

Holocaust Denial: A Global Survey - 2005

by Rafael Medoff & Alex Grobman

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Executive Summary: *Holocaust Denial - A Global Survey: 2005*

Holocaust-deniers suffered a number of setbacks in the United States and Europe in 2005. Protests in the U.S. resulted in C-Span's cancelation of a broadcast of Holocaust-denier David Irving, the withdrawal by *Teen People* magazine of an article whitewashing a Holocaust-denying singing duo, and Jordan's decision to halt an antisemitic and Holocaust-denying television series. In addition, the governments of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, and the Netherlands actively prosecuted Holocaust-deniers. In another significant development, the U.S. State Department for the first time officially described Holocaust-denial as a form of antisemitism.

In the Middle East, however, Holocaust-denial continued to enjoy official sponsorship in many countries. The regimes in Egypt, Iran, the Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Syria promoted Holocaust-denial or defended Holocaust-deniers. The continued promotion of Holocaust-denial by Egyptian government-controlled publications was particularly alarming in view of the fact that in 2004, Egypt's Information Minister had, in response to U.S. protests, publicly acknowledged the Holocaust as a historical fact and condemned Holocaust-deniers.

About the Authors

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Alex Grobman, Ph.D., president of the Institute for Contemporary Jewish Life and the Brenn Institute, is co-author (with Michael Sherman) of *Denying History: Who Says the Holocaust Never Happened and Why Do They Say It?*, and author of *Rekindling the Flame: Jewish Chaplains in the U.S. Army and the Survivors of the Holocaust*; *Battling For Souls: The Vaad Hatzala Rescue Committee in Post-War Europe*; and the forthcoming *Zionism=Racism: The New War Against the Jews*. He was the founding director of the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, and served as director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles where he was the founding editor-in chief of the *Simon Wiesenthal Annual*. He edited *Genocide: Critical Issues of the Holocaust*; *Anne Frank in Historical Perspective*; and *Those Who Dared: Rescuers and Rescued*.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
About the Authors	2
North America	3-7
Europe	8-12
Middle East	12-19

North America

CANADA

On February 24, Canadian federal justice Pierre Blais issued a 63-page ruling that found Ernst Zundel is a threat to national security and therefore eligible for deportation. Blais described Zundel as “one of the world’s most prominent distributors of revisionist neo-Nazi propaganda.”¹

B'nai B'rith Canada complained to the University of Ottawa in August 2005 that one of its faculty members, economist Michel Chossudovsky, maintains a web site that includes postings alleging Jewish conspiracies and denying the Holocaust. Articles on Chossudovsky's web site, www.globalresearch.ca, include "The Hilarious Auschwitz Story," "The HolyCo\$T Lie is Finished," "Jewish Lies of Omission (about the 'Holocaust')," and "Jewish Hate Responsible For Largest Mass Killing at Dachau." Interviewed by The Ottawa Citizen, Chossudovsky said the postings are "anti-Zionist, not anti-Semitic."²

¹ Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), February 25, 2005.

² The Ottawa Citizen, August 20, 2005.

Ernst Zundel, who was deported by Canada to Germany in March 2005, announced in November that he is suing the Canadian government for \$10-million, claiming his imprisonment and deportation were illegal.³

Reinhard Mueller, 62, a resident of Alberta, was convicted of promoting hatred through his web site, which denies the Holocaust and blames Jews for AIDS, the Columbia space shuttle explosion, and other catastrophes. He could receive a maximum sentence of two years in prison.⁴

UNITED STATES

The United States government for the first time officially described Holocaust-denial as a manifestation of antisemitism. In its January 5, 2005 *Report on Global Anti-Semitism*, the U.S. State Department cited instances of Holocaust-denial in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Romania, the United Kingdom, and Egypt as examples of antisemitism in those countries.⁵

Holocaust denier David Irving kept a busy speaking schedule throughout the United States during the spring and summer of 2005. He spoke at a diner in Atlanta (March 12); in Chicago (March 18); at the Militaria Relics Show in Nashville (March 26); Tucson and Phoenix (April 13-14); Las Vegas (April 15); Los Angeles, Bakersfield, Sacramento, and San Francisco (April 17-23); at Portland State University (April 25); Seattle (April 26); Fargo (April 28); Minnesota (April 29); Tampa (July 2); Tallahassee (July 3); Montgomery (July 5); Jacksonville (July 7); Orlando (July 8); West Palm Beach (July 9); at the Birmingham Gun Show at the Civic Center (July 9-10); at the Kabob's Mediterranean Cuisine restaurant in Palm Bay (July 13); and in Miami (July 14). (Information about additional Irving lectures appears below.)⁶

Ingrid Zundel, wife of Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel, led about twenty protesters in a demonstration outside the Canadian Consulate in Los Angeles on February 6, to urge Canada to release Zundel from prison, where he was being held during proceedings to deport him to his native Germany. The rally was organized by the Institute for Historical Review, the leading Holocaust-denial group in the United States.⁷

³ www.ihr.org (Institute for Historical Review)

⁴ JTA, December 17, 2005.

