



ADC SPECIAL REPORT

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Editor's Introduction

This article, an edited version of material published on the Anti-Defamation League's website, reports mostly bad news but ends with a glimmer of good news. The majority of the report is a case study of how the global spread of antisemitism can be fostered by the intense efforts of a single individual (backed, no doubt, by others who encourage and finance him.) But there is a ray of light as well. In a region where antisemitic hate propaganda is published with official government approval, the unambiguous response of the Bahraini Ambassador to a protest by ADL makes for refreshing reading. Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Palestinian Authority, please copy.

Dr Paul Gardner
Chairman,
B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission Inc.

WHITE SUPREMACIST DAVID DUKE GIVES ANTI-SEMITIC LECTURES IN BAHRAIN

David Duke in Bahrain

In mid-November, long-time white supremacist and former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke visited the Persian Gulf country of Bahrain to discuss the "global struggle against Zionism" and promote theories blaming Israel for the September 11 attacks. Duke's anti-Semitic views have been embraced in the Middle East, where there has been a growing acceptance of Holocaust denial and other anti-Jewish beliefs.

Since September 11, Duke has reiterated his belief that Israel and the Mossad perpetrated the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. He has insisted that the Mossad warned 4,000 Jews who worked at the World Trade Center to stay home on the day of the attacks, while allowing thousands of innocent Americans to die. Duke's "proof" betrays his bigotry--he has said that since Jews control finance, more Israelis/Jews should have died in the World Trade Center. He has also stated that Israel carried out the attacks to turn attention away from its treatment of the Palestinians.

An article in the Gulf News advertising Duke's lecture in Bahrain refers to him as a "former U.S. Senator" and "a mainstream politician" who is a member of the Republican Party. In reality, Duke was never a U.S. Senator. He held a seat representing his local area in the Louisiana State Legislature and was repudiated by virtually every major Republican leader, including President George Bush.

Spreading Antisemitism in Europe

From his base in Russia and the Ukraine, where he has lived in the last two years, Duke has given lectures and written various articles promoting his September 11 conspiracy theories. At the same time, he has spoken at Holocaust denial conferences and other events in Europe that attracted a large neo-Nazi audience, and has promoted his books, which claim that Judaism fosters hatred against non-Jews and that Jews are inherently criminal.

In August 2002, Duke was a featured speaker at an event sponsored by the National Democratic Party (NPD), a far-right German political group that attracts a large neo-Nazi following. In his speech he attacked Israel and what he called "Jewish supremacism," and lauded the Nazi armies of the Second World War as having fought for "freedom and heritage".

In May 2002, Duke was published in the Arab News, a Saudi Arabian English daily newspaper. His article, "The World's Most Dangerous Terrorist," claimed that Israel had "aided and abetted" the terrorists in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and that Al-Qaeda is secretly controlled by the Mossad, Israel's intelligence bureau.

Also in May 2002, Duke conducted a workshop on "European-American Civil Rights" simultaneously in Europe and by video connection in Metairie, Louisiana. In January 2002, Duke attended an extremist conference in Moscow organized by Willis Carto. The conference focused on Holocaust denial and resolved that Zionism "aspires to establish world supremacy" and attempts to "destroy morality, national culture...and security of the nations" of the world. It was attended by other well-known and European anti-Semites and Holocaust deniers.

Duke's Background

In the early 1970s Duke founded the White Youth Alliance, a group affiliated with the neo-Nazi National Socialist White People's Party in Arlington, Virginia. In 1974, he founded and became the self-appointed Imperial Wizard of the Louisiana-based Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He established the National Association for the Advancement of White People (NAAWP) in 1980 which, he said, was "primarily a white rights lobby organization," whose message was "essentially the same" as the KKK.

He later formed NOFEAR, the National Organisation for European American Rights, in January 2000. He described it as a "civil rights" organisation fighting the alleged "massive discrimination" faced by whites from the nation's growing population of minorities. The organisation changed its name to EURO (European-American Unity and Rights Organisation) in June 2001, and is currently run by Duke's followers in the United States under his supervision.

Duke's Antisemitic Publications

Over the last two years, Duke has resided in Russia and the Ukraine. During this time he has been under investigation in the U.S. for a variety of legal issues, including tax fraud, tax evasion and gambling-related financial difficulties. In recent years Duke has published two books detailing his beliefs, which have remained essentially unchanged since his Klan days. In *My Awakening* (2000) Duke details his developing "racial consciousness" from his childhood to today, which has now come to include Holocaust denial and conspiracy theories. In *Jewish Supremacism* (2002),

Duke elaborates on the "Jewish threat," and offers misreadings of the Talmud and Bible in an attempt to portray contemporary Jews as haters of non-Jews and plotters of the downfall of non-Jewish culture.

He has devoted considerable attention to Russia, and wrote the article, "Is Russia the Key to White Survival?" His anti-Semitic book on *Jewish Supremacism* has been published in Russian. This book is a translation of a major portion of his magnum opus, *My Awakening*.

ADL Writes to the Ambassador of Bahrain

In a letter on 14th November to His Excellency Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al-Khalifa, the Bahraini Ambassador to the United States, ADL National Director Abe Foxman wrote that ADL was "deeply troubled by reports that American white supremacist and former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke has been invited and is currently speaking at several venues in Bahrain." Duke, said Foxman, was "one of the most dangerous extremists in America who publicly promotes racism, anti-Semitism and bigotry. The subject of his talk, *Israelis and 9/11*, repeats the anti-Semitic canard that Jews and Israel were responsible for the September 11 attacks."

It is further troubling, Foxman continued, "that Muhammad Zuhair, the manager of Discover Islam, the organisation reportedly hosting David Duke, claims to be aware of Duke's background but is prepared to dismiss it given Duke's views on Israel and Zionism. It is important that, at this sensitive time in the Middle East, responsible Arab leaders take the actions necessary to prevent the spread of anti-Semitism and anti-Western hate."

One day later, the Bahraini Ambassador assured the Anti-Defamation League that his government does not support crude appeals to anti-Semitism and hate. "The government of Bahrain neither agrees with nor supports Mr. Duke's beliefs," he told ADL.

The Ambassador indicated that while Bahrain, "welcomes all visitors, regardless of their religion or personal views," the hateful views of David Duke are at odds with the Kingdom's values of coexistence and tolerance toward other faiths. We firmly support programs that build bridges, such as the Muslim-Christian Dialogue session which took place in Bahrain last month," the Ambassador said. "We feel that the views of Mr. Duke expressed in his lectures only serve to tear down and destroy these bridges, which are vital to promoting understanding and peace among peoples and nations."

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ADC Special Report is a publication of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission Inc (ADC), the human rights arm of B'nai B'rith Australia/New Zealand which is dedicated to researching and combating all forms of racism.

PO Box 450, Caulfield South, Victoria, Australia 3162. Tel: Int + 61 3 9527 1228 Fax Int + 61 3 9525 9127 Email antidef@optusnet.com.au

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