ADVANCED COURSE ON VERIFICATION AND NEW NARRATIVES ON FACT CHECKING FOR NAMIBIAN JOURNALISTS

Windhoek, Namibia
7-9 June 2022

#PeriodismoÁfrica

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CASA ÁFRICA 15 AÑOS YEARS ANS 2007 - 2022

MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA Y COOPERACIÓN

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MALDITA.ES PERIODISMO PARA QUE NO TE LA CUELEN

Newtral

Africa Check

DISINFORMATION: HOW DO THE BAD GUYS WORK? MOTIVATIONS AND TECHNIQUES

Andrés Jiménez MacKellar

@BrydenJimenez

About me

- Andrés Jiménez MacKellar
-
- At Maldita since 2018
- I worked at EFE news agency, Facterbot etc.
- ajimenez@maldita.es / @BrydenJimenez

What's Maldita.es?

- Independent media outlet
- Non-profit (foundation) & copyleft
- Fact-checking
- Monitor public & political discourse
- Provide tools to the community so they can tackle misinformation

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PERIODISMO PARA QUE NO TE LA CUELEN

MALDITA MIGRACIÓN

MALDITO FEMINISMO

MALDITA ALIMENTACIÓN

MALDITO CLIMA

MALDITA.ES

MB | MALDITO BULO

MD | MALDITO DATO

MC | MALDITA CIENCIA

MH | MALDITA HEMEROTECA

MT | MALDITA TECNOLOGÍA

Funding transparency

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Who fact-checks the fact-checker?

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Who fact-checks the fact-checker?

YOU

- Every step of our fact-checking process has to be traceable so readers can do it at home
- At Maldita we don’t use anonymous sources

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The ‘palante’ method

- When a reporter finishes his article, he shares it in a Telegram group so that it can be scrutinized by editors
- Fact-checks need 4 approvals and no vetoes before being published
- 8 eyes see better than 2: this helps us ensure that our article is correct

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IFCN code of principles

- Maldita is also a signatory of the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)’s code of principles
- Methodological and financial transparency are mandatory
- Correction policy

IFCN @Poynter. CODE OF PRINCIPLES

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Would you fact-check this?

ACTUALIDAD visto en HAY NOTICIA

Descubren un mosquito que te puede dejar embarazada de un solo picotazo

mayo 26, 2018 Trino Garcia

“A mosquito that can impregnate you with its sting has been discovered”

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Would you fact-check this?

- Something that seems ridiculous to us may appear credible to someone else (and vice versa)
- It’s important to debunk a hoax even if we personally don’t see the relevance in it: IT’S GOING VIRAL FOR A REASON
- The most simple hoaxes are often the most shared

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Would you fact-check this?

- At the beginning we focused on Twitter
- There’s one slight problem: not everyone is on Twitter
- When Maldita opened a WhatsApp service we accessed a whole new dimension of disinformation: scams, simpler hoaxes, health-related disinformation…

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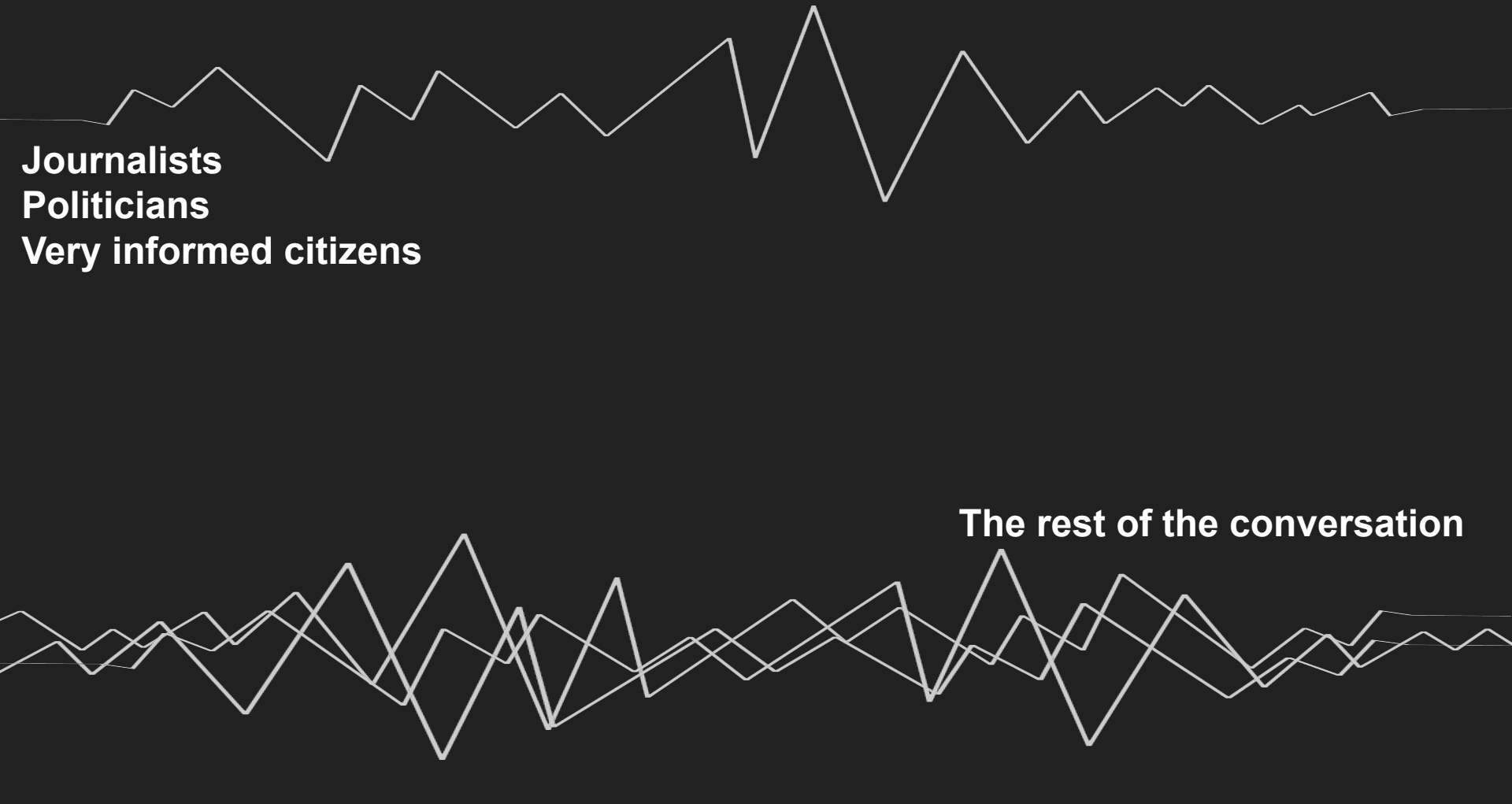
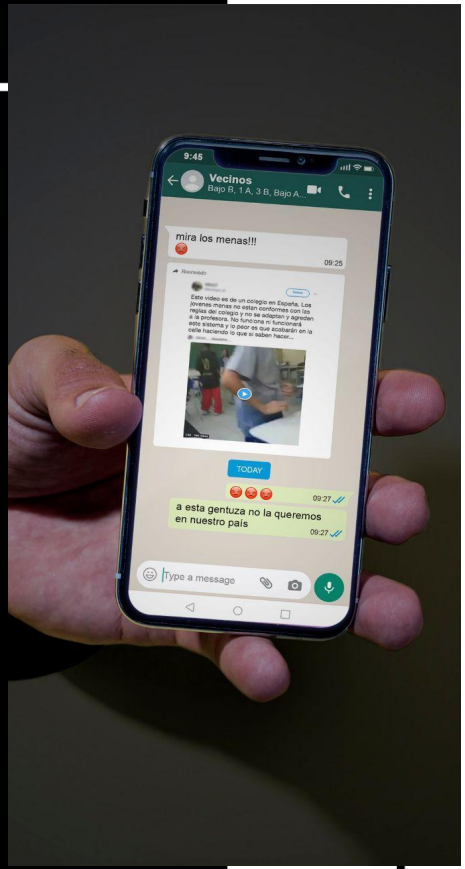

Journalists
Politicians
Very informed citizens
The rest of the conversation



How do the bad guys work (on WhatsApp)?

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NO CONTEXT, NO ANCHOR

- Where are we reading the news?
- Is it a reliable source or not?
- No header, no date.
- Videos
- Audios
- Images
- WhatsApp chains

Why do bad actors create hoaxes?

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3 Motivations - 4 Types

3 Motivations behind disinformation:

- Ideological
- Economical (Scams + sites full of ads)
- ¿?