⁵ www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/40258.htm

⁶ www.adl.org (Anti-Defamation League)

⁷ JTA, February 7, 2005.

Canadian extremist Paul Fromm gave a speech in Houston March 12, in support of Ernst Zundel.⁸

The cable television network C-Span announced in March that it intended to "balance" a broadcast of Holocaust scholar Prof. Deborah Lipstadt with a broadcast of Holocaust-denier David Irving. In response, more than 600 prominent historians and other scholars signed a protest petition organized by The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies. C-Span also reported that it received more than 3,000 e-mails, most of them opposing the plan to broadcast Irving. C-Span then canceled its plan to broadcast Irving's speech; aired a program (on April 3 and April 4) in which Book TV executive producer Connie Doebele admitted it was wrong for C-Span to plan to "balance" Lipstadt's lecture with Irving, and expressed regret; and presented brief excerpts of Irving's remarks with a commentator describing him as a Holocaust-denier, rather than uncritically presenting his speech, as it had originally planned.⁹

David Irving spoke at a meeting at an Arlington, VA restaurant on March 31. The event was organized by Peter Gemma, a resident of Reston, VA who was a senior official of the Pat Buchanan for President campaign in 2000. Gemma, who is currently affiliated with the Council of Conservative Citizens, claimed that 95 people attended the Irving lecture. He said Irving "has caused waves in the establishment by uncovering documents and evidence some historians don't like to admit."¹⁰

David Irving and Mark Weber, director of the Institute for Historical Review, were the featured speakers at an IHR meeting on April 17, 2005, held in "a hotel meeting room in Orange County" (southern California), according to the IHR. It estimated that seventy people attended. Weber's speech was titled "Is an Objective View of Hitler Possible?" Irving's was "The Faking of Adolf Hitler for History."¹¹

William Baker, former chairman of the extremist Populist Party, which was established by Holocaust-denier Willis Carto, was invited to be the keynote speaker at a meeting at the Boca Raton, Florida, Marriott Hotel in May, organized by the Assidiq Islamic Educational Foundation, an Islamic center in Boca Raton.¹²

Billy Roper, leader of the Holocaust-denying White Revolution group, led a "White Unity" meeting in Boston on May 7, followed by a picketing of the city's Holocaust Memorial Center

⁸ www.ihr.org

⁹ www.WymanInstitute.org

¹⁰ Washington Post, April 7, 2005.

¹¹ www.ihr.org

¹² www.FrontPageMag.com

on May 8.¹³

Online apartment rental mogul Michael Santomauro hosted a meeting "on Manhattan's west side" on July 16, featuring IHR director Mark Weber. According to the IHR, forty people attended.¹⁴

Fifteen to twenty supporters of the Institute for Historical Review picketed the Simon Wiesenthal Center, in Los Angeles, on July 29, protesting what it called the Center's "record of lies in support of war, Zionist oppression and Jewish supremacism."¹⁵

Hesham Tillawi, a Palestinian Arab-American extremist based in Louisiana, continued to use his cable television program to promote Holocaust-deniers. On August 18, Tillawi had as his featured guests Ernst Zundel's wife Ingrid, Mark Weber of the Institute for Historical Review, and Canadian denier Paul Fromm. On October 6, his guest was Holocaust-denier and former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke. After the show, Tillawi, fearing that something he said during the interview might be construed as criticism of Duke, wrote to Duke to assure him that "I am honored to be a friend of yours and I do consider you a good friend and I am a supporter of your cause."¹⁶

In October, the National Security Agency issued a report that referred to the Holocaust-denying Institute for Historical Review as a center for "scholars and researchers" and as a "scholarly association." The report, "Eavesdropping on Hell: Historical Guide to Western Communications Intelligence and the Holocaust, 1939-1945," was authored by NSA staff member Robert Hanyok. IHR director Mark Weber said "it is gratifying to note that the National Security Agency acknowledges IHR scholarship."¹⁷

