

SPECIAL REPORT

The Weaponization of the Ceuta Border Crisis

How antisemitic conspiracy narratives captured a breaking news event on X

173

POSTS ANALYZED

119

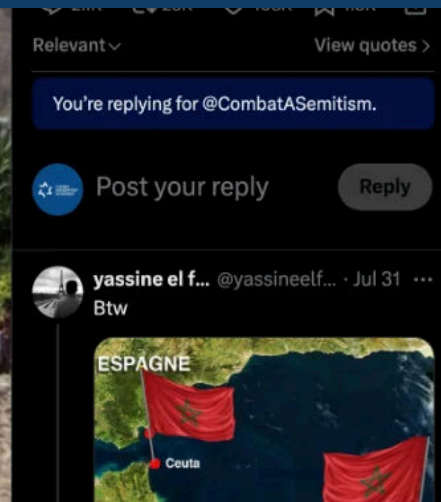
INFLUENCER ACCOUNTS

57.5M

VIEWS

103.1M

ESTIMATED REACH



SUMMARY

The Antisemitism Research Center (ARC) of the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) has completed an analysis of **173 high-impact posts** published on X in the 72 hours following the July 30 border crisis in Ceuta, Spain. The posts were drawn from **119 influencer accounts** and together registered **57.5M views** with an estimated reach of **103.1M**.

The dominant explanatory frame on X was not Spanish law, Moroccan policy, or European migration issues. Rather, it was a conspiracy theory identifying the State of Israel and the Jewish people as the architects of European destabilization. A localized border breach triggered a global antisemitic campaign at a scale of tens of millions of impressions, and the platform's systems did not slow it. What X permits, in practice, is the elevation of hate speech and antisemitic conspiracy theory into the mainstream account of a live news event.

103.1M ESTIMATED REACH	57.5M VIEWS	1.9M LIKES
368.4K SHARES	50.4K COMMENTS	72h EVENT WINDOW

Table 1. Headline figures, X, 30 July – 2 August 2026.

A screenshot of a tweet from the user 'ThePatrioticBlonde' (@ImBreckWorsham). The tweet text reads: 'All these Flock camera manufacturers have one thing in common: Israel.' The tweet is dated '3:30 PM · Aug 1, 2026' and has '34.4K Views'. Below the text, there are icons for replies (54), retweets (500), likes (3.9K), and bookmarks (45). A 'View quotes' link is also present. At the bottom, there is a 'Post your reply' button. The user's profile picture shows a woman with blonde hair.

Kenneth Roth ✓
@KenRoth

The flood of tens of thousands of people into Spain's Ceuta was clearly orchestrated by Morocco. The only question is whether it was retaliation for a recent rapprochement between Spain and Algeria or for Spain's criticism of Israeli atrocities. Or both.



After Tens of Thousands of Migrants Enter Spanish Territory, Most Return to Morocco