4 Main types

- Politics
- Health
- Hate speech
- Scams

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TYPES OF DISINFORMATION*

HATE:

AGAINST MIGRANTS / RELIGION / SEXUAL ORIENTATION / WOMEN

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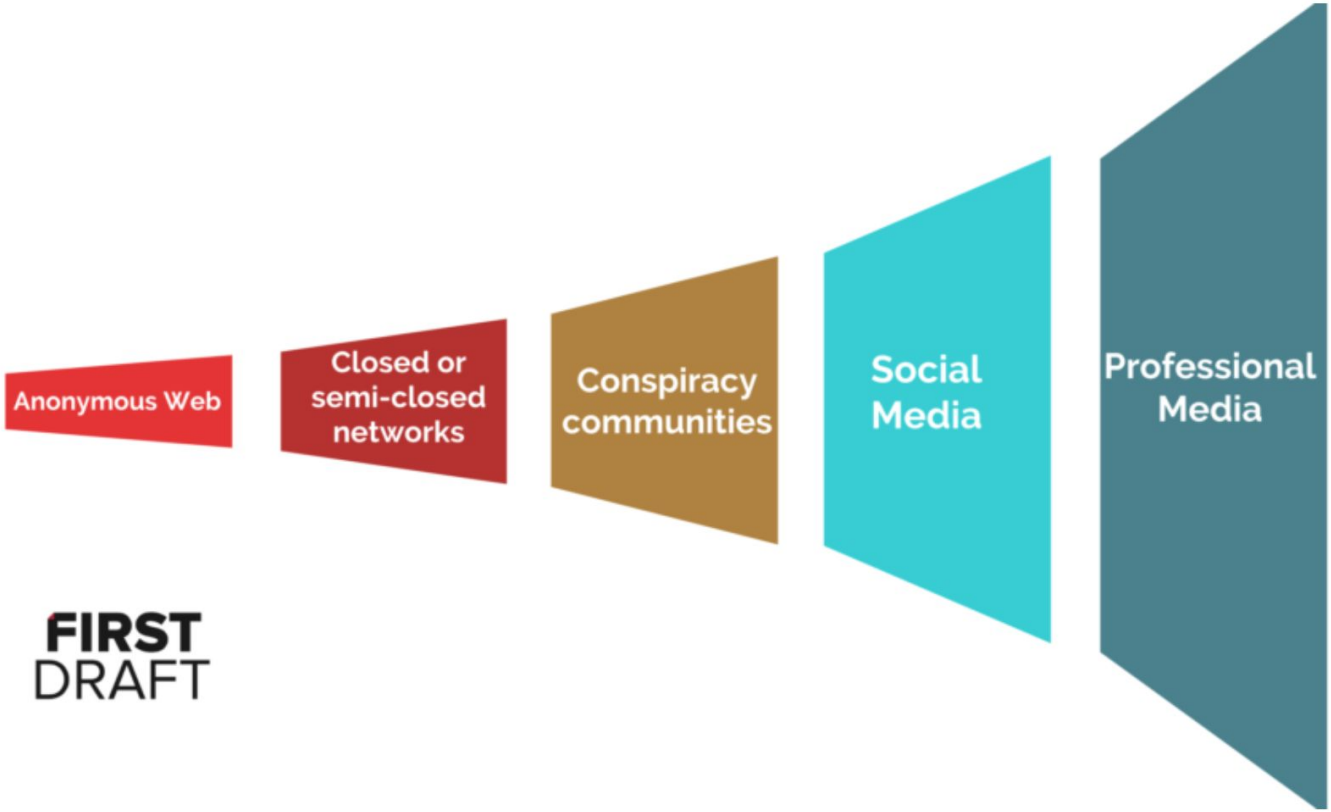

The 'Trumpet of Amplification'

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Formats used by those who disinform

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Fake quotes

FALSE: Madonsela didn't say 'black people use racism as an excuse for their failures'

NAMIBIA FACT CHECK

Source: Namibia Check

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Fake tweets: ‘parody’ accounts

Boris Johnson
@BorisUKJohnson

关注

I am sorry for what Britain did to India 74 years ago, so I want to apologize to Indians.

Happy Independence Day to Incredible India.
🇮🇳🤝🇬🇧

上午7:36 - 2020年8月15日

6,438 转推 **36,834** 喜欢

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Fake tweets: fabricated

Dr Hage G. Geingob
@hagegeingob

@Maldita is the best fact-checking organization in the world

12:00 PM · Jun 7, 2022

7.5K Retweets **132** Quote Tweets **8.1K** Likes

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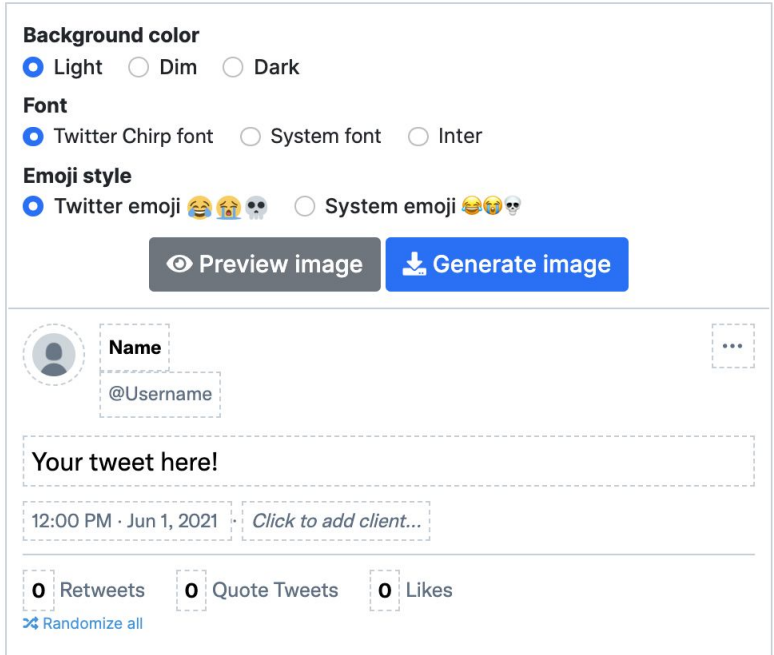
Tweet Generator

By using Tweetgen you agree to our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.

How to use the new editor:

- Everything inside a dashed border is editable. Click on one to edit it.
- Clicking on a Tweet's ··· icon will bring up additional options, such as adding an image and toggling the verified badge.
- Want to add replies? Use the Reply Chain Generator!
- Prefer the old editor? The classic editor is still available.



Visual hoaxes: an easy or difficult way to disinform?

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It can be difficult (Deepfakes)

- Capable of making someone say and do whatever they want
- The case of Barack Obama

It can be difficult (Deepfakes)

- Although they can be a problem in the future, they are not currently the biggest threat
- Money, time and technological knowledge are required if you want a good result
- We have only debunked two cases in the last four years

It can be difficult (Deepfakes)

Apr 17, 2018 8:45am PT

Jordan Peele Teams With BuzzFeed for Obama Fake-News Awareness Video (Watch)

By Todd Spangler

The video was generated using After Effects, an off-the-shelf motion-graphics program, and Fakeapp — an artificial-intelligence video-editing program that has been used mainly for superimposing celebrities' faces onto porn scenes.

BuzzFeed's Sosa figured out a way to get a semi-accurate camera track on Obama's head to get a virtual 3D camera. That allowed him to paste Peele's mouth onto Obama's.

Sosa then used Fakeapp to replace Peele's mouth with Obama's; he had Fakeapp run for 12 hours and the synchronization improved dramatically, with the software correcting some of the points where Peele's mouth weren't in the right position. He then exported that footage to refine the synthetic jaw and then let Fakeapp run for another 48 hours to get a more accurate rendering of Obama's mouth.

It can be difficult (Deepfakes)

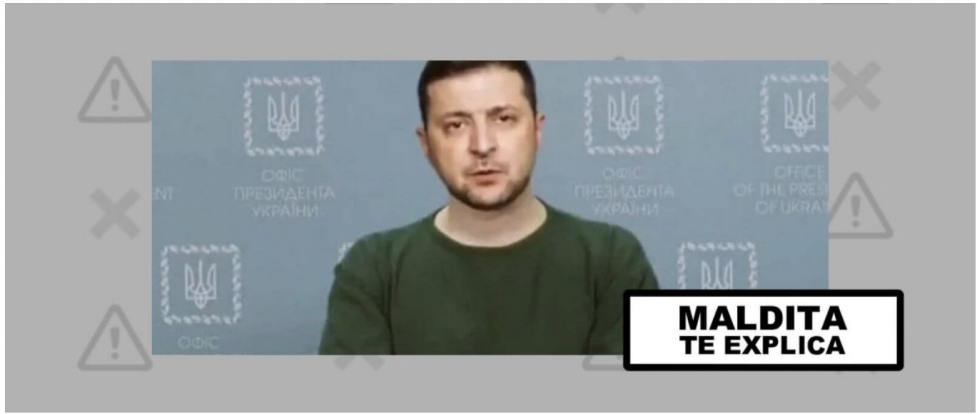
- Zelensky asks Ukrainians to surrender
- A dangerous deepfake
- Anything wrong with his jaw? What about his blinking?

It can be difficult (Deepfakes)

El vídeo del presidente de Ucrania pidiendo supuestamente a sus tropas que se rindan: un ‘deepfake’ al que Zelenski ya ha respondido

Publicado jueves, 17 marzo 2022

Comparte



It can be difficult (Deepfakes)

- Putin announces Russia's defeat
- Another dangerous deepfake (and better made)
- Created as a response to Zelensky's deepfake

It can be difficult (Deepfakes)

- Another dangerous deepfake (and better made)
- Clues: check out his mouth

It can be difficult (Deepfakes)

No, Putin no anuncia la rendición de Rusia en este vídeo: está manipulado

Publicado lunes, 21 marzo 2022

Comparte

Serhii Sternenko
@sternenko

Вчіться, кацапи, як діпфейки робити. Оце якісна робота, а не та фігня, яку ви проти Зеленського зліпили.

Traducido del ucraniano al Google

Aprende, katsapi, a hacer dipfeys. Este es un trabajo de calidad, no la mierda que cegaste contra Zelensky.