Holocaust denier Fritz Berg was a featured speaker at the "Phoenix Eurofest," an October 15 gathering organized by the Phoenix Unit of the neo-Nazi National Vanguard group.¹⁸

Online apartment rental mogul (and Holocaust-denier) Michael Santomauro was banned from Amazon.com in October after sending obscene and antisemitic emails to an official of the American Jewish Congress who had urged consumers to refrain from purchasing copies of an

¹³ www.adl.org

¹⁴ www.ihr.org

¹⁵ www.ihr.org

¹⁶ www.davidduke.org; www.ihr.org; www.nationalvanguard.org

¹⁷ Wyman Institute news release, October 7, 2005; www.ihr.org

¹⁸ www.adl.org

antisemitic book, *The Riddle of the Jew's Success*, from Santomauro.¹⁹

German-born Holocaust denier Germar Rudolph, also known as Germar Scheerer, was arrested in Chicago on October 19 on a German government warrant based on his 1995 conviction for slander and incitement to hatred. (Sentenced to fourteen months in prison for that conviction, Rudolph, 41, had fled to the United States.) On November 14, Rudolph was extradited to Germany and was arrested upon his arrival at Frankfurt the next day.²⁰

Protesters picketed the headquarters of Time Inc. in New York City on November 21, 2005, following reports that a Time Inc. publication, *Teen People*, planned to publish a slanted profile in its February 2006 issue of the neo-Nazi musical duo "Prussian Blue." The duo, 13 year-old twin sisters Lynx and Lamb Gaede, wear Hitler t-shirts, deny the Holocaust, and frequently perform at neo-Nazi events. *Teen People* reportedly had promised them to refrain from using the words "hate," "supremacist," and "Nazi" in the article. As a result of the growing controversy, Time Inc. announced on November 22, 2005, that *Teen People* was canceling the article and withdrawing from its web site a preview of the article which characterized the girls' views only as "white pride." However, the *Teen People* web site continued to display an earlier article (dated Nov. 15, 2005) about the twins which calls them only "white separatists" and fails to use the words "hate," "supremacist," or "Nazi." The article did not explain what it meant by "white separatists," did not identify the girls as racists, and made no mention of their admiration for Hitler or their denial of the Holocaust. It reported they have "performed at separatist rallies all over the country," without explaining the racist and neo-Nazi nature of those rallies. A poll attached to the article asked readers, "Do you think the girls are embracing this message because of their parents?" But from the article, readers had no way of knowing what "this message" was.²¹

¹⁹ The Forward, October 28, 2005.

²⁰ JTA, November 15, 2005 and November 16, 2005.

²¹ New York Post, November 22, 2005 and November 23, 2005; New York Daily News, November 23, 2005; www.teenpeople.com

Europe

AUSTRIA:

In an interview with the Austrian newspaper Junge Freiheit on February 18, playwright Rolf Hochhuth defended David Irving as "an honorable man," a "fabulous pioneer of contemporary history," and "much more serious than many German historians." He said descriptions of Irving as a Holocaust-denier are "idiotic."

Austrian parliament member John Gudenus was compelled to resign from the rightwing Freedom Party in April after expressing doubt that Jews were gassed to death by the Nazis, although he said he would not resign his seat in parliament. In 1995, Gudenus was forced to resign from parliament after making similar remarks. In June, the Vienna City Council voted unanimously to deprive Gudenus of his parliament immunity, so that he can be prosecuted for denying or minimizing the Holocaust.²²

Austrian extremist Wolfgang Frohlich went on trial in August for having distributed a CD in which he asserted the mass gassing of Jews by the Nazis was "technical physical nonsense."²³

David Irving was arrested in the Austrian province of Styria on November 11, on a warrant from 1989 over two speeches he made that year, in Vienna and Leoben, in which he denied the existence of gas chambers in the Nazi death camps.²⁴

BELGIUM:

Belgian extremist Vincent Reynouard was arrested in Brussels on September 12 for distributing Holocaust-denial material. Two other Belgians, Jérôme Bourbon and Camille-Marie Galic, face similar charges.²⁵

CZECH REPUBLIC:

About sixty members of the extremist "National Corporativism" group picketed the German Embassy in Prague in October, urging the release of imprisoned Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel.

²² JTA, April 27, 2005 and June 29, 2005.

²³ www.adelaideinstitute.org

²⁴ Associated Press, November 22, 2005.

