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

Windhoek, Namibia 7-9 June 2022

#PeriodismoÁfrica



ORGANIZED BY:





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POLITICAL VERIFICATION, FACT-CHECKING IN ELECTIONS AND NEW NARRATIVES

Class content

- The political verification process
- Best practices in fact-checking
- Tools for political fact-checking: Claim Hunter
- How to rate the claims?
- Fact-checking during the electoral context
- New narratives in verification

FALSE

INTENT TO HARM

Mis-information

False Connection Misleading Content

Dis-information

False Context
Imposter Content
Manipulated Content
Fabricated Content

Mal-information

(Some) Leaks (Some) Harassment (Some) Hate speech

Disinformation, misinformation and malinformation

Disinformation is content that is **intentionally false** and designed to cause harm. It is motivated by three factors: to make **money**; to have **political influence**, either foreign or domestic; or to cause trouble for the sake of it.

Misinformation also describes false content, but the person sharing doesn't realize that it is false or misleading. Often a piece of disinformation is picked up by someone who doesn't realize it's false and that person shares it with their networks, believing that they are helping.

Malinformation. The term describes genuine information (private or restricted) that is shared with an intent to cause harm.

Source: First Draft

Political fact-checking | Debunking

	Political fact-checking (first wave)	Debunking (second wave)
Object of verification	Political speech	Viral hoaxes in social media
Origin	Politicians	Anonymous (not always) Anti-vaxxer Covid-denier
Detection	Listening	Social media monitoring
Tools	Official sources Databases Experts	Debunking tools Experts Official sources Databases
What to verify	Matters of public relevance, specific affirmation (not opinion, intentions or future prognoses)	Matters of public relevance, specific affirmation (not opinion, intentions or future prognoses)

Pioneers of political fact-checking

2003

FactCheck.org



lucky streak. This is going to be a fun job — and *some*body has to do it.

"Our goal here **can't be to find truth** — that's a job for philosophers and theologians. What we can do here is **sort through the factual claims** being made between now and election day, using the best techniques of journalism and scholarship.

And I can think of no better job for a journalist than holding politicians accountable for getting the facts right, regardless of their party or political philosophy. As the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan was fond of saying, 'Everyone is entitled to their own opinion — but not their own facts."

Brooks Jackson

FactCheck.org (2003)

Establish a method and recognition (2009)

The moment for the recognition of fact-checking as an important part of journalism was in 2009, when PolitiFact received the <u>Pulitzer Prize</u>. They <u>won the award</u> for their coverage of the 2008 presidential elections in the United States, "separating rhetoric from truth".

What Politifact did was to **establish a method**. The novelty was that they followed a procedure, which is the same one that almost all verification platforms follow nowadays.

Rating to classify their verifications based on a "Truth-O-Meter" on which category each statement falls into (true, false, half true, pants on fire ...). This brought the audience closer and clarified what fact-checks were.



Fact-checking platforms - <u>Duke Reporter's Lab</u>

THE PROCESS OF **FACT-**

CHECKING

Sources, tools and data



What elements or data are susceptible to be verified?

How to choose what to verify?

- Is the statement rooted in a verifiable fact with data?
- · Is the statement relevant to the public debate? Does it have the power to be harmful or confuse people?
- Would a person hear or read the statement and wonder: Is that true?

What we don't verify?

- · Opinions, political rhetoric, exaggerations, or future predictions.
- Avoid minor "errors" or slip of the tongue.
- · Is he/she a relevant actor? Is the claim likely to be passed on and repeated?
- · Sarcasm or satire
- Intentions

Examples

If someone says: 'We are the worst country with dealing with the pandemic'. It's valorative, we don't fact-check it. But if someone says 'we are the latest country in the world in vaccinating its population', we can fact-check it.

Another example. If anyone says 'the unemployment rate has grown 20% in the last year' and the truth is that it has grown 17%, we don't publish a verification, because it can be a **round up or an exaggeration** and it points in **the same direction**: the unemployment rate has grown.

Methodology and sources

- Diversity of sources. Each verification should have at least two different sources if possible.
- Use of **primary sources** (direct access) rather than secondary sources (indirect)
- Questioning information from a source when it is an implicated party
- We prioritize sources from official or institutional organizations (databases, official statistics, etc.). Or experts in their field.
- Three different **filters** within the team prior to publication.
- The objective is to **explain**, not to point out
- Presentation of evidences. The conclusion is the result from the evidences



Which sources should be used?

