

OCTOBER 2020

DETAILED REPORT

October 2020 Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior Report

FACEBOOK



We're constantly working to find and stop coordinated campaigns that seek to manipulate public debate across our apps.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Over the past three years, we've shared our findings about [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#) we detect and remove from our platforms. As part of our regular CIB reports, we're sharing information about all networks we take down over the course of a month to make it easier for people to see progress we're making in one place.

WHAT IS CIB?

We view CIB as coordinated efforts to manipulate public debate for a strategic goal where fake accounts are central to the operation. There are two tiers of these activities that we work to stop: 1) coordinated inauthentic behavior in the context of domestic, non-government campaigns and 2) coordinated inauthentic behavior on behalf of a foreign or government actor.

COORDINATED INAUTHENTIC BEHAVIOR (CIB)

When we find domestic, non-government campaigns that include groups of accounts and Pages seeking to mislead people about who they are and what they are doing while relying on fake accounts, we remove both inauthentic and authentic accounts, Pages and Groups directly involved in this activity.

FOREIGN OR GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE (FGI)

If we find any instances of CIB conducted on behalf of a government entity or by a foreign actor, we apply the broadest enforcement measures including the removal of every on-platform property connected to the operation itself and the people and organizations behind it.

CONTINUOUS ENFORCEMENT

We monitor for efforts to re-establish a presence on Facebook by networks we previously removed. Using both automated and manual detection, we continuously remove accounts and Pages connected to networks we took down in the past.

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 2020 FINDINGS

Our teams continue to focus on finding and removing deceptive campaigns around the world — whether they are foreign or domestic. In October, we removed 14 networks of accounts, Pages and Groups. Eight of them — from Georgia, Myanmar, Ukraine and Azerbaijan — targeted domestic audiences in their own countries, and six networks — from Iran, Egypt, the US and Mexico — focused on people outside of their countries. We have shared information about our findings with law enforcement, policymakers and industry partners.

We are making progress rooting out this abuse, but as we've said before, it's an ongoing effort. We're committed to continually improving to stay ahead. That means building better technology, hiring more people and working closely with law enforcement, security experts and other companies.

- **Total number of Facebook accounts removed: 1,196**
- **Total number of Instagram accounts removed: 994**
- **Total number of Pages removed: 7,947**
- **Total number of Groups removed: 110**

NETWORKS REMOVED IN OCTOBER 2020:

1. **NEW—Iran:** We removed 12 Facebook accounts, two Pages and 307 Instagram accounts linked to individuals associated with EITRC, a Tehran-based IT company. This activity originated in Iran and targeted primarily Israel, and also Iraq. This network was early in its audience building when we removed it. We found this activity as part of our investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region.
2. **NEW—Iran, Afghanistan:** We removed 33 Facebook accounts, 11 Pages, six Groups and 47 Instagram accounts operated by individuals in Iran and Afghanistan. They targeted Farsi/Dari-speaking audiences primarily in Afghanistan. We found this network as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region.
3. **NEW—Egypt, Turkey and Morocco:** We removed 31 Facebook accounts, 25 Pages and two Instagram accounts operated by individuals in Egypt, Turkey and Morocco associated with the Muslim Brotherhood. They targeted Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Yemen, Somalia and Saudi Arabia. We found this network as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region.
4. **NEW—Georgia:** We removed 50 Facebook accounts, 49 Pages, four Groups, eight Events and 19 Instagram accounts linked to Alt-Info, a media entity in Georgia. This activity originated in the country of Georgia and targeted domestic audiences in Georgia. Alt-Info is now banned from Facebook. We found this network as part of our investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Our assessment benefited from public reporting by International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), a non-profit in Georgia.
5. **NEW—Georgia:** We removed 54 Facebook accounts, 14 Pages, two Groups and 21 Instagram accounts linked to two political parties in Georgia — Alliance of Patriots and Georgian Choice. This activity originated in the country of Georgia and targeted domestic audiences in Georgia. We found this network after reviewing information about some of its activity publicly reported by International Society for Fair Elections

and Democracy (ISFED), a non-profit in Georgia.

6. **NEW—Myanmar:** We removed 36 Facebook accounts, six Pages, two Groups and one Instagram account linked to Openmind, a PR agency in Myanmar. This activity originated in Myanmar and targeted domestic audiences in Myanmar. We found this network as part of our proactive investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region ahead of the November election in Myanmar.
7. **NEW—Ukraine:** We removed 46 Facebook accounts, 44 Pages, one Group and three Instagram accounts linked to MAS Agency, a PR firm in Ukraine, and individuals associated with Yulia Tymoshenko’s campaign and Batkivshchyna, a political party in Ukraine. This activity originated in Ukraine and targeted domestic audiences in Ukraine. We found this network as part of our investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Our review benefited from public reporting on some of this activity in Ukraine.
8. **Mexico, Venezuela:** We removed 2 Facebook Pages and 22 Instagram accounts operated by individuals from Mexico and Venezuela. They primarily targeted the US. We began this investigation based on information about this network’s off-platform activity from the FBI. Our internal investigation revealed the full scope of this network on Facebook. **(Originally [announced](#) on October 27, 2020)**
9. **Iran:** We also removed 12 Facebook accounts, 6 Pages and 11 Instagram accounts linked to individuals associated with the Iranian government. This small network originated in Iran and focused primarily on the US and Israel. It had some limited links to the CIB network we removed in [April 2020](#). We began this investigation based on information from the FBI about this network’s off-platform [activity](#). **(Originally [announced](#) on October 27, 2020)**
10. **Myanmar:** We removed 10 Facebook accounts, 8 Pages, 2 Groups and 2 Instagram accounts operated by individuals in Myanmar. They focused on domestic audiences. We found this network as part of our proactive investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior ahead of the upcoming election in the region. **(Originally**

[announced](#) on October 27, 2020)

11. **US:** We removed 202 Facebook accounts, 54 Pages and 76 Instagram accounts linked to Rally Forge, a US marketing firm, working on behalf of Turning Point USA and Inclusive Conservation Group. They focused primarily on domestic US audiences and also on Kenya and Botswana. Rally Forge is now banned from Facebook. We began our investigation after public reporting about some elements of this activity by the Washington Post. We are continuing to review all linked networks, and will take action as appropriate if we determine they are engaged in deceptive behavior. (Originally [announced](#) on October 8, 2020)
12. **Myanmar:** We removed 38 Facebook accounts, 15 Pages and 6 Instagram accounts linked to members of the Myanmar military. This activity originated in Myanmar and targeted domestic audiences. We began our investigation after reviewing local public reporting about some elements of this activity as part of our proactive work ahead of the upcoming election in Myanmar. (Originally [announced](#) on October 8, 2020)
13. **Azerbaijan:** We removed 589 Facebook accounts, 7,665 Pages and 437 accounts on Instagram linked to the Youth Union of New Azerbaijani Party. This network originated in Azerbaijan and focused primarily on domestic audiences. We identified this network through an internal investigation into suspected fake engagement activity in the region. (Originally [announced](#) on October 8, 2020)
14. **Nigeria:** We removed 78 Facebook accounts, 45 Pages, 93 Groups and 46 Instagram accounts linked to the Islamic Movement in Nigeria. This network originated primarily in Nigeria and focused on domestic audiences. We identified this activity through our investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region with some limited links to the [network we removed](#) in March 2019. (Originally [announced](#) on October 8, 2020)

01

We removed 12 Facebook accounts, two Pages and 307 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [foreign interference](#) which is [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#) on behalf of a foreign entity. This activity originated in Iran and targeted primarily Israel, and also Iraq.

