpi.org.au/responses-to-the-melbourne-synagogue-attacks-in-2024-and-2025/>

⁵⁸ A Oboler, T Barkley, A Gild, P Scolyer-Gray, and L Levin. *The Bondi Beach Chanukah Massacre*. (Online Hate Prevention Institute, 2026). <https://ohpi.org.au/bondi-report/>

⁵⁹ Gavin Butler, “Explosive-laden caravan plot was a hoax, say Australian police”, *BBC News*, 10 March 2025 <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly3zr8p46eo>

• 16h

It's so fucking disgusting for people to spread the lie that these attacks are authentic when we actually have evidence that they are being faked

Zionists are the most anti-semitic people on the planet for their conflation of Judaism with Zionism

EQ

BBC

10 March 2022

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Post as predicted on this

Explosive-laden caravan plot was a hoax, say Australian police

10 March 2022

Gevin Butler

BBC News



Kevin Barrett said investigators believed "almost immediately" that it was a hoax

A caravan found packed with explosives in outer Sydney earlier this year was part of a "fabricated terrorism plot" concocted by criminals, Australian police have said.

The caravan, which was found in north-western Sydney on 19 January, contained enough explosives to produce a 40m-wide blast, along with a note displaying antisemitic messages and a list of Jewish synagogues.

The discovery followed a series of antisemitic

CBS NEWS

WORLD

Australia police say seemingly antisemitic terrorism incidents were really "criminal conj

ow chaos

March 10, 2025 / 7:49 AM EDT / CBS/AP

1

165

39

   ...

Jews brought the foreigners in to save a buck. Now the Jews are remembering the hard way, why they were ran out of Europe, ME and Asia in the first place. Jews aren't as smart as we're meant to think they are

 1   4  320  

I'm shocked I tell you
But jews gonna jew and cry victim every possible chance

   ...

What if Sean Ward thought he was protecting the synagogue when he opened fire on another dude sitting outside in an unmarked car?

What if Sean didn't know the other dude was a cop?

 4  1  4  330  

   ...

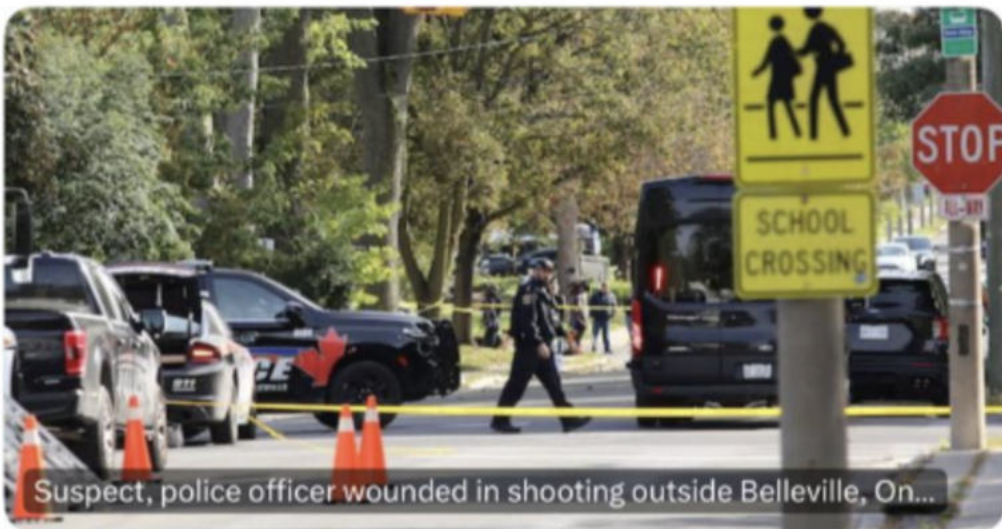
It all looks like a bullshit story being milked by the Zionists. They are just sad that the shooter wasn't a Muslim.

3:23 AM · Sep 25, 2026 · 25 Views

Wait this sounds like insane narcissism

Two people get shot and jews make themselves the victims?

Why is it always about them and their neuroses and anxieties?



From cbc.ca

10:33 pm · 21/9/2026 · 1.6K Views

19



34

2



One user self-identifying as Canadian called the shooting a false flag and blamed Israel for orchestrating the attack.





Another post on X described it as an “obvious Zionist psyop”, again blaming Jews for an attack on synagogue using coded language and leaning into antisemitic conspiracy theories.



Facebook

Facebook, owned by Meta Platforms, is a mainstream social media service founded in 2004. As of July 2025, it was the third-most-visited website in the world.⁶⁰ It has over 3 billion active users,⁶¹ reaching more than a third of the global population monthly. As of August 2026, there are 25 million Facebook users in Australia, accounting for 89.6% of the population.⁶²

Meta enforces its rules on hate speech through its Hateful Conduct policy. Critics point to inconsistent application of its content policies and to a reporting mechanism that places the burden of flagging content on individual users. Meta has also moved from proactive towards reactive enforcement of lower-severity content.⁶³ Facebook's recommendation algorithms, designed to maximise engagement, have been criticised for amplifying inflammatory, sensational and hateful content.⁶⁴

In evidence to the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion, Meta's Global Policy Director Benjamin Good stated that the prevalence of abusive content remained at 0.2%, or two views of hateful material in every 10,000 pieces of content engaged with. OHPI's own evidence presented to the Commission underscored that 6.8% of comments on posts concerning Jewish subject matter were antisemitic. The two measures are not directly comparable, as Meta's figure represents a broader share of prevalence, representing all content views across the platform, whereas OHPI's is a representative sample of content related to Jewish topics. The gap nonetheless indicates that Meta's platform-wide figure does not reflect the environment Jewish Australians encounter.

OHPI analysts conducted monitoring on Facebook in the aftermath of the Belleville shooting, and found a variety of hateful material. Users engaged in glorification, dismissal and denial, and false attribution of the attack to Israel's intelligence services.

⁶⁰ "List of most-visited websites", Wikipedia, July 2026.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_most-visited_websites

⁶¹ Fredrik Andersson, "Facebook User & Growth Statistics to Know in 2026", Incred, 7 January 2026.

<https://incred.co/academy/facebook-users/>

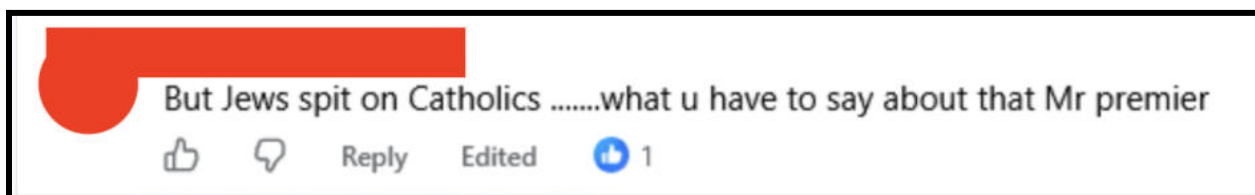
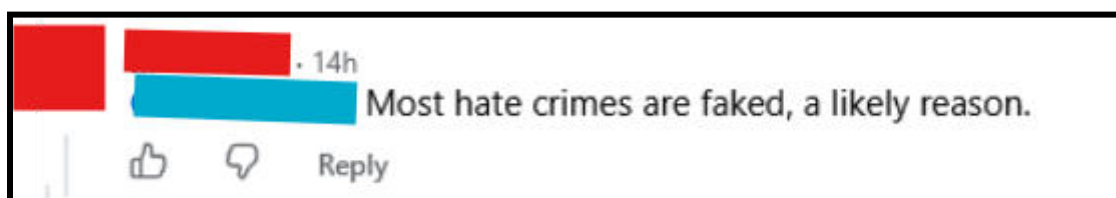
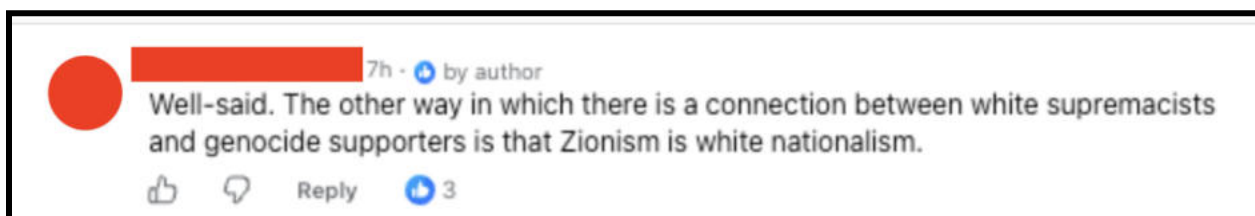
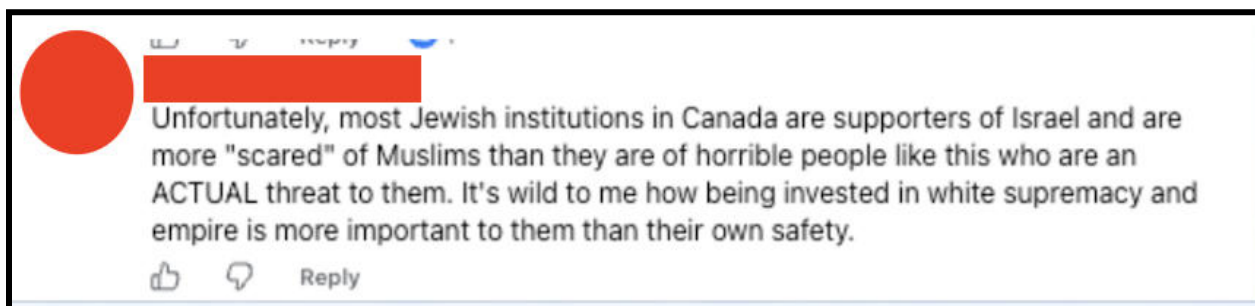
⁶² "Facebook Users in Australia – August 2026 (Free Data)", NapoleonCat, August 2026.