²⁵ www.adelaideinstitute.org

Two of the protesters were arrested.²⁶

The Czech Educational Ministry announced in November that it would prosecute Rudolf Seidl, author of a Holocaust-denial pamphlet titled "Auschwitz--Fact versus Fiction," distributed by the extremist National Educational Institute.²⁷

FRANCE:

A sixteen-page pamphlet denying the Holocaust was placed in mailboxes through the city of Perpignan, in southern France, in late February and early March.²⁸

The director of the Academy of Lyon, Alain Morvan, was censured in March by the State Council of France, the country's Supreme Court for administrative justice, for urging that strong penalties be imposed upon a Holocaust-denier. Bruno Gollnisch, the second in command of the extremist National Front party, faces prosecution for Holocaust denial and was suspended from his teaching position at the Academy of Lyon for five years, but the State Council ruled that Prof. Morvan failed to "respect the presumption of innocence" in Gollnisch's case. Gollnisch called the council's ruling "a historic victory for public freedom."²⁹

In March, a French court began hearing arguments in a suit by eight anti-racist organizations seeking to prevent public access to the web site of a Holocaust-denial group called the Association of Amateur War and Holocaust Historians. A French law enacted in 2004 permitted the authorities to order to the site's hosts to block access to it. Two of the site's hosts, OLM and Globat, agreed to do so, but a third host, a U.S. company called ThePlanet.com, refused to do so.³⁰

Ginette Skandrani, co-founder of France's Green Party, was forced out of the party because of her association with the Holocaust-denying Association of Amateur War and Holocaust Historians.³¹

Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the National Front, said in a BBC interview on November 28 that the Nazis' gas chambers were "only a detail of World War II." He also said: "No chief commanding officer, not Churchill, not Stalin, not Roosevelt, not De Gaulle — none of them

²⁶ Associated Press, October 28, 2005.

²⁷ JTA, November 10, 2005.

²⁸ JTA, March 14, 2005.

²⁹ JTA, March 17, 2005.

³⁰ JTA, June 2, 2005.

³¹ JTA, June 3, 2005.

mentioned the gas chambers in his memoirs.” Le Pen made similar comments in 1987, resulting in a criminal conviction for Holocaust-denial, for which he was fined. In response to the latest comments, two French organizations, SOS-Racisme and the Movement Against Racism, announced they will take legal action against Le Pen.³²

Speaking to the French radio station France-Inter in December, Le Pen said he was “shocked” by the statements by Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad denying the Holocaust. Le Pen said, “I find his statements shocking, and do not in any way share the sentiments expressed by the Iranian president.”³³

GERMANY:

The German government in February banned the distribution of the Turkish-based Islamic newspaper *Vakit* because of its antisemitism and Holocaust-denial.³⁴

The trial of Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel, deported from Canada to Germany in March, was delayed after his attorney, Sylvia Stolz, made antisemitic statements and was disqualified. He was indicted on fourteen counts of racism and Holocaust-denial.³⁵

GREAT BRITAIN:

An internal memo circulated by the London-based National Community Tension Team of the Association of Chief Police Officers was discovered to have referred to the Holocaust as "the alleged massacre of six million Jews." A spokesman for the Association said the use of that phrase was "a mistake" by "a junior staff member" and apologized.³⁶

Members of a British group called Jews Against Zionism picketed Bookmarks, a London bookstore, in June for hosting a lecture by Gilad Atzmon, whom JAZ leader Tony Greenstein criticized for circulating a book by Paul Eisen defending Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel. Greenstein subsequently sparked a lively debate on the internet, and in the pages of *Counterpunch* (edited by Alexander Cockburn), with his call for the dissolution of the “Deir Yassin Remembered” organization; Greenstein wrote that DYR “can only do great damage to the Palestinian cause in so far as it is led by a Holocaust denier and associated with another virulent

³² JTA, November 30, 2005.

³³ JTA, December 18, 2005.

³⁴ Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), June 6, 2005.

