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**TERRORIST AND HATE INTERNET SITES SURGING IN 2006,
PROVIDING GLOBAL ‘VIRTUAL UNIVERSITIES OF TERRORISM’,
SAYS FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER**

TORONTO, APRIL 5, 2006 -- The number of terror and hate websites, newsgroups, blogs, chat rooms and online clubs has surged above 6,000.....representing a 20 per cent spike over last year. That’s the finding of the 2006 edition of *Digital Terrorism and Hate*, an interactive Report by Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center and Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center released in Toronto today.

According to the Center’s Associate Dean, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, “Looking beyond the numbers, online activities have undergone a qualitative shift that present existential threats to society. The Internet has become a ‘virtual university’ for terrorists with manuals from how to build a ‘dirty bomb’ and make poisons, to tutorials on how to use global positioning devices or attack a motorcade.”

Cooper, one of the first human rights activists to expose online hate added, “Many websites including those in Canada, present videos that venerate and help recruit young people to the terrorists’ ‘culture of death’.

“Canadian authorities certainly have shown awareness of Internet hate activities,” Cooper added, “But the increasing promotion of weapons of mass destruction, requires a more robust strategy, greater resources and more timely awareness of a rapidly changing and growing threat to Canada and the world.”

This is the Center’s eighth CD-ROM Report, which is regarded as the most thorough global analysis and description of the state of on-line terrorism and hate-related activities.

Leo Adler, Director of National Affairs for Toronto-based Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center said, “We will present a number of Ministers in the Canadian government with specific examples outlined in this Report, including the Al-Qaeda-affiliated ‘al-Sahab’ group who use the Internet to create and publish communiqués and videos on terrorist activities for instant transmission worldwide. We will also show a suicide bomber’s real-time video of his drive to detonation outside a hotel in Iraq, which available on a Canadian URL.”

Copies of Digital Terrorism and Hate 2006 are available, free of charge to law enforcement agencies, educational institutions and the news media.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies is a Canadian human rights organization dedicated to fostering tolerance and understanding through community involvement, educational outreach and social action. With over 40,000 members of all faiths, it confronts important contemporary issues including racism, anti-Semitism, terrorism and genocide. Friends is affiliated with the world-wide, Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, an accredited Non-Government Organization with status at international agencies, including the United Nations, UNESCO, OSCE and the Council of Europe, with offices in New York, Miami, Paris, Jerusalem, BuenosAires, and Toronto. Simon Wiesenthal died in 2005 after devoting his life to preserving the memories of the victims of the Holocaust, while simultaneously seeking justice for the war criminals.