

The 'Subhuman' Hate of Elon Musk

Elon Musk and his X platform are fostering a growing global crisis of on and offline hatred, reports Heidi Sigmund Cuda

HEIDI CUDÁ

SEP 09, 2024 · PAID

♡ 29

💬 2

🔄 8

Share

⋮



Elon Musk. Photo: AC NewsPhoto / Alamy

Content Warning: This report contains examples of violent hate speech proliferating on Musk's X platform.

The quote-tweet of a racist post by Andrew Tate “did not violate [X] policies”.

It reads: “N***ers are subhumans”.

The asterisks are mine. The full word, written in Polish, was viewable in translation.

Other reported hate speech included:

“Get out of Poland, jewry”

“Putin’s security services would not allow such an oversight. Why? Because [i.e. in Russia] there are no lesbians, faggots, and invalids. And that’s how it should be.”

Byline Supplement is a reader-supported publication. To receive new posts and support fearless independent journalism, consider becoming a free or paid subscriber.

“Fuck gender. Fuck perverted whores. Fuck transvestites. [Load] these whores into the furnace!!!!”

“During Le Pen's [rule] I hope they'll start shooting n***ers with live ammo, and if not, get out to Africa to their shit houses”.

“Gas the jews!”

Such vile words have become standard fare in the darkest corners of the internet, but each of these examples — a small sampling taken from a new Polish report — can be found on X/Twitter — and only one was flagged as a violation of the platform's terms of service. But even that comment, like the others, are all still visible — the accounts still erupting with speakable and targeted hate.

Dr Anna Tatar, who co-authored *The Twitter Standards of Hate* report for Warsaw’s Never Again Association — Poland’s leading anti-racist organization, said “there is little or no sense of a global responsibility” on the platform. She called the “inadequate reaction” to reported cases of hatred “striking”.

In 2022, we **reported** that Elon Musk’s takeover of Twitter would provide the largest on-ramp for coercive propaganda in history.

That accounts spewing the ugliest hatred are allowed to flourish is a fulfillment of that prophecy. In a week that saw **Brazil order the shutdown of X, as well as the recent arrest of the Russian-born founder of Telegram**, Pavel Durov, in France, we also just learned that Musk routinely boosts accounts that are actually paid by the

Russian state. And as I write this, Musk is tweeting **racist** memes about Vice President Kamala Harris as if he's on 4chan and not what was once deemed the "global public square".

And good luck getting X/Twitter to remove the constant drip of hate.

According to the Polish report, only eight percent of the nearly 300 cases of anti-semitism, racism, xenophobia, and anti-LGBTQ hate speech revealed in the study were removed by regular reporting methods. And when the Never Again Association reported the exact same content, it only increased the removal rate by three percent.

The report flagged hatespeak between August 2023 — August 2024, and Dr Tatar noted that X/Twitter is violating its own terms of service, which reads:

"We are committed to combating abuse motivated by hatred, prejudice or intolerance, particularly abuse that seeks to silence the voices of those who have been historically marginalized. For this reason, we prohibit behavior that targets individuals or groups with abuse based on their perceived membership in a protected category."

The report nearly got lost in the explosive events of recent days, which revealed in klieg lights that Elon Musk routinely violates his own terms of service, as he rubber stamps accounts we now know are paid by Russia, earning him the new nickname Atomwaffen Elmo.

In true *High Noon* style, pro-democracy activists and reporters shoot 'em out on the virtual battlefield with Musk and other extremist accounts, which use their wide reach to spread Putin-friendly propaganda.

On Friday, extremist researcher and reporter Jim Stewartson, who refers to Musk as a "national security emergency", **posted**:

"In his never-ending quest to debase himself, his website, and the United States as far as possible, Atomwaffen Elmo shares a meme sourced from a neo-Nazi Hungarian website supporting white supremacist dictator Victor Orban and selling a 'memecoin'. FFS. #NationalizeElmo"

And reposting the work of neo-Nazis isn't just a one-off for Musk, who himself has posted Hitler memes.