This network was early in its audience building when we removed it. The network used fake accounts — most of which were created around the same time — to develop fictitious personas who purported to be based in Israel and Iraq. These accounts have gone through significant name changes over time. They posted memes, images and other content in Hebrew and Arabic focusing on news and current events in the countries they targeted including anti-Prime Minister Netanyahu protests in Israel, criticism of his policies and response to the pandemic.

We found this network as part of our investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identities, our investigation found links to individuals associated with EITRC, a Tehran-based IT company.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 12 Facebook accounts, 2 Pages and 307 accounts on Instagram.
- *Followers:* About 1,100 accounts followed one or more of these Pages, and around 9,500 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.





Al-efsad-Ghaed-224

Oct 31, 2019 2:13am

حرق مؤسسات الدولة و مقرات الاحزاب يا قائد الإفساد
#قائد_الإفساد #كوردستان #العراق #عراق #عراقي
#اربيل #الموصل #دهوك #سليمانيه #كركوك #سوران
#iraq #duhok #تلعفر #الحويجة #تكريت #سامراء
#irbil_city #mosul #saudiarabia #kuwait
#uae

[Translate](#)



Translation:

Caption: Burning down state institutions and party headquarters, you leader of corruption

#Leader_of_Corruption #Kurdistan #Iraq

#Iraq #Iraqi #Erbil #Mosul #Dohuk

#Suleimaniyah #Kirkuk #Soran #Tal_Afar

#Hawija #Tikrit #Samarra #iraq #duhok

#irbil_city #mosul #saudiarabia #kuwait #uae



Jul 28, 2020 7:07am

דגלים שחורים #הדגלים השחורים #ביבנתניהו

[Translate](#)



Translation:

Caption: #blackflags #theblackflags

#bibinetaniyahuln image: Hope is up to us
(on the flag)

02

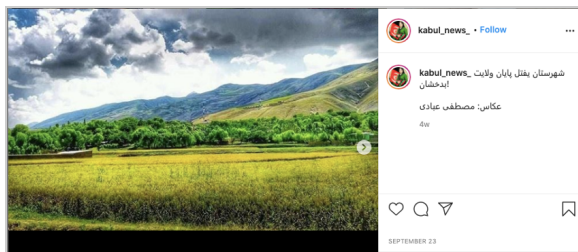
We removed 33 Facebook accounts, 11 Pages, six Groups and 47 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [foreign interference](#) which is [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#) on behalf of a foreign entity. This network was operated by individuals in Iran and Afghanistan and targeted Farsi/Dari-speaking audiences primarily in Afghanistan.

This network used a combination of authentic and fake accounts to post content, direct people to their channels on other internet services and manage Pages. Some of these Pages impersonated media organizations such as TOLONews and Etilaatroz. Some of these accounts posed as young women in Afghanistan and used fake profile photos and names.

This network posted about news and current events in the region, including politics; sports; victims of Taliban violence; supportive commentary about Afghan security forces; and criticism of US foreign policy in Afghanistan, Taliban's record on women's rights, US military actions in Afghanistan, negotiations with Taliban, and Afghan president Ashraf Ghani, the Pashtun politician Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. They also posted nature photos and photos of women, and news about the coronavirus pandemic from different regions of Afghanistan. We found this network as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region.

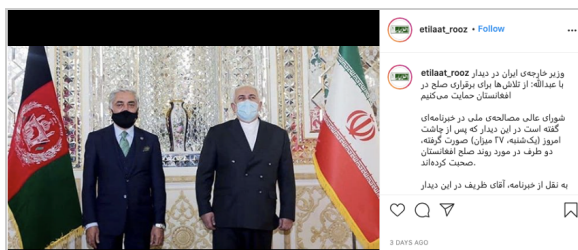
- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 33 Facebook accounts, 11 Pages, 6 Groups and 47 accounts on Instagram.
- *Followers:* About 25,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages, about 15,000 accounts joined at least one of these Groups and around 539,000 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Less than \$30 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in US dollars.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

Caption: Yaftal city is the end of Badakhshan province!



Translation:

Iranian Foreign Minister in a meeting with Abdullah: We support efforts to make peace in Afghanistan. The Supreme Council of National Reconciliation has said in a newspaper in this meeting that took place after today's brunch (Sunday, 27 Mizan), both sides have talked about Afghanistan's peace process. According to the newspaper, Mr. Zarif in this meeting called Afghanistan peace as one of the main needs of the region and said that Iran supports efforts to achieve permanent peace in Afghanistan. He added that Iran knows Afghanistan's success in peace and success.



Translation:

Taliban in the official announcement: After long negotiations between the Islamic Emirates and the United States, both sides agreed that on the 5th month of Rajab Al-Marjab, 1441, 10, 2020, 1398, and 29 February 2020 M, the final agreement will be signed in the presence of the world between both sides.

03

We removed 31 Facebook accounts, 25 Pages and two Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [foreign interference](#) which is [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#) on behalf of a foreign entity. This network was operated by individuals in Egypt, Turkey and Morocco and targeted Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Yemen, Somalia and Saudi Arabia.

The people behind this activity used fake accounts to comment on content and manage Pages pretending to be local to countries they targeted. Some of these accounts were automatically disabled for various violations including posting terrorism-related content. They posted primarily in Arabic about news and current events in countries they targeted including politics in Egypt, tensions in Libya and Somalia, supportive commentary about Qatar and Turkey and criticism of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the Egyptian government, Saudi and Emirati activity in Yemen, and Emirati actions in Tunisia.

We found this network as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identities, our investigation found links to individuals associated with the Muslim Brotherhood.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 31 Facebook accounts, 25 Pages and 2 accounts on Instagram.
- *Followers:* About 1.57 million accounts followed one or more of these Pages and around 1,000 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Less than \$219,000 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in Turkish lira, US dollars, Egyptian pound and Qatari rial.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

Page title: Tunisia Against Emirati Intervention

Caption: The president of the Ennahda parliamentary bloc accused Abir Moussi, the president of the Free Destourian Party, of paving the way for foreign powers, namely the UAE and Egypt, to overthrow "the elected Tunisian government"



Translation:

Page name: Somali & Proud

Caption: Qatar, represented by the Qatar Development Fund, continued its efforts to support development projects in Somalia. As part of the "Somali Roads" project, the Mogadishu-Afgooye road has begun to be paved.

Image overlay: "Qatar Development" continues its support for infrastructure projects in Somalia



Translation:

Page name: Youth Against the Coup

Caption: The police are at the service of the dog

04

We removed 50 Facebook accounts, 49 Pages, four Groups, eight Events and 19 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This activity originated in the country of Georgia and targeted domestic audiences in Georgia.