Primary sources and original documentation:

- · Government reports
- Academic studies
- · Data from international organisations
- Expert voices from academics, think tanks, international institutions

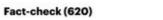
The process of fact-checking in Newtral

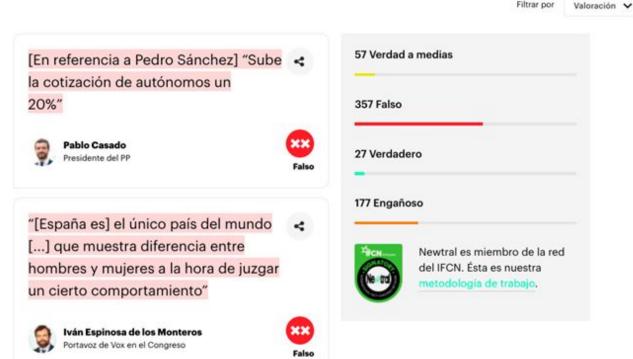
- Listening, monitoring (monitor the statements of politicians, prepare an agenda)
- Proposal on Slack (verifiable claims, phrases which contain information that can be verified)
- First contrast of the information (official sources)
- Select the claim to verify
- Consult the politician which is his source for the data he used (we give them 48 hours)
- Second research: official numbers, other sources, experts
- Writing the article (transparent)
- Different structure from the traditional media: we explain who, where and when the claim was made. Then, we describe the process to verify it.
- And then we rate the claim (we have to adjust to the definition of the rating we provided)

How do you rate the claims?

- The verification depends on the **data available** to the moment when the claim was done.
- The reporter checks the **definitions** and suggest a rating explaining why.
- · If there are doubts, we check this:
 - Is the claim susceptible to be understood in another different way? Is the claim **open to interpretation**?
 - Are we respecting the **literality** of the claim and its **context**?
 - Did the author **provide the source** or explained what he meant?
 - What have we done with **previous similar cases**?







Newtral ratings (political fact-checking)

- False
- Partially False
- Half true
- True

Esta es nuestra metodología de trabajo. Después del proceso de verificación, y en función de los datos, otorgamos una de estas categorías:



Engañoso

La afirmación contiene datos correctos, pero ignora elementos muy importantes o se mezcla con datos incorrectos dando una impresión diferente, imprecisa o falsa



Falso

La afirmación es falsa



Verdad a medias

La afirmación es correcta, aunque necesita aclaración, información adicional o contexto



Verdadero

La afirmación es rigurosa y no falta contexto ni datos adicionales significativos.

PolitiFact ratings













TRUE – The statement is accurate and there's nothing significant missing.

MOSTLY TRUE – The statement is accurate but needs clarification or additional information.

HALF TRUE – The statement is partially accurate but leaves out important details or takes things out of context.

MOSTLY FALSE – The statement contains an element of truth but ignores critical facts that would give a different impression.

FALSE – The statement is not accurate.

PANTS ON FIRE – The statement is not accurate and makes a ridiculous claim.

Categorías



La afirmación no sulo es falsa, sino que se aleia exageradamiente de lo que indican los datos.



La afirmación no se comprueba-















Polígrafo



Ecuador Chequea

El Sabueso, Animal Político

Ojo Biónico, Ojo Público





One Pinocchio

Some shading of the facts. Selective telling of the truth. Some omissions and exaggerations, but no outright falsehoods. (You could view this as "mostly true.")





Two Pinocchios

Significant omissions and/or exaggerations. Some factual error may be involved but not necessarily. A politician can create a false, misleading impression by playing with words and using legalistic language that means little to ordinary people. (Similar to "half true.")







Three Pinocchios

Significant factual error and/or obvious contradictions. This gets into the realm of "mostly false." But it could include statements which are technically correct (such as based on official government data) but are so taken out of context as to be very misleading. The line between Two and Three can be bit fuzzy and we do not award half-Pinocchios. So we strive to explain the factors that tipped us toward a Three.





