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Terrorism: Sympathizers of Kahane Chai and Kach Rebuild WWW Presence, Call for Assassination of Yasir Arafat

Two websites sympathetic to the Jewish Kach Movement (Kahane Chai), a movement which is banned in Israel and classified as a terrorist organization by the US Government, have appeared on the World Wide Web. The current websites are similar in content and design to Kach movement websites that were disrupted in early 2001 after the FBI seized their assets. The new websites are soliciting funds and calling for the assassination of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat.

The two websites are "Kahane.org" located at <www.kahane.org> and the "New Kach Movement" located at <www.newkach.org>. The two sites do not explicitly claim to be related to the banned organizations "Kach" and "Kahane Chai," but an analysis of their content, design, and hyperlinks indicates that there is little difference between the agendas and the websites of the banned organizations and the new ones.

- Content at Kahane.org in late 2001 is virtually identical to that which appeared at Kahane.org in late 2000.
- The HTML source page--produced by the webmaster of the current Kahane org website-states that Kahane org is the "official Kahane website."
- Clicking on the menu item "Kahane Chai" at the New Kach website took the browser to Kahane.org.
- Clicking on the menu item "Kach in Action" at the New Kach website took the browser to
 news articles on Kach, not to articles on New Kach, and clicking on "Kach Party and
 Policies" at New Kach took the browser to an article on the Kach Party and policies not to
 an article on the New Kach Party and policies.

Like the previous websites, the current sites are vehemently anti-Muslim and anti-Arab. They espouse the same views of Rabbi Meir Kahane, the founder of Kach and the Jewish Defense League, that were found at the websites in late 2000.

- During the week of 3 December 2001, the New Kach website featured a pulsating banner which read "Ariel Sharon, kill Yasser Arafat now."
- The following week, the Kahane.org website carried a "quizlet" (an online poll) which asked rhetorically whether Israel should "only kill Arafat's henchmen" or "Arafat himself."

In another indication of the link between the old and the refurbished websites, Kahane.org features an e-petition to have the US Government lift the ban against Kahane Chai and Kach.

 The first paragraph of the petition reads, "We the undersigned, demand an immediate cessation of the unfair and capricious designation of the Kahane Chai Jewish activist and educational group as a terrorist organization, and the unconstitutional scizure of the groups' assets in the US." Web visitors are encouraged to email their congressmen to seek redress.

 The Philadelphia chapter of New Kach features a petition to lift the USG ban against Kach and Kahane Chai.

Like the earlier websites, Kahane.org solicits donations and markets Kahane books, audio and videotapes, T-shirts and stickers in order to raise funds. The New Kach website does not specifically seek financial contributions--only the donation of secure web servers and volunteer web skills for its Internet operations.

The new websites link to a much larger network of websites and sympathizers. Kahane.org and New Kach hyperlink to affiliated New Kach chapters and websites located in several parts of the world.

- US-based New Kach chapters and websites are located in Philadelphia, Milwaukee, New York, Chicago, and Teaneck, New Jersey. Overseas chapters of New Kach are located in Capetown, South Africa, in Israel, and Montreal, Canada.
- The Canadian website, at <www.newkach.org/montreal.htm>, calls itself New Kach-Jewish Defense Force. During the week of 10 December 2001, a banner at the Canadian website welcomed the "JDL" (Jewish Defense League) to Montreal.

In addition to their direct affiliates, both Kahane.org and New Kach feature hyperlinks described by them as "Kahanist." These web links include the Jewish Defense League (JDL); a website dedicated to convicted spy Jonathan Pollard; a website dedicated to Baruch Goldstein, the perpetrator of the Ibrahimi Mosque Massacre of February 1994; as well as to webpages dedicated to Meir Kahane and his late son, Binyamin Kahane.

Kahane.org is registered to Yeshivat HaRav Meir, 1090 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230. The billing contact is listed as Michael Guzovsky, Hatikva Jewish Identity Center, 1090 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230, tel. 718-758-0520.

The main New Kach website is registered to NKM, 6212 DeVimy, Montreal, Canada. The administrative contact is listed as Efraim Hershkovits, who is also the sponsor of the Montreal chapter of New Kach-Jewish Defense Force.

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