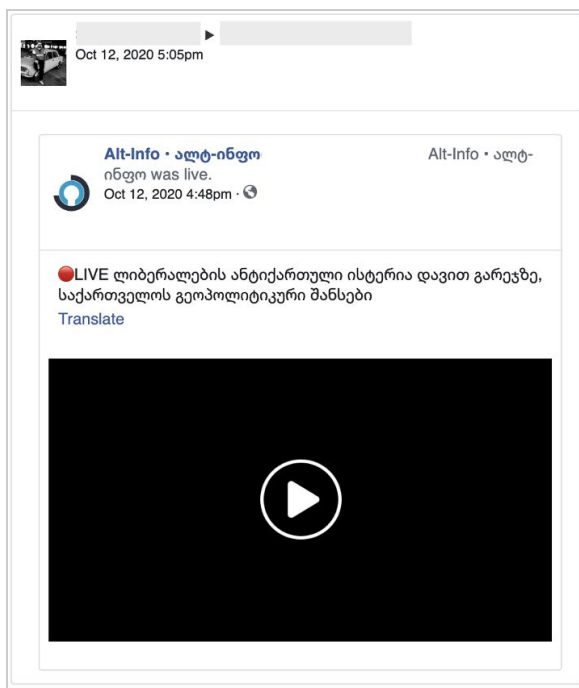
This network used fake accounts to post and comment on their own content to make it appear more popular than it was, and manage Pages, some of which posed as independent from one another. Some of these Pages went through significant admin changes and appeared to have been purchased. This network focused primarily on amplifying and engaging with Alt-Info's Page and its content, and commenting on local news media Pages. This network posted primarily in Georgian about news and current events in the country including EU and Russian politics, Georgian parliamentary election in 2020, political figures, criticism of local media and liberal politicians such as representatives of European Georgia party, immigrants, minorities and LGBTQ communities. Some of this activity included posting hate speech and information rated false by independent fact-checkers in Georgia.

We found this network as part of our investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Our assessment benefited from public reporting by International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), a non-profit in Georgia. Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identities, our investigation found links to Alt-Info, a media entity in Georgia. Alt-Info is now banned from Facebook.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 50 Facebook accounts, 49 Pages, 4 Groups, 8 Events and 19 accounts on Instagram.
- *Followers:* About 328,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages, about 13,000 accounts joined at least one of these Groups and around 1,600 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.

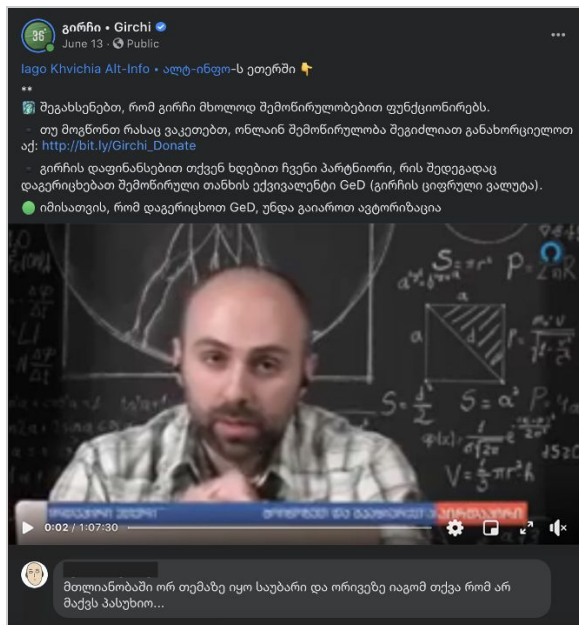
- *Advertising:* Less than \$5,000 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in US dollars.
- *Events:* 8 events were hosted by these Pages, some of which were removed for violating our policies. The first was scheduled for April 2017 and the most recent was scheduled for April 2020. Up to 530 accounts expressed interest in at least one of these events – among these accounts, our automated systems detected and disabled some fake accounts. We cannot confirm whether any of these events actually occurred.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

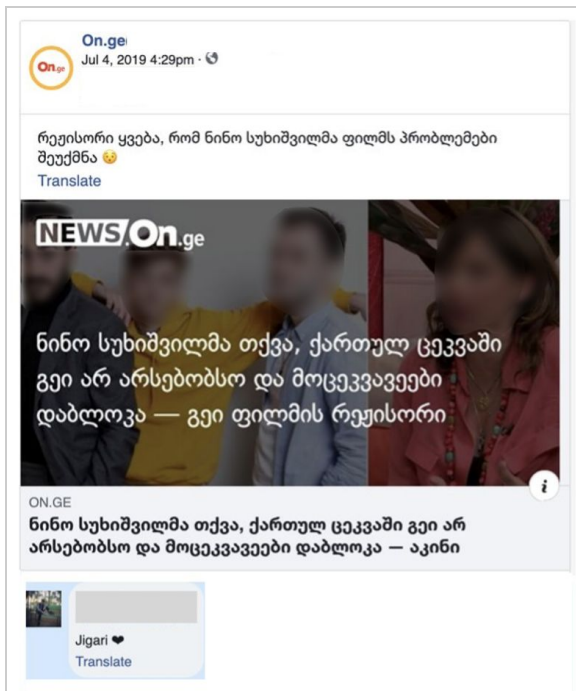
Caption: LIVE Anti-Georgian hysteria of liberals about David Gareji, Georgia's geopolitical chances



Translation:

Caption: Iago Khvitchia live on Alt-info + information on how to become a donor for Girchi

Comment: All in all, there were two main topics and on both Iago said that he had no answer...



Translation:

Caption: News about Georgian famous dancer saying "there are no gays in Georgian ballet".

Comment: that's right <3

05

We removed 54 Facebook accounts, 14 Pages, two Groups and 21 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This activity originated in the country of Georgia and targeted domestic audiences in Georgia.

This network was still early in its audience building when we removed it. The people behind it used fake accounts — some of which have gone through significant name changes — to create fictitious personas, comment on other people’s content, post in Groups and manage Pages. Some of these Pages posed as news entities. This network posted primarily in Georgian about news and politics in Georgia, including the parliamentary elections in October 2020, memes and other content about Russia-Georgia relations, supportive commentary about Alliance of Patriots and Georgian Choice parties, and criticism of their political opponents and Georgia-NATO relations. The network also posted content that was rated false by local fact-checkers. The inauthentic engagement activity appeared to begin in December 2019 focusing on one party (Alliance of Patriots), and then in May 2020 shifted to focus on another (Georgian Choice).

We found this network after reviewing information about some of its activity publicly reported by International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), a non-profit in Georgia. Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identities, our investigation found links to two political parties in Georgia — Alliance of Patriots and Georgian Choice.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 54 accounts, 14 Pages, 2 Groups and 21 accounts on Instagram.
- *Followers:* About 15,600 accounts followed one or more of these Pages, about 21,500 accounts joined at least one of these Groups and around 5,500 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.

- *Advertising:* Around \$4,600 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in US dollars.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

Caption: “Georgia will never be a NATO member, says opposition”

Comment: “I do not think NATO membership is realistic, there are only talks”



Translation:

Title: “Today in Politics”

Caption: “New power, new hope” OR “New power, new business”



Translation:

Caption: "Alliance of Patriots of Georgia" - Irma Inashvili: It's up to the Government to decide what to offer to the political spectrum.

