Israel is Attacking Wikipedia (to manipulate AI)

A Report by Tech for Palestine
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Executive Summary

Wikipedia is under attack from the Israel Lobby and its allies in the U.S. government, who are running a campaign providing "sustained, multi-front external pressure on the platform". **The goal of this attack is to gain influence over Wikipedia, in order to change the results of AI platforms such as ChatGPT to be more favorable to Israel.**

Israel has long relied on propaganda to maintain its global image. That image is undermined by public awareness of its history of crimes against humanity in Palestine, particularly its recent genocide in Gaza. **A key propaganda target for Israel is Wikipedia, on which much of the world relies for information about Israel and Palestine. Wikipedia's data reaches the public not just through Wikipedia, but also through Google Search and AI chatbots such as ChatGPT, Claude, or Thaura, which are built using Wikipedia.**

Over the last 20 years, **17** publicly-known Israel-aligned efforts have conspired to make Wikipedia more pro-Israel, **9** of which are still active. However, these attacks have had limited effect because of Wikipedia's strong editorial controls and reliance on a consensus of scholarly work.

Israel is stepping up the attack, especially by using the Israel Lobby to gain influence over Wikipedia. The ADL, joined by AIPAC-funded members of Congress, have weaponized false claims to gain influence over Wikipedia's parent, the Wikimedia Foundation.

The ADL released a deeply flawed report in March 2025, titled "Editing for Hate", which claims mass collusion to introduce antisemitism on Wikipedia. Dr. Shira Klein, an expert on antisemitism and Wikipedia who is cited in the report, rebutted it:

> "But where is the evidence of editors repeatedly misrepresenting or contradicting peer-reviewed literature? There is none. The report simply wants us to take the ADL's word for it".

Within this report, we analyze each of the claims in the ADL's report, identifying significant and widespread flaws. No claim survived scrutiny, due to methodological flaws, cherry-picked evidence, misunderstanding of Arabic content, manipulation and misrepresentation of evidence, and inconsistencies in their own data. The ADL also created fake-scientific terminology to fabricate evidence, and frame ordinary Wikipedia activity as sinister.

In fact, the ADL did not show that antisemitism was introduced to Wikipedia, nor a single false fact. The collusion itself is also likely fabricated: the ADL picked editors they

didn't like, and made meaningless statistical correlations to fit their pre-defined narrative of collusion, coupled with definitively-false claims.

The stated goals of the ADL's report are to influence the Wikimedia Foundation to change Wikipedia's editing policy, introducing vectors for the ADL to influence Wikipedia's content. These suggestions, such as a task force on antisemitism, or a board of experts on Israel and Palestine, sound innocuous, but offer the Israel Lobby the potential to exert editorial control over Wikipedia content.

Another goal of the ADL is to influence AI companies to drop Wikipedia's high-quality, factual data, which relies on a consensus of scholarly opinion, replacing it with news articles from U.S. media, which typically contain significant pro-Israel bias.

The ADL's March 2025 report was used in 4 U.S. government attacks on Wikipedia, one from a bipartisan group of 23 members of Congress, another by House Committee chairs Comer and Mace, and another by Senate Committee chair Ted Cruz. Each of these politicians was AIPAC-funded, to a total of $96M.

Further attacks have threatened Wikimedia's charitable status, and targeted Middle East Studies departments and programs at U.S. universities, whose research forms a significant scholarly basis of Wikipedia's content on Palestine and Israel.

A similar attack involved an internal Wikipedia arbitration case, where a pro-Israel Wikipedia editor pushed a well-resourced narrative to attack editors they deemed pro-Palestine, gaining sanctions including editing bans against six of them.

The ADL has also revealed that they are working with AI platforms, including Anthropic and OpenAI, to directly manipulate how those AI platforms respond. They also imply that they have access to the source code of AI chatbots such as ChatGPT and Claude.

Further attacks are coming. The pro-Israel Heritage Foundation announced plans to dox anonymous Wikipedia editors as part of "Project Esther". The pro-Israel neoconservative institution Foundation for Defense of Democracies is working with NPOV, an Israel-based "Wikipedia intelligence" company, to stalk Wikipedia editors. They are also working with the ADL who has its own group of 45 analysts "tracking" Wikipedia editors. Doxxed editors have received death threats.

The ADL has claimed success in their campaign. In "Damage Done", an October 2026 report, the ADL celebrated its attacks, calling them "sustained, multi-front external pressure on the platform", with pressure coming from "congressional scrutiny", "federal

inquiries", "Senate Commerce Committee, enforcement work by Wikipedia's NPOV-policy editors, ADL reporting, and broader media scrutiny".

This new 2026 report also set the stage for more attacks on Wikipedia, demanding the establishment of a task force on antisemitism, a common tactic by the Israel Lobby, despite not having demonstrated a single piece of antisemitism on Wikipedia. They further ask for a review of each edit introduced by banned editors, though the editors were not banned for introducing false information onto Wikipedia, nor has the ADL demonstrated that they have done so.

We sound the alarm on this propaganda attack on Wikipedia and on AI, and urge Wikimedia to understand that it is being attacked by nation-state resources and to act accordingly. In particular, we believe it is essential that Wikimedia move out of the U.S. We further recommend that the new Congress investigate and censure past attacks from their colleagues on Wikipedia, and that the media increase their scrutiny on dishonest attacks by the Israel Lobby. We also ask AI companies to break their partnerships with the ADL, who is working to manipulate their platforms.