³⁵ JTA, November 16, 2005

³⁶ Manchester Evening News, May 14, 2005

anti-semite.” Greenstein was referring to the fact that Paul Eisen is one of its six directors, and that its Board of Advisers includes Israel Shamir, who has associated with Holocaust-denier David Duke, and Jeffrey Blankfort, who wrote to Greenstein on June 24, 2005, “I do not believe there was any official Nazi plan to exterminate the Jews because had there been, there would not have been close to a million left alive.”³⁷

An invitation to Holocaust-denier David Irving to speak at the Imperial War Museum, in Manchester, on August 9 was withdrawn after opposition by the Manchester City Council.³⁸

GREECE:

The Association of Athens Journalists, which had agreed to host a lecture by British Holocaust-denier David Irving, reversed its position after protests by the Central Jewish Board of Greece and canceled the event.³⁹

NETHERLANDS:

Belgian Holocaust-denier Siegfried Verbeke was arrested upon arrival at the Amsterdam airport on August 4, on a German warrant from 2004 over his racist statements. Verbeke, co-founder of the extremist Vlaams Blok party, was convicted in the Netherlands and Belgium on similar charges in 1997 and 2003, respectively.⁴⁰

ROMANIA:

The Romanian Senate voted in May to make Holocaust denial a crime punishable by up to five years in prison.⁴¹

SLOVAKIA:

Slogans denying the Holocaust were painted on a Holocaust memorial in the Slovakian town of Rimavska Sobota in July.⁴²

³⁷ www.whatnextjournal.co.uk/Pages/Politics/Counterpunch.html;
sf.indymedia.org/news/2005/06/1715543_comment.php; www.deiryassin.org/board.html

³⁸ www.fpp.co.uk [web site of David Irving]

³⁹ JTA, October 7, 2005.

⁴⁰ JTA, August 10, 2005.

⁴¹ Associated Press, May 5, 2005.

⁴² JTA, July 10, 2005.

SPAIN:

The European Office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in June urged Spain's Minister of Culture, Carmen Calvo, to cancel a license to operate granted in 1997 to a Cordoba-based foundation created by French Holocaust-denier Roger Garaudy. In July, the Wiesenthal Center asked Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos to shut down a Holocaust-denying web site operated by Spanish Holocaust-denier Juan Antonio Monroy.⁴³

SWEDEN:

Holocaust-denier and former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke spoke in the southern Swedish city of Helsingborg on February 8, during his fourth visit to Sweden. The Swedish newspaper Sydsvenska Dagbladet subsequently reported that the police are investigating whether anti-Jewish remarks made by Duke during his visit are grounds for prosecution on charges of harassing an ethnic minority.

Middle East

EGYPT:

On January 27, the Egypt government daily Al-Ahram Al-Messai, commenting on a United Nations session marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Allied liberation of Auschwitz, referred to "the so-called Holocaust."⁴⁴

The May 2005 Annual Report of the U.S. government's Commission on International Religious Freedom stated (p. 107) that antisemitic material, "including Holocaust denial," continued to "appear regularly in [Egypt's] state-controlled and semi-official media." The report also stated that "Egyptian authorities have not taken adequate steps to combat anti-semitism in the media. Human rights groups also cite persistent, virulent anti-Semitism in the educational system, which is increasingly under the influence of Islamic extremists, a development that the Egyptian government has not adequately addressed."⁴⁵

⁴³ Simon Wiesenthal Center press releases, June 15, 2005 and July 8, 2005.

⁴⁴ www.israelnationalnews.com

⁴⁵ www.uscirf.gov

In a series of three articles in the Egyptian government daily Al-Ahram al-Massai in April, editor in chief Mursi Atallah complained about what he called "the claims and lies of Israel and world Jewry about the number of Jews exterminated by Nazi Germany." He also claimed that Western leaders "covered up the cooperation between Nazi Germany and the Jewish Agency in Palestine in order to 'cleanse' Germany and Europe of Jews and secretly deport them to Palestine with the assistance of Nazi Germany."⁴⁶

The Egyptian government newspaper Al-Masaa published an article by columnist Hisham Abd Al-Rauf on December 12, titled "The Execution Chambers Were No More Than Rooms for Disinfecting Clothing." He wrote:

“We've had enough of the lies and the falsification of the facts with which the [Israeli] textbooks are replete. The most serious lie is the Jews' Holocaust, which they have exploited in order to extort global solidarity. When Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad refutes this lie, the entire world is up in arms, and the Iranian president is inundated with accusations of madness, fanaticism, and falsification. [Ahmadinejad] was inundated with these accusations even though he did nothing more than state the truth, which a number of honest researchers have [also] reached. What this truth means is that these massacres, which Israel alleges that the Nazis perpetrated against the Jews, never happened. The famous execution chambers [i.e., the gas chambers] were no more than rooms for disinfecting clothing.