From nytimes.com

6:07 PM · Aug 1, 2026 · 70.5K Views

116 658 1.3K 117

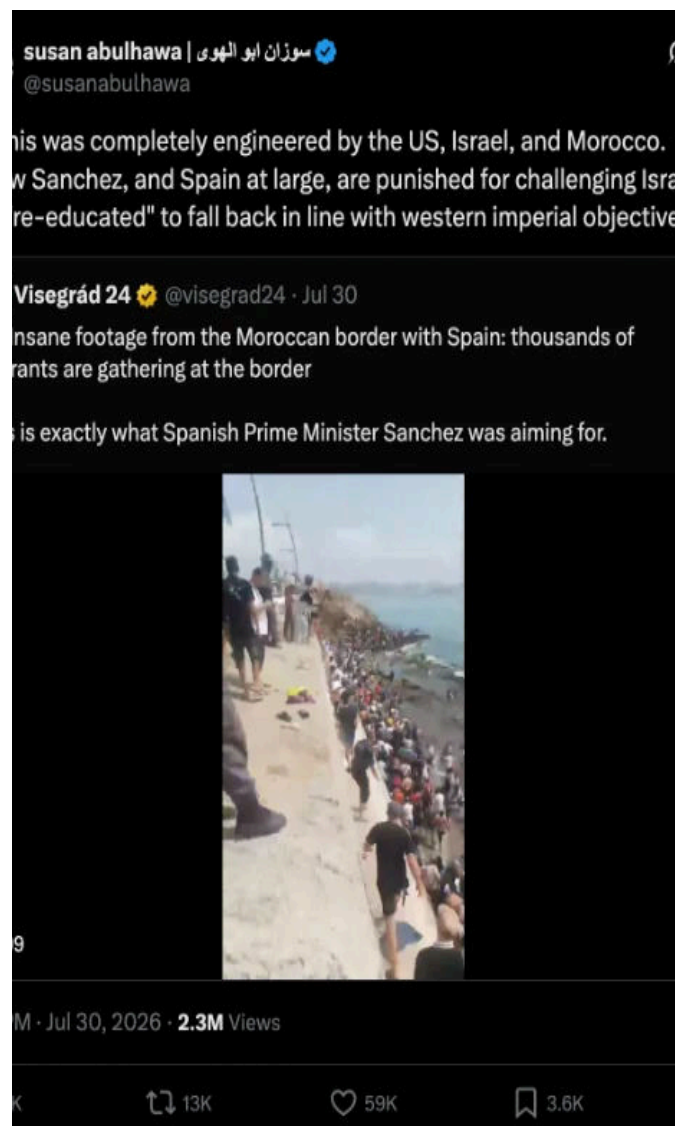
Relevant > View quotes >

CONTEXT

Ceuta is one of two Spanish enclaves on the North African coast. Along with Melilla, it forms the only land border between the European Union and the African continent. That geography has made it one of the most contested pressure points in the Mediterranean migration system. For migrants from across West and North Africa, entering Ceuta means reaching Europe without crossing water.

On July 30, between 50,000 and 60,000 migrants crossed into Ceuta. Spain declared a state of emergency. The immediate causes lay in Spanish domestic legal rulings and in the state of Spanish-Moroccan relations, layered on top of a European asylum framework that has been under structural strain for a decade and a Sahel region generating sustained displacement.

None of this featured meaningfully in the discourse tracked by the ARC. The available explanations were numerous, contested, and grounded in verifiable policy. **The explanation that traveled was that Jews had engineered the crisis.**



SCOPE AND METHOD

The ARC monitors antisemitic conspiracy theories and tropes concerning Jews, Israel, and Zionism across major social platforms. The scope covers classical antisemitic material such as claims of hidden Jewish control, dual loyalty, and “fifth column” betrayal, alongside contemporary variants that assign the same properties to Israel or to Zionism as a substitute term. The ARC assesses content against the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. The test applied is not whether a post criticizes Israeli policy. It is whether the post attributes conspiratorial agency, collective guilt, or malevolent design to Jews, to Israel, or to Zionists as a class.

The ARC maintains standing keyword monitoring and narrative classification, which is what allowed the Ceuta dataset to be assembled inside the event window rather than reconstructed after the fact.

The 119 accounts in this dataset are influencer accounts. The ARC does not track anonymous low-reach accounts, automated networks, or bot clusters. Every account in this sample was included because it holds a substantial audience and demonstrated capacity to shape discourse during a live news event.

The antisemitic framing of the Ceuta crisis did not come from the anonymous fringe of the platform. It came from named, followed, monetized accounts operating in full view.

Posts were selected on the basis of engagement thresholds and captured with full metadata. Engagement figures are as reported by the platform at the time of capture. Estimated reach is a modeled figure combining follower base and amplification; which is why it exceeds recorded view counts.

QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS

Across 173 posts from 119 influencer accounts, the ARC recorded 57.5M views, an estimated reach of 103.1M, 1.9M likes, 368.4K shares, and 50.4K comments.