<https://stats.napoleoncat.com/facebook-users-in-australia/>

⁶³ Paul Karp, "Meta defends reactive process for handling hate speech", Australian Financial Review, 6 July 2026.

<https://www.afr.com/politics/meta-defends-reactive-process-for-handling-hate-speech-20260706-p60cvg>

⁶⁴ *ibid.*



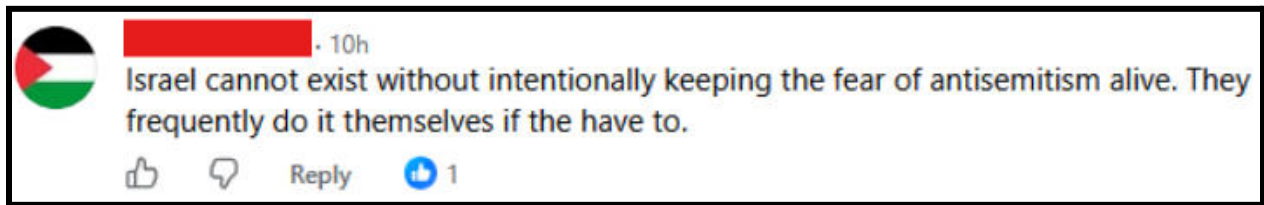
A pro-Palestinian account claims Israel must be behind it, trying to falsely keep antisemitism high to ensure support. Another simply claimed Mossad, Israel's intelligence service, was behind it. These are the same claims seen after attacks on Jewish targets in Australia (Bondi Beach⁶⁵ and Melbourne synagogues⁶⁶) and London.⁶⁷ They are particularly strong following attacks instigated by Iran, and it is likely this

⁶⁵ A Oboler, T Barkley, A Gild, P Scolyer-Gray, and L Levin. The Bondi Beach Chanukah Massacre. (Online Hate Prevention Institute, 2026). <https://ohpi.org.au/bondi-report/>

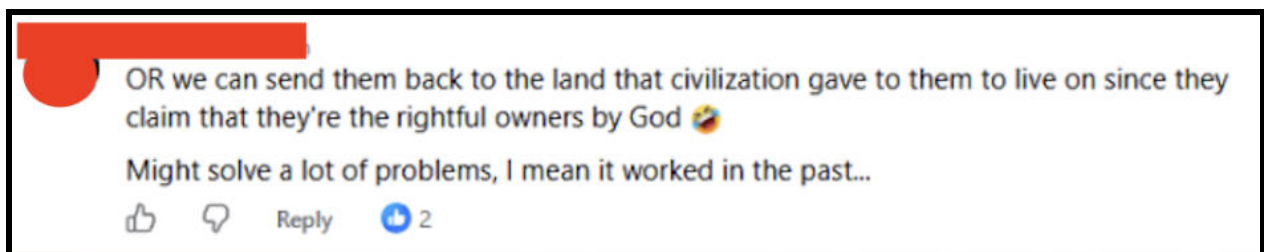
⁶⁶ A Oboler, C Noonan and A. Koubaridis. Responses to the Melbourne Synagogue Attacks in 2024 & 2025 (Online Hate Prevention Institute, 2025). <https://ohpi.org.au/responses-to-the-melbourne-synagogue-attacks-in-2024-and-2025/>

⁶⁷ A Oboler, R Kaye, P Scolyer-Gray, J Kaufman, and J Dabelstein. *Australian responses to the attack on London ambulances: Normalising antisemitism through disinformation and conspiracy*. (Online Hate Prevention Institute, 2026). <https://ohpi.org.au/london-ambulances/>

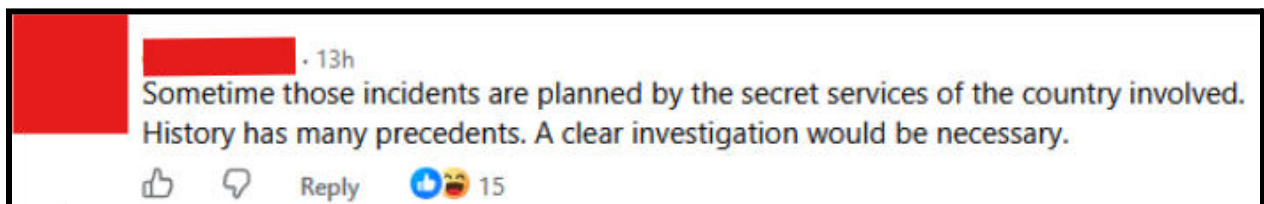
conspiracy narrative is part of an Iranian information warfare strategy, and/or echoed by those who have seen that material.



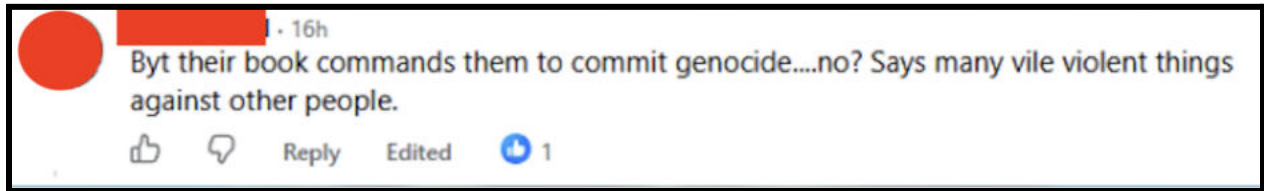
One Facebook comment suggests expulsion of Jews from Canada to Israel as a 'solution' to the 'problems' of antisemitism, with the claim that 'it [ethnic cleansing] worked in the past'. Here, the paradox of online antisemitic thought is laid bare; Jews are simultaneously requested to leave their diaspora communities and 'return to Israel' or leave Israel and return to their 'country of origin'.



Another user suggests that Canada's own intelligence service might be behind the attack, pushing the same form of conspiracy theory that led to the claim 9/11 was an inside job by the CIA.



Traditional Antisemitism, expressing the false claim that the Jewish religion prescribes 'committing genocide'.



Instagram

Instagram, also owned by Meta, is a photo and video sharing social media service launched in October 2010 and acquired by Facebook in April 2012. Meta reported that it reached 3 billion monthly active users in the third quarter of 2025.⁶⁸ As of August 2026, an estimated 16.8 million Instagram users were in Australia, 60.2% of the total population, and 25 to 34-year-olds are the largest represented age group.⁶⁹ Meta applies the same Hateful Conduct policy across its social media platforms, meaning the enforcement and reporting concerns outlined above apply to Instagram.

