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**‘GLOBAL VIRTUAL UNIVERSITIES OF TERRORISM’ HIGHLIGHTED
IN TERRORIST AND HATE INTERNET SITES REPORT BY FRIENDS
OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER**

HALIFAX, MAY 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 released by Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center released in Halifax today.

According to Leo Adler, Director of National Affairs, “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.”

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.

“Canadian authorities certainly have shown awareness of Internet hate activities. 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,” he added.

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

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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.