

Forum: Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)

Issue: Monitoring the role of Social Media in conflicts and armed actions

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INTRODUCTION

The emergence of social media has had a revolutionary impact on our society; ranging from allowing people to work digitally, to transforming means of communication and accessing information globally. Media has now become a very helpful tool in the modern world, with at least 3.5 billion people online in 2019¹, this is especially highlighted through its role in conflicts and armed actions as it is the most efficient way for people to stay informed and aware of issues all around the world. It has a multifaceted position in conflict, providing a crucial communication channel that can disseminate information rapidly to ensure that people all around the world are informed and educated about the different situations and it gives society a platform to be able to donate and provide aid to the people suffering.

Since society has become so dependent on the internet and social media, as seen by a study at Penn State university that states that 77% of people are dependent on social media², it holds a strong position in shaping public opinion and makes “many vulnerable to accepting and acting on misinformation”³. According to a Pew Research study, “half of US adults get news at least sometimes from social media”, proving how it is a source that many people rely on for their information. Because of this, social media is expected to be a reliable and factually accurate source – a standard which is not guaranteed – which often leads to it being misused by different parties in conflict, exploiting it for their own propaganda.

However, since social media is a tool that allows live information to be broadcasted globally, it gives it the ability to be the world’s insight on the crises, showing the true conflict realities through pictures and interviews that are sent straight from the armed actions. This ability to disseminate information in this fashion is crucial for international security. It allows people to ensure that they are always informed on a certain situation meaning that the observing countries can take the necessary measures to prevent the spread of the conflict but can also provide support to the struggling countries. This helps allow people to return to a safe and secure world

¹ “Number of Internet Users.” *Our World in Data*, www.ourworldindata.org/grapher/number-of-internet-users?tab=chart&time=1990..2016&country=OWID_WRL.

² University of the People. “Is Society Too Dependent on Technology?” *University of the People*, University of the People, 26 May 2020, www.uopeople.edu/blog/society-too-dependent-on-technology/.

³ Anderson, Janna, and Lee Rainie. “The Future of Truth and Misinformation Online.” *Pew Research Center*, 19 Oct. 2017, www.pewresearch.org/internet/2017/10/19/the-future-of-truth-and-misinformation-online/.

and therefore facilitate peacekeeping operations and, finally, disarmament of both the conflict and the world.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Social Media

“Social media refers to a variety of technologies that facilitate the sharing of ideas and information among their users.”⁴

Cyber Warfare

“Cyberwarfare is typically defined as a set of actions by a nation or organization to attack countries or institutions' computer network systems with the intention of disrupting, damaging, or destroying infrastructure by computer viruses or denial-of-service attacks.”⁵

Propaganda

“Information, ideas, opinions, or images, often only giving one part of an argument, that are broadcast, published or in some other way spread with the intention of influencing other people’s opinions.”⁶

Misinformation

Misinformation is the spread of wrong information, when the facts that are disseminated are unknowingly false and inaccurate.⁷

⁴ Dollarhide, Maya. “Social Media: Definition, Effects, and List of Top Apps.” *Investopedia*, 23 Feb. 2024, www.investopedia.com/terms/s/social-media.asp.

⁵ “What Is Cyberwarfare?” *Fortinet*, www.fortinet.com/de/resources/cyberglossary/cyber-warfare.

⁶ Cambridge Dictionary. “PROPAGANDA | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.”

Cambridge.org, 2019, www.dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/propaganda.

⁷ American Psychological Association. “Misinformation and Disinformation.” *American Psychological Association*, July 2022, www.apa.org/topics/journalism-facts/misinformation-disinformation.

Disinformation

Disinformation is when incorrect information is deliberately spread to create a false impression of a specific subject – when information is intentionally miss spread.⁸

Digital Activism

“Digital Activism is when digital tools such as the internet, social media, email and mobile phones are used for mobilisation, political action and to incite change. It has existed in some form or another since the 1990s and has continued to grow with the advent of Web2.0 and the social media boom. Today it is likely one of the first methods of activism that comes to mind because of how quick and easy it is to reach people on a global scale.”⁹

Information Warfare

“Information warfare is an operation conducted in order to gain an information advantage over the opponent. It consists in controlling one’s own information space, protecting access to one’s own information, while acquiring and using the opponent’s information, destroying their information systems and disrupting the information flow.”¹⁰

Dissemination

Dissemination is “the act of spreading news, information, ideas, etc. to a lot of people.”¹¹ It is when information is dispersed and diffused¹² to a wide range of people, allowing many people to gain awareness on a specific issue.

