

Estonia Weekly:

Free Speech, Conflict Comparisons, and U.S. Embassy Concerns

Estonia | Week 6 | Month 2
October 9th - October 15th, 2023

New observations this week: 4
Main channel: Facebook

Main keywords:

**Palestine, Israel, killing of civilians, Freedom of speech,
voters, elections, Justice, court, journalist, USA**

Main narratives:

- Israel's defense against Hamas is equated with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Efforts to ban disinformation are criticized as violations of freedom of speech.
- Individuals convicted of hate speech crimes are portrayed as victims.

Overview:

Estonian social media this week focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, freedom of speech issues, and the victimization of hate speech crime offenders. Additionally, there was skepticism about American activities in Estonia, particularly regarding the construction of a new U.S. Embassy in Tallinn. The narratives suggested that Israel's actions against Hamas are analogous to Russia's actions in Ukraine, that suppressing disinformation infringes on free speech rights, and that hate speech offenders are being unjustly victimized. The embassy construction is seen as harmful to the interests of Estonians and Tallinn residents.