Along with the ‘can’t unsee it’ hatred revealed by the Polish report, we also learned that Musk **devoted** time to reposting and interacting with Tenet Media, a superspreader of Russian propaganda whose founders Lauren Chen and her husband Liam Donovan were revealed to be knowingly taking millions from two RT employees. RT, which is banned in the US and UK, is a propaganda arm of the Kremlin. The Tennessee-based company just had all videos removed from YouTube, after the Department of Justice **indicted** the two RT employees for being a part of a Kremlin-influence operation targeting the 2024 election.



But the internet never forgets, and the frequent interaction between Tenet Media and Musk is well documented, as is his interaction with some of Tenet’s commentators.

We have learned that such rightwing extremists as Tim Pool, Benny Johnson, Dave Rubin, and Lauren Southern are among the commentators paid by Tenet. Their combined reach on YouTube is about six million followers, and according to court documents, the gig was wildly lucrative — one of the media personalities, **allegedly Rubin**, earned \$400,000 a month, along with a \$100,000 signing bonus. Some have said they didn’t know they were being paid by the Russians, and so far, no one from Tenet has been criminally indicted, although the investigation is ongoing.

In this *High Noon* shoot ‘em up, **reporters** are having a hootenanny posting Musk’s interactions boosting the Tenet commentators’ accounts. In one **post**, Pool decries that “X is woke mind virus”, and Musk promises he’s “fixing” it.

Although most of the commentators paid by Tenet are claiming they are “victims” of the scheme — despite long histories championing Russia — there is a telling moment in the indictment. It occurs when a producer pushes back against promoting Tucker Carlson’s trip to a Moscow supermarket, calling it “overt shilling”. Those two words are already creating a haunting in a future DePutinization of America. But for now, it’s just two words that wonks pick up on that may or may not ever trickle down into the brains of people influenced by these *russkiy mir* operations. Carlson is not named in the indictment, but it’s clear he is the subject of the Moscow supermarket trip referenced.

Although YouTube has now taken down Tenet Media’s 2000 videos, what of the 16 million minds who viewed those videos, hacked to believe Russian-funded content was created by the West? What will happen to them?

For now, they can still see Tenet content on X. The rubber stamping by Musk clear as day, as video after video on Tenet’s timeline bashes Kamala Harris, Joe Biden and Tim Walz, while propping up Donald Trump and JD Vance, all the while pushing fear of brown people. The kind of content, unsurprisingly, you can find on RT — still viewable on Peter Thiel and Vance’s Rumble platform — Truth Social, Musk’s own timeline, and in a 277-page Doppelganger FBI affidavit that also dropped this week, which revealed a Putin-linked influence campaign pushing identical narratives on sites mirroring authentic news outlets. The ‘cybersquatted’ sites — 32 now seized by the US — actually deploy the trickery of technical sophistication to take you through the looking glass into an alternate world where Russia good, Ukraine bad, and the West, always depraved.

And what of all those hundreds of Polish accounts pushing racism, anti-semitism, Ukrainian hate, and gay hatred — sometimes all in one post? They’re all still there — hatespeak on a platform littered with cruelty — so cruel, the Russian agents who promoted the Doppelganger campaign deemed it the most user-friendly mass platform for its influence operations.

So what do we do about this mean-mouthing Star Man, who operates the satellites, the space program, and the transport in the real world, as well as the virtual battlefield in the information war that affects the real world? What do we do about his subhuman hate and the fact that he is clearly trying to sway the outcome of the

US election by using his vast reach to boost and detonate memetic warfare, provably funded by Russia?

And what can be done about the world’s richest man waging war in a demented remake of *Tombstone*? Instead of an untamed West, he’s the villain in an untamed alternate reality, shooting his gun off in all directions.

Earlier this year, Musk visited Auschwitz, the site of a Nazi camp where millions perished. He called it “tragic that humans could do this to other humans”.

Type “Auschwitz” into X’s “Latest” search and see what humans are doing to other humans in MuskWorld. Actually, don’t. Spare yourself the agony.

Elon Musk is an international emergency.

In a recent *Unmusked* report on free speech gangsterism, we **quoted** a former Twitter executive who said he thinks it’s time for handcuffs.

I say, if not now, when?

Thanks for reading Byline Supplement! Please encourage others to do the same



29 Likes · 8 Restacks

← Previous

Next →

Discussion about this post

Comments Restacks



Write a comment...