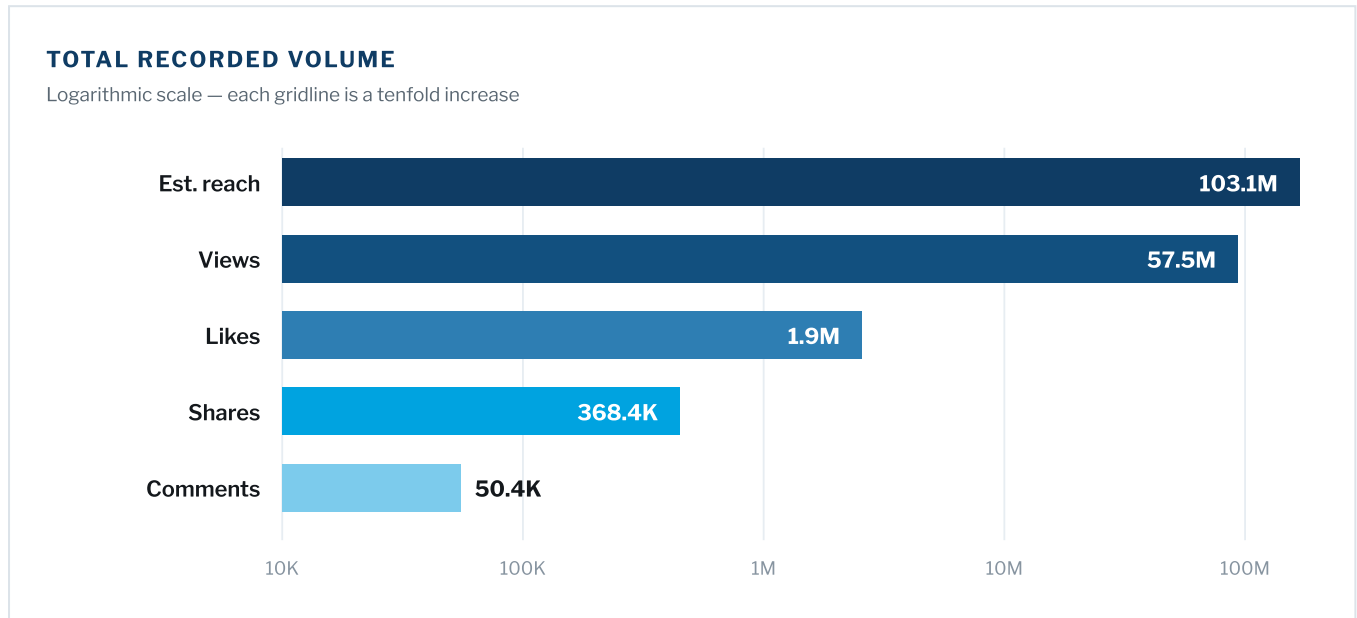


Chart 1. Aggregate performance of 173 posts, as reported by the platform at time of capture.

Every post in this sample performed like a broadcast. The average post drew 332.6K views with an estimated reach of 595.8K. That is the average, not the peak. A single typical post in this dataset reached an audience comparable to the circulation of a national newspaper, and 173 of them landed inside 72 hours.

Engagement was intense, not passive. The average post attracted 10.7K likes, 2.1K shares, and 292 comments. This content did not simply appear in feeds and scroll past. It moved audiences to act on it at scale.

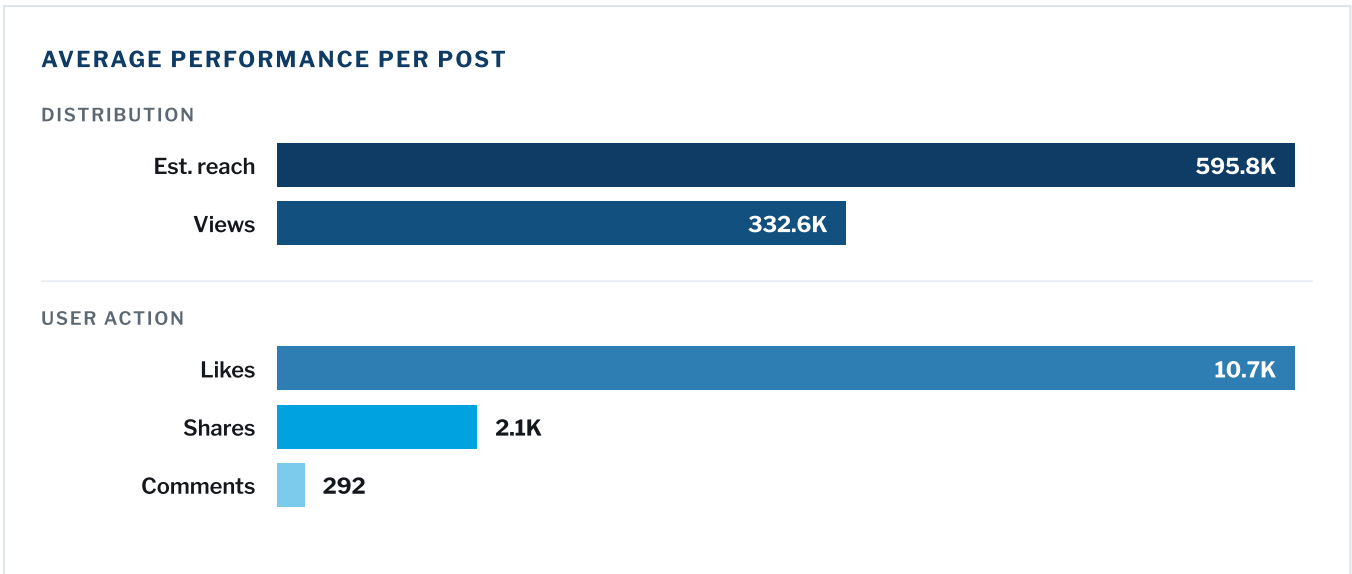


Chart 2. Panels use independent scales; distribution figures sit three orders of magnitude above user actions.