The future of AI is based on Wikipedia today. Israel's attacks to manipulate Wikipedia today aim to bring Israeli control over the AI platforms of the future.

Our Claims in Brief

- Israel's allies in the U.S. are launching a new **influence attack** on Wikipedia. The purpose of the attacks is to **create editorial influence over Wikipedia** to support Israel, and **to manipulate the contents of AI**, to make Wikipedia and AI more supportive of Israel's actions, and to hide evidence of Israel's history of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and human rights violations. (Section 2, Section 4)
- **AIPAC-aligned members of Congress are attacking Wikipedia**, relying on the ADL's falsified report. (Section 4)
- **The ADL's report**, the central artifact used in the attack, **is inaccurate and reads as deliberately falsified**. (Section 6) We reviewed every claim, and none held up to scrutiny.
    - In particular, no evidence of antisemitism or false information being added to Wikipedia was provided.
    - The claimed "collusion" was invented. (Section 6.3)
    - The claims about Arabic Wikipedia were largely based on biased interpretations of poorly translated content, and a lack of knowledge about Islam or other aspects within Arab culture. (Section 6.4)

    - It is likely that none of the U.S. government actors who attacked the Wikimedia Foundation reviewed this farcically bad document before sending their letters, which shows incompetence.
- We identify **17** other separate efforts which have attempted to manipulate Wikipedia to be pro-Israel, **9** of which are still active, including from Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales. (Section 3)
- We identify multiple pro-Israel groups that are working to stalk and track Wikipedia editors, including the ADL, the Heritage Foundation, Builders for Tomorrow, and private "Wikipedia intelligence" companies funded by pro-Israel foundations. It is likely that these surveillance projects are illegal in many jurisdictions. (Section 4.6)
- We identify for the first time that the ADL's partner in their attacks, "Builders for Tomorrow", is made up of and supported by a range of **pro-Israel tech billionaires and leaders**, likely including Sheryl Sandberg, Bill Ackman, Shaun Maguire, and David Marcus. They are positioning themselves to be a "misinformation classifier" who sells their services to Big Tech, while inserting a pro-Israel slant. (Section 4.6.2)
- The ADL's second, recently published, report claims **"sustained, multi-front external pressure on the platform"**, (Section 6.5), which sets the stage for further attacks on Wikipedia. It is also baseless, suffering from the same concerns as the first report.
- **Our recommendations:**
    - Wikimedia Foundation should move out of the U.S. (Section 7.1.3)
    - Wikimedia Foundation should stand up to the attack (Section 7.1.1)
    - Founder Jimmy Wales should step down from Wikimedia's board (Section 7.1.6)
    - The Wikimedia Foundation should review whether the new CEO's past pro-Israel actions reflect bias, and whether the Israel Lobby may have been involved in her appointment (Section 7.1.7)
    - We recommend that governments act on the widespread surveillance on the over 1M Wikipedia users, as well as examine the ADL's apparent systematic surveillance of their enemies across the Internet.
    - We ask media to recognize that the ADL is part of the Israel Lobby, a self-claimed "Zionist" (pro-Israel) organization, with a long history of weaponizing false claims of antisemitism to protect Israel. All ADL claims should be assumed false until proven true. The media should not leave out this context in their reporting. (Section 5)

About this Report

This report began in March 2025 after the release of the ADL's biased and falsified report, entitled "Editing for Hate: How Anti-Israel and Anti-Jewish Bias Undermines Wikipedia's Neutrality". Being familiar with Israel's history of directly manipulating Wikipedia, we began to investigate whether the report itself may be part of an influence operation to attack Wikipedia.

Narrative control is essential for Israel. Given the extensive resources Israel dedicates to propaganda, the role of the ADL and AIPAC in the Israel Lobby to create influence in the U.S., and Israel's repeated attempts to directly manipulate Wikipedia, the ADL's report made clear that this was the start of a campaign to gain influence over Wikipedia, and thus, also over AI.

As various AIPAC-aligned U.S. politicians began to attack Wikipedia using the ADL's report, we felt it was essential to explain how various elements of the Israel Lobby and their allies were working together to attack Wikipedia.

This report features three tracks:

- In Sections 3 and 4, we document Israel's coordinated efforts to influence Wikipedia in order to enable the general public to recognize how these operations seek to advance Israeli interests in society,
- In Section 6, we dismantle the low-quality, and frequently manipulated evidence presented by the ADL in their attempt to create false claims of antisemitism with which to influence Wikipedia,
- In Sections 2 and 5 we explain the tools of Israeli propaganda as they relate to the attack on Wikipedia.

Our goal is a strong commons, one based on facts and truth, and not controlled, influenced, or manipulated by propaganda or state actors.

This document lives at https://techforpalestine.org/wikipedia-report, and will be updated as corrections and/or additional information comes in. Corrections and suggestions welcome: contact@techforpalestine.org

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About Tech for Palestine

Tech for Palestine is a member-driven organization that brings together people, skills and resources. Through technology and collective action, our members build tools and solutions that support the movement for Palestine and help people take action against Israel's occupation, apartheid and genocide.

These projects include: apps to organize protests, tools that make boycotting easier, support for Palestinian students and businesses, alternatives to mainstream tech platforms, and many more.

Whether you're a tech worker, founder, marketer, activist—there's a place for you to contribute at T4P.

Our Vision: A free Palestine, a tech industry that actively participates in liberation, and a world where all people enjoy equal dignity, justice, and human rights.

Tech for Palestine is a U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit.

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