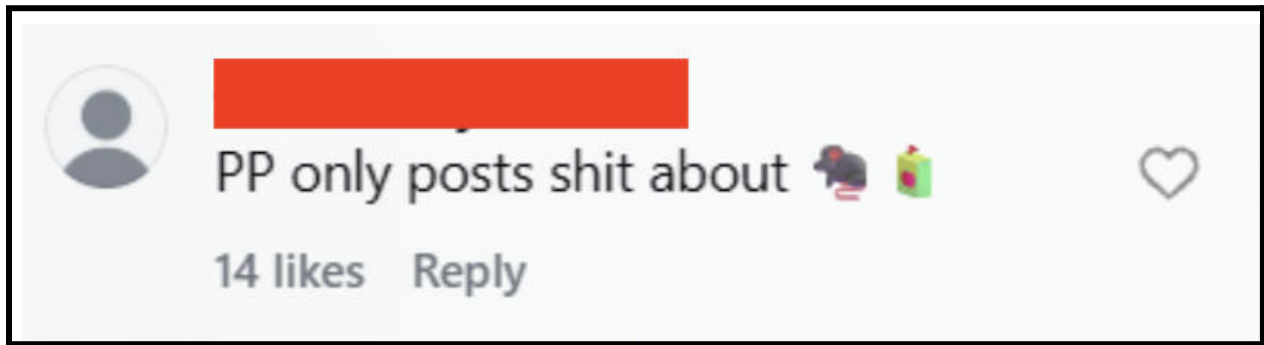
OHPI analysts conducted systematic monitoring of the discourse surrounding the Belleville shooting in the immediate aftermath of the event. While posts themselves were mostly informative, some engagement on the posts contained overt antisemitic sentiment, including incitement to further violence and accusations of Jewish control. Commenters also engaged in denial (accusations of the attack being 'staged'), and conspiracy theories about Jewish Canadians systematically promoting mass immigration.

Replies to Pierre Poilievre's (leader of the Opposition in Canada) Instagram post of his remarks condemning the shooting were met with reactions that strongly indicated antisemitic sentiment.



⁶⁸ Elif Arslan, "Instagram User Statistics 2026: We Analyzed Demographics, Growth & Country Rankings", TechnologyChecker, 15 June 2026. <https://technologychecker.io/blog/instagram-user-statistics>

⁶⁹ "Instagram Users in Australia – August 2026 (Free Data)", NapoleonCat, August 2026. <https://stats.napoleoncat.com/instagram-users-in-australia/>



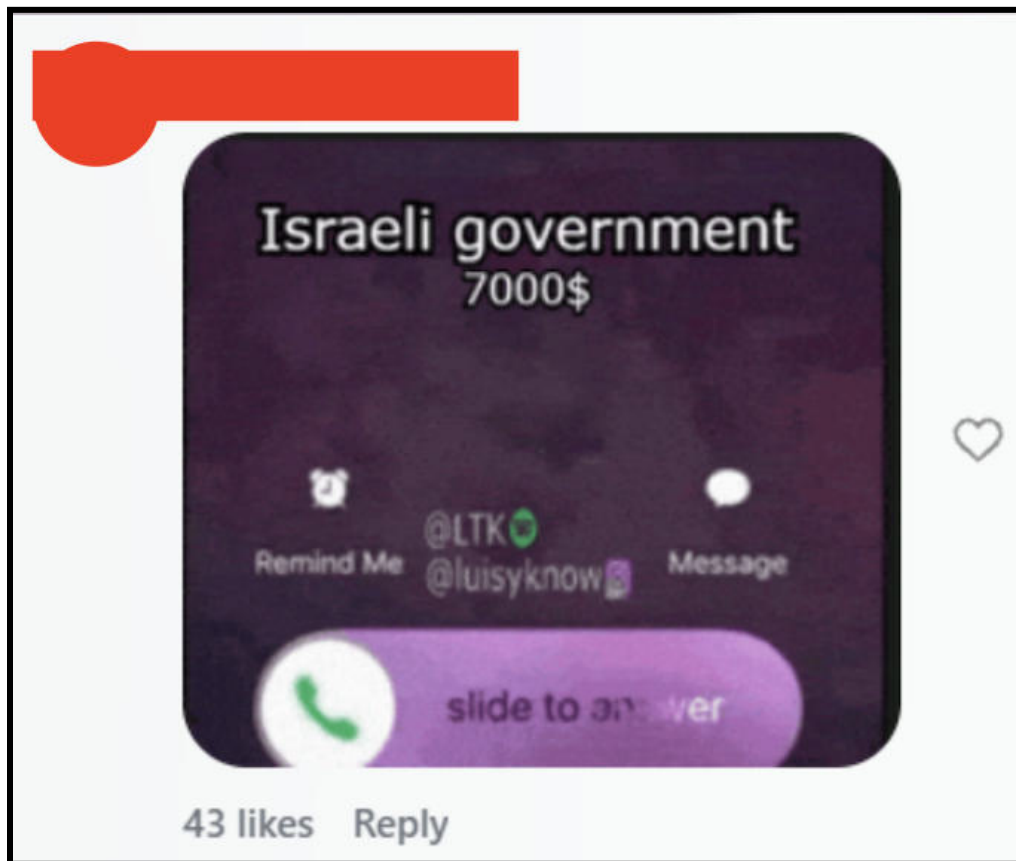
In response to a news media reel about Ward's death on Instagram, a user posted a reply-comment framed as if the attacker had been killed in action (see below).



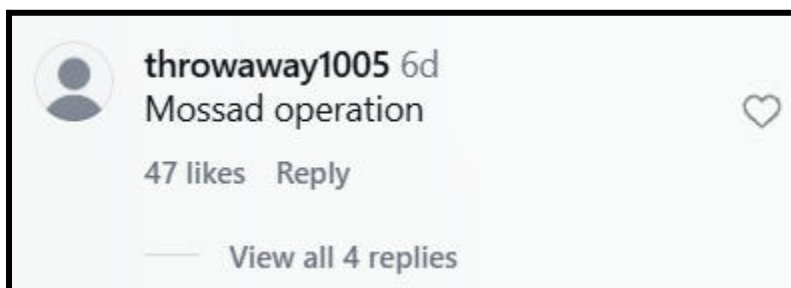
Often after an antisemitic incident occurs, a widely-spread meme indicates that the Israeli government pays accounts to spread Hasbara, often referring to the \$7000 figure. The claim originates from a Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft investigation that revealed that some influencers were being paid up to \$7,000 per post on social media on behalf of Israel.⁷⁰ The claim cites documents filed under the U.S.

⁷⁰ Nick Cleveland-Stout, "Israel is paying influencers \$7,000 per post", Responsible Statecraft, 30 September 2025. <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/israel-influencers-netanyahu/>

Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), and despite the memes' virality, various articles have explored why the reasoning behind the investigation was flawed.⁷¹



The following throwaway Instagram account's comment underscores the false belief that the attempted attack was a Mossad operation, attracting 47 likes.



⁷¹ Rachel O'Donoghue, "Are Pro-Israel Influencers Really Being Paid \$7,000 Per Post?", HonestReporting, 23 October 2025.
<https://honestreporting.com/are-pro-israel-influencers-really-being-paid-7000-per-post/>

 false flag
for publicity probably*



3 likes Reply

 1d

Keep coping, it's the Jews.
Always has been. Muslims
werent kicked out 1031 times
out of 109 places.



32 likes Reply

 Why is there
no option "the jews did it and
deserve it"?



1d 2 likes Reply

 View replies (19)

1d

Why withhold shooters names?

34 likes Reply

Hide all replies

1d

take a guess!!'