Users forwarded rather than questioned. Shares averaged 2.1K per post against 292 comments. The behavioral signature is agreement and redistribution, not debate. Audiences encountering the claim that Israel, Jews, or Zionists engineered the Ceuta crisis overwhelmingly chose to pass it on rather than contest it.

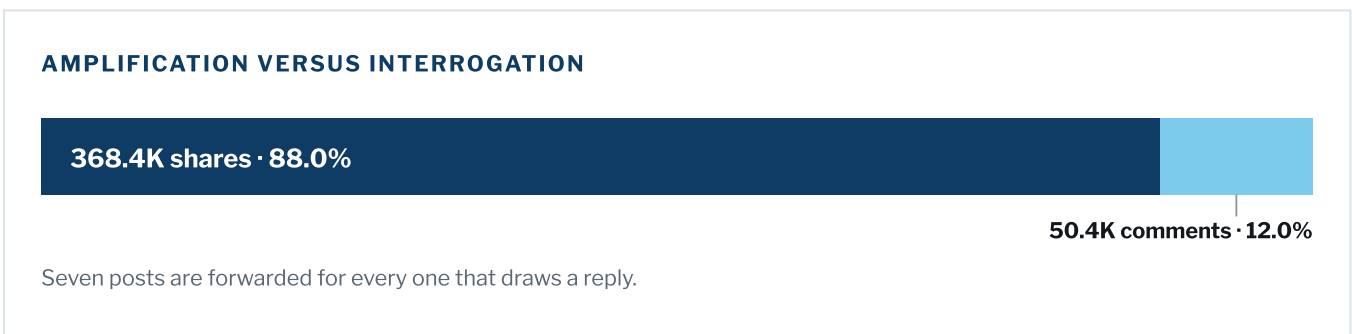


Chart 3. Share-to-comment ratio across the full sample, 7.31 : 1.

The recorded volume is a floor, not a ceiling. The dataset registered 368.4K shares. Each share places the content in front of a further audience that the ARC does not count, because a share is a separate post by a separate account. The 103.1M reach figure captures primary distribution only.

The network is wide, not concentrated. The 173 posts came from 119 separate influencer accounts. This was not a handful of prolific posters generating apparent volume. It was a broad field of independent, high-reach actors arriving at the same conspiracy within the same news cycle without visible coordination.

BREADTH OF THE NETWORK

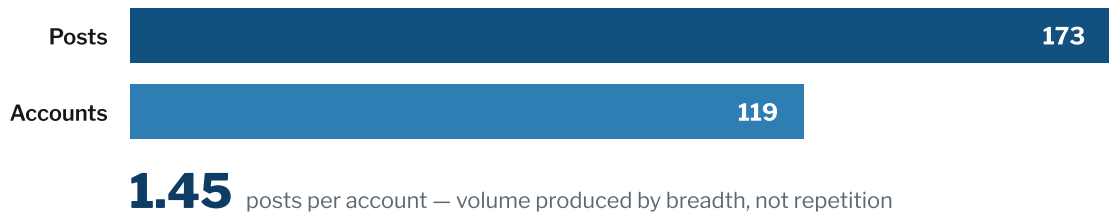


Chart 4. Posts and distinct originating accounts.

Verified accounts drove the reach. The highest-performing accounts in this dataset hold paid verification. X prioritizes verified accounts in replies and recommendations, which means a user searching for information on the Ceuta crisis was statistically more likely to encounter a conspiracy theory than a verified news report.