2:49 p. m. · 16 mar. 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

89 Retweets **5** Tweets citados **2.943** Me gusta

It can be difficult (Deepfakes)

It can be difficult (Deepfakes)

- The real problem?
- These deepfakes are also shared on closed platforms
- There is no context in these platforms: no clarification tweet nor Twitter tag

Creating a visual hoax is much easier

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It can be easy (Cheapfakes)

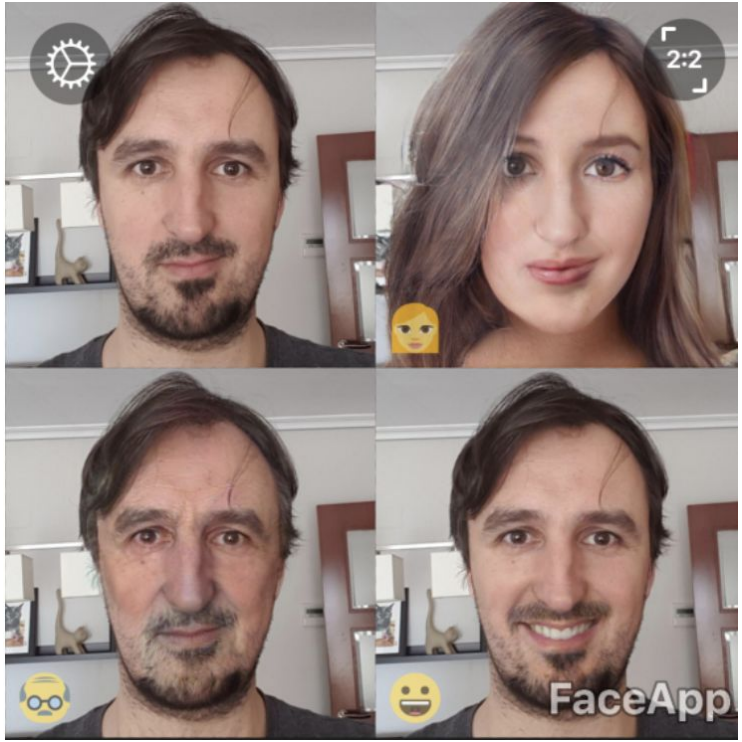
- The most effective hoaxes are often the most simple ones
- To disinform with images you don’t need a lot of money, time or technological knowledge
- You can just put them out of context
- Unlike ‘deepfakes’, we all often receive these hoaxes

How do the bad guys disinform with videos?

- They reduce the quality of the images so we can’t verify them properly
- They flip them
- They add false subtitles
- They reduce their speed
- They cut them to decontextualize

AI-generated faces

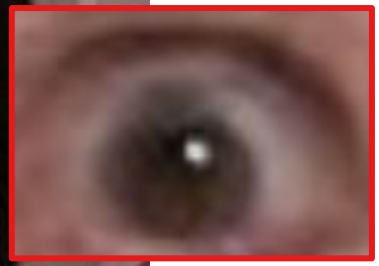
- Do you remember FaceApp?
- It’s a tool used to create photos of people who don’t exist or to modify the appearance of people who do exist.
- Other similar tools are used



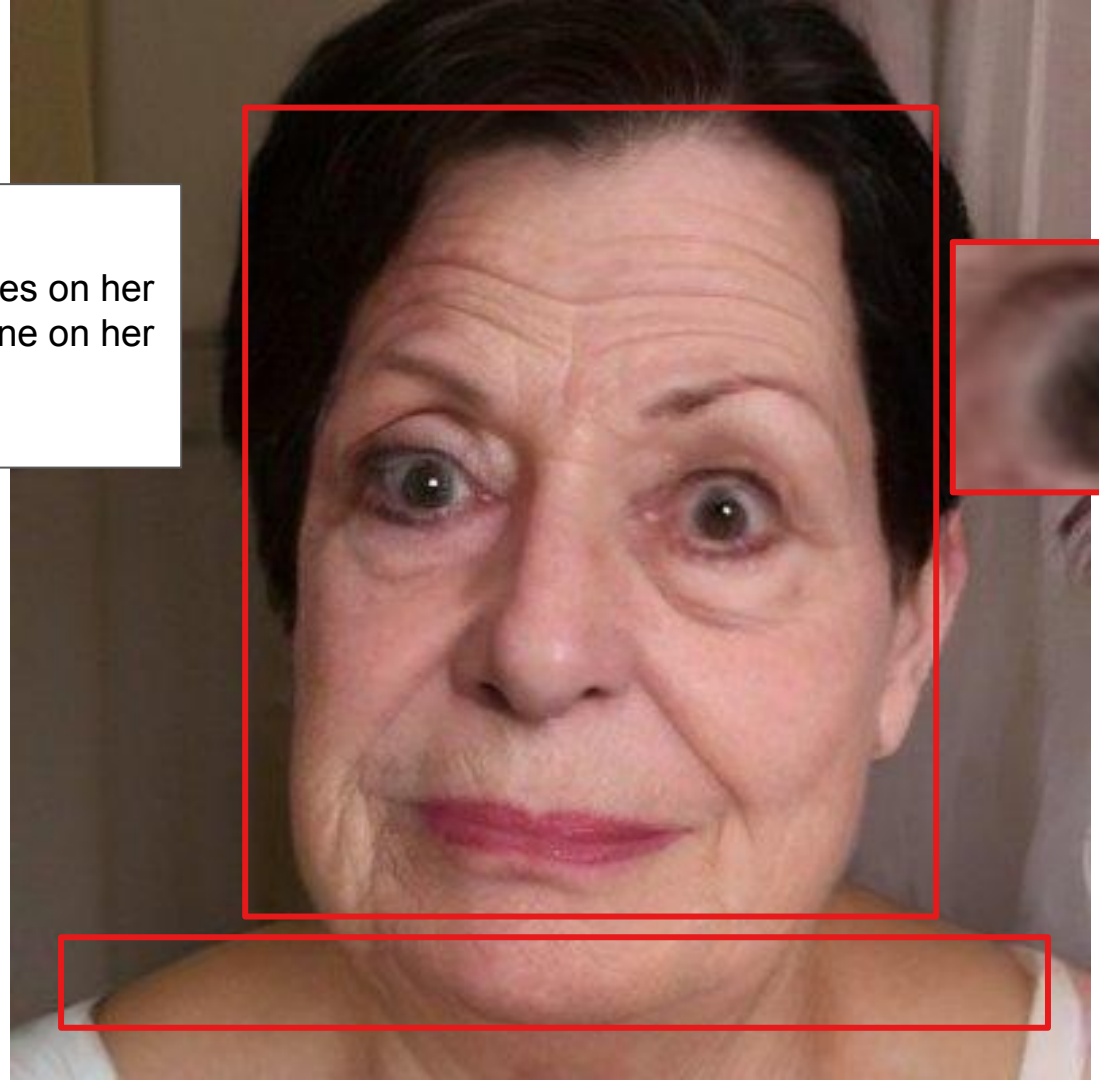
AI-generated faces

- It’s very easy to use and the results are pretty good
- It’s a tool widely used by anonymous online trolls who pretend to be someone
- Pro tip: zoom in and check the details

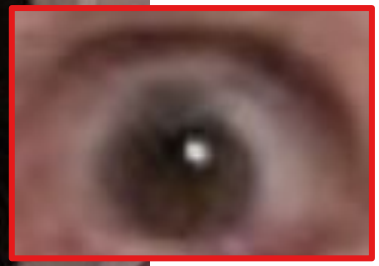
Blurred eye



Many wrinkles on her face, but none on her shoulders…



Blurred eye



AI-generated faces

- The manipulated includes the app’s logo, but not everyone knows what it means
- A clear example of how very simple hoaxes go viral

How images are used for hoaxes

- They flip them
- This leads to unsuccessful reverse image searches

Captura del fotograma original

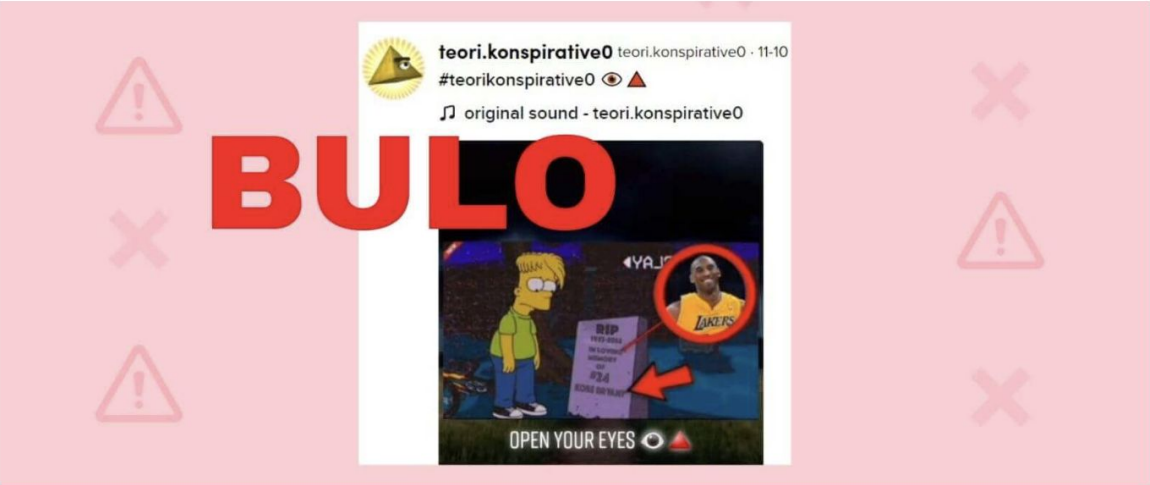
Imagen manipulada

How images are used for hoaxes

No, 'The Simpsons' did not predict the death of Kobe Bryant: it is a manipulated image

Published 12/15/2021 13:20

share



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How images are used for hoaxes

- They slow them down
- They are used to claim that a politician is drunk or has taken drugs

Pedro Sánchez borracho hablando de Mojácar y marihuana

1.081.539 visualizaciones • 9 jun 2018 1726 NO ME GUSTA

Events from the past

Kenyan presidential hopeful Odinga on hospital bed? No, photo four years old

Source: Africa Check

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Events from the past

The day's most shared picture
#PrayForUkraine #Ucraina #Ukraine
#UcraniaBajoAtaque #UkraineRussie

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Fake geo context

No, photos from US-Mexico border – not South Africans trying to illegally seek jobs in Zimbabwe

Republish our con

Please complete this form
code.

Name *

Name*

Surname *

Surname*

Email *

Email*

Get Code

Source: Africa Check

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FAKE GEO CONTEXT

MALDITO BULO

Ni refugiados ni inmigrantes: el vídeo del supuesto ataque en España a una cafetería es Sudáfrica

Publicado martes, 11 septiembre 2018

Comparte

This video of an alleged attack in Spain was actually filmed in South Africa

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MEDIA IMPERSONATION

The Namibian
@TheNamibian

FAKE NEWS ALERT!

The Namibian has noted false information circulating under its banner on social media.