10 likes Reply

1d

because Israel needs time to pick a random person who they will claim follows Islam...nothing new to see here

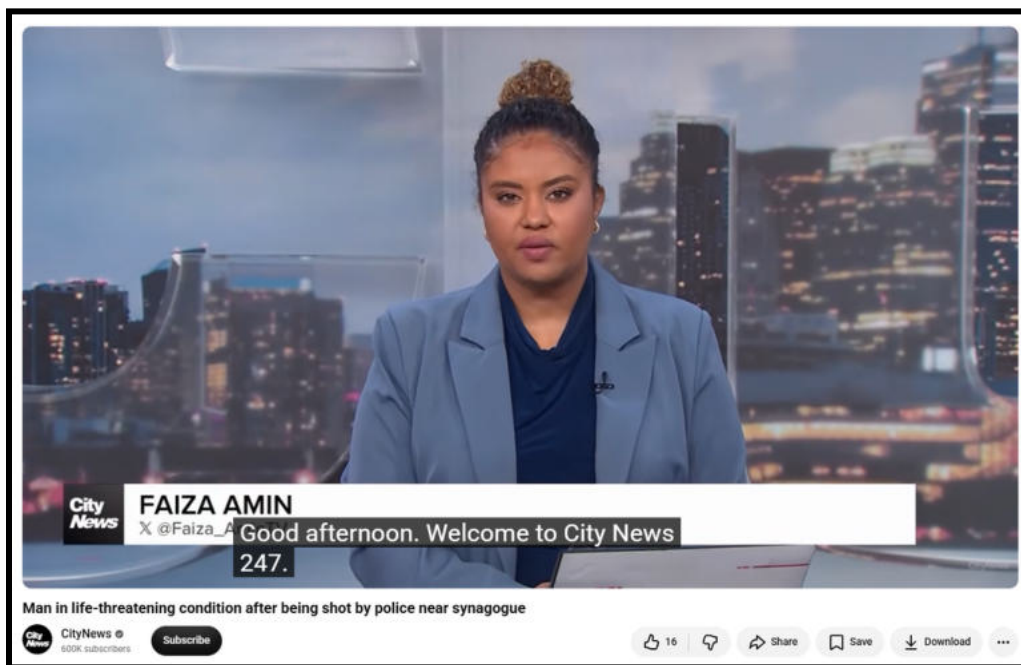
31 likes Reply

YouTube

YouTube is a video-sharing platform founded in February 2005 and acquired by Google in November 2006. YouTube's Australia and New Zealand government affairs and public policy manager, Rachel Lord, told the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion that the platform uses an AI-driven approach to removing harmful content.⁷²

Discussion of the Yom Kippur shooting in Belleville on Youtube appears to have been informed to a considerable extent by the framing of source material, which was predominantly news media coverage of the attack. Numerous channels posted videos of journalistic accounts of the attack, but opted to turn off commenting. Those who posted videos and permitted public participation attracted numerous antisemitic and xenophobic statements, as well as broadly conspiratorial claims and accusations.

A news report covering the incident that was posted to YouTube was met with the comment, “The painter was right”, a reference to Hitler which glorifies the Holocaust, Nazi ideology, and efforts to kill Jews.



⁷² AJN Staff, “TikTok and YouTube appear at Royal Commission”, The Australian Jewish News, 7 July 2026. <https://www.australianjewishnews.com/tiktok-and-youtube-appear-at-royal-commission/>

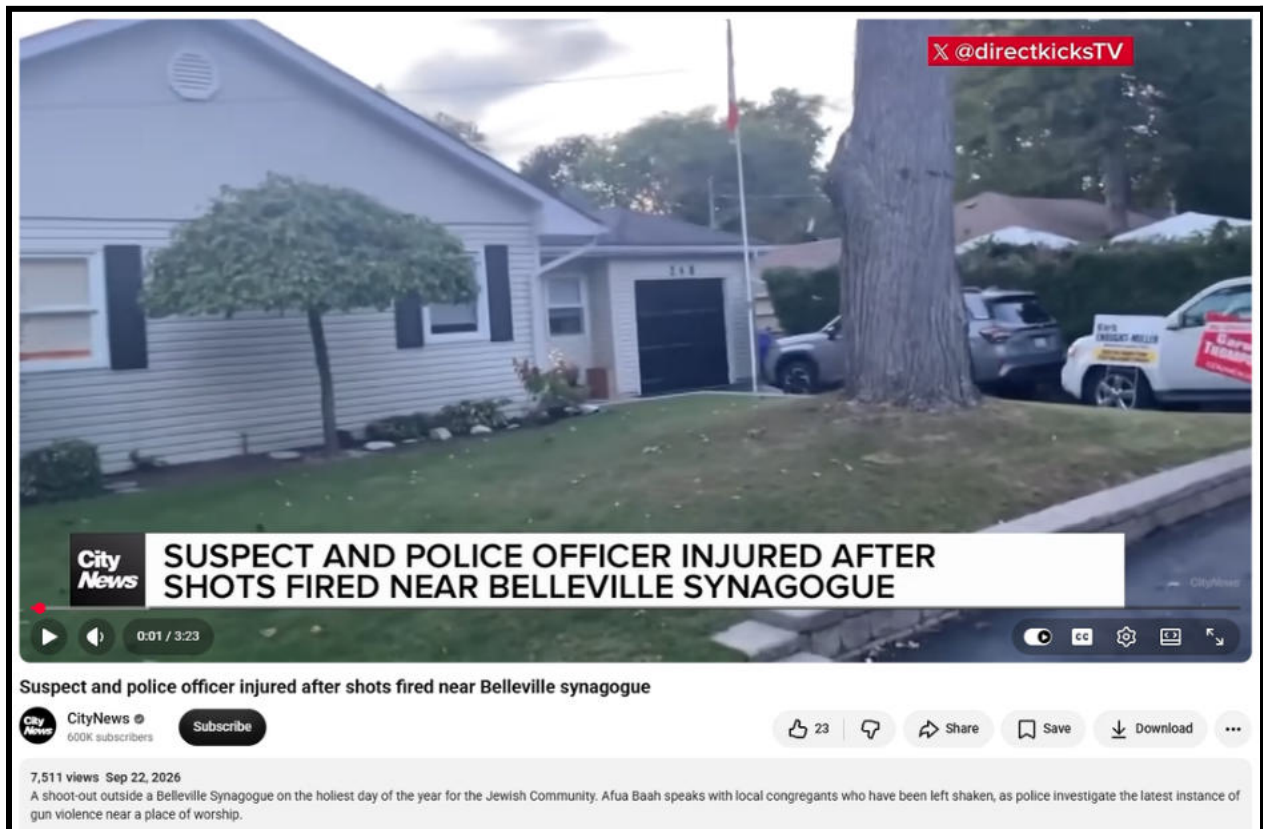


On another news video a user reacted to the news by asking “what is going on in our country” with crying emoji. The response from another user was “People are waking up to the little hat tricks”, an antisemitic remark referring to Jews a “little hat” people, a reference to the kippah, and claiming they are involved in trickery. This also has echoes of the “noticing” meme.

