

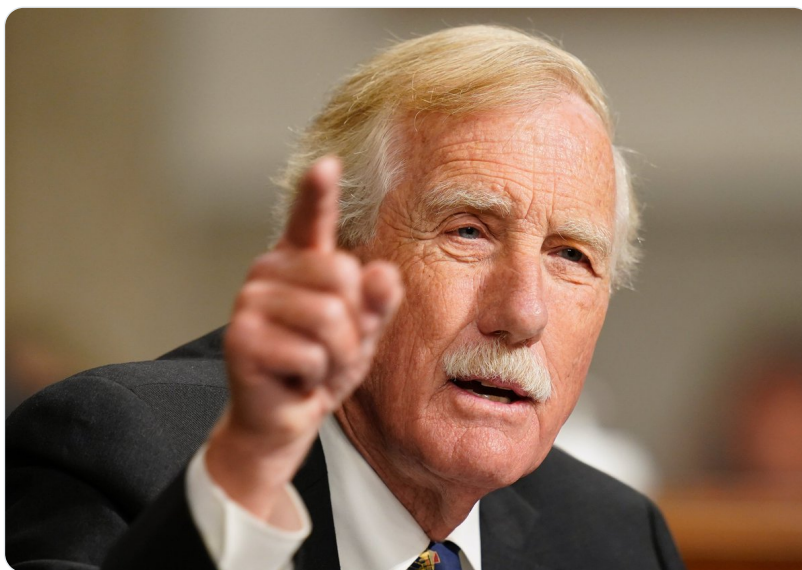


Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi

Feb 19 · 17 tweets · [mtaibbi/status/1627098945359867904](https://twitter.com/mtaibbi/status/1627098945359867904)

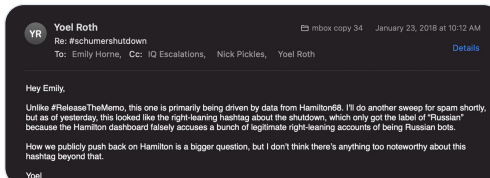
TWITTER FILES #16

Comic Interlude: A Media Experiment



2. The [#TwitterFiles](#) have revealed a lot: thousands of moderation requests from every corner of government, Feds mistaking both conservatives and leftists for fictional Russians, even Twitter deciding on paper to cede moderation authority to the “U.S. intelligence community”:

Internal Guidance: Any user identified by the U.S. intelligence community as a state-sponsored entity conducting cyber operations against targets associated with U.S. or other elections, or an entity associated with such operations, shall not be allowed to advertise on Twitter.



Hey folks,

I suspended 12 accounts of AR origin ([873377](#)) and 10 accounts of VE origin ([873378](#)) that were tweeting about "Ucrania" and "Nazis," and were clustered by identical event IPs and user agents and/or via Safetygraph.

After reviewing the Chalecos account, we're recommending to request an ID in order to obtain another signal about the actor behind the account. While the FBI asserts that the account is a proxy of Russian actors, [we've found evidence that suggests it is linked to individuals in the Pirate Party in Catalonia and others on the left political spectrum](#). We also found that the Chalecos account has been, strangely, RTing its own content and then quickly deleting it, racking up more than 3k deleted Tweets since last week alone.



C: 33-719-4396

From: Davis, K. I. (CTO) (FBI) <kidavis@fbi.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Chan, Elia M. (SF) (FBI) <emchan@fbi.gov>
Cc: Frazer, Anthony (GCI) (FBI) <afrazier@fbi.gov>; Davis, K. I. (CTO) (FBI) <kidavis@fbi.gov>

Subject: The article and names associated with WHO Twitter request
Elia,

The Daily Beast article and the associated names:

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/right-wing-media-online-depied-by-a-muslim-ant-arab-and-a-foreign-terrorist?ref=twrtd>

Associated with www.FaristNews.com

Amari Shaban
Ali Karim
Christa Wegemann
Anis Farhad
Joyce Tolodano
Navid Barani
Anas Shallob
Abdolkhman Al-Husseini
Tony Dukeman

Associated with www.TheArabEye.com

Espenel Beldi
Michael Hakkid
Joseph Labba
Amira Khan
Hassan Ouztoun

Anas Shallob (duplicate see above)

Lisa Moore
Leon Wagner
Amira Khan
Xavier Palacios
Salma Mohamed
Marika Bittar
Anis Farhad (duplicate see above)
Judy Anderson
Muhammad Serhan
Loren Ravlins
Jobadiah Karthman
Ramin Darya

