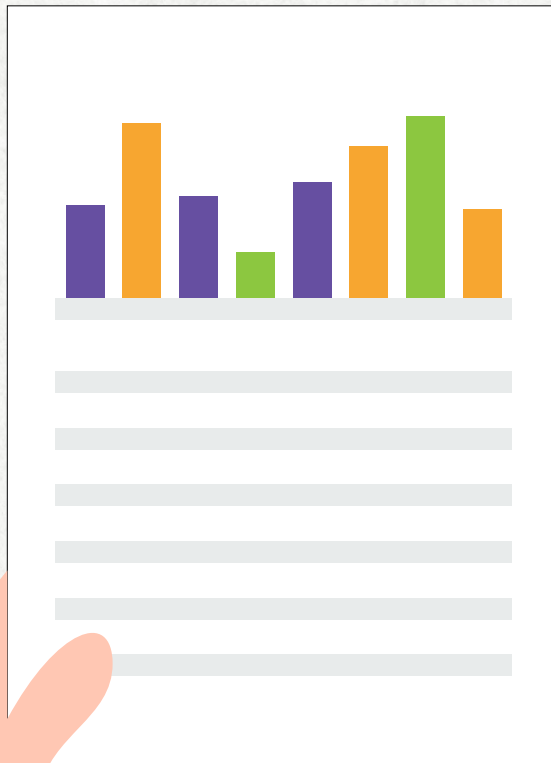




Second Quarterly Report 2024

April - June



7amleh - The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media
April-June 2024

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Introduction

As the war on Gaza continues into the second quarter of 2024, there has been a continuation in documented violations of Palestinian digital rights. Amid ongoing Israeli assaults on Palestinians and critical infrastructure, various entities continue to undermine digital freedom and privacy, with Israeli authorities and social media companies prominently implicated.

Israeli authorities have intensified their targeting of Gaza's infrastructure including internet and communication networks. These actions have severely restricted Palestinians' ability to access the internet, utilize communication services, and freely share information. Furthermore, social media platforms have not lifted the measures deployed to restrict the expression of opinions online and the documentation of on-the-ground atrocities.

Several social media platforms continue to disproportionately restrict the digital presence of Palestinians and their global advocates, primarily through disproportionate moderation of Arabic content. Platforms such as X, Telegram, and Facebook have also failed to effectively safeguard Palestinians and their supporters from smear campaigns, incitement to violence, and hate speech designed to silence and intimidate them while justifying their collective punishment.

The Violations

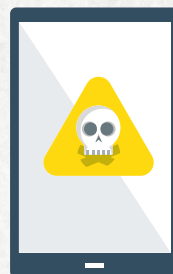
Social media companies continued to censor Palestinian narratives and content throughout the second quarter of the year. 7amleh documented a total of 670 digital violations during this period.

Distribution of violations by type:



167

Account restriction/
suspension



503

Harmful content

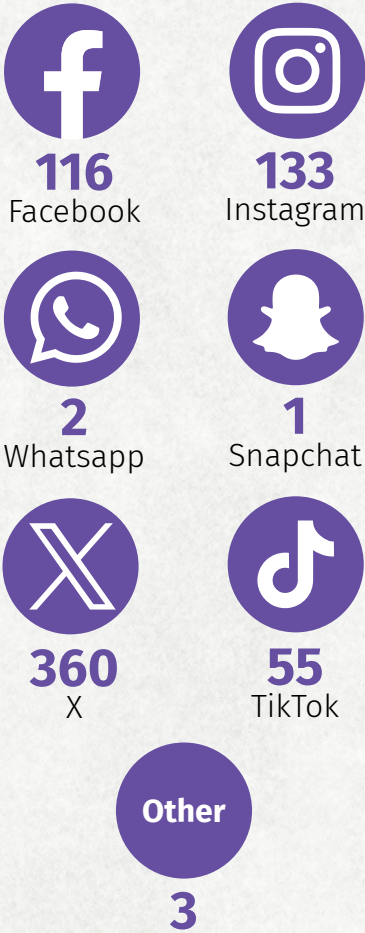
As the data shows, the censorship of Palestinian and pro-Palestinian content and accounts continues to occur frequently. On the other hand, data shows that harmful content in Hebrew remains prevalent and is not being adequately addressed by social media platforms.

Distribution of violations by months:



Data reveals that the rate of digital violations has remained steady and did not decline during the second quarter of the year, showing no signs of reduction. This suggests that social media platforms continue to apply their existing policies and approaches.

