



On-line calls for violence lead to real violence

Neo-Nazis approach young people ever more professional /Concepts to counter a world-wide growing phenomenon /International conference "hate on the Net" in Berlin.

Preachers of hate use the world-wide Internet ever more professional. Their on-line calls to violence and hate - so-called Cyber Hate - lead, as can be proven, to real violence in the material world. This relationship is pointed out by INACH (International Network Against Cyber Hate) during its two-day conference "Hate on the net - what we can do against it" in Berlin.

In order to counter this hate, the network produced a resolution in which it requests the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to take effective measures against right-wing extremists, antisemitic and other hateful activities on the Internet. "The Internet is global, therefore measures against hate must also be, but they need to respect the differing laws of various countries", says lawyer Chris Wolf, chairman of INACH and leader of the Internet Task Force of the American Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Legal initiatives alone are not sufficient, but will have to be supplemented by educational concepts. "We must help children and young people to recognize the rhetoric of the hate on the Internet. That is extremely important, in order to protect them from being recruited by racists and right-wing extremists." The network, which was created 2002 in order to actively work on an international level against Cyber Hate, published its second annual report in November.

According to the research of INACH co-founder jugendschutz.net, the Mainz-based, countrywide authority for the protection of youth on the Internet in Germany, also Neo-Nazis with their "*Kameradschaften*" increasingly approach young people in a more professional way. Stefan Glaser, deputy-director of jugendschutz.net: "Neo-Nazis recruit young people on purpose in their regional surroundings. They make their websites cool for kids i.e. they jazz them up with music videos or they recruit youth with CDs, which they also offer at schoolyards."

Particularly the technical possibilities, which Web-2.0 offers, prove as a new forum of right-wing extremism and other preachers of hate. Like the US-based video platform YouTube, on which all the time videos can be found that incite to violence and hate. However, the INACH members Germany and the Netherlands succeeded frequently in taking action by having YouTube remove this kind of content.

"Also in the USA there are far more possibilities for spreading hatred than in Europe because of the protections of freedom of speech", says litigator Wolf, who's well-known in the USA as "A pioneer in Internet Law", having been involved as a lawyer in many precedent-setting cases on domain names, copyright, et cetera.

Worldwide, Neo-Nazis and other right-wing extremist groups use all the possibilities of the net to deny the Holocaust, to incite hatred and violence and to spread their propaganda. Of the 1,560 cases which jugendschutz.net dealt with in 2006, 365 concerned material which is illegal according to the law. 275 of these illegal expressions - almost 80 percent - were removed from the Net after action by jugendschutz.net.

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