Rohingya Minority Group

⁸ American Psychological Association. “Misinformation and Disinformation.” *American Psychological Association*, July 2022, www.apa.org/topics/journalism-facts/misinformation-disinformation.

⁹ Watters, Romey. “Digital Activism: The Good, the Bad, the Future.” *HAD*, www.had-int.org/digital-activism-the-good-the-bad-the-future/.

¹⁰ NATO. *MEDIA – (DIS)INFORMATION – SECURITY*. deepportal.hq.nato.int, www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2020/5/pdf/2005-deepportal4-information-warfare.pdf.

¹¹ Cambridge Dictionary. “Dissemination.” *@CambridgeWords*, 30 Mar. 2022, www.dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/dissemination.

¹² “Dissemination Meaning.” *Vocabulary.com*, www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/dissemination.

The Rohingya People are a stateless Indo-Aryan ethnic group that resides in Rakhine State¹³ Myanmar, and predominantly follow the Islamic Religion. ¹⁴ During the Rohingya Genocide, they faced widespread violence including mass killings, burning of their villages¹⁵ , leading to the displacement of many of their people who fled to neighbouring Bangladesh.¹⁶

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Reasons for the rise of social media usage

The rise of social media usage is mainly owed to technological advancements; since the release of the first networking platform, the usage of social media has surged and is continuing to do so in a rapid manner. Social media is now used as both a networking platform and an informative source which is a crucial reason for people's dependency on it which has fueled its utilization. The transition from crackly radios to wireless cellphones has allowed an easy progression of social media's usage as people have become more fluent with it, hence why it has become more popular and flexible to use. Technological developments also mean that the networks and platforms used have also become more advanced and reliable, leading people to become more gullible to the information that they have read online as it is often displayed as trustworthy and true which deceives many dozens of people and allows information to be passed between one another much faster.

¹³ Blakemore, Erin. "Who Are the Rohingya People?" *National Geographic*,

www.web.archive.org/web/20190211092255/www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/people/reference/rohingya-people/.

¹⁴ "What Forces Are Fueling Myanmar's Rohingya Crisis?" *Web.archive.org*, 5 Mar. 2024,

www.web.archive.org/web/20240305183707/www.cfr.org/backgrounder/rohingya-crisis. Accessed 30 July 2024.

¹⁵ "Aung San Suu Kyi "Should Have Resigned" over Rohingya Muslim Genocide, Says UN Human Rights Chief | the Independent | the Independent." *Web.archive.org*, 24 Feb. 2024,

www.web.archive.org/web/20240224191600/www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/aung-san-suu-kyi-rohingya-muslim-genocide-un-human-rights-chief-zeid-raad-al-husseini-a8513946.html.

¹⁶ Albert, Eleanor, and Lindsay Maizland. "The Rohingya Crisis." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, 23 Jan. 2020, www.cfr.org/backgrounder/rohingya-crisis

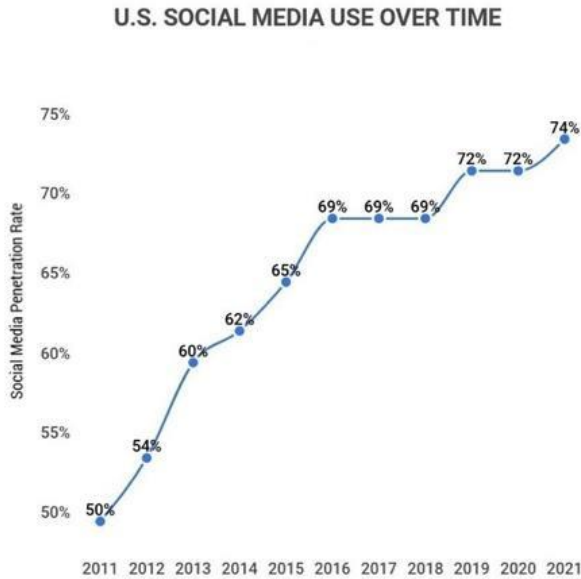


Figure 1: United States of America Social Media Penetration Rate (“popularity”¹⁷ rate of social media within a country) from 2011 to 2021¹⁸

How media is used in areas of armed conflict

Media has an imperative role in areas of armed conflict; it is used by all stakeholders involved: the citizens and victims who want to draw awareness to their situation to receive humanitarian aid, and medical funding, as well as by the governments who are either using it to spread propaganda about conscription and the conditions of the war, or even to spread misinformation about the conflicts to appear more successful. For example, in figure 2, the Nazi Party is depicted as a form of terror that is intent on destroying anything in its path. This was done by the American government to motivate soldiers into fighting to defend the honor of their country, and for the protection of European countries, against the terrorizing control of the Nazis.