The latest is a caption claiming president Hage Geingob has deployed the NDF to assist Ukraine amid tensions with Russia.

Traducir Tweet

3:23 p. m. · 25 feb. 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

36 Retweets **15** Tweets citados **161** Me gusta

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MEDIA MANIPULATION

No, Time magazine has not published a cover of Hitler with Donald Trump's face as his moustache

Que Portada se mando TIME Nada más que agregar señores !!!

6:41 p. m. · 30 may. 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

"Racismo, el virus más grande" tremenda portada de @TIME contra @realdonaldtrump

6:38 p. m. · 30 may. 2020 · Twitter for Android

BULO

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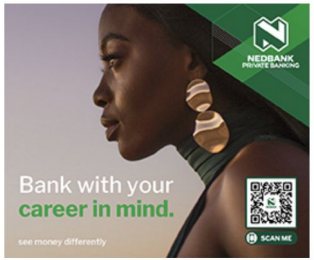
CODE MANIPULATION



Spanish fact-checkers Maldita.es win Pulitzer Prize

News - National | 2022-05-31 Page no: 1

by Charmaine Ngatjiheue, Shante Mahalie

Sport view all

2022-05-31

No African champs for Mboma, Masilingi

INJURY has ruled out star attractions Christine Mboma and Beatrice Masilingi from the

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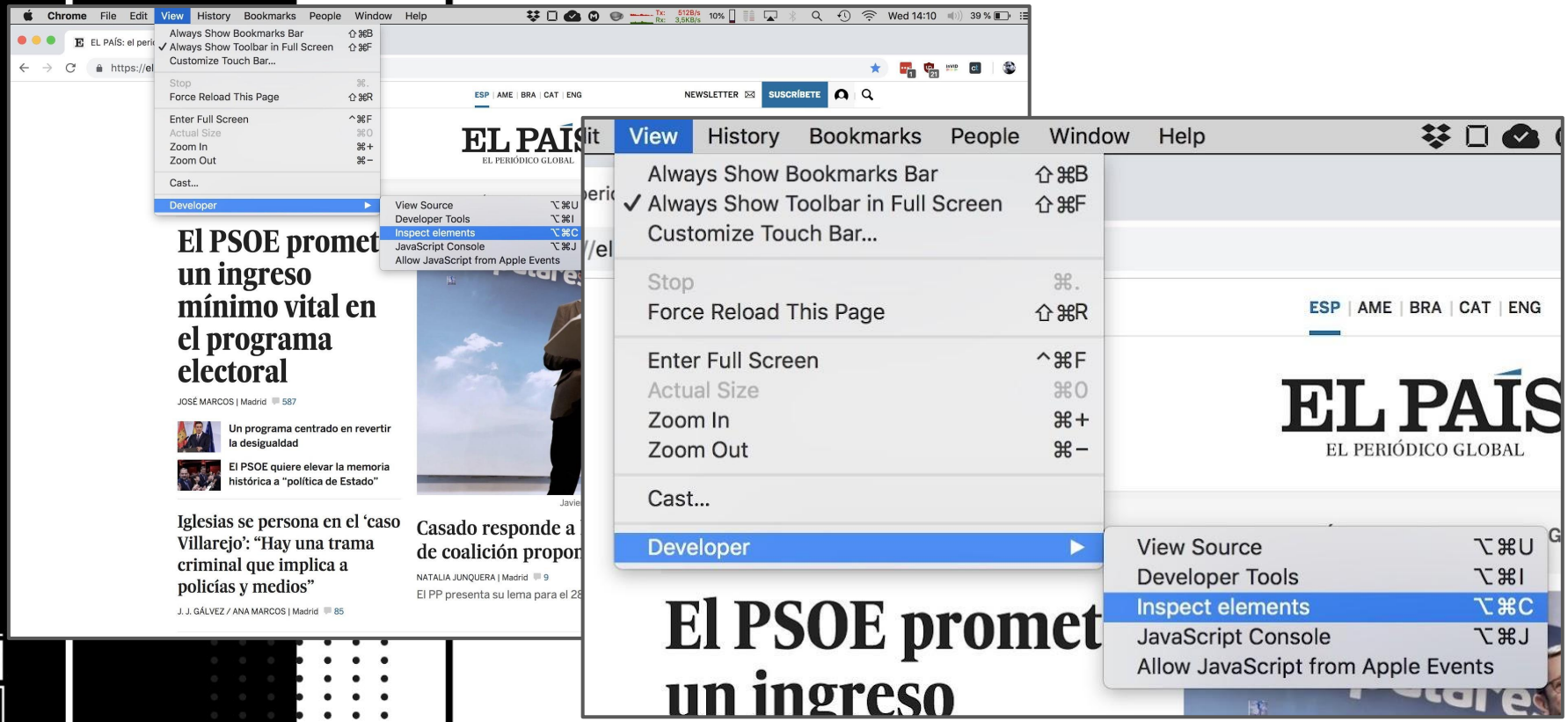
https://nation.africa/kenya

CODE MANIPULATION



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https://nation.africa/kenya

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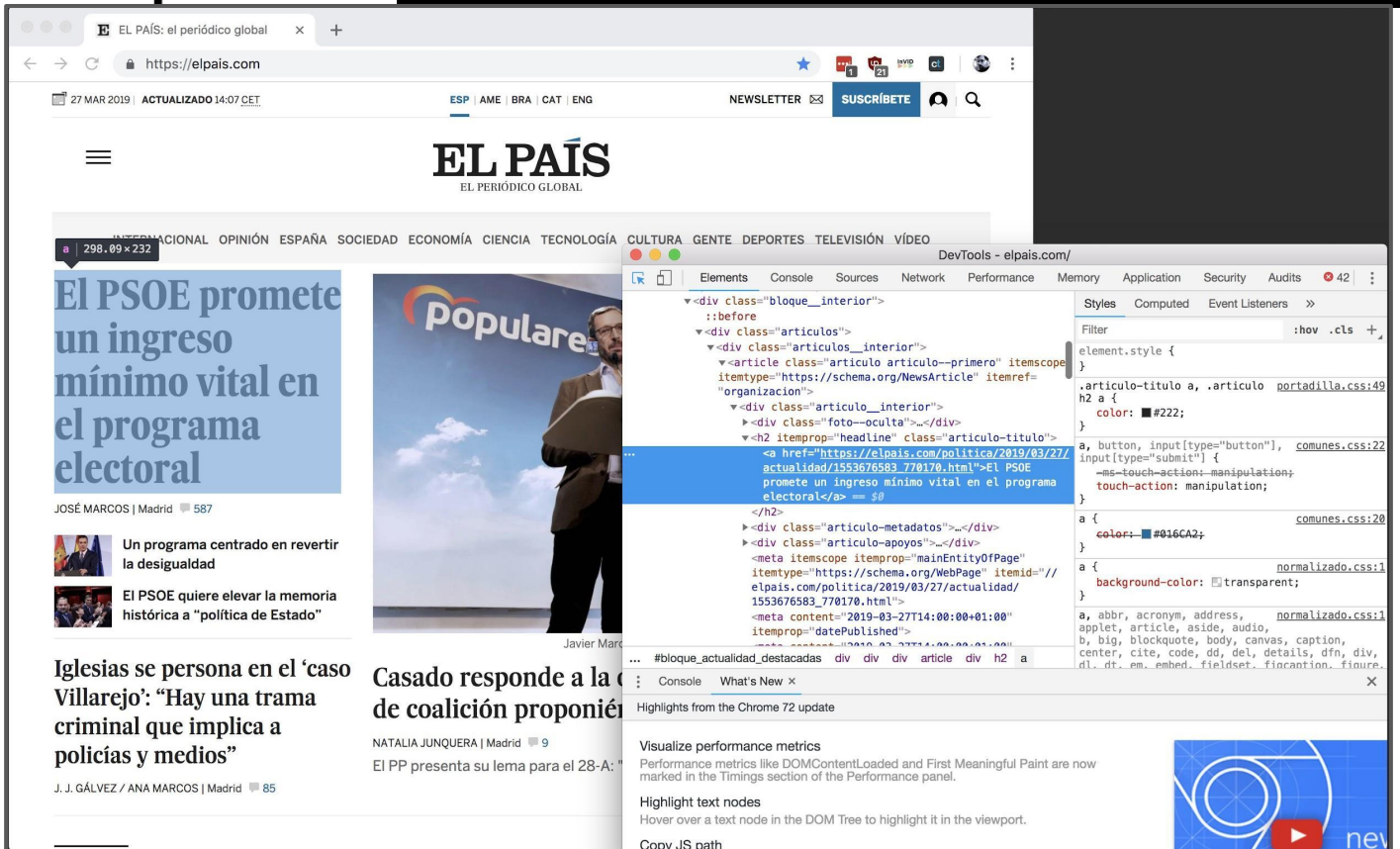