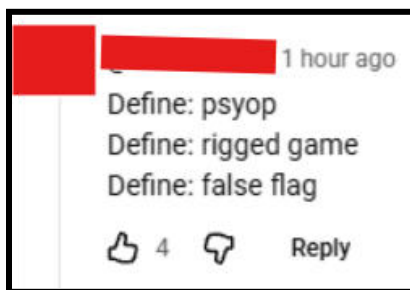
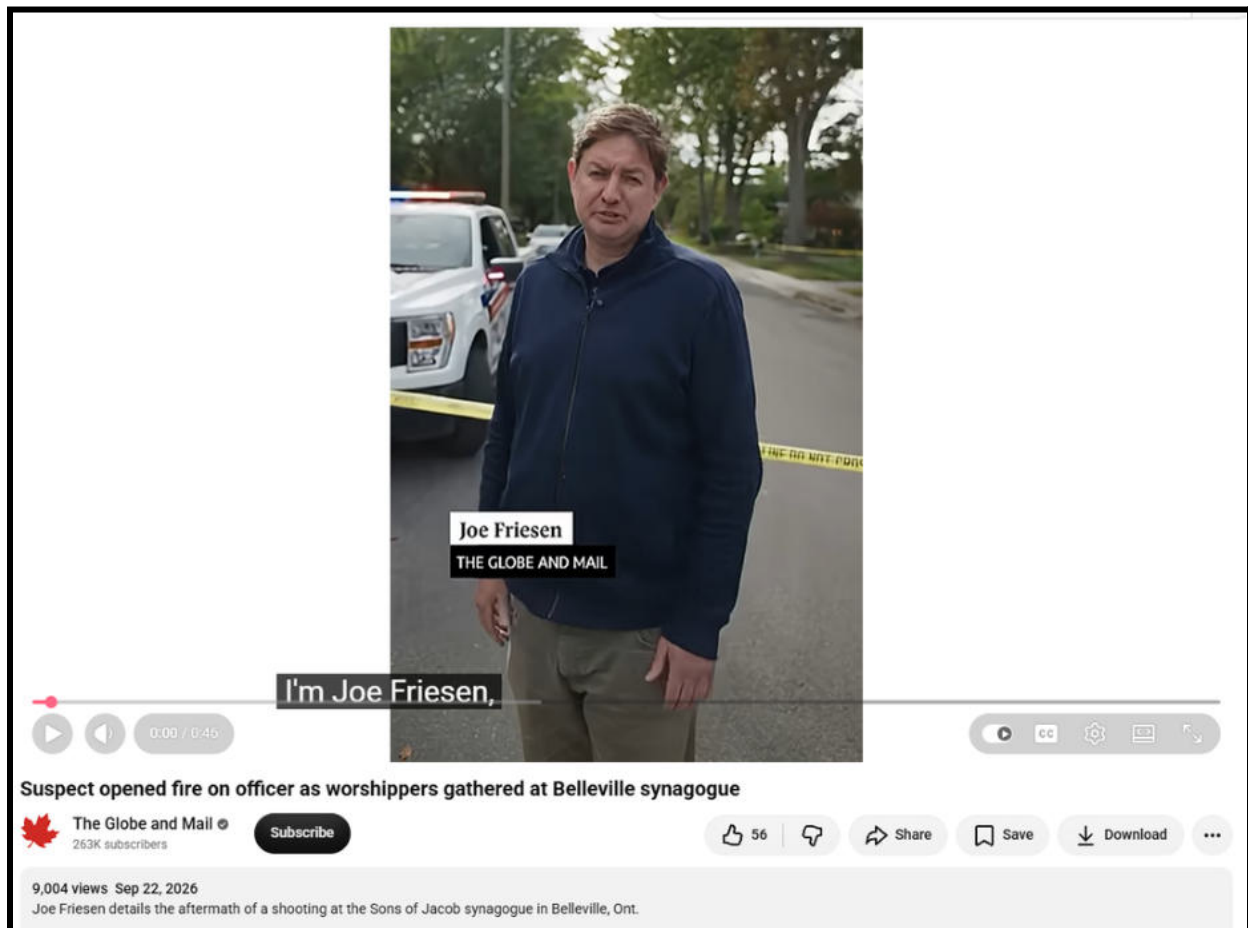


Some content posted on YouTube concerning the attack received comments that implied the attack had been falsified or in some way fabricated. For example, a news report on the Belleville Shooting was decried as a “False flag”.

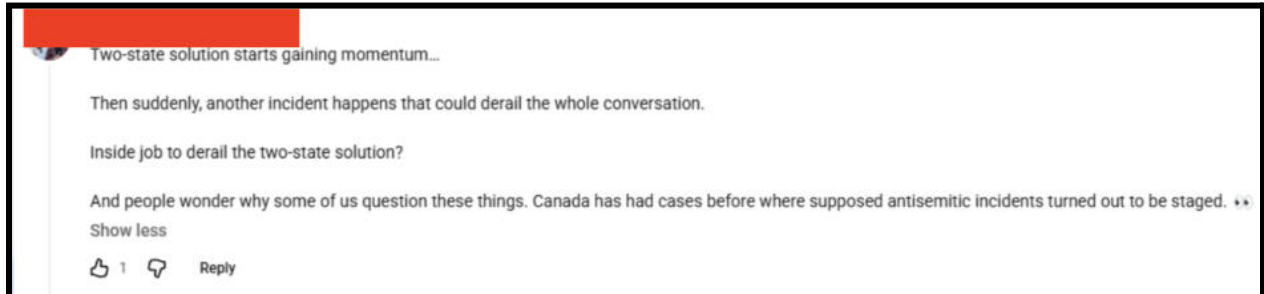
A comment claiming the attack was an “inside job” – blaming the Jewish community itself for violence committed against it.



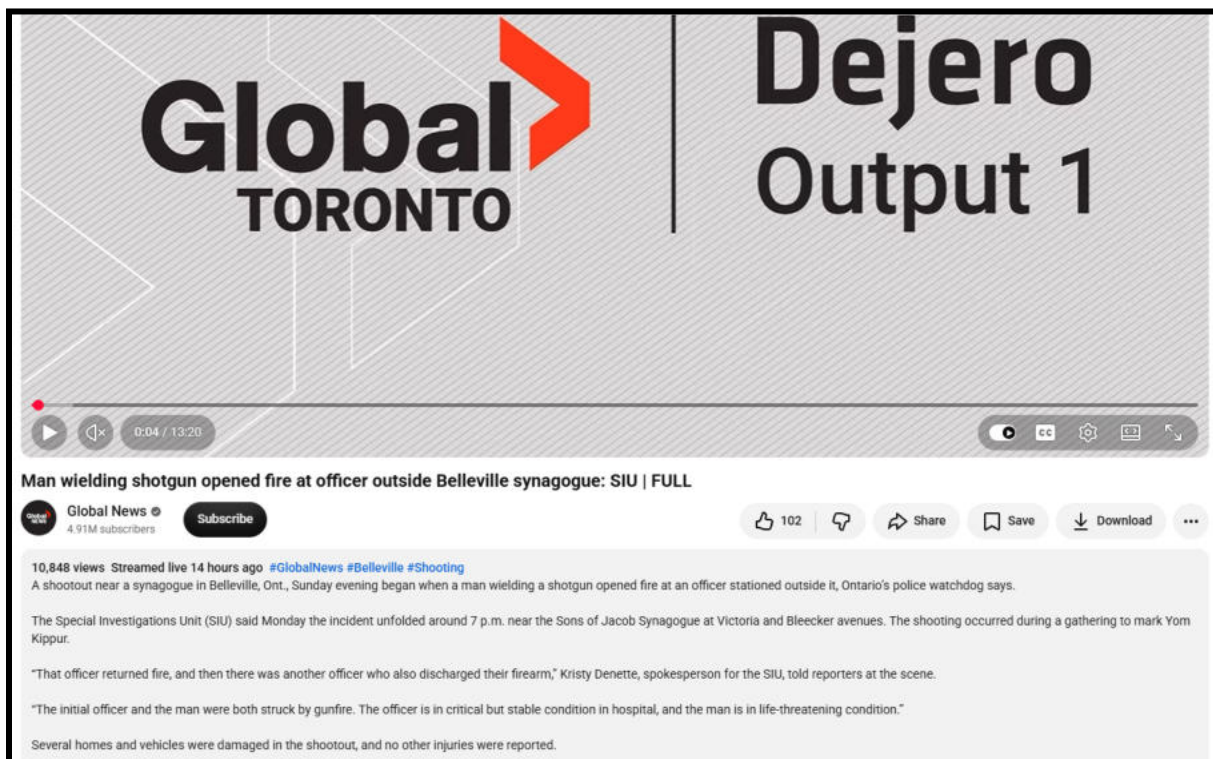
A separate news video received comments claiming it was a psyop and a false flag.

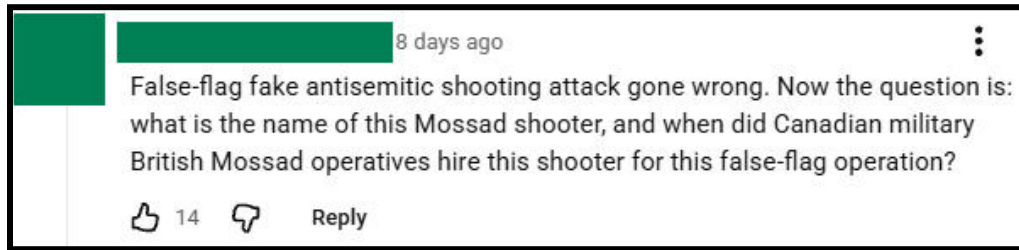


Some YouTube users indicated that they suspected the shooting was orchestrated to serve specific interests. In the below example, the comment proposes that the shooting was an “inside job” intended to “derail” negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

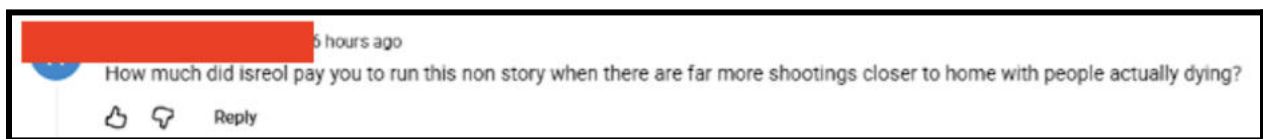


In the below example, a user asserts that the attack was perpetrated by a Mossad agent. The user relies on an antisemitic narrative of Jewish and/or Israeli interests being, somehow, advanced by indiscriminate violence.