¹⁷ Moran, Matt. “Social Media Statistics (How Many People Use Social Media?).” *Colorlib*, 21 Sept. 2022, www.colorlib.com/wp/social-media-statistics/.

¹⁸ Baer, Jay. “Social Media Usage Statistics for 2021 Reveal Surprising Shifts.” *Convince & Convert*, 17 May 2021, www.convinceandconvert.com/social-media/social-media-usage-statistics/.

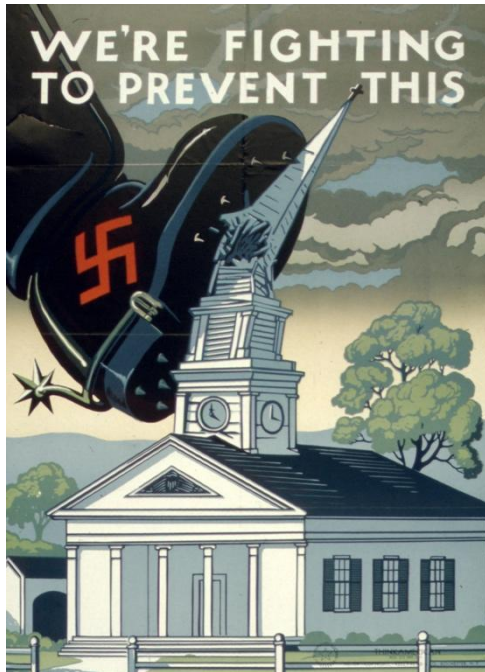


Figure 2: USA World War II propaganda poster showing how they are fighting against the Nazi German's control¹⁹

Initially, a key method how media can be used areas of armed conflict is for surveillance of citizens by governments. Media is a useful tool in monitoring the information and facts that are being spread, so if a government feels like their integrity has been insulted through a social media platform, they have the power to limit the networks' usage in their country – censoring their citizen's voices. However, this was easier to be done before the emergence of social media as it is now very difficult for governments to censor all the information that has been posted online. Currently, this is more feasible for governments to do in countries with state-controlled media, for example in North Korea, or China.

Another important way that social media is used in areas of armed conflict is through promotional campaigns to raise global awareness on different issues and conflicts. Through online platforms, people are able to draw awareness to certain topics and help educate many others who are unaware and ignorant for many global issues. Promoting conflicts in this way allows for many more people around the world to collaborate to help solve certain issues. For example, people can start raising money to help fund the protection and conservation of certain places that are either under attack, or can help promote the conflict in a way that encourages more people to donate time and resources, aiding in the humanitarian rescue of the people and species that are endangered.

¹⁹ National Archives. "Powers of Persuasion." *National Archives*, The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, 17 May 2017,

www.archives.gov/exhibits/powers-of-persuasion.

Role of stakeholders

Initially, governments play an imperative role in monitoring the usage of social media, especially in areas of armed actions, because although they occasionally conduct initiatives to mitigate the censorship and propaganda spreading, they are often big contributors to this problem. Specifically, when their own country is involved in a conflict, governments try to manipulate the media to try show their perspective and grow support for their campaign. Without media, governments would not be able to persuade individuals to side with them in conflicts and then later in elections as media plays a major role in influencing the public's opinion which can affect a country's position in areas of conflict, as seen in the Vietnam War where the public's protests against conscription and sending soldiers to fight abroad were the crucial reason for the troops withdrawing once they discovered the conflict realities. Furthermore, governments often collaborate with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to help protect the welfare of the people in conflicts. Since NGOs play a very helpful role in providing people with humanitarian aid, they can also work alongside governments to help fund different initiatives specific to monitoring the dissemination of misinformation at a global level.

Impacts

A key impact that social media has on areas of conflict is it influences the information dissemination. Without the media, the spread of facts about the situations in different countries would be very limited, leaving many people entirely unaware and ignorant which then decreases the global social conscience as people have less exposure to the tragedies that occur globally. Similarly, when people are less aware about the situations that are occurring it means that interventions are a lot less likely as organizations will have less funding and will not be able to economically support the operations to aid people in conflicts.