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https://nation.africa/kenya

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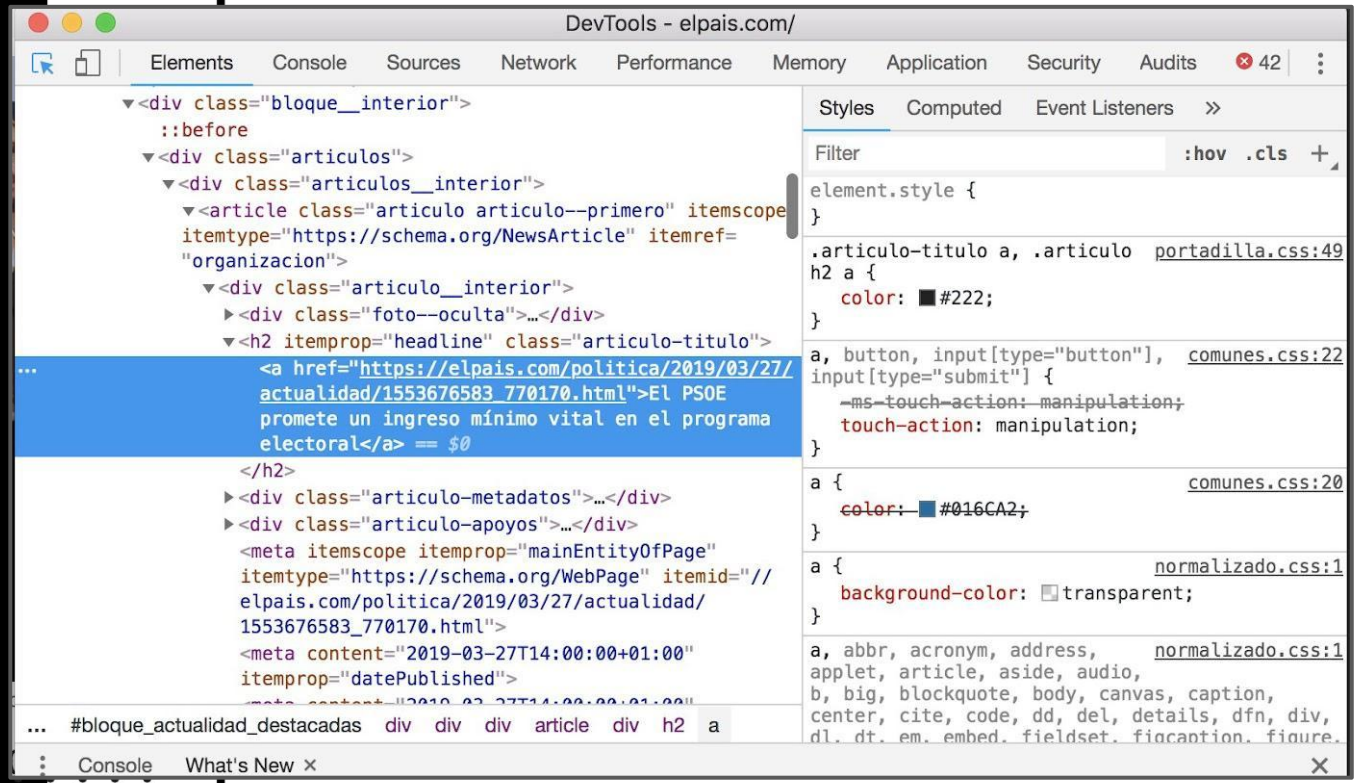

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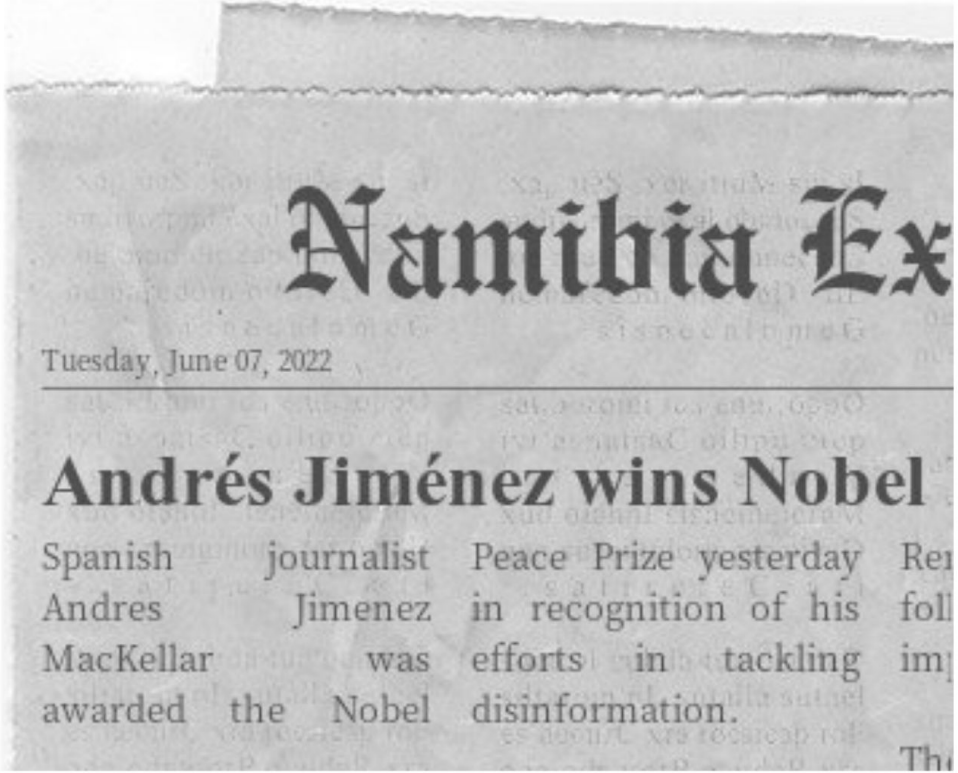
FAKE CLIPPING



Namibia Ex

Tuesday, June 07, 2022

Andrés Jiménez wins Nobel

Spanish journalist Andres Jimenez MacKellar was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday in recognition of his efforts in tackling disinformation.

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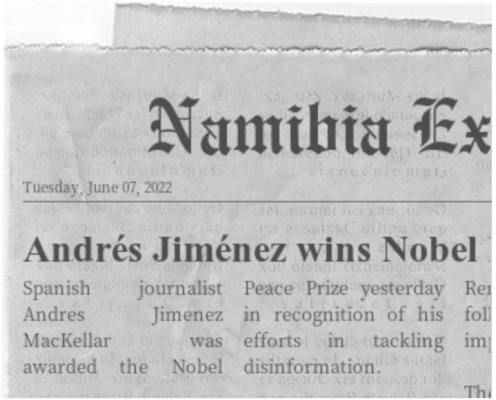
The Newspaper Clipping Generator



Download your Image

Name of the newspaper:

Namibia Express

Date:

Tuesday, June 07, 2022

Headline:

Andrés Jiménez wins N

Enter your story:

Spanish journalist Andres Jimenez MacKellar

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PRANK WEBSITES

Namibia defeats Spain in a shocking 12-0 win

Namibia's national football team shocked Spain in an unexpected 12-0 win over the European side. An unrecognizable Spanish team failed to stop Namibia's strikers, who triggered a night to forget for Luis Enrique's men. Captain Sergio Busquets said: "Namibian people are wonderful and I've fallen in love with the country, but don't expect me to play against them again".

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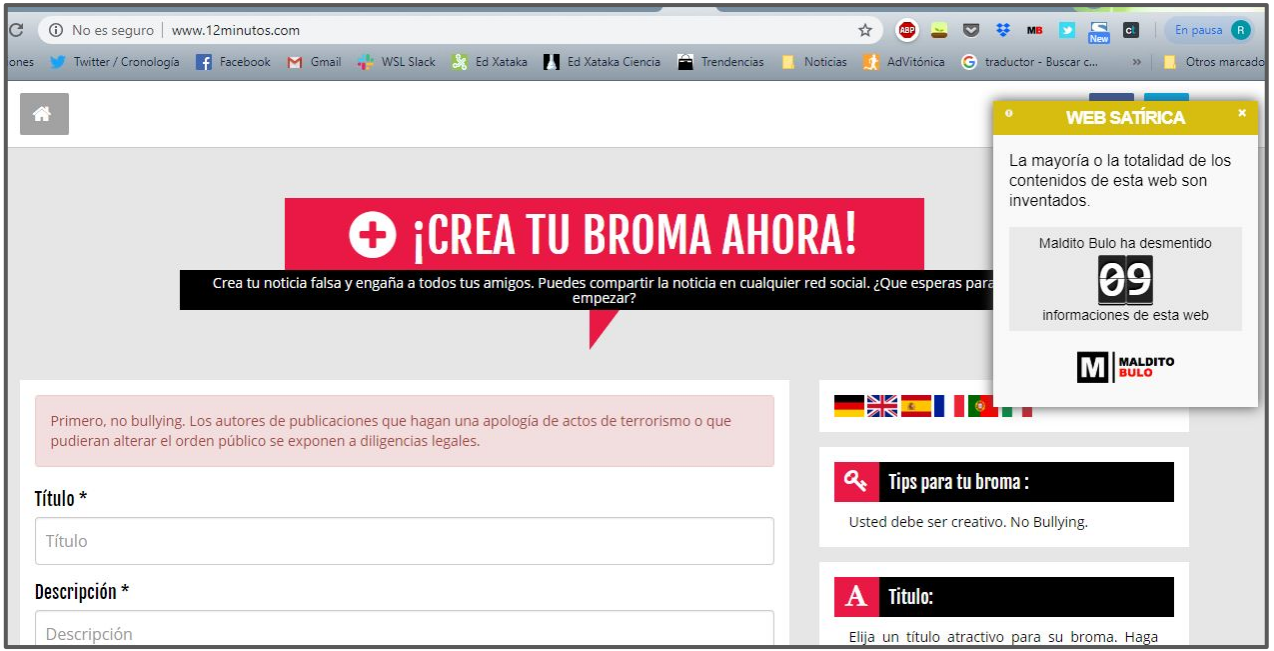
PRANK WEBSITES