"According to what we know, [the most recent of these researchers] is the courageous British historian David Irving, who paid a heavy price for his courage. Some other historians have proven that some of the massacres alleged to have been perpetrated against the Jews in World War II were carried out in coordination with the Jewish leadership, in an effort to push [the Jews] to emigrate to Palestine. It has also been proven that Hitler was not against the Jews, as disseminated by the Zionist historians, but that on the contrary, he permitted 120,000 Jews to emigrate to occupied Palestine in his first years in power, in order to appease the Jews.

"The onslaught against the Iranian president has intensified merely because he posed a logical and proper question to the Western countries, which planted Israel in the heart of the Islamic world, and which protected and continue to protect it. If you feel sorry for the poor Jews, why don't you establish their country on your lands?!"⁴⁷

IRAN:

An essay in the Iranian government newspaper Teheran Times, by columnist Hossein Amiri denied there was a Holocaust and insisted that those Jews who died in Nazi camps "died of

⁴⁶ Intelligence & Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies, May 2005 news bulletin

⁴⁷ MEMRI, December 20, 2005.

hunger, illness, and other causes." Amiri added: "After the end of the war in 1945, the Allies, along with Zionist leaders, began formulating strange conceptions about the killing of Jews at Nazi camps which a modern man can hardly accept. By conjuring up images of gas chambers, they are attempting to convey the idea that the Jews have undergone indescribable torture and that the world's conscience should be awakened to this issue so that the Jews are not subjected to injustice again." According to Amiri, "The revisionist historians have proven in two decades of study that if Hitler had carried out a systematic program to eradicate the Jews, it would have taken more time than the six years that the war lasted. They have also proven that such an act of ethnic cleansing through the use of the poison gas Zyklon-B, as the Zionists claim, was not possible at the time."

In previous weeks, the official Iranian news agency MEHR published an interview with Holocaust-denier Frederick Toben of the Adelaide Institute, an interview with French Holocaust-denier Robert Faurisson, a movie review that accused Jews of carrying out the Holocaust, and an article describing the Holocaust as "a great historic lie" and "a fraud."⁴⁸

A news report on Iran's Al-Alam Television on March 16 called Yad Vashem "the largest museum of the so-called Nazi Holocaust" and "the museum of the so-called Holocaust committed by the Nazis in Germany, Belgium, and Poland, an issue still disputed and questioned among the Europeans themselves."⁴⁹

Holocaust-denier Mark Weber, director of the Institute for Historical Review, appeared on the Iranian English-language television show *The U.S. Today* on July 7. Dr. Patrick Clawson, deputy research director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, also appeared on the show, but was not told of Weber's identity. He subsequently informed the show's producers that he will not appear again in the future unless told in advance the identity of other guests on the show.⁵⁰

On October 28, Iran's Sahar Television broadcast a program called "Holo Causte," which depicted Holocaust-deniers as innocent victims of political persecution who are simply trying to expose "the myth of Hitler's gas chambers and crematoria."⁵¹

At a news conference in the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca on December 8, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said: "Some European countries insist on saying that Hitler killed millions of innocent Jews in furnaces and they insist on it to the extent that if anyone proves something contrary to that they condemn that person and throw them in jail. Although we don't

⁴⁸ MEMRI, January 27, 2005.

⁴⁹ MEMRI, March 16, 2005.

⁵⁰ www.ihr.org

⁵¹ MEMRI, November 1, 2005.

accept this claim, if we suppose it is true, we ask the Europeans: Is the killing of innocent Jewish people by Hitler the reason for their support to the occupiers of Jerusalem? If the Europeans are honest they should give some of their provinces in Europe--like in Germany, Austria or other countries -- to the Zionists and the Zionists can establish their state in Europe. You offer part of Europe and we will support it." The U.S. State Department denounced his remarks as "appalling" and "reprehensible."⁵²

In a televised address on December 14, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said: "They have created a myth in the name of the Holocaust and consider it above God, religion and the prophets ... If someone were to deny the existence of God ... and deny the existence of prophets and religion, they would not bother him. However, if someone were to deny the myth of the Jews' massacre, all the Zionist mouthpieces and the governments subservient to the Zionists tear their larynxes and scream against the person as much as they can."⁵³

Responding to international criticism of President Ahmadinejad's Holocaust-denial, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said on December 18 that "Westerners are used to leading a monologue but they should learn to listen to different views. What the president said is an academic issue. The West's reaction shows their continued support for Zionists."⁵⁴

Iran's Jaam-e Jam 2 Television on December 20 aired a discussion about the Holocaust by political analyst Dr. Ali-Reza Akbari and Dr. Hasan Hanizadeh of the Tehran Times. Akbari said: "There are still many people who saw with their own eyes what happened 70-80 years ago. These people are alive and are of sound mind. They still possess the analytical abilities they had back then. They are our witnesses, and they deny the existence of crematoria at a place called Auschwitz ... In my opinion, the people who say that the phenomenon of burning Jews on German soil during the World War II crisis is similar to a holocaust do so as a result of propaganda and due to psychological reasons."