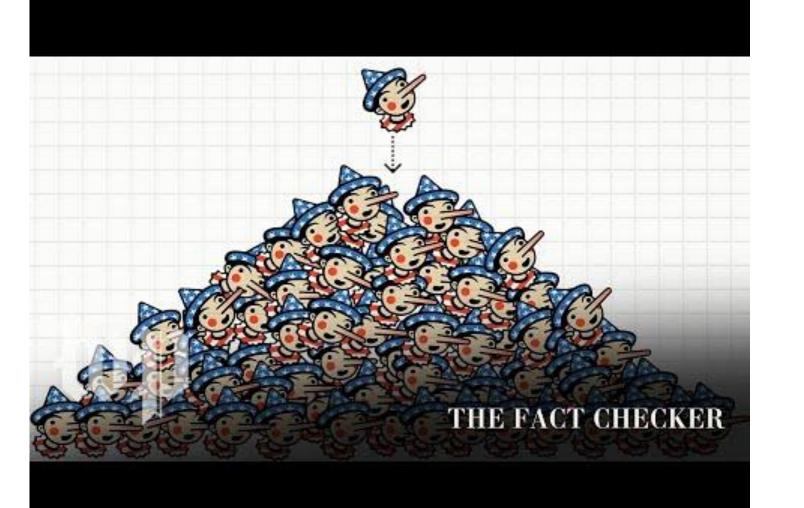




Four Pinocchios

Whoppers.

Washington Post - Fact Checker



Rate the claims

- Pact with the reader
- The verification must be a transparent text
- We rate the accuracy of the claim

Corrections by the politicians



Efectivamente, he cometido un error en la comparación ya que Israel no es el primer país del mundo con pauta completa. Creo que en la vida, como en la política, uno tiene que ser sincero y reconocer cuando se equivoca a la hora de hacer una afirmación. Así es en mi caso. Gracias!

Nº Newtral ② @Newtral · 19 jul.

#FACTCHECK | Israel no es el país del mundo con más población vacunada contra la covid como dijo Adrián Barbón.

newtral.es/adrian-barbon-...

"Asturias tiene ya más del 60% de su población con pauta completa de vacunación. Es decir, al nivel de Israel, el país del mundo que mayor porcentaje de población tiene con pauta completa"



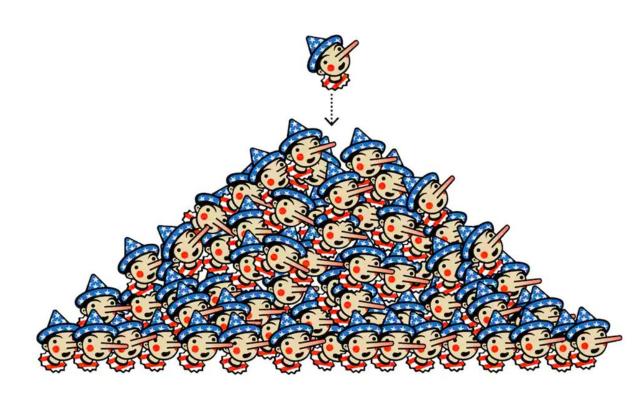
16-07-21



Politicians than repeat false claims

Bottomless Pinocchio

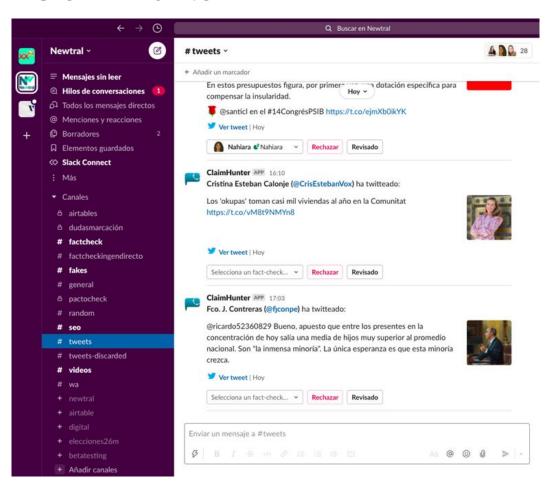
"In December, 2018, The Fact Checker introduced the Bottomless Pinocchio. The bar for the Bottomless Pinocchio is high: Claims must have received Three or Four Pinocchios from The Fact Checker, and they must have been repeated at least 20 times. Twenty is a sufficiently robust number that **there can** be no question the **politician is aware** that his or her facts are wrong"



Tools for political fact-checking: Claim Hunter

- In Newtral, we developed a tool called **Claim Hunter** to help us verify claims
- It helps to detect verifiable claims through artificial intelligence (but the fact-check itself is still human)
- Read and listen to all politicians is a big effort (tools helps to save time)
- The algorithm filters the verifiable tweets from political actors (such as congressmen, deputies, government...) and shows them in slack
- Claim Hunter is constantly learning from the verifiers experiences through a training process in which journalists daily decisions are used to teach the model when it was right and when it made mistakes.

