



Translation

Caption: #Anti-Netanyahu and #Pro-Israel
 #protest #kiryatyovel #Jerusalem
 #Demonstration #against #Netanyahu and for
 #Israel #Black Flags #kiryatyovel #Jerusalem



Translation

Caption: #Go #Go_Bibi #Coronavirus #Protest
 #Demonstration



Translation

Caption: "Exclusive - Netanyahu is destroying Israeli society, enough is enough! Bibi resign, you are corrupt! The Black Flags protest, saving democracy"

03

We removed 118 Facebook accounts, eight Pages and ten Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [foreign interference](#) which is [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#) on behalf of a foreign entity. This network originated in Spain and El Salvador and targeted El Salvador.

We identified several clusters of activity that relied on fake accounts — some of which had already been automatically detected and disabled — to create fictitious personas, post, drive people to off-platform domains and manage Pages posing as independent news entities and civic groups. One cluster appeared to use fake and likely purchased accounts to post at high, spam-like rates to artificially boost this network’s distribution. Some of the accounts posed as investigative journalists and some used photos likely generated using machine learning techniques like generative adversarial networks (GAN).

The people behind this activity posted in Spanish about news and politics in El Salvador, particularly focusing on the mayoral election in Santa Tecla. Their content included criticism of mayoral candidate Henry Flores and supportive commentary about his opponents. Given the impending election, once we completed our investigation, we moved quickly to take down this network in early March. It was early in its audience building and had almost no following in El Salvador when we removed it.

We found this network after reviewing research about some of this activity by FireEye, a cyber security company. Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to Spain-based employees of the Italian PR firm Reputation Up and individuals with a background in digital marketing working on behalf of the ARENA party in El Salvador.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 118 Facebook accounts, 8 Pages and 10 accounts on Instagram.
- *Followers:* About 7,200 accounts followed one or more of these Pages, and about 40 people followed these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* About \$176,000 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for primarily in US dollars.

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



Translation

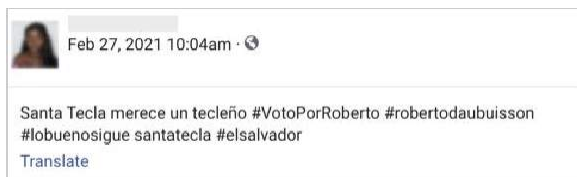
Image overlay: Santa Tecla Informacion

Hacked Group

New Ideas ' We are 10 below"

Exclusive

Santa Tecla Infomacion



Translation

Caption: Santa Tecla deserves a Teclano
#VoteForRoberto #robertodaubuisson
#TheGoodContinues santatecla #elsalvador



Translation

Caption: I do not understand how Henry Flores believed that he would win against such great candidate like d'Aubuisson #robertodaubuisson #robertowins #IWontStayAtHome #VoteForRoberto #ThatTheGoodAdvance

04

We removed 390 Facebook accounts, six Pages and 17 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [foreign interference](#) which is [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#) on behalf of a foreign entity. This network originated in Spain and Argentina and targeted Ecuador.

The people behind this network — which was active on multiple internet platforms — used recently-created fake accounts to pose as locals in Ecuador, post and comment on content and drive people to off-platform websites masquerading as news entities. This network appeared to have purchased inauthentic engagement from a ‘like farm’ in Bangladesh to make their content appear more popular than it was. They had nearly zero authentic following on our platform when we removed them last month and most of them were only active for several days in early February.

Some of their accounts used photos likely generated using machine learning techniques like generative adversarial networks (GAN). The people behind this activity posted in Spanish about news and political events in Ecuador, including the February 2021 presidential election and allegations of corruption against presidential candidate Arauz and his family. They also attempted to seed hashtags criticizing the Arauz candidacy.

We found this network after reviewing research about some of this activity on other platforms by FireEye, a cyber security company. Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to Leanga Software, a social media marketing company in Spain.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 390 Facebook accounts, 6 Pages and 17 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* About 70 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and around 1,100 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* About \$900 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for primarily in US dollars and Argentine peso.