QUALITATIVE FINDINGS

The “Zionist punishment” doctrine

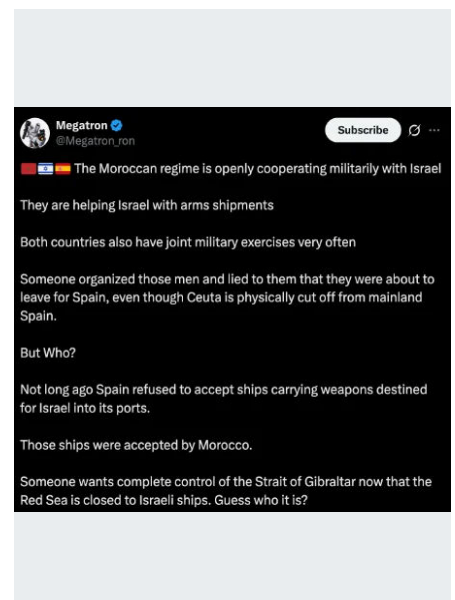
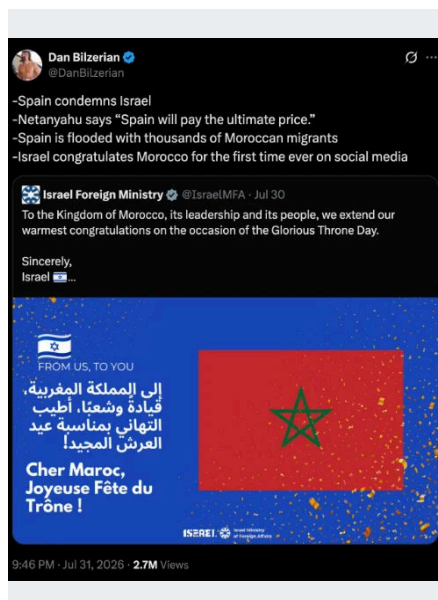
Israel is presented as a vengeful and effectively omnipotent actor capable of triggering the movement of tens of thousands of people in order to punish a sovereign state. Migration patterns shaped by economics, law, and regional politics are collapsed into a single act of “Zionist aggression” against the West. A recurring variant extends the claim to an operational partnership between Mossad and the CIA, casting the crossing as a jointly engineered intelligence operation rather than a migration event.

The revival of the “betrayal myth”

Multiple high-engagement posts recycle the medieval claim that Jews operate as a “fifth column” inside Christian nations, secretly working to destroy the societies that host them. In this sample the claim takes a specific form: Muslim migration is described as a tool that Jews are using to erase European civilization, with the migrants themselves cast as an instrument rather than as people.

The erasure of Moroccan agency

Morocco is stripped of sovereignty and described as a “Zionist stooge” or a tool of the Israeli military.



THE CONVERGENCE PROBLEM

The dataset spans accounts that share no other political ground. Far-right proponents of the “Great Replacement” theory, far-left anti-imperialist accounts, and radical Islamist accounts posted materially identical claims within the same news cycle. All three arrive at the same conclusion, that Zionists are the root cause of the crisis. Antisemitism is the connective tissue between audiences that would otherwise never share a feed, and the recommendation engine treats their overlap as an engagement signal worth amplifying.

FAR-RIGHT	FAR-LEFT	RADICAL ISLAMIST
Great Replacement framing: migration as a deliberate demographic weapon against Europe.	Anti-imperialist framing: migration as blowback from a Zionist-directed world order.	Jihadist framing: the crisis as further proof of a Zionist hand directing Western and Arab states alike.

Figure 4. Three incompatible ideologies converging on one explanation.

PLATFORM FAILURE

X does virtually nothing to limit trending crisis-related keywords. During breaking events, the platform's incentive structure rewards interpretive speed over accuracy. A “Zionist plot” is a pre-packaged, high-conflict, immediately available explanation, and it produces exactly the engagement the algorithm optimizes for. Verified status compounds the effect by placing this material at the top of replies and recommendations.

The result is that antisemitism becomes the default interpretive lens for global instability, not because users seek it, but because the system surfaces it first.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO X

The Combat Antisemitism Movement calls on X to take the following actions.

01 Introduce algorithmic friction during acute crises

Keywords associated with established antisemitic tropes should be subject to distribution limits during declared humanitarian emergencies, so that conspiracy content does not outpace verified safety information.

02 Disqualify antisemitism from revenue sharing

Accounts propagating established antisemitic tropes should lose eligibility for the ad revenue sharing program and forfeit verified distribution priority.

03 Deploy expert Community Notes

X should partner with subject-matter organizations, including CAM, to deliver rapid-response notes that supply historical context on the tropes being recycled in real time.

CONCLUSION

The Ceuta crisis is a case study in how antisemitism bridges incompatible ideologies and reaches mass scale through platform design. Across 173 posts and 119 influencer accounts, an emergency involving tens of thousands of migrants was reframed as a Jewish plot and delivered to an estimated 103.1M people in under 72 hours.

On the evidence of this dataset, X is functioning as an engine for the demonization of the Jewish people and State of Israel.