Comments:

1. "Good Luck to Ms. Irma!"
2. "Good Luck to Ms. Irma!"
3. "You do everything for the the country's well being"

06

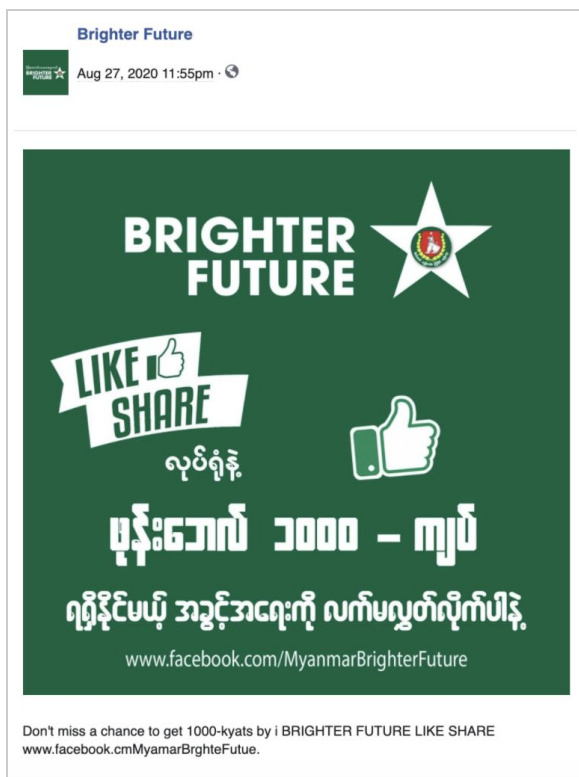
We removed 36 Facebook accounts, six Pages, two Groups and one Instagram account for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This activity originated in Myanmar and targeted domestic audiences in Myanmar.

This network was caught early in its operation, before it was able to build its audience. The people behind this activity offered to pay others in return for engaging with their posts. They used fake accounts — some of which had already been detected and disabled by our automated systems — to create fictitious personas, post in Groups and manage Pages. Some of these Pages focused on promoting the Union Solidarity and Development Party, while others criticized the National League for Democracy. They posted primarily in Burmese about news and current events including this week’s general elections in Myanmar.

We found this network as part of our investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region ahead of the November election in Myanmar. Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identities, our investigation found links to Openmind, a PR agency in Myanmar.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 36 Facebook accounts, 6 Pages, 2 Groups and one account on Instagram.
- *Followers:* About 12,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages, about 270 accounts joined at least one of these Groups and around 15 people followed this Instagram account.
- *Advertising:* Less than \$76,000 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in US dollars and also in Indonesian rupiah.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

Caption: "You will receive 1000 Kyats for your phone bill just from Liking and Sharing. Don't miss out on such an opportunity."



Translation:

Image Overlay: "Election is more important than the COVID-19 virus. Listen to me! I AM YOUR MOTHER"



Translation:

Caption: "Who are you going to choose?"

😊😞 or ? ?

Left: For temporary happiness. Right: For long term protection solution

07

We removed 46 Facebook accounts, 44 Pages, one Group and three Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This activity originated in Ukraine and targeted domestic audiences in Ukraine.

This network used fake accounts — some of which had already been detected and disabled by our automated systems. They created fictitious personas, commented on other people's content, posted in Groups and managed Pages, some of which posed as local news entities. This network posted primarily in Ukrainian about news and current events in Ukraine like politics and elections, including supportive commentary about Yulia Tymoshenko and Batkivshyna party and criticism of its political opponents, President Zelensky and former President Poroshenko. This activity primarily centered around recent elections, including presidential and parliamentary elections in 2019 and local elections in 2020.

We found this network as part of our investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Our review benefited from public reporting on some of this activity in Ukraine. Although the people behind it attempted to conceal their identities, our investigation found links to MAS Agency, a PR firm in Ukraine, and individuals associated with Yulia Tymoshenko's campaign and Batkivshchyna, a political party in Ukraine.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 46 Facebook accounts, 44 Pages, 1 Group and 3 accounts on Instagram.
- *Followers:* About 889,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages, about 20 accounts joined this Group and around 1,500 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Around \$2.1 million in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in US dollars.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

Page name: "Political Ukraine"

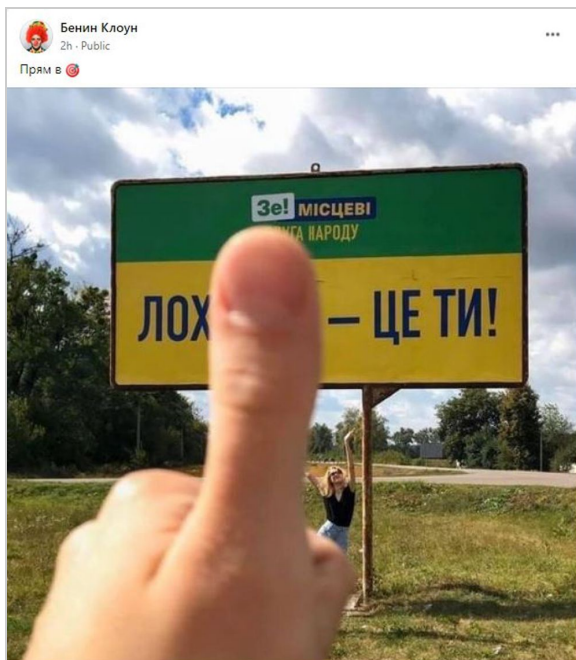
Caption: A decent place for a candidate ...





Translation:

Translation: "Medvedchuk and I are the future of Ukraine"



Translation:

Caption: "Touché!"

Image overlay: "loser - that's you!"

08

We removed 2 Facebook Pages and 22 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [foreign interference](#) which is [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#) on behalf of a foreign entity. This small network was in the early stages of building an audience and was operated by individuals — some wittingly and some unwittingly — from Mexico and Venezuela. It primarily targeted the US.

This network began creating accounts in April 2020. The individuals behind this activity took steps to conceal their coordination and who is behind this network. Some of the people managing these accounts and Pages claimed to work for a Poland-linked firm Social CMS, which doesn't appear to exist. They used fake accounts to create fictitious personas and post content. Some of these accounts posed as Americans supporting various social and political causes and tried to contact other people to amplify this operation's content. These accounts followed, liked and occasionally commented on others' posts to increase engagement on their own content.

The people behind this activity posted in Spanish and English about news and current events in the US including memes and other content about humor, race relations and racial injustice, feminism and gender relations, environmental issues and religion. A small portion of this content included memes posted by the Russian Internet Research Agency (IRA) in the past. They reused content shared across internet services by others, including screenshots of social media posts by public figures.

We began this investigation based on information about this network's off-platform activity from the FBI. Our internal investigation revealed the full scope of this network on Facebook.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 2 Facebook Pages and 22 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* 1 account followed one or more of these Pages and around 54,500 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts (about 50% of which were in the US). The account with the highest following had under 15,000 followers.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

Image overlay: “A French bulldog goes viral on TikTok when it introduces its owner to its new pup.”

Caption: “Comment below on your favorite breed of dog. Share this post with a dog owner! Via TikTok”



09

We also removed 12 Facebook accounts, 6 Pages and 11 Instagram accounts for [government interference](#) which is [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#) on behalf of a government entity. This small network originated in Iran and focused primarily on the US and Israel.