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



Translation:

Caption: Sign up for [link] Be part of this story, this February 7, let's bring Ecuador forward. Let's take care of the votes of hope. Recovering the future is up to everyone.

Comment by this network's account: Part of a history that can change Ecuador, this is what I thought in 1998 when Chavez entered power, this is unforgettable, that's when the catastrophe began, we can not get carried away by repeated speeches, let's see history, analyze neighboring countries, the results that they have, how many Venezuelans are in Ecuador, let's ask what happened, do not make the mistake of falling into the socialist speech because it does not work, #arauzmiente #arauzcorrupt



Translation

Caption: The mother of candidate Andres Arauz signed contracts for \$900k

Link: The mother of candidate signed contracts for \$900k with UTM



Translation

Caption: Now is the time! This February 7, we will begin to recover the future of Ecuador. The people no longer want to waste more time, and they know we are the only option to recover employment, to make the vaccines reach everyone. All 1! The dignity of Ecuadorian families returns.

Comment by this network's account: No more lies, let's not forget what happened to the metro #arauzcorrupt

05

We removed 17 Facebook accounts, six Pages and three Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [foreign interference](#) which is [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#) on behalf of a foreign entity. This network originated in Egypt and targeted Ethiopia, Sudan and Turkey.

The people behind this network relied on a combination of authentic, duplicate and fake accounts, some of which used stock photos and went through significant name changes. These accounts were used to create and manage Pages posing as entities located in the countries they targeted. This network appeared to become particularly active in the summer of 2020. The people behind this activity posted in Amharic, Arabic and Turkish about news and political events in the countries they targeted, including positive commentary about the government of Egypt, Israel-Sudan relations and criticism of Turkish foreign policy and Ethiopia's mega dam project.

We found this network as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Although the people behind it attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to Bee Interactive, a marketing firm in Egypt.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 17 Facebook accounts, 6 Pages and 3 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* About 304,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and around 800 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* About \$525,000 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for primarily in Egyptian pounds and US dollars.

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



Translation:

Page name: The Pulse of Sudan

Caption: The sudden collapse of the "Bout Dam" destroys hundreds of homes in the Blue Nile state... What if the disastrous Renaissance Dam collapses?!



Translation:

Page name: Free Ethiopia

Caption: "Abdel Fattah El-Sisi: Egypt does not want to impede the development of the Ethiopian people. Egypt and Ethiopia are capable of negotiating, discussion and living in peace to resolve their differences."



Translation:

Page name: Sudan Today

Caption: Khartoum: Ethiopia's insistence on filling the Renaissance Dam is an ongoing violation of the law

06

We removed 37 Facebook accounts, 20 Pages and one Instagram account for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This domestic-focused network originated in Israel.

The people behind this activity used newly-created fake accounts — some of which had already been detected and disabled by our automated systems for spam — to post in Groups and Pages, amplify political content and manage Pages. The people behind this activity posted in Arabic about news and political events in Israel, including the March 2021 election, supportive commentary about the United Arab List party and criticism of its opponents, including the Joint List party. Once we completed our investigation, we took action against this network’s accounts ahead of the March election. The campaign was early in its operation and had almost zero following when we took it down.

We found this activity as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Our assessment benefited from information shared with us by local civil society in Israel. Although the people behind it attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to ElBaladd, a news website in Israel.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 37 Facebook accounts, 20 Pages, and 1 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* Less than 200 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and less than 70 people followed this Instagram account.
- *Advertising:* About \$150 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in Israeli shekel.

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



Translation:

Caption: The Mansour Abbas Excuse



Translation:

Caption: I am with United Arab List



Translation:

Video caption: ...at the time that our society suffers from problems and crises that threaten our lives and our survival in this country...

07

We removed 21 Facebook accounts, 16 Pages and 9 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This network originated in Benin and targeted domestic audiences in that country.