The show's host then asked: "Were there six million Jews at all at that time, who could have been annihilated in the crematoria?" Dr. Hanizadeh replied: "First of all, this figure is greatly exaggerated. The number of Jews in the world does not exceed 12 million. Only now, 57 years later, has it reached this figure. Clearly, at that time, considering the dispersion of the Jews, there could not have been six million Jews in Europe alone ... Unfortunately, the West has forgotten two horrendous incidents, carried out by the Jews in 19th-century Europe – in Paris and London, to be precise. In 1883, about 150 French children were murdered in a horrible way in the suburbs of Paris, before the Jewish Passover holiday. Later research showed that the Jews had killed them and taken their blood. This event caused riots in Paris back then, and the French government

⁵² Reuters, December 8, 2005.

⁵³ Washington Post, December 15, 2005.

⁵⁴ JTA, December 18, 2005.

found itself under pressure. A similar incident took place in London, when many English children were killed by Jewish rabbis. These two incidents still haunt the minds and souls of the Europeans, but due to the growing influence of the Zionist lobby in Europe – or to be precise, the influence of the Jews – these two incidents are, unfortunately, never mentioned."⁵⁵

JORDAN:

In October, a Jordanian television station, "Al Mammou," began broadcasting a 29-part series which portrays Jews plotting to conquer the world, baking Christian blood in their Passover matzos, and collaborating with Hitler to slaughter Europe's Jews, in order to win world sympathy for Zionism. The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies organized a letter to Jordan's King Abdullah, on October 24, signed by twenty-four rabbis who had recently met with Abdullah in Washington. On October 26, the Jordanian Embassy announced that the remainder of the episodes had been canceled.⁵⁶

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY:

Mahmoud Abbas was elected chairman of the Palestinian Authority on January 9, and took office on January 15. Abbas is the author of a 1983 book denying the Holocaust. The book was titled *The Other Side: The Secret Relations Between Nazism and the Leadership of the Zionist Movement*. It was originally his doctoral dissertation, completed at Moscow Oriental College, in the Soviet Union. According to a translation of the text provided by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Abbas's book repeatedly attempted to cast doubt on the fact that the Nazis slaughtered six million Jews. He wrote: "Following the war, word was spread that six million Jews were amongst the victims and that a war of extermination was aimed primarily at the Jews ... The truth is that no one can either confirm or deny this figure. In other words, it is possible that the number of Jewish victims reached six million, but at the same time it is possible that the figure is much smaller--below one million ... It seems that the interest of the Zionist movement, however, is to inflate this figure so that their gains will be greater. This led them to emphasize this figure [six million] in order to gain the solidarity of international public opinion with Zionism. Many scholars have debated the figure of six million and reached stunning conclusions--fixing the number of Jewish victims at only a few hundred thousand." Abbas denied that the gas chambers were used to murder Jews, quoting a "scientific study" to that effect by French Holocaust-denier Robert Faurisson. In an interview with the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* on May 28, 2003, Abbas asserted that in his book, he "did not address the question of the number of victims but cited historians who said the victims ranged in number from one million to 12 million ... The Holocaust was a terrible thing, and nobody can claim I denied it."

⁵⁵ MEMRI, December 22, 2005.

⁵⁶ www.WymanInstitute.org

In a sermon broadcast on Palestinian Authority Television on May 13, 2005, Sheikh Ibrahim Mudeiris, speaking from the Sheikh Zayid Sultan al-Nahayyan Mosque in Gaza, said: "And don't ask Germany what it did with the Jews. Because it was the Jews who brought Nazism which led to the destruction of the entire world. When the Jews burnt the world with their Zionist movement which moved countries to hurt Germany economically, when they moved Russia, Britain, France and Italy, and Germany's anger against the Jews grew strong. What happened to the Jews happened to them, and it was one of the worst crimes in history, but it is not as great a crime as what the Jews did to the people of Palestine?!" Mudeiris also said that Jews today exaggerate the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust. A PA official said that Mudeiris was suspended from his position, but there was no independent confirmation of that claim.⁵⁷