Distribution of violations by platforms:

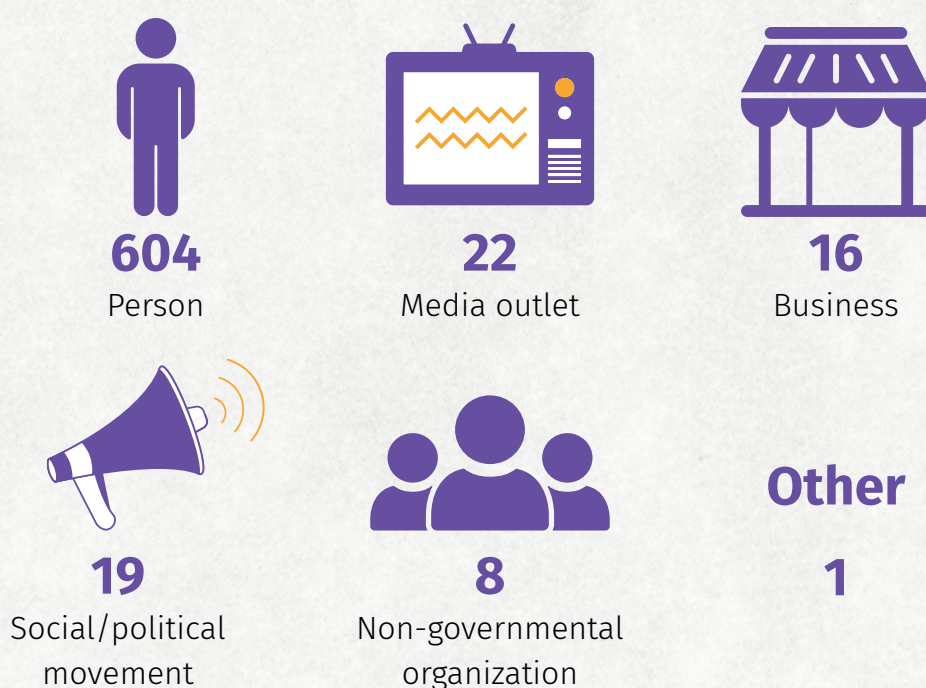


As noted, Meta platforms account for 37.3% of all digital violations aimed at Palestinians and their supporters. These violations include account suspensions, content removals, and restrictions, along with the dissemination of violent speech in Hebrew. In contrast, the majority of violations on the X & Telegram platforms relate to the dissemination of violent and hateful speech against Palestinians.



Violations targeting Palestinian and pro-Palestinian content take various forms, such as inciting violence, suspending accounts, spreading hate speech, imposing content restrictions, and removing content.

Distribution of violations by category of affected entity:



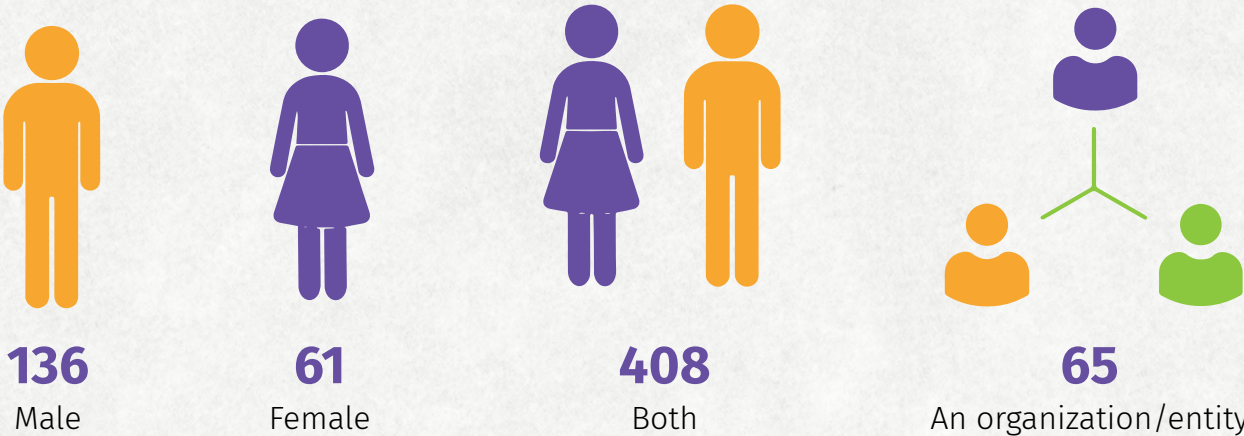
Many violations on social media platforms are aimed at individuals, specifically through the dissemination of violent and hateful speech directed at Palestinians as a group. However, a considerable number of these violations also target media outlets, non-governmental organizations, commercial businesses, and other entities, underscoring their prominence and impact.