The people behind this activity used fake accounts — some of which had already been detected and disabled by our automated systems — to comment, post in Groups and manage Pages. Some of these Pages posed as representing non-existent newspapers in Benin, posting fictitious screenshots of front page coverage. This network posted primarily in French about news and politics in Benin, including the April 2021 Presidential election, criticism of President Talon and other government officials and supportive commentary about Union Sociale Liberale (USL) party and its exiled leader Sebastien Ajavon. This network was early in its audience building when we removed it.

We found this network as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 21 Facebook accounts, 16 Pages and 9 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* About 27,500 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and about 2,600 accounts followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* About \$120 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 accounts and Pages.



Translation

Title: The Awakening

Headline: 25 legal cases against patrice talon filed since 2016



Translation

Caption: When Sébastien Ajavon makes Talon and his government bite the dust

The decision of the ACHPR asking the Beninese authorities to take the necessary measures...


November 23, 2020 · 🌐



ORGES DE LIONEL TALON

Un bling-bling dégoûtant sur le dos du peuple

Les images tournant en boucle sur nos réseaux sociaux depuis l'après-midi du dimanche 22 novembre et suscitant une grande indignation auprès du peuple beninois au sein d'un peuple qui s'ennuie de voir le chef de l'Etat, Lionel Talon, fils du président de la République, entouré de ses amis et de proches dans des lieux publics à la fin de la journée, s'offre une fête sur son profil Facebook. Chapeaux, robes en petites tailles, accessoires de parure, bijoux, le tout est bordé par une multitude de commentaires. Lionel Talon n'est pas le premier à se faire remarquer dans ces lieux publics, mais son comportement est considéré comme une insulte à la dignité du peuple. L'image qui nous est présentée dans l'article est la preuve de ce comportement. L'Union pour le Bénin a été fondée par son père au sein de laquelle des milliers de Béninois ont été recrutés et les images de sa démission ont été diffusées.

GRATIS

Un renvoi collectif envisagé depuis la présidence

TOURNEE DE CHEF D'ETAT

Talon débite des contrevérités en toute insolence

RUINE DU SYSTEME EDUCATIF

Mahougnon Kakpo doit déposer sa démission

Benievax
November 23, 2020
Like Page

Orges de Lionel Talon

Un bling-bling dégoûtant sur le dos du peuple

Journal Aujourd'hui au Bénin

See More

See Translation

Translation

Title: Today in Benin

Headlines: A disgusting bling on the backs of the people

A collective expulsion envisaged from the Presidency

Talon insolently spews untruths

Mahougnon Kapo must submit his resignation

08

We removed 33 Facebook accounts, 12 Pages and 5 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This network originated in Comoros and targeted domestic audiences in that country.

The people behind this activity used fake accounts — some of which had already been detected and disabled by our automated systems — to post and re-share links to off-platform news aggregating websites making this content appear more popular than it was, and manage Pages. Some of these Pages went through significant name changes over time. This network posted primarily in French and also in Arabic about news and current events in Comoros, particularly focusing on criticism of the opposition including allegations of corruption. This network was early in its audience building when we removed it.

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 and coordination, our investigation found links to Centre Mediatique Moderne des Comores (CMMC), a communications company in Comoros.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 33 Facebook accounts, 12 Pages and 5 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* About 28,500 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and about 1,000 accounts followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Less than \$4,000 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in US dollars and euros.

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



Translation

Caption: Confrontation between Madame Sabkia Ahmed Mze and Abdallah Agwa!



Translation

Caption: 'The Comoros have made their choice': Jean Yves Le Drian's response to deputy Jean Paul Le Roq.

Back to the sender. The vow expressed by deputy Jean Paul Le Roq is put in a garbage bag. The answer is scathing and needs to raise awareness of all these activists who flood Facebook and act against their own country through interposed networks. French Foreign Minister Jean Yves Le Drian responded to Communist deputy Jean Paul Le Coq explaining that France is not willing to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.



Translation

Image overlay: Another opposition failure.