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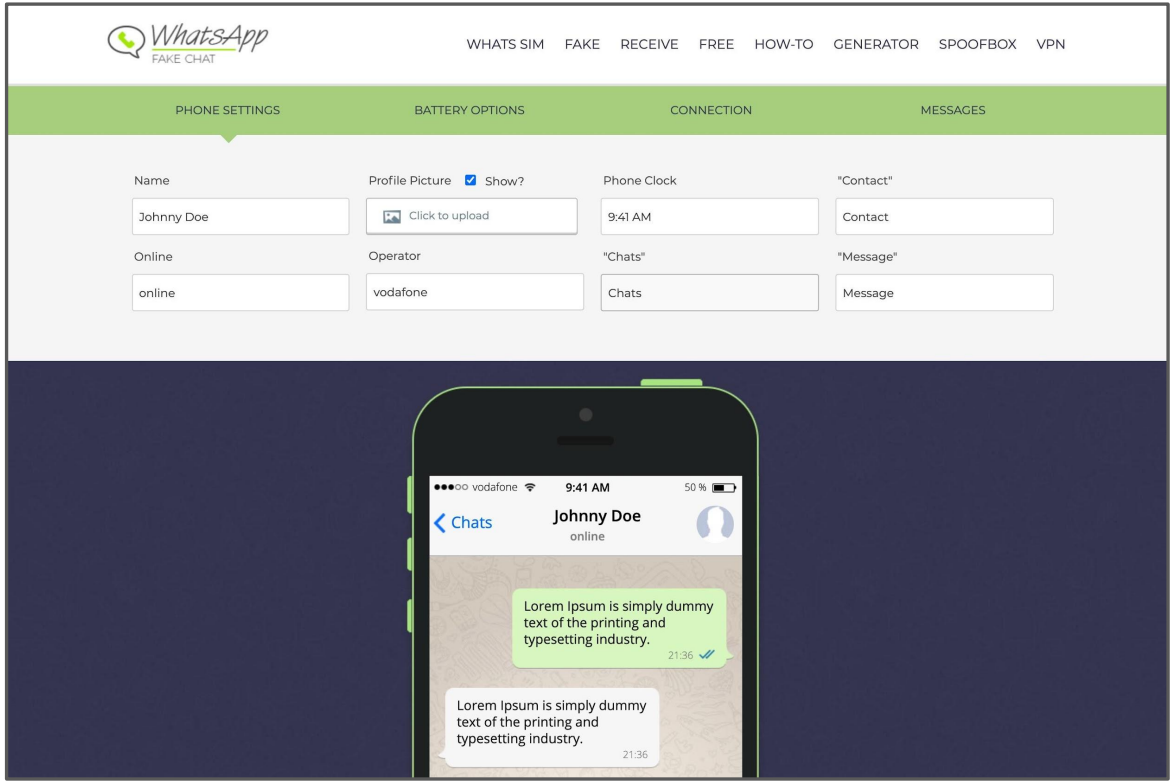
Fake WhatsApp conversations



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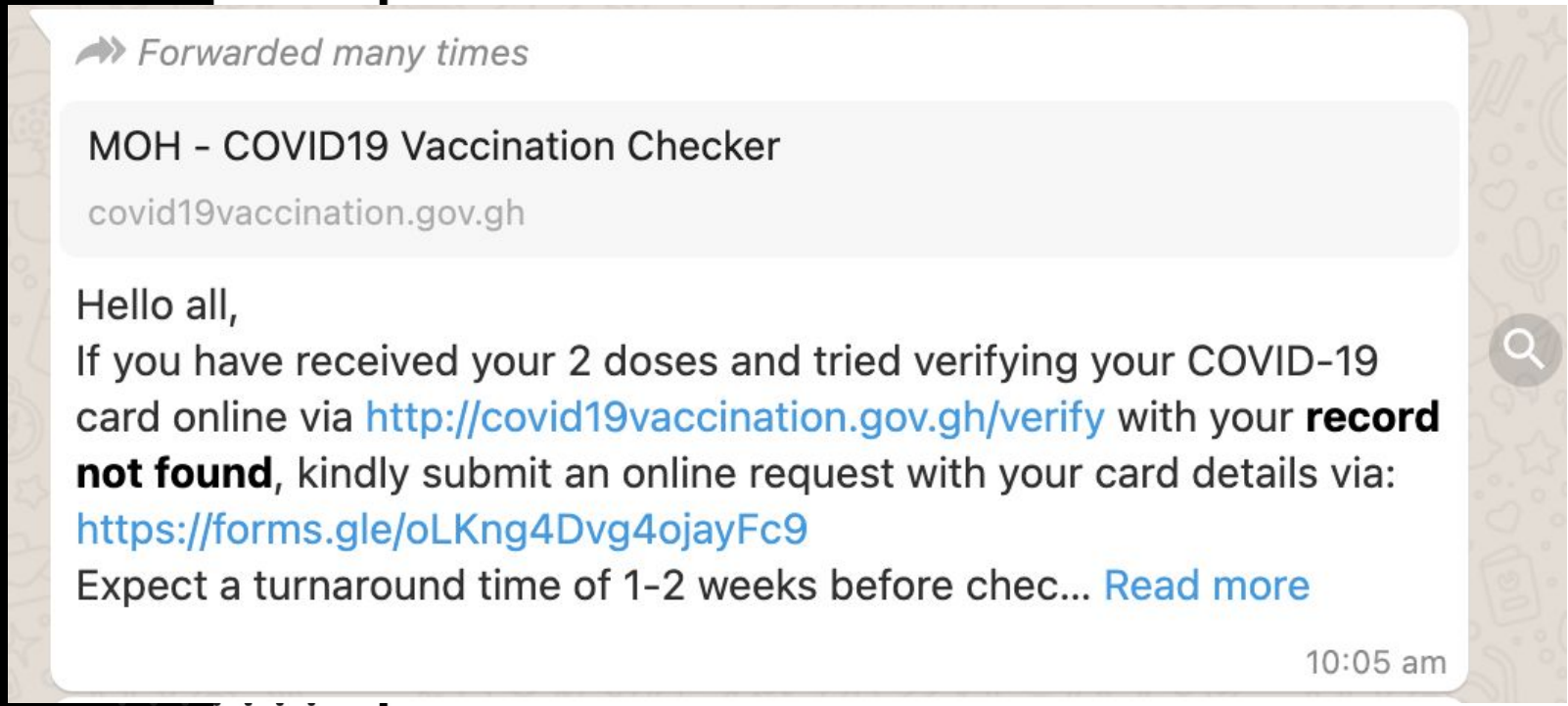
SCAMS



Source: Ghana Facts

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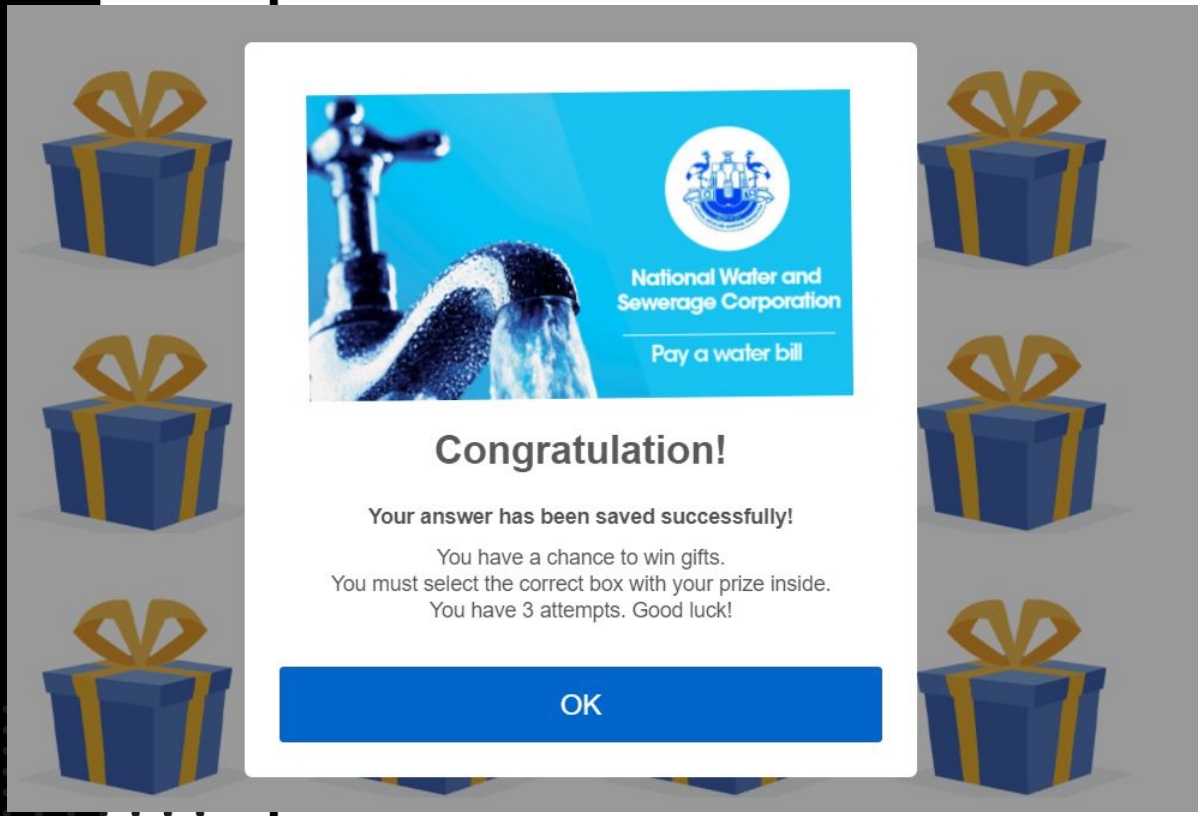
SCAMS



Source: Pesa Check

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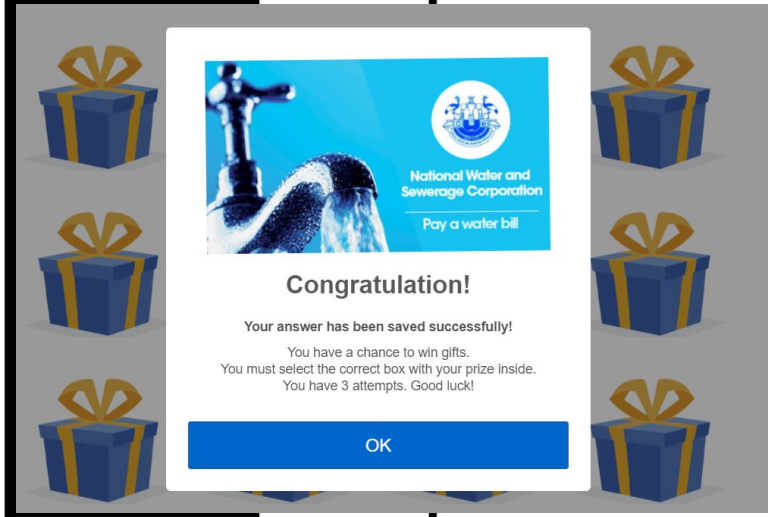
SCAMS



https://www.nwsc.co.ug

https://www.yaodsr.cn/OqNtOxnP/nwsc-w/?_t=1637932941tit#1637932943765

Source: Pesa Check

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How do the bad guys organise themselves?