Another lasting impact that social media has is that it provides proof for documentation, allowing many future generations to also be entirely educated on this issue which hopefully means that the same issues will be prevented and mitigated in the future. This means that it could also help with conflict resolution and international disarmament, because when people know the consequences of past actions, they become more willing to protect their futures, even if it means sacrificing small parts of their armies to do so.

However, it can also have a negative impact on society – specifically regarding security risks and censorship. Although monitoring the usage of social media is seen as an effective solution to the propaganda and misinformation dissemination, it raises the concern of privacy and security of personal information. If social media is over-monitored, this could often mean that the bodies (for example, governmental bodies such as the federal communications commission in the USA, or the social media platforms themselves) conducting these processes often have access to people's passwords and other private information which if used by a corrupt individual could create many problems regarding individual people's security as certain documents, such as bank details, could be misused in the hands of another person. In an area of armed actions, this

information could be exposed and manipulated by the parties involved which could end up heightening the tensions of the conflict, hence threatening the security of the countries.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

China

As a country with state-controlled media, China exercises tight control over all publications. Media in China is strictly controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)²⁰ so it is nearly entirely censored, and individuals do not have the right to exercise their freedom of speech through the media. Chinese government officials frequently use social media apps to spread false information and propaganda specifically surrounding issues such as the Hong Kong protests (a series of pro-democracy demonstrations)²¹ which directly influences the public's opinion of security as they are fed false information and lies. The Chinese government has made no efforts to reduce the level of censorship in the country, so the public has taken it upon themselves through multiple protests and demonstrations to show their dissatisfaction in the controlled media. Although these protests were not successful in completely reducing the censorship over social media, they helped raise awareness to the issue and through the increased popularity of the protests they have started putting more pressure on the government for reform.

Myanmar

Despite the limited efforts that Myanmar has made to monitor the role of social media in areas of armed conflicts, social media (specifically Facebook) has been weaponized and used to promote discrimination and hate speech particularly against the Rohingya minority group. "Facebook's systems promoted a lot of violence" ²² against them, "supercharging the spread of anti-Rohingya content"²³ by allowing racist and discriminatory comments and posts (for example,

²⁰ Freedom House. "China: Freedom in the World 2022 Country Report." *Freedom House*, 2022, www.freedomhouse.org/country/china/freedom-world/2022.

²¹ Human Rights Watch. "Hong Kong Protests | Human Rights Watch." *Www.hrw.org*, Human Rights Watch, 6 Dec. 2019, www.hrw.org/blog-feed/hong-kong-protests.

²² Amnesty International. "Myanmar: Facebook's Systems Promoted Violence against Rohingya; Meta Owes Reparations." *Amnesty International*, 29 Sept. 2022,

²³ Amnesty International. "Myanmar: Facebook's Systems Promoted Violence against Rohingya; Meta Owes Reparations." *Amnesty International*, 29 Sept. 2022, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/09/myanmar-facebooks-systems-promoted-violence-against-rohingya-meta-owes-reparations-new-report/.

the comments on a Muslim human rights defender post mentioned how his whole race “should be removed”²⁴) to be uploaded without any monitoring. According to Amnesty International’s Secretary General, Agnès Callamard, “Facebook’s algorithms were intensifying a storm of hatred against the Rohingya which contributed to real-world violence”. Facebook has been exploited to exacerbate ethnic tensions in conflict while also contributing to the dissension in the country. Myanmar is a clear example of where the lack of monitoring the role social media plays in conflicts can be exploited and abused, leading to harmful effects on the country and its people, in this case leading to the Rohingya Genocide which killed over 10,000 people²⁵.

Germany

Germany actively participates in programs and schemes to develop the monitoring of social media, specifically in areas of armed conflict, and has supported many diplomatic efforts by encouraging the creation of resolutions such as the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2222. Germany advocates for the prevention of misuse of social media platforms and has advocated for multiple content moderation and transparency campaigns. German researchers have also played an important role in other conflicts, such as the Rohingya Genocide, to try limit the impact that social media can have on countries.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1914-1918	World War 1, being one of the first global conflicts that used media as both propaganda and an informant.
1939-1945	World War 2 occurred and allowed information to be spread through radios

²⁴ Amnesty International. “Myanmar: Facebook’s Systems Promoted Violence against Rohingya; Meta Owes Reparations.” *Amnesty International*, 29 Sept. 2022, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/09/myanmar-facebooks-systems-promoted-violence-against-rohingya-meta-owes-reparations-new-report/.

²⁵ Brown, Patrick. “Six Years On, Still No Justice for Myanmar’s Rohingya | UN News.” *News.un.org*, 24 Aug. 2023, www.news.un.org/en/story/2023/08/1140032.