Below, a user accuses an individual who posted news media footage of the shooting of doing so in exchange for money from Israel. The accusation appears to be based on an assumption that news media coverage of events targeting Jews serves Israeli interests.



Reddit

Reddit is a forum-based platform organised into user-created communities known as subreddits, founded in 2005. It averaged 130.3 million daily active uniques and 514.6 million weekly active uniques in the second quarter of 2026.⁷³ Reddit's platform-wide policy prohibits hate and harassment, but each subreddit is created and run by unpaid moderators who set community rules, provided they do not conflict with the platform's policies. Day-to-day enforcement therefore rests largely with volunteers.

Moderation practices on Reddit limited the material available for analysis. Comment sections in individual subreddits are frequently moderated before analysts can capture them, and OHPI analysts did not identify overt hate speech on the platform. Analysts did identify atrocity minimisation, a form of denialism also observed after the 2025 Bondi shootings.

One user in an r/Canada thread described the attack as taking place "near a synagogue" and claimed it was "not premeditated". Police investigations were ongoing at the time of writing, and no evidence excluded premeditation. An attack on a place of worship, including a failed attempt at mass casualties, is unlikely to be opportunistic. The comment is an example of atrocity minimisation. Days later police announced the deliberate nature of the attack and the targeted of the synagogue.

⁷³ Rohit Shewale, "Reddit Statistics 2026: Users, Revenue, Traffic and More", Resourcera, 3 August 2026. <https://resourcera.com/data/social/reddit-statistics/>



One user challenges the "Belleville synagogue shooting" label, alleging the presence of other public institutions elsewhere on the same street (a church, a school, a hospital), implying the framing reflects media bias rather than the attack's actual target. This disregards that even early on it was public knowledge that the synagogue was much closer and was hit by the gun fire. Sharing a street with other institutions has no bearing on that fact; the argument leverages the proximity of other places to cast doubt on established reporting.

r/canada

Search in r/canada

Ad

Create

2

Award

Share

ago • Edited 16h ago

It was a shootout on the same street as the synagogue, a church, a school and hospital. Nothing to do with any of them - Yet it's already become the "Belleville synagogue shooting". Gimme a break.

Edit: 100% beyond a doubt an attack on synagogue proven by below comment. Info was not in linked article which stated "shots in vicinity" only.

-156

Award

Share

16h ago

There is no church, no school or no hospital on that street (Bleecker Ave.)
There is a synagogue and shots were fired at it, hitting the windows.
I suspect you know that though.

50

Award

Share

15h ago

[deleted]

16h ago • Edited 16h ago

Why lie ? There's bullets holes in the Synagogue

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/devastating-synagogue-shooting-rocks-belleville>

Edit: They blocked me right away lol

117

Award

Share

16h ago

Canada 🇨🇦

Lying makes the hate justified

74

Award

Share

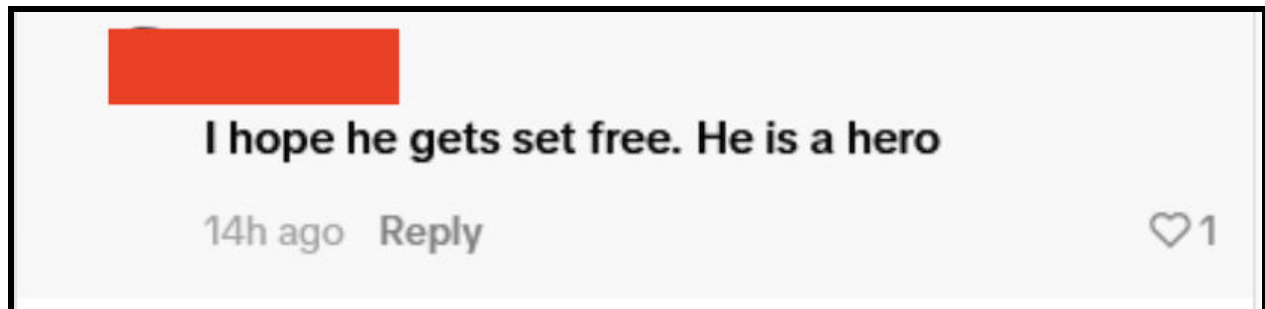
16h ago

TikTok

TikTok is a short-form video platform owned by ByteDance. Its parent company launched it in China as Douyin in September 2016 and released an international version the following year. TikTok does not publish an official user count, and estimates range from about 1.6 billion to 1.9 billion monthly active users.⁷⁴ In Australia, TikTok had 10.9 million users aged 18 and over in late 2025, the fastest growth of any major platform, at 13.9%.⁷⁵

TikTok's global head of policy, trust and safety told the Royal Commission that every upload is reviewed proactively, with automated systems handling most enforcement and humans reviewing borderline cases, and that 98% of violating content in Australia is removed before any user reports it.⁷⁶ He also acknowledged, when challenged on a particular case, that an antisemitic comment correctly blocked by automation was reinstated by a human moderator on appeal and removed only after a community organisation reported it and the matter was escalated. It demonstrates a system with an interplay between human driven and technology driven solutions.

The following Tiktok comment venerates the gunman Sean Ward, calling him a hero and hoping 'he gets set free'. The comment was written prior to Ward's death in hospital.

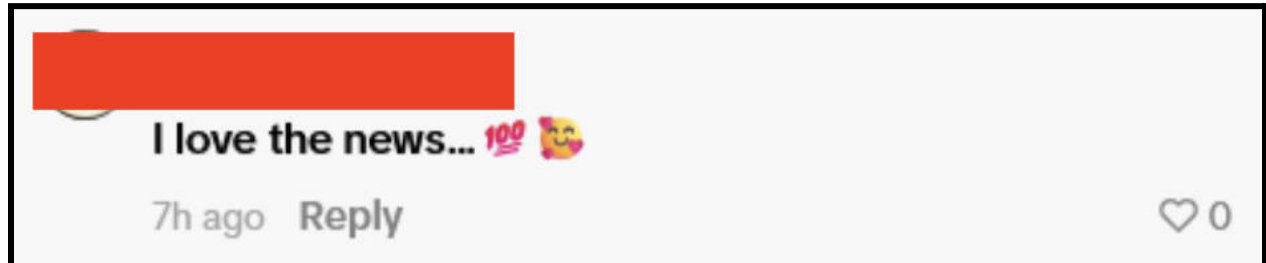


⁷⁴ David Curry, "TikTok Revenue and Usage Statistics (2026)", Business of Apps, 10 September 2026. <http://businessofapps.com/data/tik-tok-statistics/>

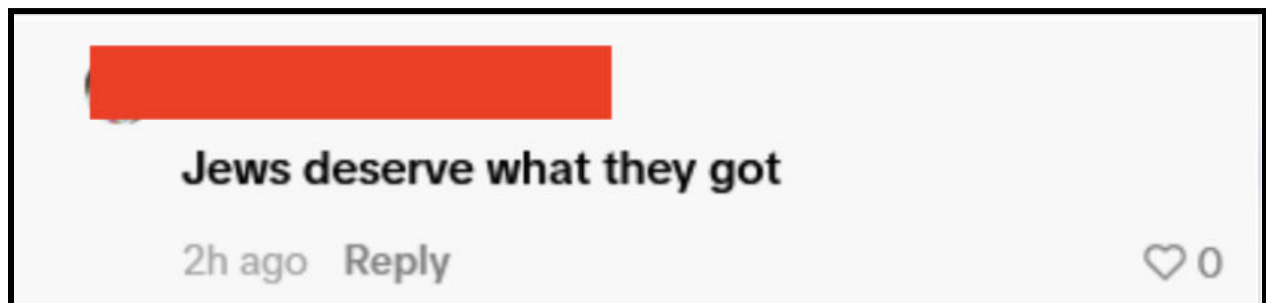
⁷⁵ Laura Chaves, "30 TikTok Statistics in Australia (2026): Data + Sources", Vidico, 30 July 2026. <https://vidico.com/news/tiktok-statistics-australia/>