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WhatsApp groups

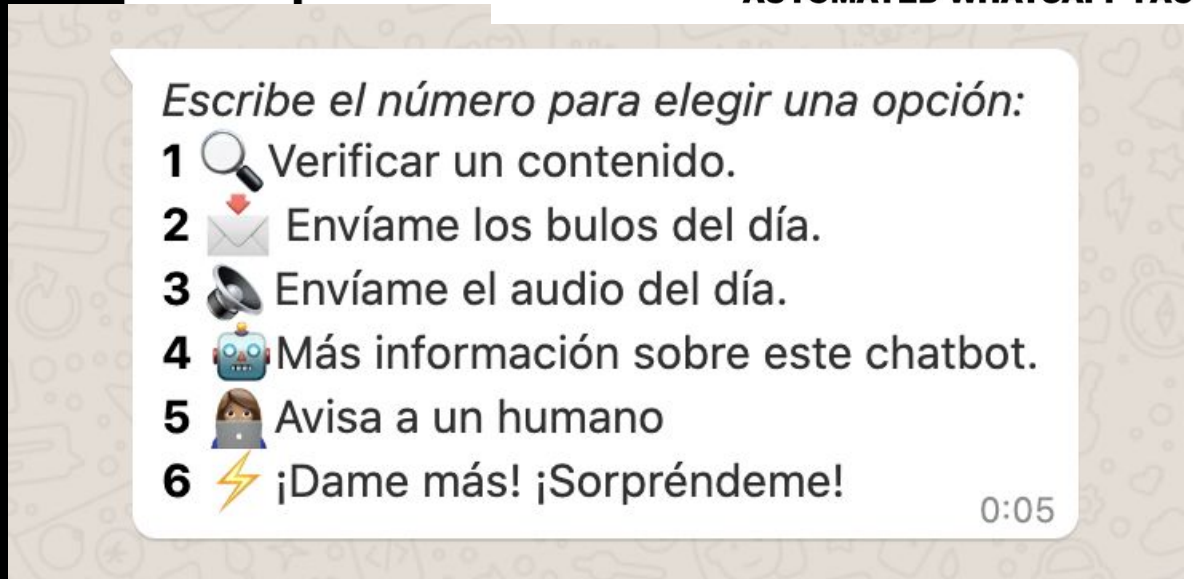
- Disinformers create private WhatsApp groups where they share their hoaxes
- These hoaxes are rapidly shared outside of that inner circle and they reach other platforms
- WhatsApp is encrypted, so it’s impossible to know who created a hoax

ENGAGE WITH AUDIENCES

WHATSAPP CHATBOT

+34 644 22 93 19

AUTOMATED WHATSAPP FACT-CHECKING SERVICE



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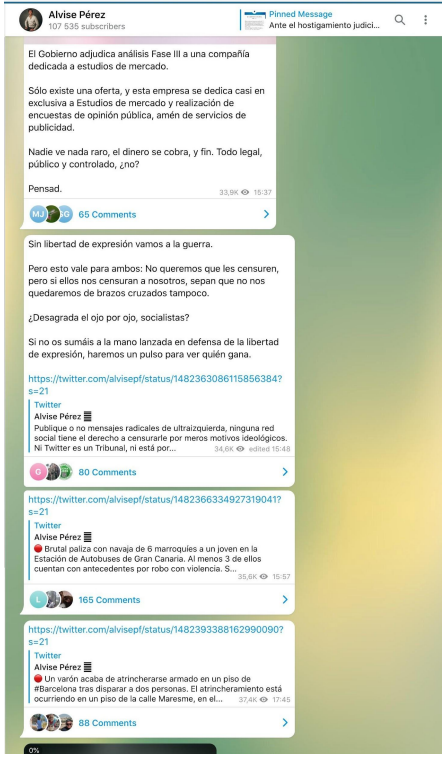
Telegram channels

- Telegram has become a large disinformation hub in Spanish
- Disinformer create channels which are followed by thousands
- Little to none action taken by the platform to counter disinformation
- Unlike WhatsApp, disinformers can create engaged communities within Telegram

Telegram channels



Telegram channels

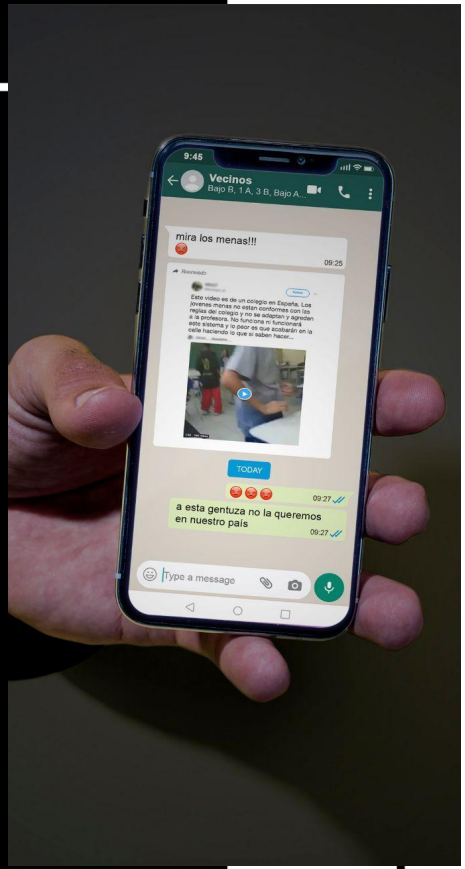
From COVID-19 denialism to pro-Putin hoaxes: the mutation of disinformation groups on Telegram in Spanish

Publicado 16/3/2022 19:38

Comparte

Maldita in Telegram

- Chatbot
- Daily summary of our debunks



What do we do about it?

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Multi-platform fact-checking

- As you can see, disinformation is present in every imaginable platform, both online and offline
- In order to combat it, fact-checkers have also got to be present in such platforms
- This implies using different formats and adapting our language so that our message reaches all these different audiences

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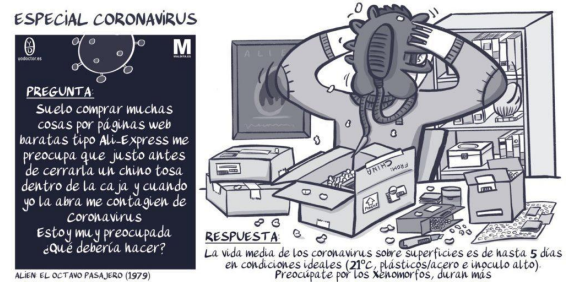
FORMATS

QUÉ HACER SI RECIBES UN BULO
1
Recibes algo que te huele raro
2
¡No lo compartas! Entra en nuestro buscador de bulos
buscador.maldita.es
¿No figura?
¿Está desmentido?
Mándanoslo a nuestro whatsapp
655 19 85 38
o
Quédate pendiente de maldita.es para nuestro desmentido
3
Comparte el desmentido con quien te lo mandó
#VIRALIZALAVERDAD
Juntos y juntas es mucho más difícil que nos la cuelen
MALDITA.ES

Alfonso Rojo López
@AlfonsoRojoPD
Seguir
¿Y no le pudo decir Pilar @RaholaOficial a esta vieja que el paisano es jefe de la banda que asesinó a 54 catalanes? bit.ly/2gc18iY
BULO
El 'show' de la pacífica abuelita al descubierto: es amiga del terrorista Otegi
okdiario
NO.
NO ES LA MISMA SEÑORA.
HEMOS HABLADO CON LA DE LA FOTO DE LA GUARDIA CIVIL.
SE LLAMA FINA, VIVE EN SANT JULIÀ DE RAMIS.
NO TIENE UNA HERMANA GEMELA.
LA OTRA ES UNA SEÑORA DE BILBAO.
MALDITO BULO
269
8,4K
5,3K


ESPECIAL CORONAVIRUS
PREGUNTA
Suelo comprar muchas cosas por páginas web baratas tipo Ali-Express me preocupa que justo antes de cerrarla un chino tosa dentro de la caja y cuando yo la abra me contagien de Coronavirus
Estoy muy preocupada ¿Qué debería hacer?
RESPUESTA
La vida media de los coronavirus sobre superficies es de hasta 5 días en condiciones ideales (21°C, plásticos/acero e inóculo alto)
Preocúpate por los xenomorfos, duran más
ALIEN EL OCTAVO PASAJERO (1979)