We began this investigation based on information from the FBI about this network's off-platform [activity](#). As a result, last week, we removed a single fake account created in October 2020 that attempted to seed false claims and unsubstantiated election-related threats as part of an influence operation carried out primarily via email. Our teams continued to investigate and found additional dormant accounts and Pages that had been largely inactive since May 2019 and focused primarily on Israel. This operation used fake accounts — some of which had been already detected and removed by our automated system. Some of these accounts tried to contact others, including an Afghanistan-focused media outlet, to spread their information. They focused on Saudi Arabia's activities in the Middle East and claims about an alleged massacre at Eurovision, an international song contest, hosted by Israel in 2019.

Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identity and coordination, our investigation found limited links to the CIB network we removed in [April 2020](#) and connections to individuals associated with the Iranian government.

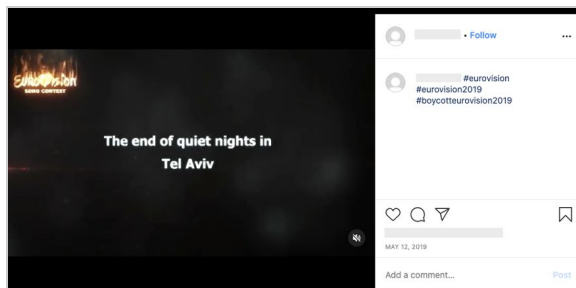
- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 12 Facebook accounts, 6 Pages and 11 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* About 120 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and about 700 people followed one of more of these Instagram accounts.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

Caption: "The series of operations by the Yemen Army and popular committees against the Saudi aggressors continues. The Yemen Army's artillery unit targeted the Saudi aggressor's positions in the border city of Najran in southern Saudi Arabia. This is while a Yemen army missile unit fired on the Saudi aggressor's positions in Najran."



10

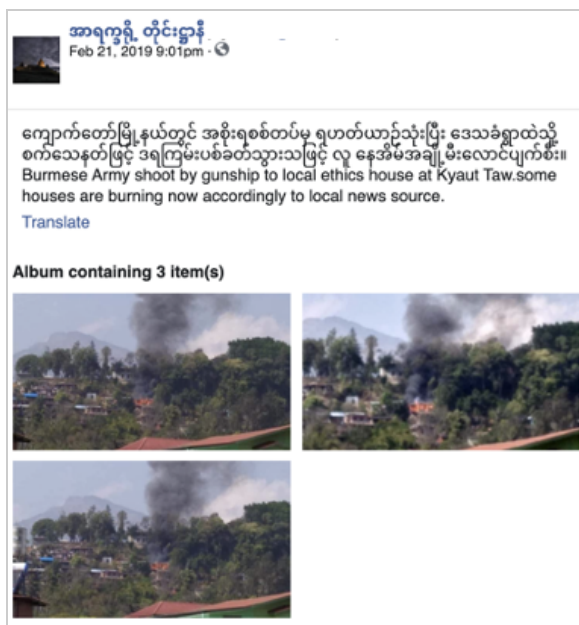
We also removed 10 Facebook accounts, 8 Pages, 2 Groups and 2 Instagram accounts for [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This network originated in Myanmar and focused on domestic audiences.

The people behind this activity used fake accounts to create fictitious personas, post content and manage Pages and Groups, some of which had already been detected and disabled by our automated systems for violating our spam, terrorism and hate speech policies. Some of these Pages impersonated others, including an official Tatmadaw Page. This network posted primarily in Burmese about current events in Rakhine state in Myanmar, including posts in support of the Arakan Army and criticism of Tatmadaw, Myanmar's Armed forces. This activity did not appear to be directly focused on the November elections in Myanmar.

We found this network as part of our proactive investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior ahead of the upcoming election in the region.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 10 Facebook accounts, 8 Pages, 2 Groups and 2 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* About 16,500 accounts followed one or more of these Pages, around 50 accounts joined one of more of these Groups and around 25 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.

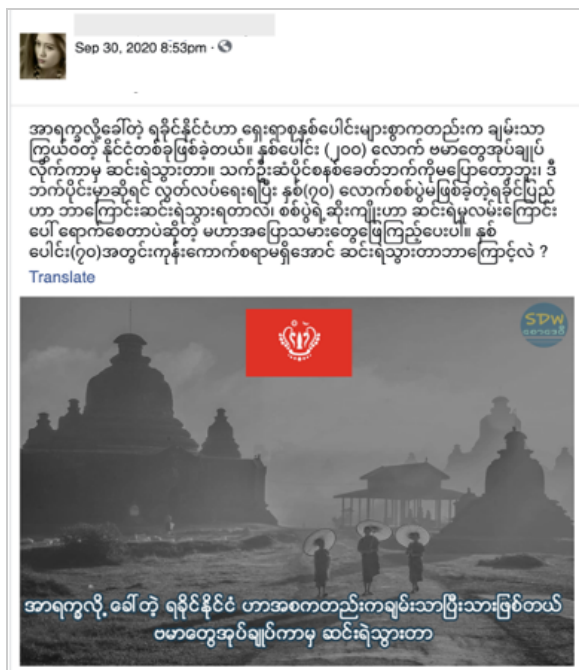
Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

Page Title: "Homeland of Arakans"

Caption: Houses in Kyaut Taw Township were destroyed and burnt as a result of the Myanmar military using gunship helicopters and violently shooting at the village



Translation:

“Rakhine Nation called Arakan was once a very wealthy country many years ago. It turned into a poor region after Myanmar ruled the region for about two hundred years. Not going to mention the Hereditary monarchy system. There was no war at Rakhine 70 years after getting independence. Why did Rakhine turn into a poor region? Those who claim that war could bring a consequence of poverty should answer the question. Why did Rakhine become extremely poor in these 70 years?”



