DIGITAL TERRORISM & HATE:

CHALLENGES & CONSEQUENCES FOR LEADERS WORLDWIDE

Rabbi Abraham Cooper

18:00~, October 19, 2010
10-301, 3F Building 10, Sophia University

The Internet's unprecedented global reach and scope combined with the difficulty in monitoring and tracing communications make it the prime tool for extremists and terrorists. The Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Los Angeles-based Jewish human rights organization with over 400,000 family members, has been monitoring these developments for over a decade through its Digital Terrorism and Hate Project. The project shows how every aspect of the Internet is being used by extremists of all kinds to repackage old hatred, demean the 'Enemy', raise funds and recruit and train Jihadist terrorists. This user-generated hate material increases the viral spread of extremism online and aids in increasing the social acceptability of hate in mainstream discourse. By creating an environment where all users are equal participants on the Web, all editorial functions are removed and expressions of hate can easily flow unchallenged. Jews, Catholics, Muslims, Hindus, gays, women and immigrants are some of the most targeted groups.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's Digital Terrorism & Hate Project identifies some 10,000 problematic hate and terrorist websites, hate games and other internet postings. This report is widely distributed each year to government leaders, elected officials, law enforcement and anti-terrorist agencies, community and web activists as well as the media.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Associate Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, will give an address about the Center's latest work with the Digital Terrorism & Hate Project. He will highlight the many challenges that digital terrorism and hate pose to law enforcement agencies, the media, scholars, activists and governments worldwide.
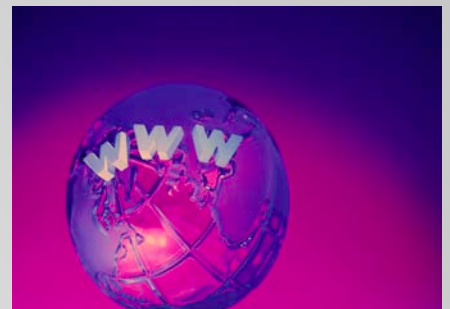
Rabbi Abraham Cooper is the associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a leading Jewish human rights organization with over 400,000 family members.

Rabbi Cooper has been a longtime activist for Jewish and human rights causes on five continents. He regularly meets with world leaders, including Pope Benedict XVI, presidents and foreign ministers to defend the rights of the Jewish people, combat terrorism and promote intergroup relations. He is widely recognized as a pioneer and international authority on issues related to digital hate and the Internet.

Rabbi Cooper supervises the Center's Digital Terrorism and Hate Project, supervised the Center's entry into the digital age through www.wiesenthal.com and created the Center's innovative AskMusa.com, a multilingual website designed to familiarize Moslems around the world to the values of the Jewish people, its history and Faith.

In 2007, Rabbi Cooper was listed by *Newsweek* among the top most influential Rabbis in the United States.

Lecture in English without interpretation