Agenda

- RECOMMENDATION: Display of Capital Punishment
- HEADS UP: Unverifiable Rumors and Violence
Recommendation: Display of Capital Punishment
Issue

We want to explore how we should enforce on images and videos, including live streams, of capital punishment on the platform. We want to recognize the sovereign right of governments to enforce local law and the importance of such imagery for activism; however, we must also acknowledge the dignity of the deceased individual and the negative effects of sharing such content.
Display of Capital Punishment

Overview

**Recommendation:** Apply a warning label to photos and videos depicting capital punishment and prohibit live streams

**External Outreach:** 6 external engagements

**Working Groups:** 7 multi-disciplinary, internal working groups
Display of Capital Punishment

Status Quo

• Under our current policy
  o We allow imagery of violent death with a warning label for users over 18 years if there is no accompanying celebratory or sadistic commentary
  o We remove imagery of violent death when there are expressions of sadism or celebration of violence

• We currently do not have a policy specific to capital punishment imagery
Warning: Graphic Content
Display of Capital Punishment

Examples

- Watch the death penalty of an accused person by lethal injection.
- Capital punishment for gays in Iran.
Display of Capital Punishment

Research Findings

• Support for or against the death penalty is not consistent globally. Studies suggest attitudinal preferences vary from person to person for various reasons.

• There is a tradeoff in terms of censorship and free speech.

• Repetitive viewing of violent content can lead to vicarious trauma, warning screens can mitigate the impact of surprise.

• People who have lost someone to execution, and users with mental distress are especially vulnerable to viewing this type of content.

Policy Relevance: The recommendation should take into differing global standards, consider warning labels or screens to reduce element of surprise and impact of graphic content on users.

Sources: Goodman, 2012; Gambini-Buffalo, 2017; Dardis et al, 2008; Santos Pais, 2017; Amnesty International Global Report, 2018
We spoke to 6 experts who focus on capital punishment advocacy and human rights.
Display of Capital Punishment
Apply a warning label to photos and videos, and prohibit live streams

**Pros**
- Allows for content relevant to political debate while protecting users from distressing and violent images
- Aligned with our policies on violent death
- Some safeguards for the dignity of the decedent

**Cons**
- Possibility of trauma
- Images could be exploited
- Warning labels may affect use of imagery for activism / increasing awareness
Display of Capital Punishment
Apply a warning label to photos and videos, including live streams

**Pros**
- Allows for content relevant to political debate while protecting users from distressing and violent images

**Cons**
- Possibility of trauma
- Images could be exploited
- Warning labels reduce engagement, use for activism
Display of Capital Punishment
Remove videos and live streams but permit photos with a warning label

**Pros**
- Allows for some content relevant to political debate
- Removing videos and live streams will limit the most visceral imagery

**Cons**
- Possibility of trauma
- Images could be exploited
- Removes content that is sometimes posted by governments
Display of Capital Punishment
Remove photos and videos but allow in newsworthy context

**Pros**
- Protects users from distressing images
- Option to leave up newsworthy content after safety assessment

**Cons**
- Prohibits content relevant to political debate
- Removes content that is sometimes posted by governments
- Facebook could be perceived as taking an anti-capital punishment position
Display of Capital Punishment

External Outreach

- Allow imagery under warning label
- Remove without consent; remove Live
- Allow photos under warning label; remove video & Live
- Remove capital punishment imagery
Next Steps

Developments
Collaborate with Community Operations to develop additional operational guidelines

Comms
Work with Communications on policy language

Launch
Begin enforcing on policy
Heads Up: Unverifiable Rumors

Content Distribution and Algorithm Policy
We remove content when we know it is false and has the potential to contribute to imminent physical harm or violence. We implement this policy based on input from local partners. We also want to stop the spread of rumors that are likely to contribute to violence even if we can’t always functionally verify whether the claims are false; however, we don’t want to restrict speech that turns out to be true.
## Unverifiable Rumors

### Status Quo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REMOVE</th>
<th>REDUCE</th>
<th>GRAY AREA</th>
<th>ALLOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Misinformation that contributes to imminent violence or physical harm</td>
<td>Posts rated false by independent third-party fact-checkers</td>
<td>Unverifiable rumors that may lead to violence or physical harm</td>
<td>True, accurate statements; opinions, satire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforced based on input from local partners</td>
<td>Enforced by 3PFCs</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Allowed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A
Unverifiable Rumors

Examples

Currently Removed Under Misinfo + Harm Policy

The text claims the image shows the recent brutal killing of certain local people in Myanmar by Bengalis. In fact, it shows the bodies of Bengalis being retrieved following a massacre in Bangladesh in 1971.

Reduced When Rated False by Third-Party Fact Checkers

A claim that Israel spread the HIV virus to Palestinian women through feminine pads.

Unclear

“A claim that Israel spread the HIV virus to Palestinian women through feminine pads.”

“Something has happened to this girl from having taken sterilization pills.”
# Next Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working Groups</th>
<th>Working Groups to be scheduled</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data Insights / CVI and CO</td>
<td>Work with the Civic Integrity and Community Operations Process teams to understand operational challenges/limitations</td>
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<tr>
<td>External Stakeholders</td>
<td>Begin conversations with academics and civil society groups to inform our policy development efforts and definitions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Definitions</td>
<td>Establish definitions and explore enforcement options (banking, remove, reduce, inform)</td>
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