Reproducir
noticias reales a las que se le van añadiendo matices falsos

Radio presence

MALDITA.ES

TV presence

MALDITA.ES

Presence in local media

ARAGÓN RADIO

TELEVISIÓN CANARIA

Televisió de les Illes Balears

MALDITA.ES

How do we communicate our narratives in MALDITA

RRSS

RRSS

Presence in social media

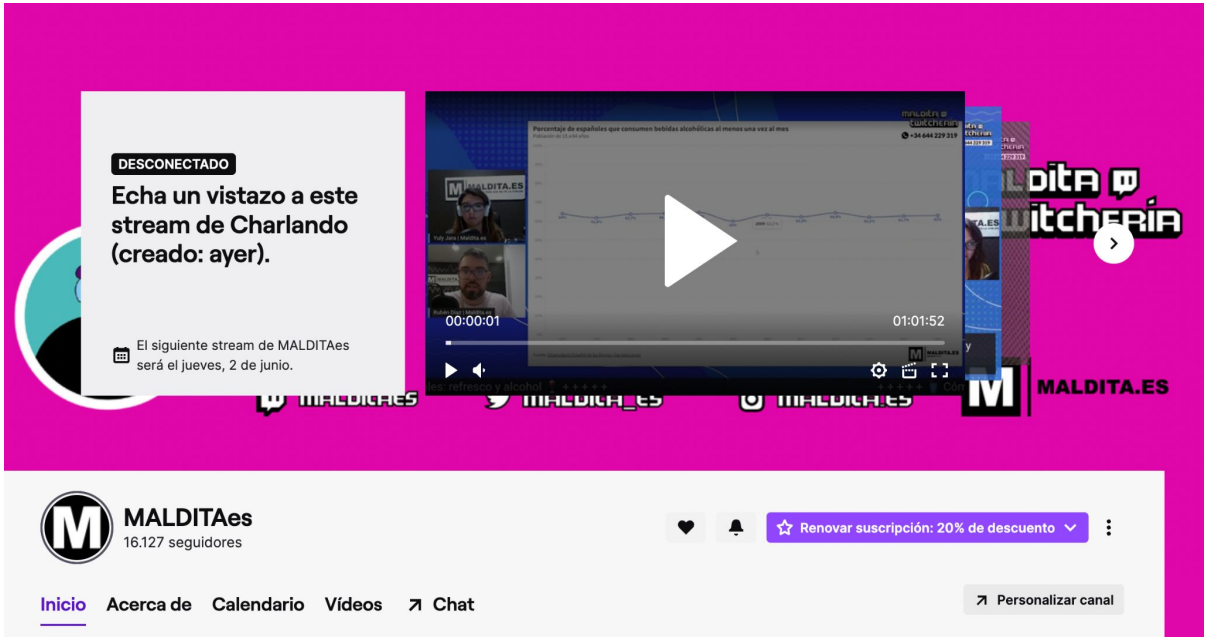
- Disinformers engage with the youth by sharing hoaxes in their platforms, using their same language and formats

- We have to do the same (although it can be embarrassing at times)

‘Maldita la hora’ podcast

MALDITA.ES

Daily Twitch show



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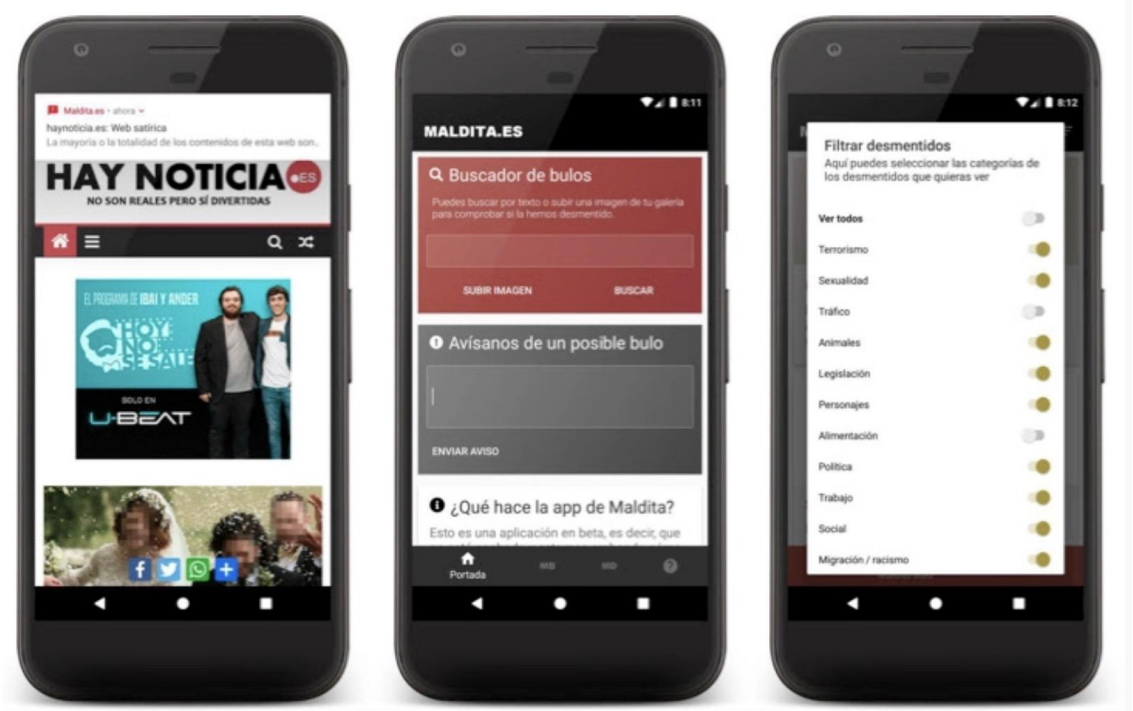
Maldita's app



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Browser extension

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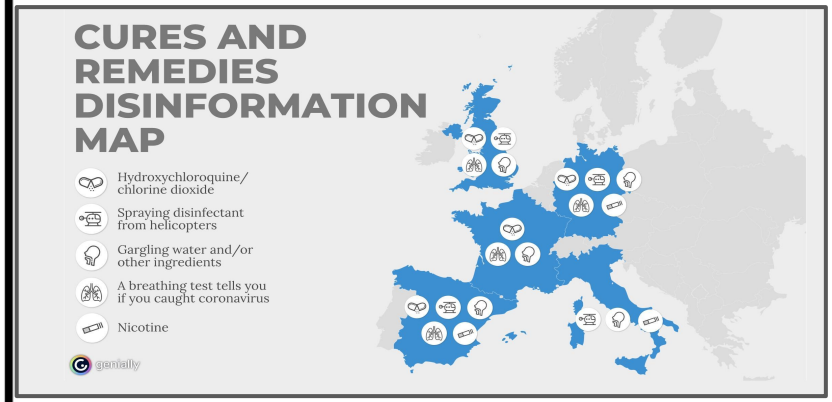
Presence in the streets (5000 posters)

MALDITA.ES

Stickers/games with media literacy tips

Reports and researches



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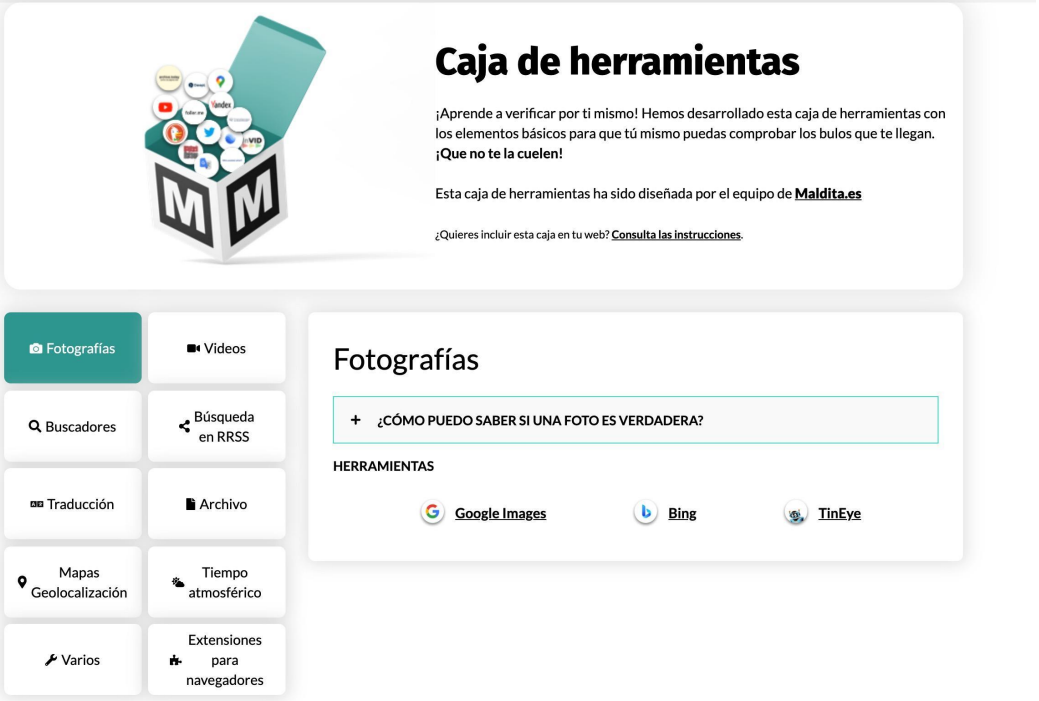
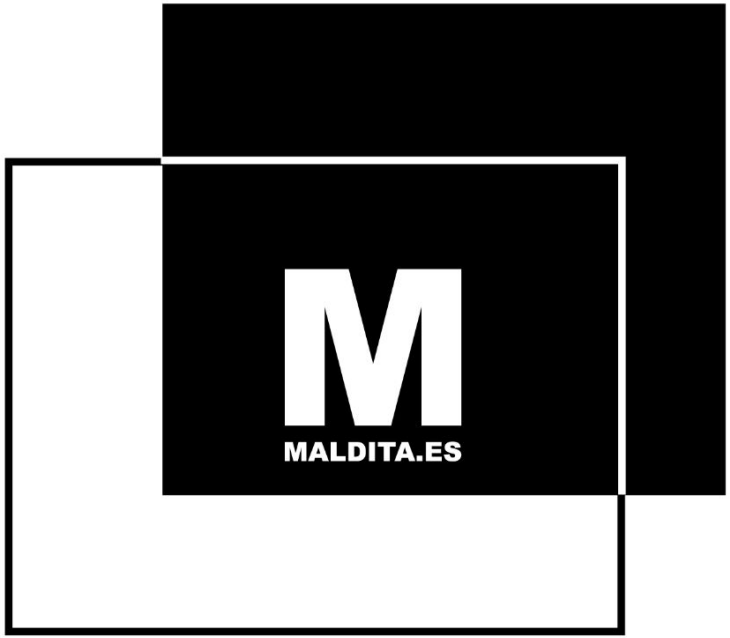
Online toolkit



https://maldita.es/herramientas-de-verificacion/

MALDITA.ES



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