Thank you,
Khadijah

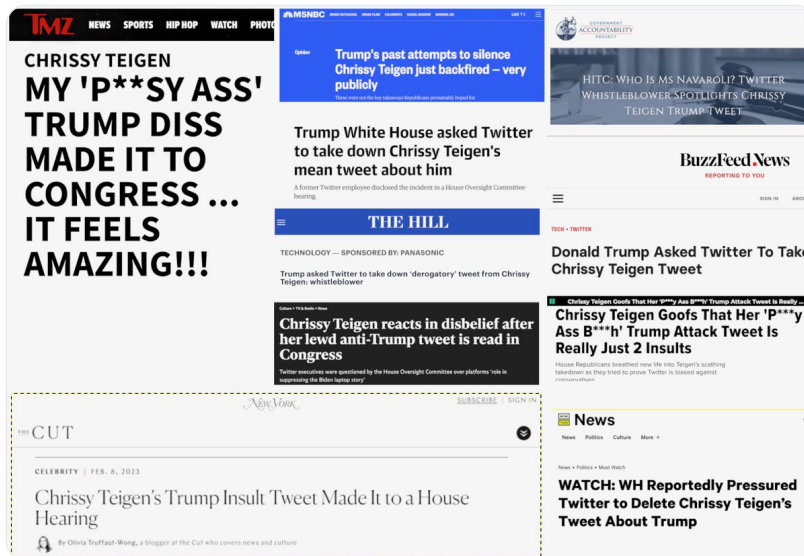
SSA K. I. (Khadijah) Davis
TDV to Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF) - Global
EJH | Room 5965 | Desk 5933-41
202-324-4454 (desk)
908-358-7676 (cell)

3. These and at least a dozen other newsworthy revelations produced exactly zilch in mainstream news coverage in the last two months:



4. Then House hearings were held last week, at which one witness told a story about Donald Trump asking to remove a mean tweet by Chrissy Teigen.

The press went bananas. Now THAT was big news!



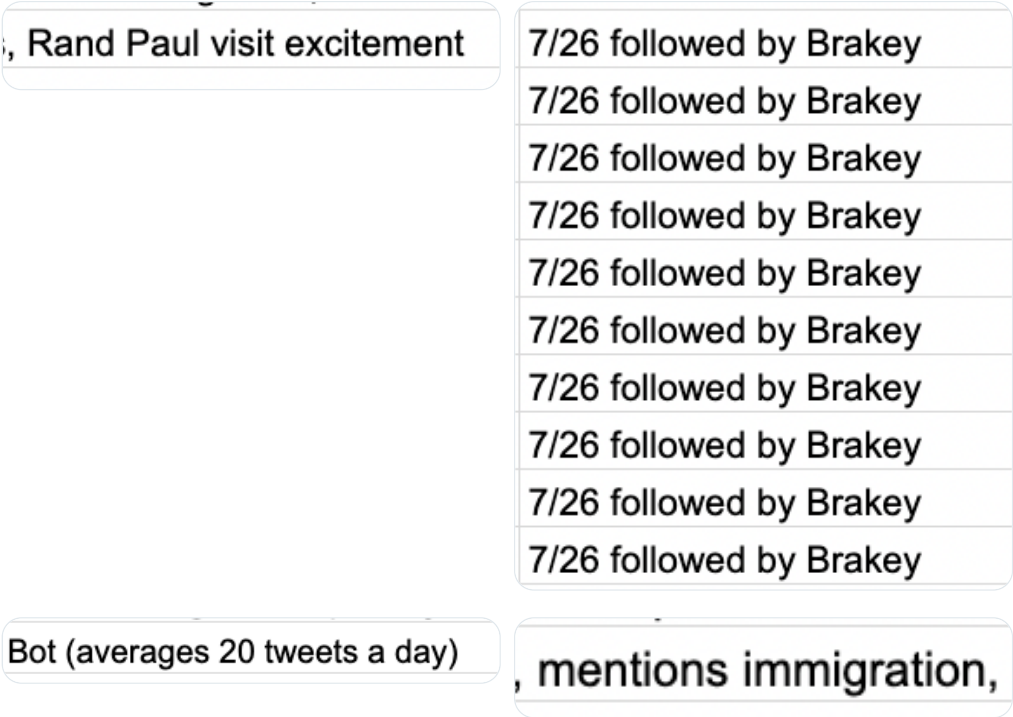
5. Purely to show the bankruptcy of media in this area, let's introduce a pair of loud new data points, and see if any press figures at all cover either of them.

6. If a president freaking out about one tweeter is news, surely a U.S. Senator finking on three hundred-plus of his constituents also must be?



7. Here's Maine Senator Angus King writing to Twitter to call a slew of accounts "suspicious" for reasons like:

- "Rand Paul visit excitement"
- "Bot (averages 20 tweets a day)"
- Being followed by rival Eric Brakey
- Or, my personal favorite: "Mentions immigration."



8. King's office declined comment. If Dick Nixon sniffed glue, this is what his enemies list might have looked like: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vS1PbfNEqDCKX7YFNEvXmm7Lil3Z5unKivX5SA5avFE9tF95kgkbDVJpeRhX4lCig/pubhtml>

9. So as not to focus only on Dems or those who caucus with Democrats, here's a contribution from Republican Mark Lenzi, a State Department official most famous for offering to donate his brain to science after a claimed brush with Havana syndrome.