09

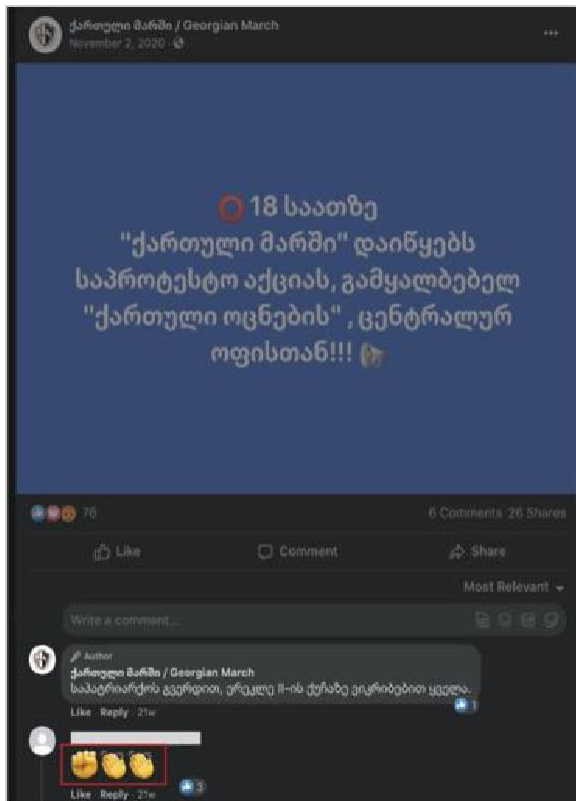
We removed 23 Facebook accounts, 24 Pages, 12 Groups and 11 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This network originated in the country of Georgia and targeted domestic audiences in that country.

The people behind this activity used fake and duplicate accounts to post, comment and manage Pages and Groups. This network had multiple strikes for violating our Community Standards related to hate speech. They focused primarily on amplifying the content of Georgian March, a political party on the right in Georgia. This network posted in Georgian about news and current events including elections, claims of voter fraud, the covid-19 pandemic and criticism of US President Biden. This network was early in its operation when we removed it.

We found this network after reviewing public reporting on this activity by researchers at the Digital Forensic Research Lab at the Atlantic Council. Although the people behind this activity attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to individuals associated with Georgian March, a political party in Georgia and its youth wing.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 23 Facebook accounts, 24 Pages, 12 Groups and 11 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* About 119,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages, around 10,500 people joined one or more of these Groups and about 1,600 accounts followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Around \$1,000 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in US dollars.
- *Events:* 10 events were hosted by these Pages. Up to 5,150 people expressed interest in at least one of these events. We cannot confirm whether any of these events actually occurred.

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



Translation

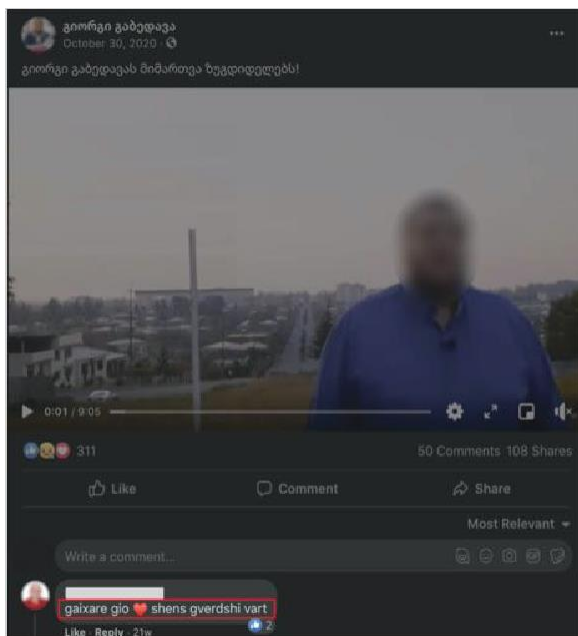
Caption: 🕒 At 18 o'clock Georgian March will start protest against falsifier Georgian Dream, at their central Office!!! 📢

Comment by this network's account: 🙌🙌🙌



Translation

Caption: Scandalous announcement from Georgian March ➡ Sandro Bregadze claims that Georgian Dream offered him a deal



Translation

Caption: Giorgi Gabedava addressing Zugdidi residents

Comment by this network's account: cheers gio
<3 we are with you

10

We removed 71 Facebook accounts, 18 Pages and seven Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This network originated in Mexico and focused on the state of Quintana Roo in Mexico.

The people behind this activity used fake accounts to post, comment and manage Pages. They also commented on content posted by official Pages of various candidates in the legislative election. The people behind this campaign posted in Spanish about news and current events in Quintana Roo, including the MORENA party, senator Marybel Villegas Canche, and criticism of her opponent Mara Lezama. They also posted about public consultation related to the water supply situation in various municipalities, including corruption allegations related to one of the water services providers. This network was early in its audience building when we removed it.

We found this activity as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Although the people behind it attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to individuals in the state of Quintana Roo in Mexico

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 71 Facebook accounts, 18 Pages and 7 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* Around 10,500 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and around 300 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Around \$4,100 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in Mexican peso.

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



Translation

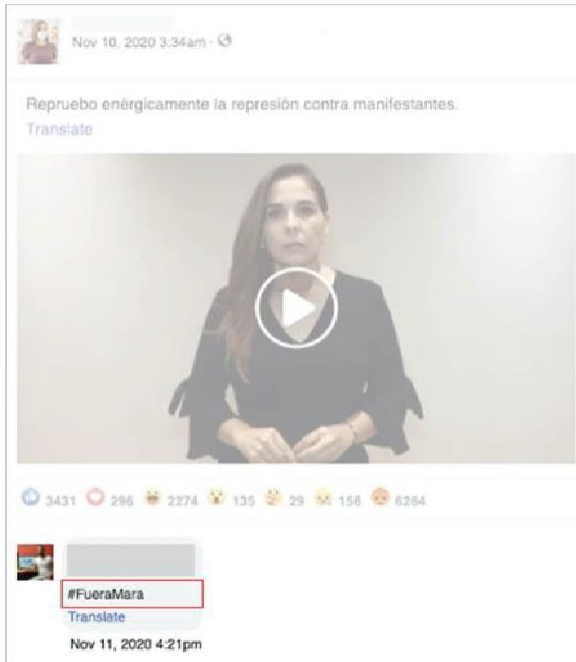
Caption: #Don'tLowerYourGuard

Link: Marybel Villegas calls for people to keep taking care due to the increase in infections in Quintana Roo



Translation

Caption: Citizens committed to #QuintanaRoo exercising Rights for a Constitutional Citizen Consultation for Revocation of Aguakan Enterprise Contract with #QRoo for #Corruption #FakeServices #Overpricing #Ecocide #EnvironmentalDamage



Translation

Caption: I energetically condemn the repression against protesters.

Comment by this network's account:
#MaraOut

11

We removed 56 Facebook accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This network originated in Mexico and focused on the state of Colima in Mexico.

The people behind this activity used fake accounts — some of which had already been detected and disabled by our automated systems — to like, post and amplify content from an official Page of the member of Congress from the Colima state in Mexico. The people behind this campaign posted in Spanish about news and current events in Colima, including the election campaign of the former congresswoman Claudia Yanez Centeno. This network was early in its operation when we removed it.

We found this activity as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Although the people behind it attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to individuals in Colima, Mexico.

- *Presence on Facebook:* 56 Facebook accounts.

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



Translation

Caption: “Claudia Yanez will start her campaign Monday the 8th in the city of Colima’s Hidalgo park. “



Translation

Caption: #Elections In an exclusive interview with the journalist Arturo Avalos, General Director of Politics and Something Else, the legislator denounced a 'cargada' by the CEN Morena and some officials of the Mexican government in order to help her opponent Indira Vizcano

Comment by this network's account: To vote for indicorrupta is to return to the past...where the PRI will govern us again and we don't want that ...we want a change and this will only become reality if Claudia Yanez becomes governor.



Translation

Caption: Congratulations Deputy Claudia

12

We removed 54 Facebook accounts and 73 Pages for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This network originated in Mexico and focused on the state of Baja California in Mexico.

The people behind this activity used fake accounts — many of which had already been detected and disabled by our automated systems — to like, comment and re-share content about the MORENA party and its candidates in Baja California. They also created Pages designed to look like user profiles — using false names and stock images — to comment and amplify particular content. The people behind this campaign posted in Spanish about the upcoming gubernatorial election in Baja California and supportive commentary about the candidacy of former Tijuana mayor Arturo Gonzalez Cruz, including on his official Page. This network was early in its audience building and had nearly zero following when we removed it.

We found this activity as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Although the people behind it attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to individuals in Mexico.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 54 Facebook accounts and 73 Pages.
- *Followers:* Around 10 accounts followed one or more of these Pages.

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



Translation

Caption: #Live | PART 1 The municipal president, Arturo Gonzalez is in Sanchez Taboada to monitor the installation of a drinking water network in De Las Palmas street in the colony Villa de las Palmas.



Translation

Caption: #Live Starts the Sanitizing Day on Cruise 5 and 10, Boulevard Diaz Ordaz, Colonia Gas in La Mesa, which is carried out with the support of citizens.



Translation

Caption: #Live We are in La Mesa, to bring the services offered by the municipal government to the most vulnerable part of the population, so this morning 50 elderly residents of the Quinta Alta colony, will receive blankets, pantries, hygiene materials and meals, which will help them to keep warm and enjoy the festivities. #TodayEveryoneForTijuana #ThisChristmasGivesHealth

13

We removed 39 Facebook accounts, 15 Pages and eight Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This domestic-focused network originated in Mexico.

The people behind this activity used fake accounts — some of which had already been detected and disabled by our automated systems — to react to, comment and re-share content to make it appear more popular than it was. They also created Pages posing as news entities and local community Pages. This network posted memes and other content in Spanish about entertainment; upcoming elections; sports; government economic policies; Salinas Group, a conglomerate in Mexico; gaming; public figures; progress in covid vaccination; the lessening of pandemic-related restrictions, and commentary both supporting and criticizing the president of Mexico. This network was early in its audience building when we removed it.

We found this activity as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Although the people behind it attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to Flow Agency, a PR firm in Mexico.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 39 Facebook accounts, 15 Pages and 8 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* Around 12,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and around 100 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Around \$14,000 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for in Mexican peso.

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



Translation

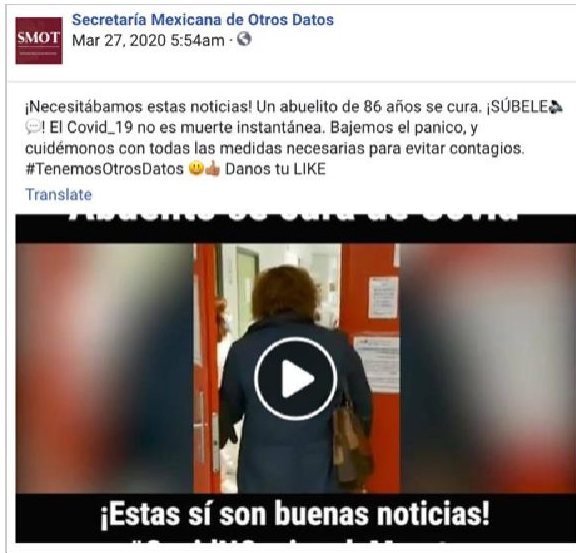
Caption: #BeStrongPresident We know you can handle this and more...



Translation

Caption: Share it, share, share!

Image overlay: Mr Failure, share it if you agree



Translation

Caption: We needed this news! An 86-year-old grandfather gets cured! Upload it! Covid-19 is not instant death. Let's lower the panic and take care of ourselves with all the necessary measures to avoid contagion.
#wehaveanotherdata. Give us your like.

Image overlay: These are good news!

14

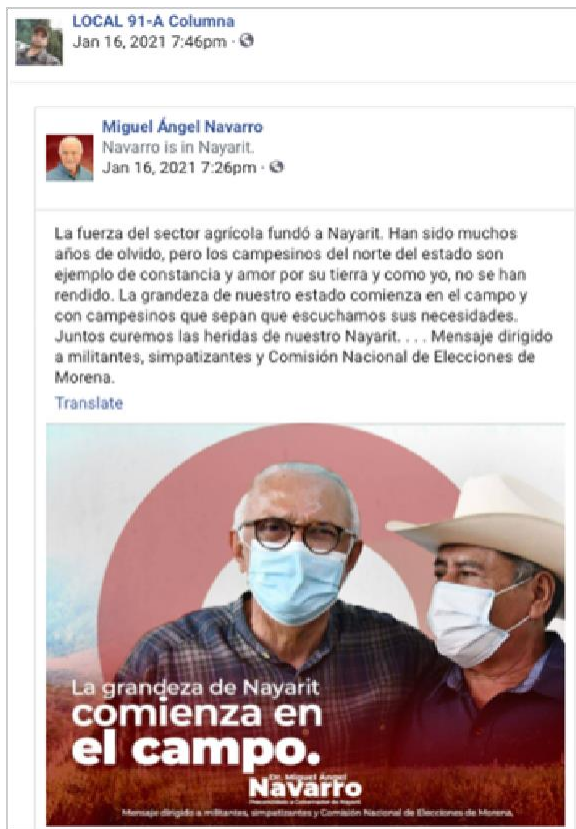
We removed 151 Facebook accounts, 14 Pages, and 63 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against [coordinated inauthentic behavior](#). This network originated in Mexico and focused on the state of Nayarit in Mexico.

The people behind this activity used compromised and fake accounts — some of which had already been detected and disabled by our automated systems — to react to, comment and re-share content related to several public officials in the state of Nayarit, including posts by the official Page of Eduardo Lugo, a public official in Nayarit. Some of the Pages managed by this network posed as local news pages. This network posted in Spanish about news and current events in Mexico, including the upcoming mayoral and gubernatorial elections in Mexico, a politician Eduardo Lugo and Miguel Angel Navarro Quintero, a senator for Nayarit. This network was early in its operation when we removed it.

We found this activity as part of our internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region. Although the people behind it attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to individuals in the state of Nayarit in Mexico.

- *Presence on Facebook and Instagram:* 151 Facebook accounts, 14 Pages, and 63 Instagram accounts.
- *Followers:* Around 112,000 accounts followed one or more of these Pages and around 10,000 people followed one or more of these Instagram accounts.
- *Advertising:* Around \$300 in spending for ads on Facebook and Instagram paid for primarily in Mexican peso.

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



Translation

Caption: The strength of the agricultural sector founded Nayarit. It's been many years of oblivion, but the upstate farmworkers are an example of constancy and love for their land and like me, they haven't given up. The greatness of our state begins on the field and with farmworkers who know that we listen to their needs. Together we heal the wounds of our Nayarit. . . Message addressed to militants, supporters, and the National Committee of MORENA.



Translation

Caption: Deputy Eduardo Lugo, registered to compete for the mayor of Santiago Ixcuintla. Eduardo Lugo registered as PreCandidate of MORENA, to contend for the Mayor of Santiago Ixcuintla, in which after a series of surveys conducted by various polling institutes, he has shown that he will be the next Municipal President - since the results of these surveys position him as a winner. #AmanecerInformado



Translation

Caption: More vaccines have arrived in our state, this second batch has 975 new doses of the Covid-19 vaccine for medical staff dealing with this virus. I want to congratulate our President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and Governor Antonio Echevarria Garcia on the arrival of this valuable shipment, we continue to work in all levels of government to deal with this evil. #AndresManuelLopezObrador #AntonioEcheverriaGarcia #DiputadoEduardoLugo #Nayarit #Health #Covid