⁷⁶ AJN Staff, "TikTok: antisemitic content is removed but moderation 'not always perfect'", The Australian Jewish News, 7 July 2026. https://www.australianjewishnews.com/liveblog_entry/tiktok-antisemitic-content-is-removed-but-moderation-not-always-perfect/

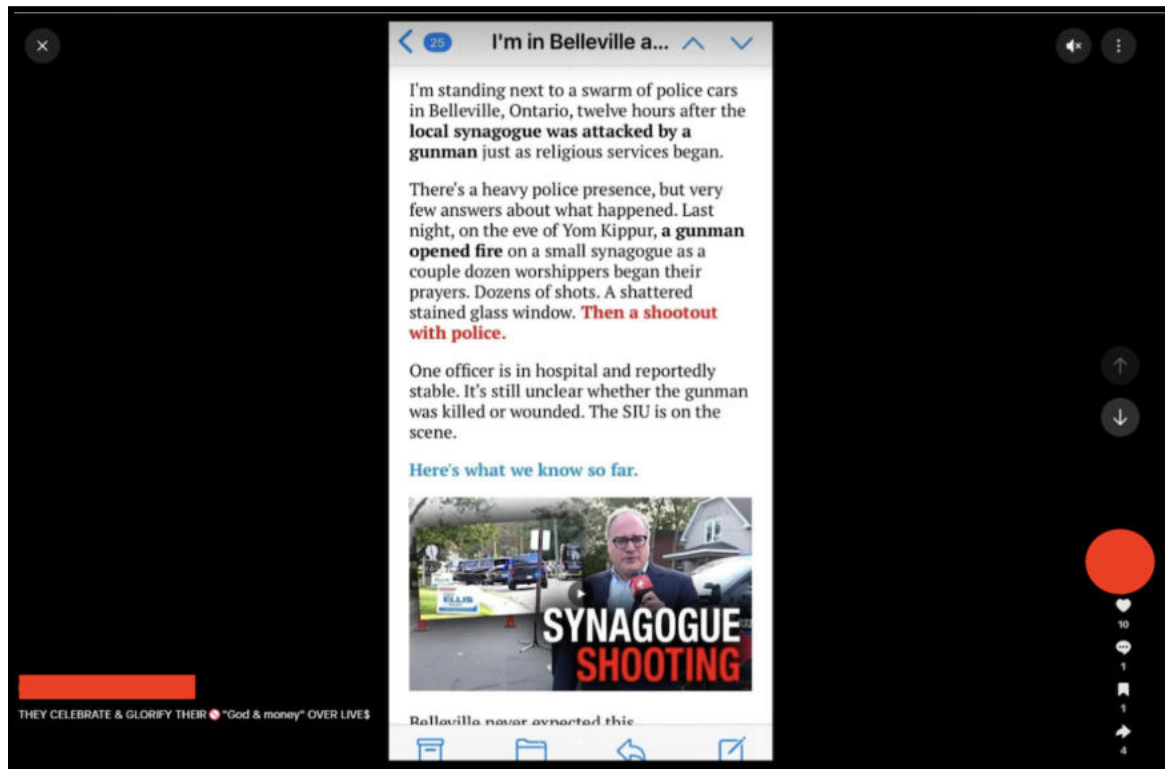
One TikTok comment, below, expressed enthusiasm about news coverage of the attack, thus implying that the attack on the Synagogue was something about which they were pleased.



Another commenter reacted to news of the attack by proclaiming that “Jews deserve what they got”, thus glorifying the attack.



The following TikTok post is captioned “THEY CELEBRATE AND GLORIFY THEIR “God & money” OVER LIVES”, applying traditional antisemitic tropes to justify the attack.



Similarly to the minimisation seen across other platforms, some users on TikTok sought to deny that the attack was targeted against the Jewish community. The following example claims the attack on the synagogue had “nothing to do with race or religion”, arguing that the event “happened to be outside [a] synagogue”, and that “They are trying to make it into something it’s not”, implying media manipulation and distorting the known facts of the event.



Another commenter expresses that the attack was not targeting the Jewish community, expressing that it coincidentally “just happened outside”. The user expresses that they are a local, and are therefore speaking from a position of knowledge and authority.



The following TikTok comment attributes collective guilt of Jewish people globally for the actions of the Israeli government, calling for action in what is perceived as the 'lack of accountability Canadian Jewish [people]' assume over the murder "from their people on Palestinians". This line of logic functions to mark all Jewish people worldwide as legitimate targets of politically motivated violence.



As per the previous example, the following three TikTok comments seek to justify the attempted shooting of innocent Jewish people (or Zionists, of which the commenters make no meaningful distinction), tying violence against them to the killing of Palestinians.





are Jewish people doing something evil, somewhere else in the world? why on earth would people be against Jewish people!??

5h ago Reply  4



It's Zionists doing evil things. Helps if you get an education

2h ago Reply  3



hey so let's not get into collective punishment, that's what a certain group in 1930s-40s Germany, not all Jews are destined to die for the actions of a few

1h ago Reply  1



so Jewish people need to keep their people in check. why are they letting a genocide slide?

38m ago Reply  1

[Hide](#) ^



what's happening

1d ago Reply  12



Zios getting payback

21h ago Reply  0

In the following comment, a Canadian person indicates that Jewish ‘radicals’ receive favourable treatment from the Canadian government (see ‘Jewish privilege’, ‘victim card’, ‘free pass’)⁷⁷, a well-documented antisemitic narrative that is a subset of older enduring conspiracy theories regarding disproportionate Jewish power and influence over social institutions.



⁷⁷ Placzynka, K. (2024). Jewish Privilege and the “Free Pass”. In: Becker, M.J., Troschke, H., Bolton, M., Chapelan, A. (eds) Decoding Antisemitism. Postdisciplinary Studies in Discourse. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-49238-9_26

Gab

Gab is a microblogging social media platform with traditional social networking features owned by Andrew Torba with a userbase of approximately 100,000 active users.⁷⁸ Gab claims to have a total of five million users. Gab has very similar features to X (Twitter), with users being able to publish posts including text, images and video.⁷⁹ Users can also join groups. The attack on the Sons of Jacob Synagogue was not prominently featured on Gab, but of the engagement that was present, details and analysis of that which was observed is included here.

The below is an example of glorification of the kind discussed earlier in this report. In this instance, the user first implies that maximising the Jewish casualty to munitions ratio is a virtuous pursuit, which is then coupled with the faux slogan, “JusticeForTheJew”, which in this context (and on Gab more generally) refers to the general notion that violence experienced by Jewish targets is equivalent to the meting out of justice.



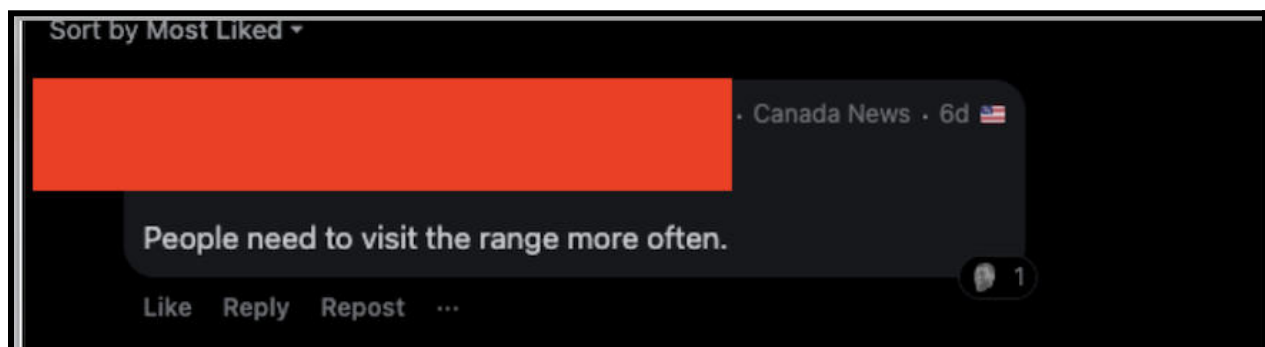
⁷⁸ Micah Lee, 'Inside Gab: The Online Safe Space for Far Right Extremists', 15 March 2021, *The Intercept*, <https://theintercept.com/2021/03/15/gab-hack-donald-trump-parler-extremists/>

⁷⁹ A Oboler et al. *Online Antisemitism After 7 October 2023* (Online Hate Prevention Institute, 2024). <https://ohpi.org.au/afteroct7/>

In the below example, the comment is used to communicate a reframed articulation of Mark Carney's (the Canadian Prime Minister) expression of solidarity in the immediate aftermath of the Bellville Shooting. The user refers to a conspiratorial antisemitic narrative of Jewish control paired with accusations of Jewish supremacy (claims that are themselves based on a myth).