Claim Hunter



Currently, the average accuracy is above 85%.

It selects an average of **80 tweets every day**



We also have tools that transcribe videos of politicians into text

VERIFICATION DURING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Electoral debates and the coverage of the election day



Live fact-checking:

Pros

- You can get it corrected or show the lie better
- Has more effect
- The hearing is pending

Contras

- There are more chances of making mistakes
- There is no margin to consult with more sources
- You don't give politicians a chance to explain their source

Live fact-checking

Different approaches:

- Some fact-checkers don't publish at the same moment of the debate unless they repeat something we already have verified before
- Other fact-checkers, the day of the electoral debate, invite experts and academics and when the politicians said something that seemed wrong they start verifying.
 Don't publish until they are completely sure. It could be 4am or next day

Live fact-checking

Newtral FACT-CHECK | Verdades y mentiras del pleno del Congreso del 10 ...

FACT-CHECK | Verdades y mentiras del pleno del Congreso del 10 de noviembre

Paro, donación de vacunas, inflación... repasamos las afirmaciones de distintos líderes políticos durante la última sesión plenaria en el Congreso de los Diputados. | **Actualizada a 13/11/2021**

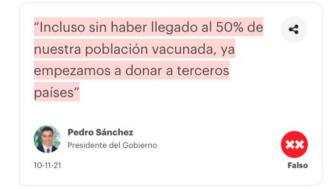


Pedro Sánchez: "Incluso sin haber llegado al 50% de la población vacunada ya empezamos a donar a terceros países". Falso

El presidente del Gobierno, Pedro Sánchez, aserguró que «incluso sin haber llegado al 50% de la población vacunada ya empezamos a donar a terceros países. España comenzó la donación de vacunas a otros países el 5 de agosto, tras superar el 59% de la población con la pauta completa, según confirma a Newtral.es la Alianza Gavi para la Vacunación, una de las organizaciones coordinadoras de COVAX, y como consta en una nota de prensa publicada por Moncloa.

Aunque el anuncio de las donaciones ocurre antes, en abril de 2021, el envío de las dosis se lleva a cabo 17 días después de que el país alcance la mitad de su población con pauta completa, hito logrado el fin de semana del 17 y 18 de julio, como indica el Ministerio de Sanidad.

Lo contamos aquí.

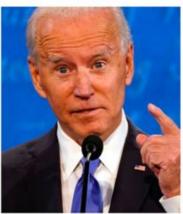


Live fact-checking: different approaches



Fact-checking Donald Trump, Joe Biden in the final presidential debate





Donald Trump and Joe Biden at the final 2020 presidential debate. (AP)

The New Hork Times

Election Results: Biden Wins Electoral College Votes Congress Defies Mob Georgia Runoff Results Democrats Win