1955-1975	The Vietnam War occurred which was one of the first wars to highlight the issue of misinformation dissemination.
1 November 1996	Al Jazeera, the first independent news channel in Arab countries, was launched.
16 December 1996	The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly.
1997	Six-Degrees, the first social media platform, was launched. ²⁶
2010-2011	The Arab Spring ²⁷ , a series of pro-democracy protests, occurred and showed how media can be weaponized during conflicts.
4-5 October 2012	The Rabat Plan of Action ²⁸ was created which reaffirmed the need for information on social media to be accurate and well informed.
18 December 2013	The UN General Assembly adopted the Resolution 68/187 ²⁹ which highlighted the right to privacy in the digital age and measures to combat its violation.
27 May 2015	The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2222 ³⁰ which aimed to protect the

²⁶ "Six Degrees - Landing Page." *Www.sixdegrees.com*, www.sixdegrees.com/.

²⁷ Britannica. "Arab Spring." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 14 Jan. 2015, www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Spring.

²⁸ "Rabat Plan of Action." *Istanbul Process 16/18*, www.istanbulprocess1618.info/rabat-plan-of-action/#:~:text=The%20Rabat%20Plan%20of%20Action%20endorses%20the%20Camden%20Principles%20on

²⁹ ---. *Resolution 68/187: Technical Assistance for Implementing the International Conventions and Protocols Related to Counter-Terrorism*. www.documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n13/450/67/pdf/n1345067.pdf?token=oVqEH4D0VCjRSEmKOB&f e=true.

³⁰ United Nations Security Council. *Security Council Resolution 2222 (2015)*.

	rights of journalists in conflict zones and prevent them from harm.
9 October 2016	The Rohingya incident occurred and emphasized how misinformation can amplify a conflict. ³¹
2019-2020	The Hong Kong protests ³² occurred which aimed to draw attention to the false information that was being fed to the country.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

UN Security Council Resolution 2222: Protection of Journalists in Conflict Situations^{33 34}

On May 27, 2015, the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted the resolution protecting journalists in conflict zones. It aimed to condemn the impunity for all attacks on journalists, reaffirming that, as long as they do not engage in actions that change their status, they should be recognized as impartial civilians with the right to create free media.

The Rabat Plan of Action³⁵

“The Rabat Plan of Action endorses the Camden Principles on Freedom of Expression and Equality, which sets out the moral and social responsibilities that the media, politicians,

³¹ ---. “Myanmar: No Justice, No Freedom for Rohingya 5 Years On.” *Human Rights Watch*, 24 Aug. 2022, www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/24/myanmar-no-justice-no-freedom-rohingya-5-years.

³² Human Rights Watch. “Hong Kong Protests | Human Rights Watch.” *Www.hrw.org*, Human Rights Watch, 6 Dec. 2019, www.hrw.org/blog-feed/hong-kong-protests.

³³ United Nations Security Council. *Security Council Resolution 2222 (2015)*.

³⁴ “Security Council Resolution 2222 - UNSCR.” *Unscr.com*, 2015, www.unscr.com/en/resolutions/2222. Accessed 24 Nov. 2019.

³⁵ “OHCHR | OHCHR and Freedom of Expression vs Incitement to Hatred: The Rabat Plan of Action.” *OHCHR*, www.ohchr.org/en/freedom-of-expression.

religious leaders and civil society each have to combat intolerance.”³⁶ It says that the media has the obligation to ensure to report all events in context and in a “factual and sensitive manner” and to be alert for any stereotyping or discrimination to individuals and ensure that it does not get published or brought to the attention of the public.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)³⁷

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) aims to protect the freedom of expression and prohibit propaganda for war. The UN Human Rights Committee has affirmed that this covenant also applies to areas of armed conflict, meaning that it limits the use of propaganda of conscription to promote wars in any region. It works alongside other resolutions, namely the UNGA resolution 68/167³⁸ to review surveillance practices and ensure that the media is an unbiased body in all areas of conflict.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

PeaceTech Lab’s Social Media Analysis for Conflict Protection

The PeaceTech Lab is a non-profit organization in the USA that “works to reduce violent conflict using technology, media, and data to accelerate and scale peacebuilding efforts.”³⁹ It is currently leading in hate speech protection, having created many programs, such as the Countering Hate Action Network (CHAN), aimed to analyze and directly tackle this issue. It has

³⁶ “Rabat Plan of Action.” *Istanbul Process 16/18*, www.istanbulprocess1618.info/rabat-plan-of-action/#:~:text=The%20Rabat%20Plan%20of%20Action%20endorses%20the%20Camden%20Principles%20on. Accessed 15 July 2024.