Although not necessarily an instance of glorification, the below example involves a reference to a de facto endorsement of the shooter's actions. The user rejects any implication that the attack was antisocial behaviour and instead implies that there is a need for people to spend more time practicing their marksmanship (i.e., time at the range). The user has thus attempted to suggest that there is an ongoing expectation or obligation for those with violent ambitions to develop and improve their capacity to inflict harm.



The next example invokes a host of antisemitic tropes and very clearly attempts to reverse the narrative to portray the shooter as a victim, and Const. Smith is characterised as the perpetrator of a crime and a "dirty cop". The post invokes the

“Synagogue of Satan” trope, which is a widely circulated antisemitic interpretation of a passage from the Book of Revelation in the New Testament. The user has also demonised (literally) Jews by characterising them as “satans” who were performing “services to the devil”. The post continued this theme by referring to the attacker as a “desatanizer” (i.e. de-Satan-iser).



6d · 🇺🇸 · White Protection League · Edited

Canada: Desatanizer Opens Fire Outside a Synagogue of Satan in Ontario

A desatanizer shot and critically wounded a dirty cop deployed outside a synagogue of Satan in Belleville, Ontario, on Sunday evening, Sept 20 during services to the Devil devoted to a Judeo-Satanic holiday.

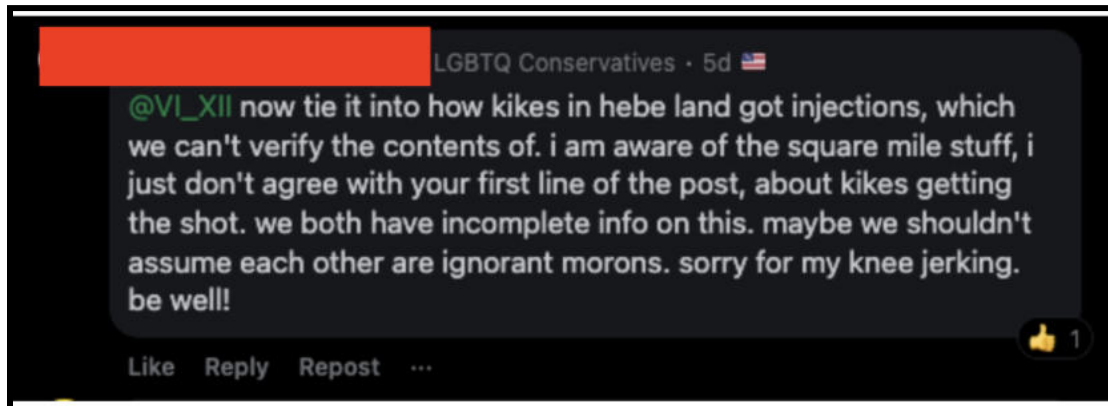
Around 20-30 shots were exchanged, and the attacker — identified as 29-year-old Sean Ward (photo) from nearby Quinte West — was critically wounded in return fire from this dirty cop and taken into custody. Mr. Ward was armed with a shotgun.

Both Mr. Ward and the wounded cop remained hospitalized on Monday, Sept 21.

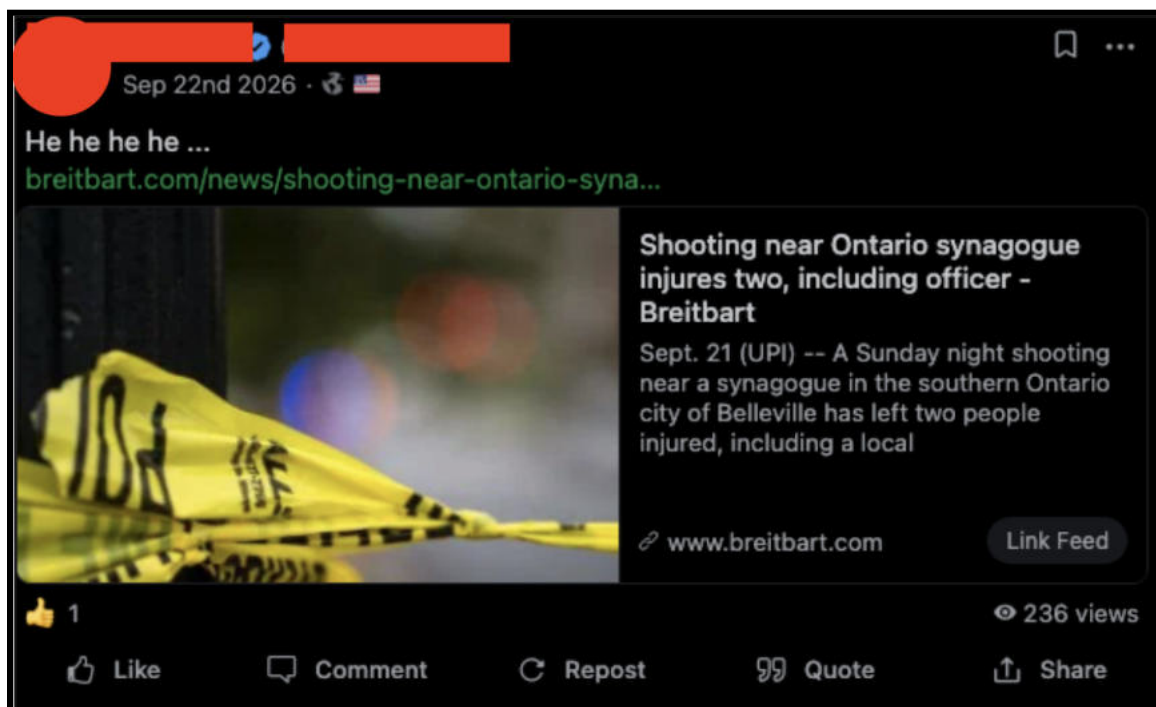


 Like  Comment  Repost  Quote  Share

In response to a post on Gab that argues against one narrative of the ideology espoused by the shooter; specifically, that Israel was responsible for spreading COVID-19 pandemic we get the comment below. The parent post makes the point that Israel vaccinated its own population, and consequently questions the notion that it was responsible for spreading the virus. The reply utilises an antisemitic slur and pushes further conspiracism regarding the contents of the vaccine administered in Israel.



A user engages in a type of glorification by characterising the attack as if it were something humorous in the comment below.



Conclusion

The Belleville Yom Kippur shooting was not just an attack on the Jewish community, it is an attack on religious freedom and on the values Canada, and Australia, hold dear.

The content we have documented once again shows how antisemitism spreads following an attack on the Jewish community. It shows how attacks are celebrated and the murder of Jews glorified. It shows how events are cast into doubt with false flag claims. It shows the efforts to blame the victims, or Israel, for the attack itself. Most significantly, it shows how empathy is attacked so that further hate can be normalised.

These narratives are fed and exacerbated by social media systems that thrive on conflict and conspiracy theories, and are leveraged by foreign actors. Rather than the unity and empathy we might expect, we see some engage in hate, radicalisation, and violent extremism. We see this not only on minimally moderated platforms, but also on mainstream platforms.

Governments cannot afford to separate efforts to protect physical safety from efforts to combat growing online threats. Greater investment in monitoring online hate and extremism online needed. This is a task governments must be part of, but also one they cannot do alone. Investment in civil society organisations that engage in monitoring and responding to online hate is urgently needed right around the world.

We wish Constable Jeff Smith well with his recovery. We wish the Sons of Jacob Synagogue community a swift return to better times and normal operations. We thank those who stood up to support the community, particularly in the online spaces we monitored. Finally, we call on the platforms to do more. It isn't good enough that with relatively little effort we can find the sort of content shown in this report, and a week later almost all of it remained online. Platforms must be far more proactive in removing both extremism and hate.