Dr. Ibrahim Alloush, described as a "Palestinian-Jordanian author," said in an interview with the Institute for Historical Review, which was quoted on Al-Jazeera TV on August 23, that "There is evidence, and scientific research, that prove the Holocaust is a lie."⁵⁸

During a visit to Iran in December, Khaled Meshal, a leader of Hamas, defended the statements by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad denying the Holocaust. Meshal said: "It seems that the president's words did not favor with regional and international leaders. But despite this, the Muslim public supported Iran on this issue in the past and will also support it in the future."⁵⁹

QATAR:

At a conference organized by the Doha Youth Center on February 17, speaker Muhammad Al-Musfir, a lecturer in political science at Qatar University, recalled that the Center had previously held a conference in support of French Holocaust-denier Roger Garaudy. Al-Musfir said: "I thank Qatar's political leadership for [the way] it has treated thinking and sensible men, despite the great onslaught against it. I also thank the youth center in Doha, which respects independent-minded people and supports them. Yesterday it was Garaudy, and today it is [Sheikh Yousef] Al-Qaradhawi, with whom we totally identify." Another speaker was Dr. Hayat Al-Hweiek Atiya, a close associate of Garaudy and translator of one of his Holocaust-denying books.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ Arab Media Analysis, May 2005, by Dr. Michael Widlanski, Hebrew University; JTA, May 19, 2005.

⁵⁸ MEMRI, August 31, 2005.

⁵⁹ Ha'aretz, December 16, 2005.

⁶⁰ MEMRI, February 25, 2005.

SAUDI ARABIA:

In an interview on Saudi Arabia's Al-Ikhbariya TV on November 13, 2005, Dr. Ahmad bin Rashed bin Said, professor of political communications at King Sa'ud University, said "The Holocaust is a myth with a certain political agenda." On the same day, Saudi Arabia's Al-Majd TV broadcast an interview a Jordanian lecturer on Islamic law, Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nawfal of the University of Jordan, sympathetically quoted French Holocaust-denier Roger Garaudy as saying, "If we take the number of gas chambers and the maximal daily capacity of an oven, and multiply them by the period you Zionists, claim the Holocaust lasted --even if we multiply the number of ovens by the maximal [capacity], the figure is grossly exaggerated. The number of those burned [sic] was 600,000. You added another zero, and turned it into six million."⁶¹

The Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States, Prince Turki al-Faisal, said in a meeting with editors and reporters for the Washington Post that he acknowledges the Holocaust "is a historical fact."⁶²

SYRIA:

Writing in the Syrian government newspaper *Tishreen* on October 1, Syrian Member of Parliament Dr. Muhammad al-Habash accused the Middle East Media Research Institute of persecuting him, and asserted: "If we were in France now, we might well have to stand trial, just like Roger Garaudy when he cast doubt on [the truth about] the Holocaust."⁶³

Holocaust-denier and former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke visited Syria in November. He held a news conference in Damascus, together with Members of the Syrian Parliament, to express his solidarity with Syria in its current conflict with the United States; addressed a rally that was broadcast on Syrian government television, during which he told the crowd that New York and Washington, D.C. are "occupied by the Zionists"; held a press conference alongside Members of the Syrian Parliament; was praised by the Grand Mufti of Syria for his "courage" and his "message of peace"; and held discussions concerning the publication of a Syrian edition of his book, *Jewish Supremacism: My Awakening to the Jewish Question*.⁶⁴

TURKEY:

An article in the Turkish Islamic daily *Vakit*, by columnist Huseyin Uzmez, wrote: "It is true

⁶¹ MEMRI, November 22, 2005.

⁶² Washington Post, December 15, 2005.

⁶³ MEMRI, October 18, 2005.

⁶⁴ www.ArabicNews.com, November 22, 2005; www.davidduke.com

that persecution [of Jews] by Hitler is much exaggerated. We are sick and tired of [listening to] stories of the inhuman persecution and torture he committed against the Jews. It is said that Hitler himself was a Jew... that he committed cruelty only to force the Jews to migrate from Europe to Palestine ... and that it was the Israeli Zionists who dictated these acts upon him, at the time they were founding Israel. Two great powers (money and media) are in Jewish hands. The 'treacherous local collaborators' and some international organizations are also in their command."⁶⁵

An article in the April 2005 issue of the Turkish Islamic magazine *Aylık* claimed that the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust was between 130,000 and 150,000, not six million.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ MEMRI, April 28, 2005.

⁶⁶ MEMRI, June 6, 2005.