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Named: 22 on UK no-entry list

LONDON: Britain published its first list of people barred from entering the country for allegedly fostering extremism or hatred, including Muslim radicals, a right-wing American radio host, an Israeli settler and jailed Russian gang members.

Law and order chief Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said on Tuesday that she decided to publish the names of 16 of 22 people who had been banned by the government since October so others could better understand what sort of behaviour Britain was not prepared to tolerate.

She cited unidentified "public interest" reasons for not

disclosing the other six names.

"I think it's important that people understand the sort of values and standards we have here, the fact that it's a privilege to come and the sort of things that mean you won't be welcome in this country."

But some of the people on the list criticised it. One analyst said it contained a wide variety of people to avoid giving Muslims here the impression that it singled them out.

Popular American talk-radio host, Michael Savage, who broadcasts from San Francisco and has called the Quran a "book of hate", is on the list. Savage also has enraged parents of children with autism by

saying in most cases it's "a brat who hasn't been told to cut the act out".

Savage told the conservative website WorldNetDaily.com that he was considering legal action against Smith for defamation.

"She's linking me with mass murderers who are in prison for killing Jewish children on buses? For my speech? The country where the Magna Carta was created?" the site quoted him as saying.

The list included Americans Stephen "Don" Black, founder of a Florida-based white supremacist website and anti-gay preacher Fred Phelps Sr, who leads a church in Topeka,

Kansas.

Black was criticised as the "Godfather of hate on the Internet" in a 2000 HBO documentary. The government had previously acknowledged that Phelps was banned.

His daughter, Shirley Phelps-Roper, also has been barred. The pair have picketed the funerals of AIDS victims and claimed the deaths of US soldiers were a punishment for tolerance of homosexuality.

The list also includes Yunis Al-Astal, a Hamas lawmaker in Gaza; Samir Kantar, a Lebanese man once jailed for murdering four Israelis; Egyptian ulama Safwat Hijazi; and Israeli settler Mike Guzovsky,

who Britain's Home Office said was involved with military training camps.

Also banned from entering the country were Artur Ryno and Pavel Skachevsky, two leaders of a Russian gang. They were imprisoned for 10 years in Russia last year for their role in the racially-motivated killings of 19 people.

Alan Mendoza, head of The Henry Jackson Society, a foreign policy think tank here, said many of the names were "just here for padding".

He said the real focus was to keep radicals out of Britain and from indoctrinating elements of the sizeable Muslim minority here. — AP