China

US diplomat Mark Lenzi, who suffered mysterious injury while stationed in China, pledges to donate brain to science

10. Lenzi wrote to Twitter bluntly asking to remove 14 accounts distinguished among other things by skepticism of Russiagate: “The below are some Russian controlled accounts that I think you will want to look into and delete.”

From: "Lenzi, Mark R (Portsmouth NH)" <LenziMR@state.gov>
Subject: Identified accounts
Date: April 14, 2020 at 10:28:48 AM CDT
To: Lisa Roman <lroman@twitter.com>

Hi Lisa:

Nice to be in touch with you.

I am an American Foreign Service Officer that works at the State Department and have been working on Russia issues for more than two decades. I speak Russian and know the country and its disinformation efforts very well.

Significantly, and somewhat rare at the State Department, I am a lifelong Republican that has worked for the RNC so in my work I have been able to identify a lot of Russian controlled Twitter accounts that have made it through some of your previous purges. A significant number of these Russian government controlled fake accounts try to pose as Republicans but when I get into them I can see obvious mistakes (including grammar) that don't make any sense if you were really a Republican. (Also I don't know any Republicans I have worked with on campaigns here in the US that are obsessed with Ukraine and many of the accounts that are followers of the below are -- posting obscure court rulings about Ukraine, postings about Ukrainian politicians that real Republicans couldn't care less about, etc.) I also noticed distinct increases in their tweeting around the Iowa caucuses and NH primary.

The below are some Russian government controlled accounts that I think you will want to look into and delete. Many of the followers of these accounts are Russian controlled disinformation accounts as well and I can provide many more of these Russian controlled Twitter accounts to you in the coming weeks.

Because of the sensitive nature of my work I would ask that in your discussions with others that you not mention my name or if you forward the below that you take out my name. I would be happy to discuss with you more in detail on the phone if you would like and we could set up a call to speak this week if you would want that.

Thanks and best regards,
Mark

@Bravo2ray
@ThunderStrzok1
@HairyGo
@oube24
@Anon1776John
@RochLaw1
@3Nmbra
@Spicy_Noodles_3
@silenced_sanity
@MeMeMiddleClass
@RussiasHackSite
@Guccifer2Henry
@Kenyans4Pete
@1Spoundsago

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

11. A government official, writing from a State department email, asks to “delete” 14 accounts that are engaged in legit speech and for which no evidence is shown they're Russian controlled or bots (in fact, we at Racket know some of these people). A clear First Amendment issue.

12. I noted before there were many crazy requests in Twitter records from officials wanting foes taken off Twitter, with Californian Adam Schiff's effort to ban a reporter and stop "any and all search results" about a staffer making Angus King's spreadsheet gambit look tame.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 5:44 PM
Subject: Fwd: Tweets
To: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

I met with [REDACTED] from PP and he flagged the attached analysis from the House Permanent Select Intelligence Committee (HPSIC) Rep. Adam Schiff's Office for your review and feedback related to alleged harassment from QAnon conspiracists, against Staffer [REDACTED]. Would like to get your thoughts on our ability if any to support any of this request.

Of note, [REDACTED] from SP has reviewed the request, and consulted with [REDACTED] from SI.

Below is her initial feedback on the request:

Remove any and all content about Mr. Misko and other Committee staff from its service—to include quotes, retweets, and reactions to that content > **no, this isn't feasible/we don't do this**

Suspend the many accounts, including @GregRubini and @paulsperry_, which have repeatedly promoted false QAnon conspiracies and harassed [REDACTED] > **we'll review these accounts again but I believe [REDACTED] mentioned only one actually qualified for suspension**

Suppress any and all search results about [REDACTED] and other Committee staff > **no, we don't do this - if it is related to QAnon it should already be deamplified**

Stop the spread of future misinformation on Twitter about [REDACTED] and other Committee staff who are not public figures and who were not central actors in impeachment inquiry or the 2020 presidential election > **no, we don't have a general misinformation policy**

Label and reduce the visibility of any content about [REDACTED] that Twitter does not remove for the reasons cited above. > **no, we don't do this**

13. The fact that mainstream outlets ignored the Schiff story but howled about Teigen shows what they're about. Responses like this are designed to keep blue-leaning audiences especially focused on moronic partisan spats, obscuring bigger picture narratives.

14. The real story emerging in the [#TwitterFiles](#) is about a ballooning federal censorship bureaucracy that's not aimed at either the left or the right per se, but at the whole population of outsiders, who are being systematically defined as threats.

15. Beginning in March, we'll start using the Twitter Files to tell this larger story about how Americans turned their counterterrorism machinery against themselves, to disastrous effect, through little-known federal agencies like the Global Engagement Center (GEC).

16. Until then, if you found yourself on King's list, please DM or write in to [Racket.News](#). I'm on vacation next week, but we'll mock up "Angus King Told Twitter I Was Suspicious, And All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt" shirts when I get back.

17. Thanks to [#TwitterFiles](#) contributors like @ShellenbergerMD and @lhfang, and thanks also to Racket researchers. Searches were performed by a third party and material may have been left out.

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