May 24, 2020 12:34am

ရခိုင်သမိုင်း နှစ်ခါပြန်မရိုင်းနိုင်တော့ပါ ဗမာပြည်လွတ်လပ်ရေးရပြီး နှစ်ပေါင်း(၇၀) ကျော် ခါးစည်းခံခဲ့ရသည့် ရခိုင်ဒေသ၏အရင်းအမြစ်များဆုံးရှုံးမှုသည် ရခိုင်လူထုအား ဒုတိယအဆင့်ရဲဆုံးပြည်နယ်ဖန်တီးပေးလိုက်ခြင်းက ရခိုင်တော်လှန်ရေးကိုအစပျိုးစေခဲ့ပါသည်။ နာကျည်းခံစားမှုမှ ပြောင်းလဲလာသော ကျည်ဆံယမ်းငွေသည် ရခိုင်တို့၏အပြောင်မြောက်ဆုံးသော လက်စားချေလှဲခြင်းပင်ဖြစ်သည်။ ယနေ့ ရခိုင်တော်လှန်ရေးသည် ရခိုင်တို့ပန်းတိုင်မရသရွေ့ ပြီးဆုံးတော့မည်မဟုတ်ပါ။ တဖက်အစိုးရက ရခိုင်တပ်တော်အပေါ် ဘယ်လိုပင်ကြေငြာ၊ ထိုးစစ်ကြီးပင်ဆင်လာပါစေ ရခိုင်တို့၏နာကျည်းချက်ကို ကုစားမပေးနိုင်သည်က အမှန်ပင်။ ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးသည် စစ်ရှုံးသူတို့၏ကမ်းလှမ်းမှုစကားလုံးတခုသာ ဖြစ်သည်။ စစ်နိုင်သူတို့အတွက်တော့ ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးမှာ သူတို့လက်ထဲတွင်ပင်ရှိသည်။ မြန်မာစစ်တပ် မြန်မာအစိုးရ ကြေးကြော်ခဲ့သော အဖြစ်ဖြုတ်ရေးစီမံကိန်းသည် အာရက္ခနိုင်ငံတော်ပေါ်ပေါက်ရေးအတွက် လိုဆော်ပေးလိုက်ခြင်းတခုဟုပင် မှတ်ချက်ချရပေမည်။ မြန်မာစစ်တပ်အနိုင်ရချင်ရင် ရခိုင်အားလုံးသေမှ အနိုင်ရမှာဖြစ်သလို အသေမသတ်နိုင်ခဲ့ရင်တော့ ဗမာတပ်လည်း ထန်းတောထဲကွဲတပ်ခေါက်ပြန်ရမှာဖြစ်တယ်။ ယနေ့ရခိုင်လူထုဟာ မြန်မာစစ်တပ်နဲ့ အစိုးရကိုအရမ်းအရမ်း နာကျည်းသွားပါပြီ။ ရခိုင်လူထုအလွှာတန်းစုံကလည်း တော်လှန်ရေးမှ အခြားတပါးမရှိ ယုံကြည်လက်ခံလာနေကြသည့်အတွက် ရခိုင်သမိုင်းနှစ်ခါပြန်မရိုင်းတော့ကြောင်း အုပ်ချုပ်သူလူမျိုးကြီးဝါဒရှင်များ နားလည်သဘောပေါက်ဖို့လို့ပါလိမ့်မည်။ စောဒေဝီ အာရက္ခ၏သမီးပျို

Translate



Translation:

“Rakhine's history is not going to repeat twice. Rakhine revolution began because 70 years after Myanmar got independence Rakhine suffered a loss in resources causing Rakhine people to be living in the second poorest region. This suffering has turned into fumes which is to severely revenge. Today's Rakhine revolution is never going to end. No matter how the Myanmar government is describing Rakhine and how they will strike Rakhine, the suffering of Rakhine people will never be cured. Peace is just a word for those defeated ones to offer. For those with victory, peace is always in their hands. It can be noted that the Myanmar military and Myanmar government have felt very proud of their project in eliminating all resources of Rakhine and this stimulates Arakan to strike. Myanmar military will only win when all Rakhine people die and also, if all Rakhine are not able to be eliminated, Myanmar military will have to go back to their original route. Rakhine people today have hatred towards the Myanmar military and government. Since Rakhine from all walks of life accept that there is nothing better than revolution, Rakhine history is not going to repeat twice. All the governors and nationalists need to understand these. Daughter of Saw Devi Ar Rakha”

11

We removed 202 Facebook accounts, 54 Pages and 76 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This activity originated in the US and focused primarily on domestic US audiences and also on Kenya and Botswana.

The people behind this activity used fake accounts — a large portion of which had been automatically removed by our systems — to comment on other people’s content. Many of these accounts used stock profile photos and posed as right-leaning individuals from across the US. In 2018, some of these accounts posed as left-leaning individuals to comment on content as well. This activity was centered primarily around commenting on news articles posted by news organizations and public figures, rather than posting their own content. These comments included topics like trophy or sport hunting in the US and Kenya, the midterm elections in 2018, the 2020 presidential election, COVID-19, criticism of the Democratic party and presidential candidate Joe Biden and praise of President Trump and the Republican party. Most recently, the people behind this activity commented most frequently on Pages of the Washington Post, Fox News, MSNBC, CNN and The New York Times. This network showed some links to on-platform activity by Turning Point USA.

This network appears to have started its operations in 2018 and continued through 2020. Its election-focused behavior began in 2018 in the run-up to the midterms, it then went largely dormant until June 2020. The most recent activity included creating what we call “thinly veiled personas” whose names were slight variations of the names of the people behind them and whose sole activity on our platform was associated with this deceptive campaign. We assess this shift in tactics is likely due to the majority of this network’s fake accounts getting caught by our automated detection systems.

We began our investigation after public reporting about some elements of this activity by the Washington Post. Although the people behind this network attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation linked this activity to Rally Forge, a US marketing firm, working on behalf of Turning Point USA and Inclusive Conservation Group. Rally Forge is now banned from Facebook. We are continuing to investigate all linked networks, and will take action as appropriate if we determine they are engaged in deceptive behavior.

We found this network as part of our proactive investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior ahead of the upcoming election in the region.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 202 Facebook accounts, 54 Pages and 76 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* About 372,500 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and around 20,500 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Around \$1.15 million in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in US dollars. This includes the entirety of advertising activity by both inauthentic and authentic accounts removed as part of this network.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.

One Wisconsin Now 30 November 2018 ·

This Republican gang has shown time and again they have no shame when it comes to rigging the rules to give themselves an unfair partisan advantage.



ONEWISCONSINNOW.ORG | BY ONE WISCONSIN NOW

Republicans Launch Another Assault on Democracy

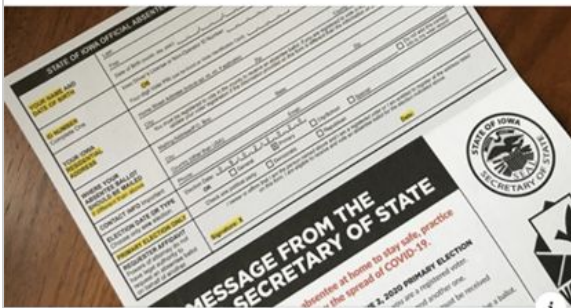
This Republican gang has shown time and again they have no shame...

So sick of democrats continuing to make republicans look bad! It makes me tired of politics and I just believe Republicans are much more humble when it comes to money because Democrats will do anything to screw over Americans (ex. Unions) by taking more money from the American people.

Like · Reply · 1y

The Des Moines Register 26 September at 10:45 ·

"If a county auditor takes advantage of this time on Saturday, Oct. 31, they would likely be able to begin tabulating earlier on Monday before the election," Secretary of State legal counsel Molly Widen said on Friday's conference call with legislators.



DESMOINESREGISTER.COM

Expecting a surge of mail-in votes, Iowa will give counties a head-start on opening absentee ballots

Visit the Voting Information Center for official election resources and local updates.
[Get Voting Information](#)

Mail-in ballots are such a horrible idea. A dangerous amount of ballots will be lost or won't arrive in time. The smartest thing to do is to vote in person.

Like · Reply · 1d

Let Africa Live 23 June ·

Legal and well-regulated hunting supports local and rural communities by placing a tangible value on wildlife! #LetAfricaLive



Legal and well-regulated hunting supports the eco-system

LET AFRICA LIVE


AFRIK 21

5 December 2019 ·

Les premiers permis de chasse commerciale aux éléphants devraient être délivrés au Botswana dès ce mois de décembre 2019. Ainsi en a décidé le président de la République. Cependant, des ONG s'indignent de cette mesure, qui selon elles, met en péril l'avenir des éléphants dans un pays où la sécheresse a déjà causé la mort de 100 pachydermes en l'espace de deux mois.