Fact-Checking the Final Presidential Debate

Last Updated Oct. 23, 2020, 12:45 p.m. ET



Live fact-checking



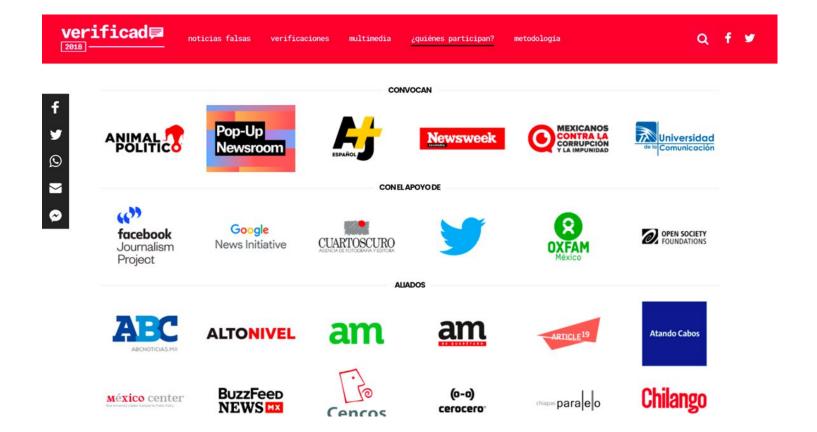
Fact-checking alliances for elections

- · <u>Electionland</u>, the US (2016)
- · CrossCheck, France (2017)
- · <u>Verificado</u>, Mexico (2018)
- · <u>Reverso</u>, Argentina (2019)
- · <u>Ama Llulla</u>, Peru (2021)

2022

- Objectif Desinfox (France Elections, 23 French Media)
- RedCheq Colombia (an alliance of 50 media and NGOs to combat disinformation in all regions of the country)

Fact-checking alliances for elections



NEW NARRATIVES

Explain, share and be creative



New Narratives (Illustrations for Instagram)











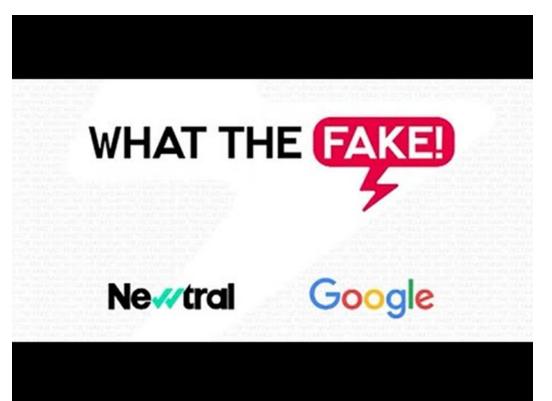


New Narratives (audios for Twitter - #SinVerificarNoRT)



New Narratives - Video Campaign "What the fake!"

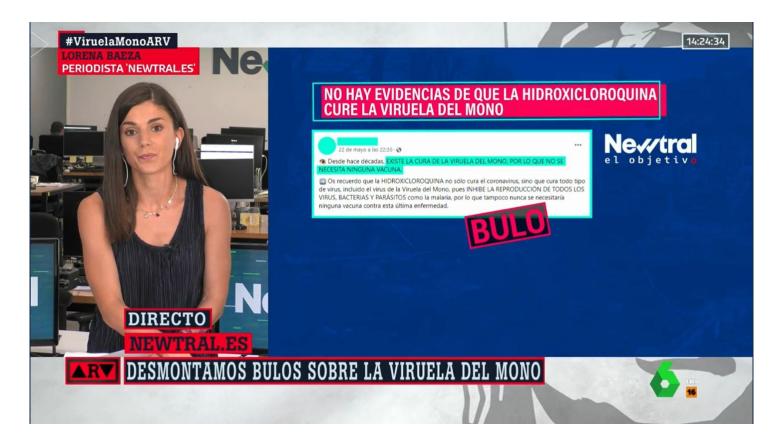
:



'Get vaccinated against hoaxes'



Fact-Checking in TV



Fact-Checking in TV



New Narratives (Fact-Fiction)

'La Casa de Papel': Cómo es la verdadera cámara acorazada del Banco de España

Te contamos las medidas de seguridad con las que cuenta la verdadera y misteriosa cámara acorazada del Banco de España, cuyo atraco supone el punto de partida de la popular serie de Netflix

We choose a premiere, film or series and fact-check the context or the content to give more information



New Narratives (Pacto-Check)

Ne //tral

We analyze the status of 100 promises of the Government pact



Analizamos el estado de 100 promesas del pacto de Gobierno

Bienvenidos al Pactocheck del acuerdo de gobierno que alcanzaron el PSOE y Unidas Podemos en noviembre de 2019. En esta página sometemos a control 100 compromisos firmados por las formaciones lideradas por Pedro Sánchez y -en el momento de la firma del acuerdo- Pablo Iglesias, para evaluar en qué medida se han cumplido o no los acuerdos alcanzados en el pacto para gobernar.

¿Por qué estos 100 compromisos y cómo lo hacemos? Esta es la **metodología** de análisis seguida por los verificadores de Newtral.es para actualizar y comprobar cada propuesta del <u>acuerdo de coalición</u> entre PSOE y Unidas Podemos.

