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Contact: Laura Fennell
Director of Communications Strategy, ADL West
lfennell@adl.org



ADL Report Finds High Levels of White Supremacist, Anti-Government Activity in the Pacific Northwest

“Hate in the Cascade States” provides a snapshot of antisemitism and extremism in Washington and Oregon

Seattle, WA, February 3, 2025 ... A new report from ADL (Anti-Defamation League) highlights key trends in extremism in both Washington and Oregon, including the disruptive actions of extremists who seek the elimination of the state of Israel, new networking initiatives by white supremacists and anti-government extremist efforts to build political power.

The report, “[Hate in the Cascade States](#),” written by the ADL Center on Extremism (COE), looks back on nearly two years of extremist activity in the Pacific Northwest. The region is not unfamiliar with extremists; they have alarmed and endangered residents for decades. Notable trends since 2023 include extreme anti-Zionist activity following the October 7 attacks, the rise in white supremacist networks and anti-government extremists building political inroads.

“Today, we aim to shine a bright light on extremist actions and ideologies from both ends of the political spectrum, which undermine the safety and well-being of our communities and democracy,” Miri Cypers, Regional Director of ADL Pacific Northwest said. “We urge our leaders in Washington and Oregon to take action and push extremism back to the fringes where it belongs. As a leader who has been personally threatened by white supremacists, I know how language and ideas can blossom into hateful threats and potential violence when left unchecked.”

In 2023, a time when ADL tracked the highest-ever number of antisemitic incidents nationwide, there were also record numbers of antisemitic incidents in the Cascade States. In Oregon, antisemitic incidents increased 218% from 2022, rising from 39 to 124. At the same time in Washington, antisemitic incidents were up 191%, rising from 65 to 189.

Since Oct. 7, 2023, there have been at least 250 anti-Israel protests across Washington and Oregon. Protests and public gatherings often featured support for terrorism and other concerning rhetoric, including explicit antisemitism.

Meanwhile, emerging white supremacist networks have increasingly focused on building camaraderie and collaboration across the white supremacist movement. In the Pacific Northwest, white supremacists created a regional coalition called the Northwest Nationalist Network (3N) in 2023 that is made up of a range of white supremacist groups and networks. Since its formation, it has experienced great success with its multi-state collaboration, holding at least ten demonstrations across the Pacific Northwest in 2023 alone. 3N has also served as inspiration for white supremacists across the country, with at least four new coalitions coming together since 3N’s formation.

Far-right anti-government extremists have sought political influence and power by running for office, fostering relationships with policymakers and lobbying for various legislative agendas. The People’s Rights movement has been particularly active, with members even winning county-level elections in Oregon. A

former member of the Washington Three Percenters (WA3%), a right-wing anti-government militia group, also won a state-level seat in Washington. The Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA), which maintains the county sheriff is the ultimate authority within a county and can halt federal or state measures with which they don't agree, also has a historical presence in both states.

The report also includes recommendations for state and local policy makers. ADL advocates for a range of policies and activities that can help address antisemitism, hate and extremism while preserving personal liberties. Suggestions for Oregon and Washington are:

1. Address violent extremism through prevention, training and prosecution
2. Condemn rising antisemitism and a unique form of hate
3. Train state employees and law enforcement on antisemitism, hate and extremism
4. Provide support and safety to vulnerable populations by:
 - a. Establishing and funding a state Nonprofit Security Grant Program
 - b. Protecting communities of faith from harassment and intimidation
 - c. Support the statewide hate and bias incident hotline
5. Counter tactics of hate. Against a backdrop of a troubling increase in antisemitism and extremism across the region, we can and must do more to protect communities from emerging tactics of hate. We recommend that lawmakers consider whether existing laws and ordinances are sufficient to address these emerging threats. This includes:
 - a. Supporting communities in the wake of hateful flyer distributions
 - b. Addressing the public safety hazards posed by laser projections and banner drops
 - c. Protecting religious congregants from targeted intimidation and harassment at their houses of worship
6. Protect Jewish students by addressing incidents of bias and hate
7. Defend civil rights

ADL is a leading anti-hate organization. Founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of antisemitism and bigotry, its timeless mission is to protect the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment for all. Today, ADL continues to fight all forms of hate with the same vigor and passion. ADL is the first call when acts of antisemitism occur. A global leader in exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education, and fighting hate online, ADL's ultimate goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination or hate. More at www.adl.org

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