<https://www.afrik21.africa/botswana-le-gouvernement-delivr.../>

See Translation



AFRIK21.AFRICA

BOTSWANA : le gouvernement délivre des permis de chasse aux éléphants | Afrik 21

18

4 comments

Like

Comment

Share



Botswana is beginning to take steps toward legitimate conservation, you love to see it, Kenya take notice!

Like · Reply · 42w



That's awesome legal hunting fund so many conservation efforts. This will help protect all the other elephants for more decades.

Like · Reply · 42w



Way to go, I guess he really is insistent on making sure Botswana doesn't become a failed wildlife state like Kenya

Like · Reply · 42w



I have trust for Botswana and their conservation efforts. I'm sure that they will be fine. They sure have had better results than Kenya with their wildlife, which banned hunting years before.

Like · Reply · 42w

12

We removed 38 Facebook accounts, 15 Pages, and 6 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This domestic-focused activity originated in Myanmar.

We identified clusters of connected activity that relied on a combination of fake, duplicate and authentic accounts to post content, evade enforcement and removal, manage Pages and drive people to off-platform websites including military-controlled media domains. These accounts often used stock female profile photos and photos of celebrities and social media influencers. The individuals behind this network posted primarily in Burmese about local news and current events including topics like military activities, the Union Solidarity and Development Party, local COVID-19 response, criticism of the the National League for Democracy, a political party in Myanmar, and Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as a small number of anti-Rohingya posts.

We began our investigation after reviewing local public reporting about some elements of this activity as part of our proactive work ahead of the upcoming election in Myanmar. Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to members of the Myanmar military.

- *Presence on Facebook:* 38 Facebook accounts, 15 Pages and 6 accounts on Instagram.
- *Followers:* About 480,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and around 800 accounts followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Around \$1,750 in spending for ads on Facebook paid for in US dollars.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

Page Name: People's Voice

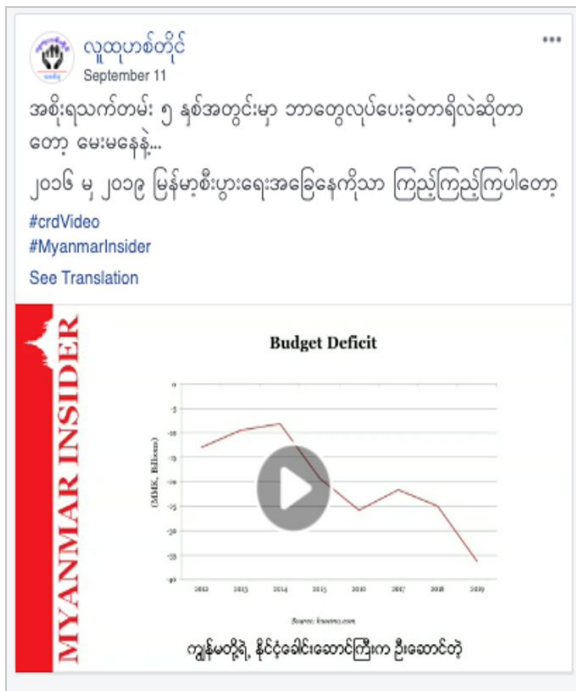
Caption: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is so smart....1) She grasped love from people by blaming illegal Bangali problem originated from Military government and U Thien Sein government and by participating in 2015 general elections without a single Muslim candidate. But after the election, she appointed Muslim lawyer U Ko Ni as chairman of Constitutional amendment Committee - an important position - under the pretext of constitution amendment. (Yes! Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is so smart....) 2) She grasped love from people by proclaiming to upgrade the outdated education system while blaming the failure of the system at the time of U Thien Sein government. But rumors came out that Daw Su has improved the education system by allowing matriculation passing rate to 50 percent with 'Moderation System'. (Yes! Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is so smart....)



Translation:

Page Title: "Our Army"

Caption: "Nothing special. Just because the country next door is boasting (about their military power)The parade is not about intimidating others. It is a partial demonstration to show how strong the country's defense capabilities are, how high the country's defense morale is and how the soldiers of the country are patriotic and possess a defense mindset. (Excerpt from an interview between the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services and Russia Today News Agency, 2020) #crd-Phoe Si"



Translation:

Page title: Public Outcry

Caption: Don't ask what the government has done in the last five years. Just look at the economic situation in Myanmar from 2016 to 2019



Translation:

Caption: Local farmers' heartfelt voices on the support of rice, oil, salt, beans and food supplies from military families for families affected by the drought

13

We removed 589 Facebook accounts, 7,665 Pages and 437 accounts on Instagram that were involved in [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This network originated in Azerbaijan and focused primarily on domestic audiences.

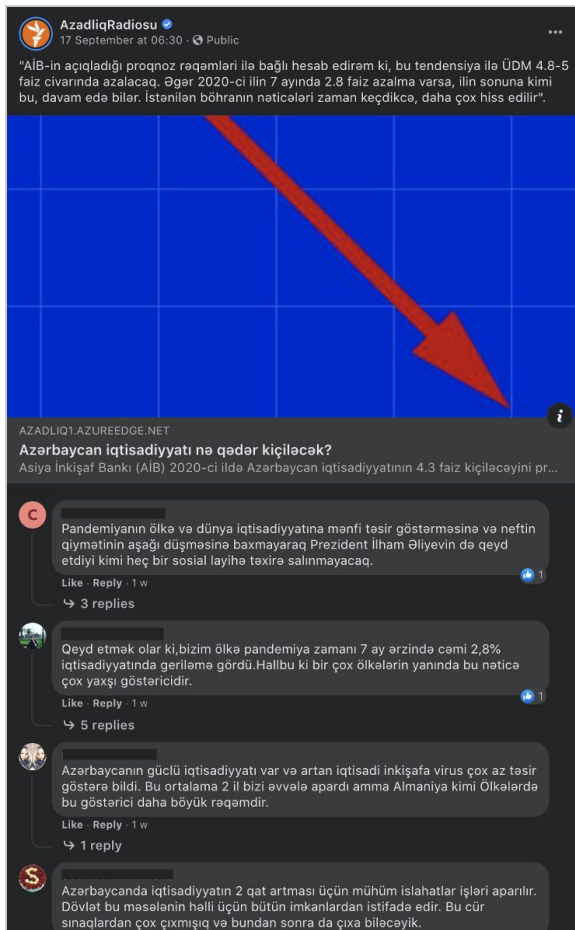
While the individuals behind this activity used fake accounts — some of which had been already detected and disabled by our automated systems, they primarily relied on authentic accounts to create Pages designed to look like user profiles — using false names and stock images — to comment and artificially boost the popularity of particular pro-government content. This network appeared to engage individuals in Azerbaijan to manage Pages with the sole purpose of leaving supportive and critical commentary on Pages of international and local media, public figures including opposition, and the ruling party of Azerbaijan, to create a perception of wide-spread criticism of some views and wide-spread support of others. From what we've seen, it appears that most of the engagement these comments received were from within this network of Pages themselves. Our analysis shows that these comments were posted in what appears to be regular shifts during working hours in Azerbaijan on weekdays.