Distribution of violations by category of victim:

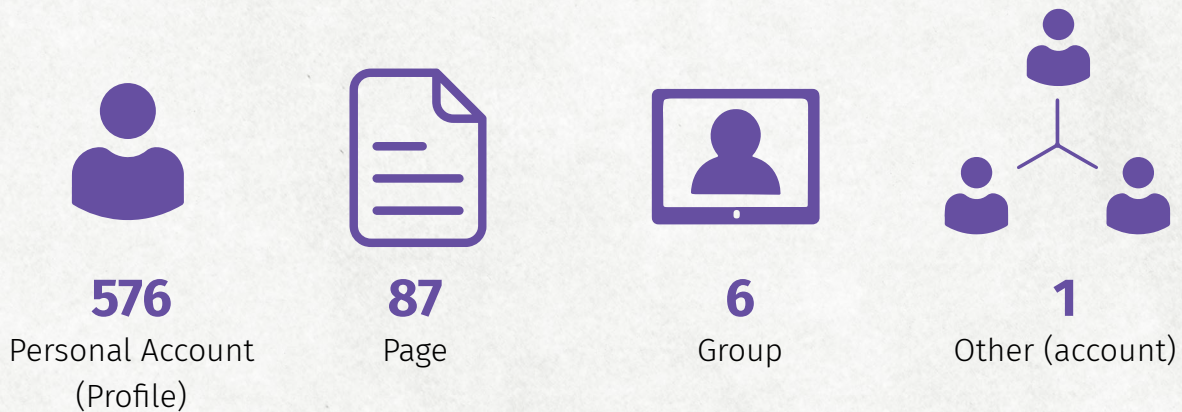


It seems that individuals in the Palestinian public and pro-Palestine activists encounter various types of violations. Among the affected groups, activists and journalists are the most commonly singled out.

Gender Breakdown of Victims:

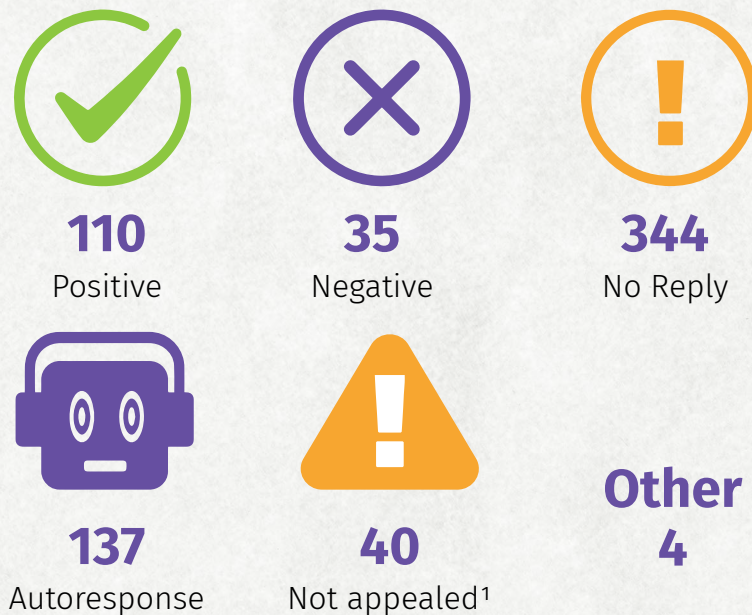


Classification of victims by type of account on social media platforms:



It is evident that personal accounts on social media are predominantly censored or targeted compared to pages and groups, simply due to their larger numerical representation. Consequently, personal accounts bear the brunt of these actions in proportionate terms.

Distribution of companies' responses to 7amleh's escalations so far:



Social media platforms, particularly Meta, persist in responding slowly to escalations regarding Palestinian digital rights violations, although they are obliged to deal with such human rights violations in a timely manner, especially during the ongoing war. Despite this, the proportion of positive responses outweighs the number of negative responses by a significant margin. At the same time, X is still not responding to escalations, with no progress being made after the dissolution of the trusted partnership program.

1. Some of the cases are not escalated because they don't meet the documentation standards. For instance, when cases don't have enough information or evidence to be verified and processed.

Conclusions

While enduring a brutal war with significant human losses and extensive infrastructure destruction, the Palestinian people also suffer from the deprivation of their digital rights and freedoms, crucial during times of crisis and conflict.

The uncontrolled dissemination of violent and hateful speech in Hebrew against Palestinians and their supporters persists, with inadequate measures taken to address it. Meanwhile, social media companies continue to apply disproportionately punitive measures in enforcing content moderation policies on Palestinian content, as demonstrated by the aforementioned indicators. This dual approach to moderating content related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict stifles the Palestinian narrative, intimidates those who oppose the occupation, and curtails digital freedoms, while simultaneously allowing the spread of hostile discourse against Palestinian rights, particularly in forms that are violent.

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