El equipo revisa diariamente la evolución de estas medidas que forman parte del acuerdo de gobierno, pero es posible que algo se nos haya pasado. ¿Tienes más información sobre alguna de estas promesas? Mándanos los datos a **pactocheck@newtral.es**.

New Narratives (Pacto-Check)

C Última actualización: 31/05/2022

2 años, 5 meses y 3 días transcurridos desde que se firmó el acuerdo



Cumplidas	33 de 100 — 33%
Pendientes	19 de 100 — 19%
En progreso	47 de 100 — 47%
Incumplidas	1 de 100 — 1%



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Promise Tracker Did they keep their word?

Try our promise tracker ▶

They promised big changes. Have they carried them out? The African Election Promise Tracker shows progress made to date.







KEPT?





previsto.

Cumplida El compromiso de campaña se llevó a cabo en el plazo



Incumplida La promesa tenía un plazo establecido que no se cumplió o los resultados muestran que la situación avanzó en la dirección

contraria a lo

previsto.



En proceso,

nada en las

demorada

Se avanzó poco o

medidas necesarias

para cumplir con el

compromiso, pero

lograrse en el resto

todavía podría

del período de

mandato.

cumplida.

En proceso,

adelantada Se tomaron parte de las medidas

necesarias y se trabajó para lograr la promesa, aunque todavía no está



09 Diciembre, 2020 06:00 am | Tiempo de lectura: 3 minutos

Martin Slipczuk

- Si tenés sólo unos segundos, leé estas líneas:
 - Las exportaciones cayeron un 13,5% entre los primeros 10 meses de 2020 y el
 - mismo período de 2019. . Los especialistas destacan que la pandemia tuvo un rol central, pero que

pandemia, las exportaciones también fueron menores a las del año anterior.

también influyeron otros factores, como la brecha cambiaria. Si uno analiza sólo el período entre enero y febrero de 2020, previo a la

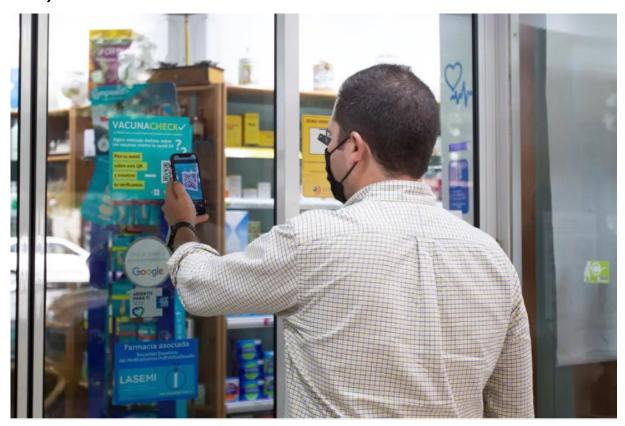
Free WhatsApp course against disinformation

- Newtral and MediaWise (Poynter Institute)
- The course includes videos and WhatsApp lessons
- Especially aimed at older people, but it is valid for all ages





Spanish pharmacies launch campaign to debunk vaccines hoaxes (EFE Verifica)





QR code in more than 22.000 pharmacies

Link to WhatsApp
Service from EFE Verifica

New Narratives (Twitch)





00:00:43



MALDITA.ES

NO 1971 PT 1971 AA / 9A /

Política de neutralidad

"Los delincuentes mostrando varios DNI de aficionados del @realmadrid robados ayer en Saint Denis Una organización "maravillosa" hizo que UEFA celebrara una final en un barrio donde la policía NO entra... Bienvenidos a la "Europa" que nos están deiando". Este es uno de los mensajes con los que se ha difundido una imagen de varios hombres

sosteniendo DNI y pasaportes afirmando que son inmigrantes que

robaron la documentación a los aficionados del Real Madrid en París urante la iornada de la final de la Champions. Es un bulo: es una

En Maldita.es hemos elaborado un recopilatorio donde os contamos cuales han sido los más frecuentes y compartidos a través de las redes sociales.

No, no son "delincuentes" que robaron "varios DNI de aficionados del Real Madrid" durante la final de la Champions en Saint Denis (París): es una foto de 2012









Questions?