This network posted primarily in Azerbaijani, and also in Russian and English. Their comments frequently touched on local and regional news and events, politics, government policies, tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Armenia's actions during past escalations in Nagorno-Karabakh, praise of president Ilham Aliyev and the New Azerbaijani Party, criticism of the opposition party and leaders accusing them of treason, and denials of human rights abuse allegations in Azerbaijan.

We identified this network through an internal investigation into suspected fake engagement activity in the region. Our investigation linked this activity to the Youth Union of New Azerbaijani Party.

- *Presence on Facebook:* 589 Facebook accounts, 7,665 Pages and 437 accounts on Instagram.
- *Followers:* About 33,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and around 241,000 accounts followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Around \$6,600 spent on Facebook ads paid for primarily in US dollars.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.



Translation:

Page name: Radio Liberty Azerbaijan about

Post: "Regarding the ADB's forecast figures, I believe that with this trend, GDP will decline by 4.8-5 percent. If there is a 2.8 percent decline in the first seven months of 2020, it may continue until the end of the year. The consequences of any crisis over time are going to be felt even more."

Comment 1: Despite the negative impact of the pandemic on the country and the world economy and falling oil prices, as noted by President Ilham Aliyev, no social project will be postponed.

Comment 2: It should be noted that during the pandemic, our country saw a decline in the economy of only 2.8% in 7 months. However, this result is very good for many countries.

Comment 3: Azerbaijan has a strong economy, and the virus has had little effect on growing economic development. This took us an average of 2 years ago, but in countries like Germany, this figure is much higher.

Comment 4: Important reforms are underway in Azerbaijan to double the economy. The state uses all opportunities to resolve this issue. We have passed many such tests and

we will continue to do so.

Translation:

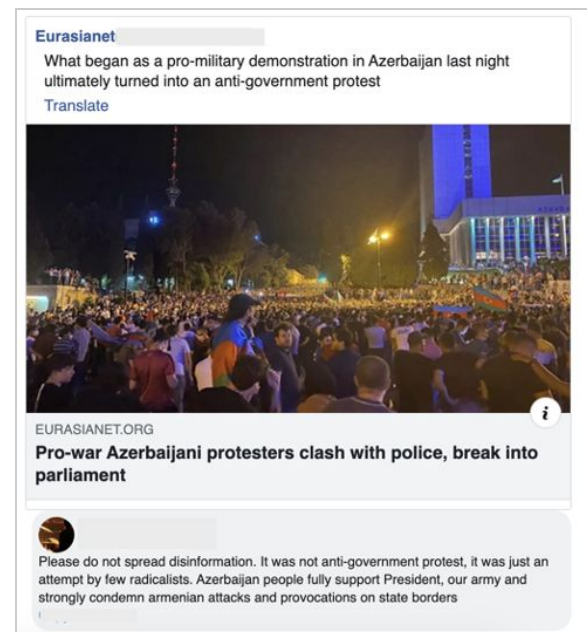
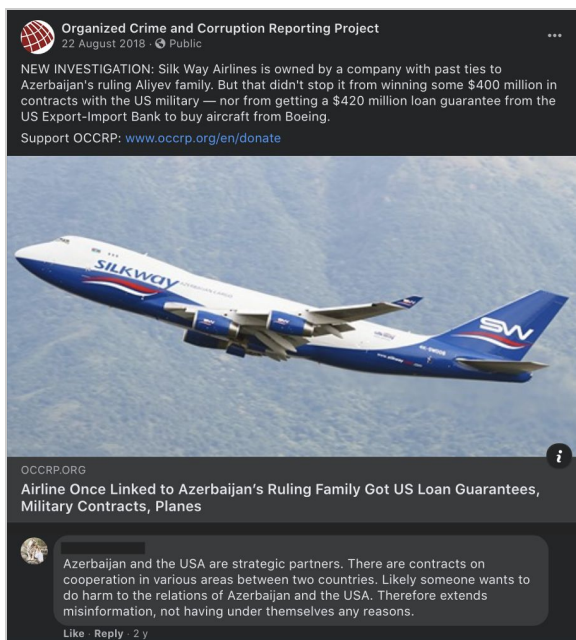
Automated Translation:

Page name: New Azerbaijani Party Youth Union

Post: PRESIDENT ORDERS ON "DIGLAS": ENTREPRENEURS WILL BE

COMPENSATED [Link to video]

Comment: Once again, the leader showed who the people should trust and who can provide the solution to their problems.



14

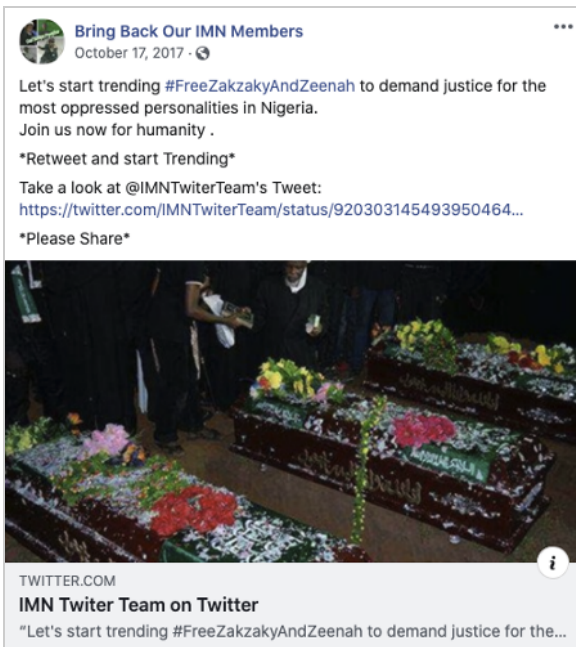
We removed 78 Facebook accounts, 45 Pages, 93 Groups and 46 Instagram accounts engaged in [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This activity originated primarily in Nigeria and focused on domestic audiences.

The people behind this activity used fake and duplicate accounts to manage Groups and Pages posing as independent news entities, and to drive people to their off-platform sites. Many of these accounts used stock images and photos of Ibrahim Zakzaky, the head of Nigeria's Islamic Movement (IMN), Ayatollah Khomeini and Qasem Soleimani. This network amplified particular hashtags including #FreeZakzaky after the arrest of IMN's founder. The Page admins and account owners posted primarily in Hausa, and also in English and Arabic about local news and events including IMN being a peaceful movement, protests across Nigeria, and criticism of the Nigerian armed forces, police, President Buhari and the ban of IMN.

We identified this activity through our investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region with some limited links to the [network we removed](#) in March 2019. Although the people behind this operation attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation linked this activity to the Islamic Movement in Nigeria.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 78 Facebook accounts, 45 Pages, 93 Groups and 46 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* Around 82,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages, about 130,000 accounts joined at least one of these Groups, and around 25,000 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Less than \$50 spent on Facebook and Instagram ads paid for primarily in US dollars.

Below is a sample of the content posted by some of these Pages.





SR TV HAUSA

5d · 🌐

...

Zakzaky is the plan of Islam and Nigeria, that the federal government
From Bilya Hamza Dass

The Federal government has blamed the leader of Islam, Sheik Ibrahim
El-Zakzaky and the plan to return Nigeria to a country of Islam....

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