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Answer given by Mr Reynders
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.11.2024)

The Commission is not aware of visits mentioned by the Honourable Members and cannot comment on matters which appear to fall under national competence.

The Commission would like to recall that it condemns any form of violence and hatred, including manifestations of racism, antisemitism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance which are incompatible with the EU values. Glorifying Nazism and trivializing the Holocaust have no place in European democracy.

The Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia¹ obliges EU Member States to criminalise hate speech². It is for the national authorities to establish whether the national criminal law provisions implementing the Framework Decision apply in specific circumstances, taking into account the context and the situation of each case.

¹ Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, L 328/55.

² Hate speech is defined in the Framework Decision as public incitement to violence or hatred directed against a group of persons or a member of such a group defined by reference to race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin.