

From:	Mariam Memarsadeghi (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6) (b)(6) Akbar Atri (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Re: Flagging possible violation of Twitter policies - personal/harassing information, human rights defender in Iran
Date:	Tue, 10 Apr 2018 15:59:11 -0400

Thanks, (b)(6) We'll see, but yes, that's my impression on verification. Don't want to count my chickens quite yet...

Fingers crossed that they will start acting more concertedly on the troll accounts, too, not to mention the regime outlets using Twitter for disinformation and propaganda, including against peaceful protestors.

With Facebook, we did not see action until we combined public shaming with private communication with their highest levels. So we need to see how far just this communication with Twitter will go. Better to be connected with them at this level, regardless.

Thanks again.

On Tue, Apr 10, 2018 at 3:40 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

That is good progress, Mariam. Glad to hear it.

It sounds like the verification of Tavaana accounts is approved, but waiting to be implemented? If so, that is good news.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Mariam Memarsadeghi (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:43 PM
To: Mahmood Enayat (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Holly Kilroy (b)(6) Akbar Atri
(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Flagging possible violation of Twitter policies - personal/harassing information, human rights defender in Iran

Mahmood and (b)(6)

We are now in close communication with the head of Twitter's office in Washington, Colin Crowell.

Verification of any and all accounts is on hold at Twitter but will open back up soon, he said.

In the meanwhile, he is escalating all the troll accounts so that Twitter can give those accounts and the issue more broadly some real focus. If you are aware of additional accounts you would like us to pursue, please let me know.

Mariam

On Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 1:01 PM, Mahmood Enayat (b)(6) wrote:

Mariam Jan,

Twitter has just suspended the reported account!

I will call you to get more information on the history of your exchanges with Twitter on getting Tavaana accounts verified. I will do my best but unfortunately I cannot guarantee anything.

Cheers.

Mahmood

On 4 Apr 2018, at 12:26, Mariam Memarsadeghi (b)(6) wrote:

Mahmood,

As (b)(6) recommended, it will be important for CiviCDR to work with Twitter to verify our pages. This is the least that can be done for us as a USG grantee.

You had mentioned (b)(6) would loop me in and that he is part of CiviCDR, but I have not heard at all from him.

Meanwhile, Twitter is reporting back to me that the accounts I have reported have violated Twitter rules, but it seems they all have only received warnings.

Thank you,

Mariam

On Tue, Apr 3, 2018 at 11:39 AM, Mariam Memarsadeghi (b)(6) wrote:

Thanks, Mahmood. Did you ask for Tavaana and TavaanaTech to be verified?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 3, 2018, at 11:15 AM, Mahmood Enayat (b)(6) wrote:

Hi,

We had a number of exchanges with Twitter over the Easter weekend. We also raised the case of Masih Alinejad. Basically Twitter is ignoring our requests to take any future action, claiming all the published information is publicly accessible and not in violation of Twitter's T&C. This is an unacceptable response as it ignores the context and tone of such tweets and also ignores other hateful tweets like "dirty Bahai's". I have also talked to (b)(6) He is going to report this Twitter account on his aide. I just simply don't understand the Twitter's position here.

Cheers,

Mahmood

On Tue, Apr 3, 2018, 10:45 AM Mariam Memarsadeghi (b)(6) wrote:

Mahmood,

I have not received any communication from (b)(6) Do you have any updates?

As you can see, the campaign to post Google pin drop of activists' home addresses is continuing. Masih Alinejad and others are included now.

Thanks,

Mariam

On Fri, Mar 30, 2018 at 12:15 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Mariam,

Concurrent with Mahmood's efforts, I escalated this for our leadership as well. I will keep you posted on who from the USG will weigh in on this issue

Separately, I recommend that Mahmood also work to verify the Tavaana and TavaanaTech accounts with Twitter. That is on step that will help broadly and that we strongly support. Let me know what you might need from State on that.

Best,

(b)(6)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Mariam Memarsadeghi

Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 11:16 AM

To: Mahmood Enayat

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) Akbar Atri; (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Flagging possible violation of Twitter policies - personal/harassing information, human rights defender in Iran

(b)(6)

What can State do to get Twitter's attention? Surely NSC and others must have a direct channel of communication.

This has gone nowhere so far.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 30, 2018, at 11:06 AM, Mahmood Enayat (b)(6) wrote:

Mariam Jan,

We just got back to Twitter and pushed back on their response.

I am going to talk to (b)(6) later today to get more information on the reporting channel referenced in Twitter's response. (b)(4) is a member of CiviCDR. Any follow up with them regarding your case will directly include yourself.

The main problem is that Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are ignorant on how their platforms being used by the regime supporters to spread hate and target Iranian activists. That requires serious attention by us and the USG.

Cheers,

Mahmood

On Fri, Mar 30, 2018 at 10:34 AM, Mariam Memarsadeghi (b)(6) wrote:

Mahmood,

I have attached new/additional screen shots calling me a dirty Baha'i, a prostitute, etc. If you are going to ask Amir Rashid to follow up on my case, I'd like to be kept fully in the loop please and

to know what information about me is being reported to Twitter, when, their response, etc. Twitter's handling of this is not acceptable, and we need to develop a strong rebuttal.

Please let me know your action plan on this.

Thanks again for your help,

Mariam

On Fri, Mar 30, 2018 at 10:25 AM, Mahmood Enayat (b)(6) wrote:

Mariam Jan,

I received the following update a few minutes ago after a couple of followups:

Many thanks for flagging those two accounts - they were sent forward for review. Please note that the information in the Tweets from @Snbig_ is publicly available. As it's publicly available, Tweeting it does not violate our private information policy. You can read about that policy here. There is no private information in the Tweets posted by @Ruhollah_ - however, if the people depicted in photos are protected by Right to Privacy laws, they can report the sharing of those photos here.

For your awareness, we recently spoke with representatives from the Center for Human Rights in Iran and established reporting channels with them. We hope this relationship will be mutually beneficial, as the Center augments its monitoring function through these reports, while we receive insight that increases our awareness of behaviour on the platform which, in turn, enables us to develop nuanced policy positions that reflect how Twitter is being used.

This response was given after I reported the followings:

The following Tweets claims that Mariam Memarsadeghi is a Bahai and calling Bahai religion "a dirty religion" (Hateful conduct)

<https://twitter.com/mimaleahmad/status/978352508254015489>

<https://twitter.com/mimaleahmad/status/978354300853346304>

The following tweet threaten to expose Ms Memarsadeghi's private information

<https://twitter.com/mimaleahmad/status/978197521674719233>

The following tweet threaten to expose Ms Memarsadeghi's private information (personal address, telephone number and email). Please note that given the widely documented targeting of Iranian dissidents by the Iranian regime, such exposure of private information might have serious consequences.

<https://twitter.com/mimaleahmad/status/978342526758375424>

The following tweet displays Ms Memarsadeghi's name and photo in a hateful manner.

<https://twitter.com/mimaleahmad/status/978348561199960064>

Twitter's response only covers the tweets concerning private information. It ignore the ones related to hateful conduct. We will highlight this again to Twitter. I will also get in touch with (b)(6) about the mentioned reporting channel.

I will keep you posted.

Cheers,

Mahmood

On Fri, Mar 30, 2018 at 10:03 AM, Mariam Memarsadeghi <(b)(6)> wrote:

Mahmood jaan,

Could you please provide an update? How has Twitter responded?

Thanks,

Mariam

On Wed, Mar 28, 2018 at 12:22 PM, Mahmood Enayat <(b)(6)> wrote:

Mariam Jan,

We have just filed a report to our contacts at Twitter, requesting the permanent suspension of @mimaleahmad on the basis of abusive tweets targeted at yourself and a couple of other activists. I will keep you posted.

Cheers,

Mahmood

On Wed, Mar 28, 2018 at 10:53 AM, Mariam Memarsadeghi <(b)(6)> wrote:

Mahmood, He also changed his Twitter name since yesterday to "Sniper" and boasts about getting the warning(s) from Twitter.

On Wed, Mar 28, 2018 at 9:45 AM, Mariam Memarsadeghi (b)(6) wrote:

Thanks, Mahmood. That's really all the info we have. We just need urgent action from Twitter on these accounts. I saw your email and will call you now. Thanks, Mariam

On Wed, Mar 28, 2018 at 9:43 AM, Mahmood Enayat (b)(6) wrote:

Dear (b)(6)

Sure. I will follow up with Mariam and Akbar directly.

Cheers,

Mahmood

On 28 Mar 2018, at 09:34, (b)(6) wrote:

Mahmood,

Could you please assist ECCE and reach out to Twitter on this issue? Mariam and Akbar have already submitted an appeal to Twitter regarding publication of certain personal possible life-threatening information, as well as other abusive content. However, Twitter has only disabled some of the accounts, and replied that the others have been left active despite appearing (to us) to violate Twitter use policies on sharing personal information and threatening violence. Attached are the screen shots of the information and Twitter's responses.

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 5:20 PM

Subject: Flagging possible violation of Twitter policies - personal/harassing information, human rights defender in Iran

Hello,

My previous contact at Twitter has departed and I was wondering if you could assist in directing me to the right person? A partner of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor in Iran has submitted an appeal to Twitter regarding publication of certain personal possible life-threatening information, as well as other abusive content. Attached are the screen shots of the information and Twitter's response. My colleague proficient in Farsi (copied) noted the following. If you could let us know who we should reach out to on this we would appreciate it.

12.11.36 PM – This is a personal threat of violence in Farsi.

12.12.04 PM – Personal address (b)(6) on Google Maps, captioned "this is the house of both of them" [i.e. Akbar Atri and Mariam Memarsadeghi, (b)(6)]

12.12.26 PM – Same as above

12.10.54 PM – This lists Ms. Memarsadeghi's date of birth in Persian numbers, her personal Gmail, her phone number that is registered with Telegram app, and mentions (b)(6)

12.13.15 PM – Mr. Atri's personal email.

12.13.29 PM – This accuses Ms. Memarsadeghi of deeds "worse than...the crime of religious proselytizing" (punishable by death in Iran) and asks why no action is taken against her.

<Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 2.06.02 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 2.05.48 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 2.05.36 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 2.05.20 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 2.04.55 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 12.14.29 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 12.13.15 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 12.12.26 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 12.12.04 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 12.11.36 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 12.10.54 PM.png><Screen Shot 2018-03-27 at 12.10.28 PM.png>

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Mariam Memarsadeghi

2017 Presidential Leadership Scholar

Co-Founder/Co-Director, E-Collaborative for Civic Education

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Also check out our Tolerance Project (English / Arabic / Persian)

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Sender:	Mariam Memarsadeghi (b)(6)
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	Mahmood Enayat <(b)(6)>
Recipient:	(b)(6) (b)(6)
	Akbar Atri <(b)(6)>