³⁷ United Nations. “International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.” *OHCHR*, United Nations, 16 Dec. 1966, www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights.

³⁸ United Nations General Assembly. *Resolution 68/167. The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age* www.documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n13/449/47/pdf/n1344947.pdf?token=Jk9qoLQ6P1PIZJicvf&fe=true.

³⁹ “PeaceTech Lab.” *PeaceTech Lab | Putting the Right Tools in the Right Hands to Build Peace*, www.peacetechlab.org/.

organized many hate speech lexicons where participants were introduced to new practices to counter hate speech using low-cost, easy to use technologies.

2012 Workshop at the Council on Foreign Relations⁴⁰

The 2012 workshop was organized by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and focused on “Social Media and Conflict Prevention”⁴¹ as part of USIPs broader initiative named “Blogs and Bullets”⁴². Its aim was to understand and improve the impact of social media on preventing violence and managing conflict. It has had some successful outcomes in fostering inter-ethnic dialogues, for example, the Salam Shahab online youth network in Iraq showed shifting attitudes about ethnic diversity and has an attempted growing network of YaLaYoung leaders who are lobbying for decreased violent conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.⁴³ Similarly, in Kenya and Sudan, voting was monitored from social media platforms to ensure the prevention violence and fraud, which turned out to be a success as the countries recently held referenda that were non-violent by international observers.⁴⁴

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Technological solutions

One of the most useful solutions to tackling the issue of monitoring the role of social media is by using technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create automated or manual social media analytics. Data analytics tools can also be used to analyze the information received from various sources to validate them and see if the source is reliable enough to be published (to prevent the

⁴⁰ *Council on Foreign Relations Workshop on Social Media and Conflict Prevention – the GDELT Project.*

www.blog.gdeltproject.org/council-on-foreign-relations-workshop-on-social-media-and-conflict-prevention/. Accessed 30 July 2024.

⁴¹ “Social Media and Conflict Prevention.” *United States Institute of Peace*,

www.usip.org/publications/2012/12/social-media-and-conflict-prevention.

⁴² “Blogs and Bullets: New Media in Contentious Politics.” *United States Institute of Peace*,

www.usip.org/publications/2010/09/blogs-and-bullets-new-media-contentious-politics.

⁴³ “Social Media and Conflict Prevention.” *United States Institute of Peace*,

www.usip.org/publications/2012/12/social-media-and-conflict-prevention.

⁴⁴ “Social Media and Conflict Prevention.” *United States Institute of Peace*,

www.usip.org/publications/2012/12/social-media-and-conflict-prevention.

spread of disinformation). Also, through collaboration with social media companies, researchers can access a larger network of information and data, of all the individuals who have consented to the sharing of their personal information, that they can use to continue to investigate and research the effects that social media has on conflict zones (locating them using satellite imagery and geographic information system tools which can create digital maps and visualizations of the areas) by analyzing the dynamics between the people, media and the conflict.

Governmental intervention

Governments play a very influential role in monitoring social media in areas of armed conflict, however, instead of undertaking the job of monitoring completely there are other ways they can tackle the problem without restricting anyone's freedom of speech. One way to do this is by investing in digital literacy programs, such as the Digital Skills Library^{45 46}, to prevent people from falling victim to the manipulation strategies, especially for the youth who is quite gullible to information that they read online. Another way governments can be involved is if they subsidized tech companies to continue developing these data analytics programs, to ensure that the companies are incentivized to invest their resources in producing good quality tools.

Community involvement

Community involvement is crucial for the spread of information; by exploiting societal resources it can help facilitate the monitoring of social media's role in areas of armed actions. The smoother process of the flow of reliable, firsthand information can be facilitated by creating humanitarian corridors and information hubs in conflict zones as it allows for community-level monitoring of social media which is likely to be more truthful and can also provide a safe space for journalists and community members to share insight on different issues. This can also be done by creating crowdsourcing platforms which allows more people to collaborate and share information that they have been educated on or are informed about.

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⁴⁵ “Digital Skills Library • Digital Skills Library.” *Digitalskillslibrary.org*, www.digitalskillslibrary.org/.

⁴⁶ “Digital Literacy Initiatives.” *LINCS | Adult Education and Literacy | U.S. Department of Education*, www.lincs.ed.gov/state-resources/federal-initiatives/digital-literacy.

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