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For immediate release

“Koran Burning”, “How to Behead” and “Confessions of a Human Bomb” – a few titles from Simon Wiesenthal Center’s annual report on Digital Terrorism & Hate

November 23, 2009 (TORONTO) – The spread of hate on the internet is exploding with the help of social media, and Canadian bigots are gaining strength thanks to sites like Facebook. These are two of the important messages from *Digital Terrorism & Hate 2010*, an annual research project conducted by Simon Wiesenthal Center and its more than 400,000 donors across the planet, including more than 25,000 supporters here in Canada through Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center.

The eleventh edition of the report, entitled *“Facebook, Youtube+: How Social Media Outlets Impact Digital Terrorism And Hate”* offers lowlights from a pool of 10,000 websites monitored by the Center. The report was conducted by a team of researchers working under the supervision of Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Associate Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and a pioneer in tracking digital hate on the internet. Rabbi Cooper was in Canada today to discuss the report in front of more than 800 educators and community members gathered at an event organized in Toronto by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center.

“Hateful, racist and violent speech is more accessible than ever,” said Rabbi Cooper. “Left unchecked, the internet can incubate, empower and embolden violent bigots and lead to the worst type of extreme indoctrination.”

The report is designed to assist law enforcement, public officials, educators, parents and the news media to better grasp the scope of digital hate. The report, which is available for purchase at www.fswc.ca, has become a valuable tool for government agencies, educators, hate crime units and joint terrorism taskforces in the United States as well as Canada and Europe.

“Vile monologues and are turning into hateful dialogues,” said Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center. “Monitoring the internet is not an easy task. We applaud Rabbi Cooper and his team for doing this and encourage Canadians to find a way to get involved.”

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. The Center confronts important contemporary issues including racism, antisemitism, terrorism and genocide. Visit www.fswc.ca for more information.

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