



DISTORTING THE TRUTH: HOW ANTISEMITISM WAS AMPLIFIED ONLINE AFTER THE BOULDER ATTACK

July 2025

THE ANTISEMITISM RESEARCH CENTER (ARC) BY CAM

Conducted by Cyabra and commissioned by CAM, a June 2–4 analysis of online responses to the Boulder terrorist firebomb attack on June 1 exposed a deeply troubling pattern: the rapid and coordinated spread of antisemitic rhetoric, disinformation, and conspiracy theories across X, Facebook, and TikTok.

Instead of condemning the heinous act of violence targeting peaceful Jewish marchers, large swaths of online discourse sought to justify or celebrate it. Antisemitic narratives were deliberately amplified—not only by known extremists but also by networks of inauthentic accounts, designed to distort the facts, inflame tensions, and manipulate public perception. Even more troubling was the effort to delegitimize Jewish suffering through classic false-flag conspiracies suggesting the attack was staged by Jews or Israel to gain sympathy.

Rhetoric of this nature undermines public understanding of antisemitic violence, emboldens hate actors, and blurs the moral line between attacker and victim—with consequences that extend far beyond the digital realm.

Key Findings:

- **10,113 unique profiles generated more than 14,000 posts and comments** related to the Boulder attack.
- A significant portion of this content **glorified antisemitic violence and framed the attack as legitimate or heroic**.
- **1,379 posts** promoted classic antisemitic conspiracies, denying the nature of the attack and delegitimizing Jewish victimhood.
- **22% of the accounts were determined to be inauthentic**—yet they disproportionately shaped the conversation, receiving more than 3 million views.
- Prominent antisemitic influencers acted as central amplifiers, spreading hate with the assistance of these fake networks.

This report provides an alarming window into how antisemitism is rapidly deployed and amplified in the digital space following acts of violence—and why confronting it is critical for ensuring truth, accountability, and safety for Jewish communities.



(Source: [Screenshot/X](#))



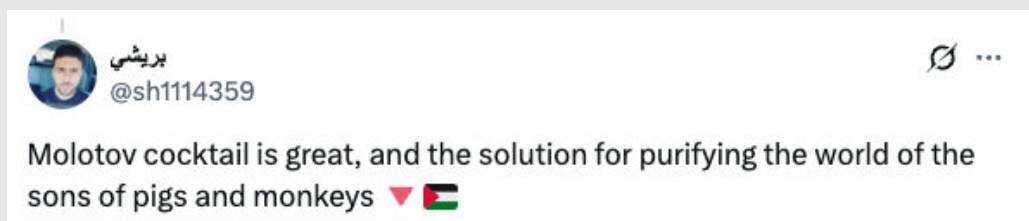
(Source: [Screenshot/X](#))

Digital Narratives Following the Boulder Attack

The report identifies two dominant online narratives that gained traction in the immediate aftermath of the Boulder attack:

1. Glorification of Antisemitic Violence:

More than 1,100 posts and comments praised the Boulder attacker's actions. Many referred to the Molotov cocktails as "symbolic resistance" or "justified political protest." Others celebrated the use of violence against Jews, minimizing the attack's antisemitic nature or framing it as a pro-Palestinian expression.



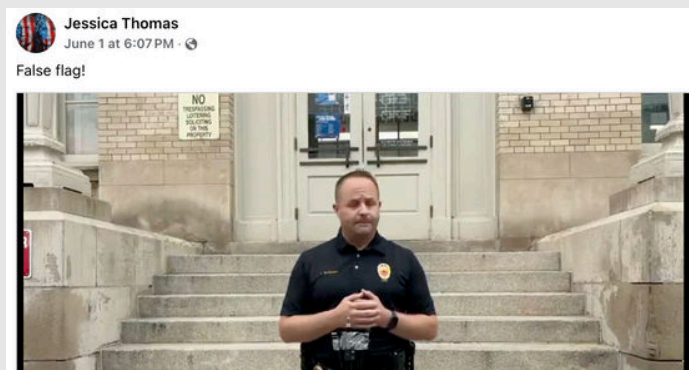
(Source: [X/Screenshot](#))

2. False-Flag Conspiracies and Delegitimization of Jewish Victimhood

1,379 posts advanced conspiratorial narratives claiming that Jews or Israel orchestrated the attack to gain sympathy or distract from Gaza. Some denied the attacker's identity or falsely claimed he was a Zionist operative. These narratives recycled deeply-rooted antisemitic tropes meant to deny Jewish suffering and portray Jews as manipulative.



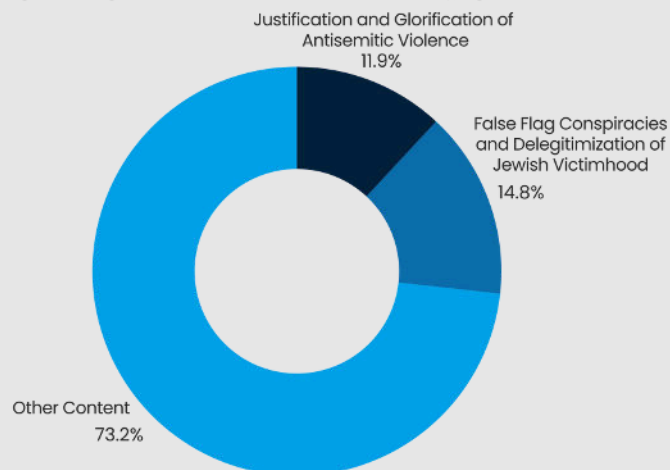
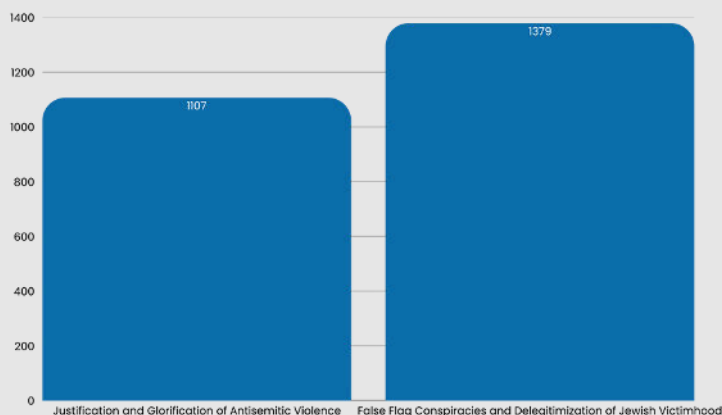
(Source: [X/Screenshot](#))



(Source: [Facebook/Screenshot](#))

Digital Narratives Following the Boulder Attack

QUANTITY OF POSTS BY ANTISEMITIC NARRATIVE CATEGORIES AS A SHARE OF TOTAL ANALYZED CONTENT



The Role of Fake Accounts

A striking 22% (1,497 profiles) of those spreading antisemitic content were identified as inauthentic. These fake profiles produced 1,809 posts and comments, received over 2,900 engagements, and reached more than 3 million users—demonstrating their outsized impact on shaping the narrative. These inauthentic actors strategically amplified divisive content, lending it legitimacy and reach it could not achieve organically.

Influencers Driving Antisemitic Narratives

Several high-profile accounts with large followings used the Boulder attack as an opportunity to promote antisemitic narratives. These influencers, aided by fake profiles, shaped the discourse around the event and spread disinformation on a massive scale.

Jake Shields

A verified user on X, Jake Shields mocked a Holocaust survivor wounded in the attack, trivializing the Holocaust and casting doubt on the survivor's credibility. His post garnered over 1.1 million views and 20,000+ engagements. Cyabra found that 42% of the 1,051 accounts engaging with the post were fake, many of which reinforced Shields' narrative and belittled the victim.

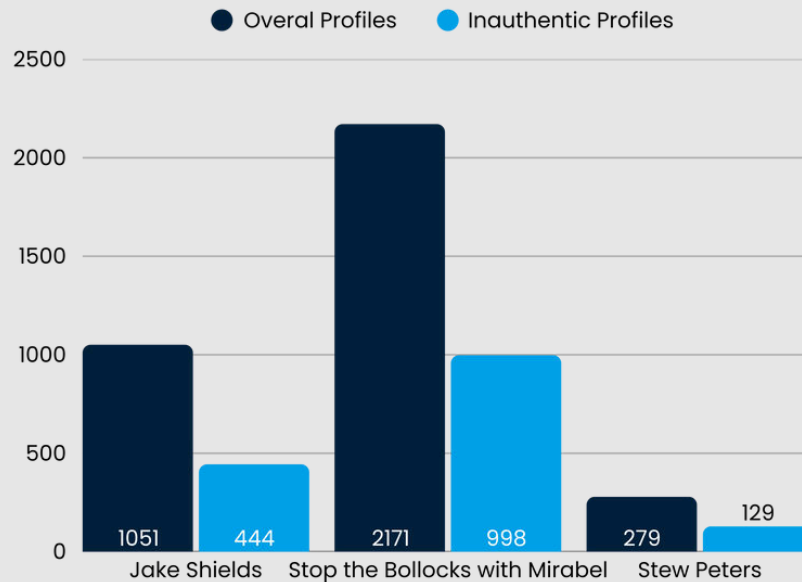
"Stop The Bollocks with Mirabel" (@MirabelTweets1)

The @MirabelTweets1 account falsely claimed the attacker was not Muslim but rather an Israeli agent. The post received over 2.1 million views and 66,500+ engagements. Of the 2,171 users engaging with the content, 46% were fake profiles echoing antisemitic conspiracies and reinforcing the false narrative.

Stew Peters

Stew Peters, a verified user with over 800,000 followers, claimed the attack was a false flag staged to benefit Israel. His post received more than 117,000 views. 46% of the 279 profiles engaging with the content were inauthentic, spreading similar conspiratorial messages.

INAUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY ANTISEMITIC INFLUENCERS



Conclusion

Online responses to the Boulder terror attack reveal how antisemitism thrives in moments of crisis—and how easily digital platforms can become echo chambers for hate. Inauthentic networks, influential extremists, and conspiracy theorists work together to distort facts, justify violence, and endanger Jewish communities.

This report reaffirms the urgent need to monitor, expose, and combat antisemitic narratives before they shape public opinion and normalize hatred.