



Quarterly Report



July-September 2022

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Introduction

The third quarter of the current year 2022 witnessed many political events and developments which have clearly reflected on the status of Palestinian digital rights. As for the practices of the Israeli authorities, the data show that they extensively persecute Palestinian males and females for expressing their opinions on social media platforms under the pretext of “incitement”, while allowing the Hebrew inciteful content without accountability.

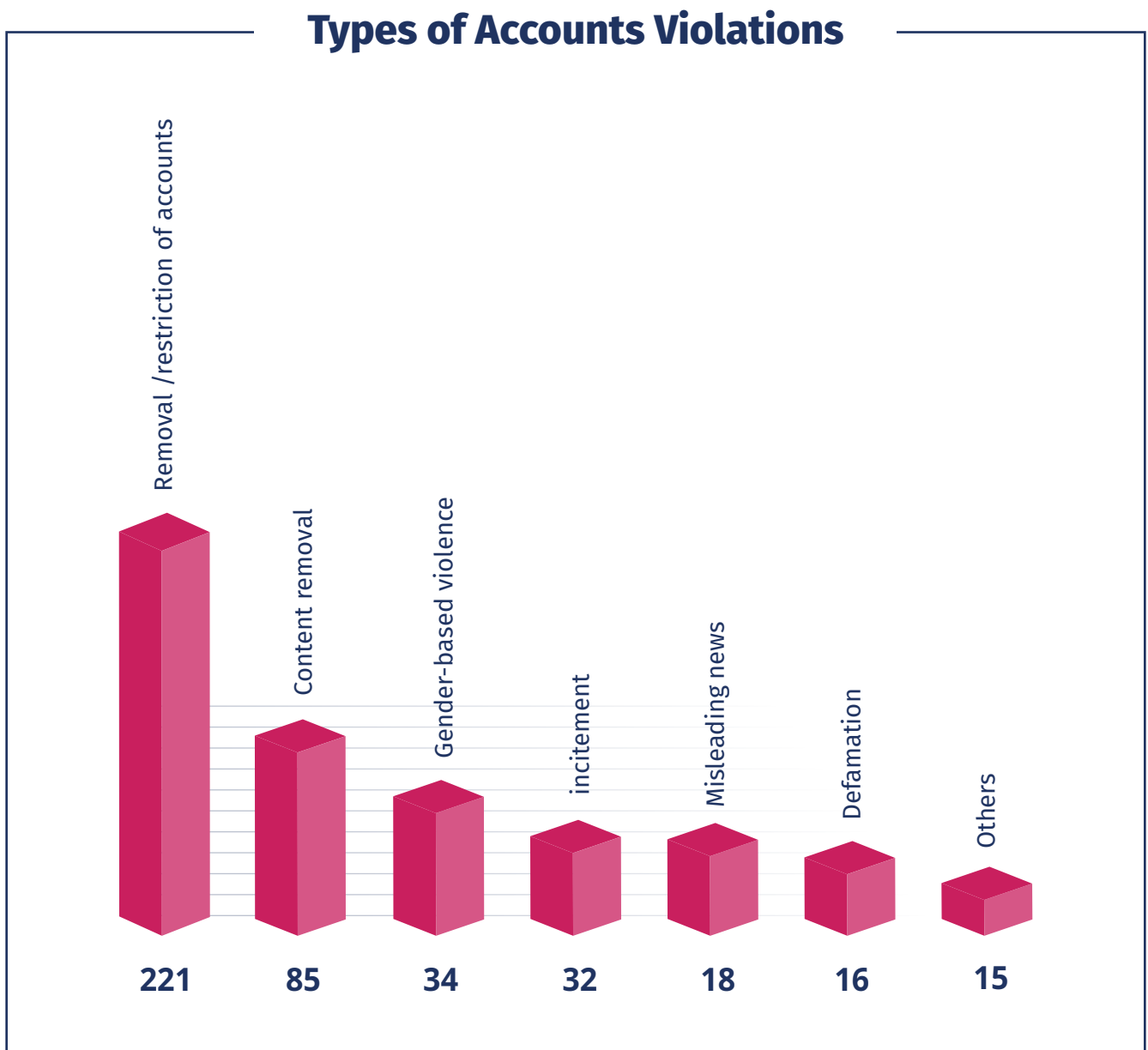
Moreover, at the Palestinian internal level, it turned out that there have been many organized campaigns on social media platforms targeting the Palestinian anti-authority content by entities affiliated with the Palestinian security services which systematically report personal accounts and political opposition pages to make social media companies punish them based on these reports.

The last Israeli aggressive attack against Gaza strip, which lasted from 5 to 7 August, revealed the significant extent of censorship practiced by social media companies on Palestinian political content. They removed hundreds of Palestinian accounts and content publications as a result of revealing and criticizing the Israeli attacks against Gaza, which was immediately followed with the assassination of the Palestinian guy Ibrahim Al-Nabulsi by the Israeli occupation forces, leading to more removal and restriction of accounts.

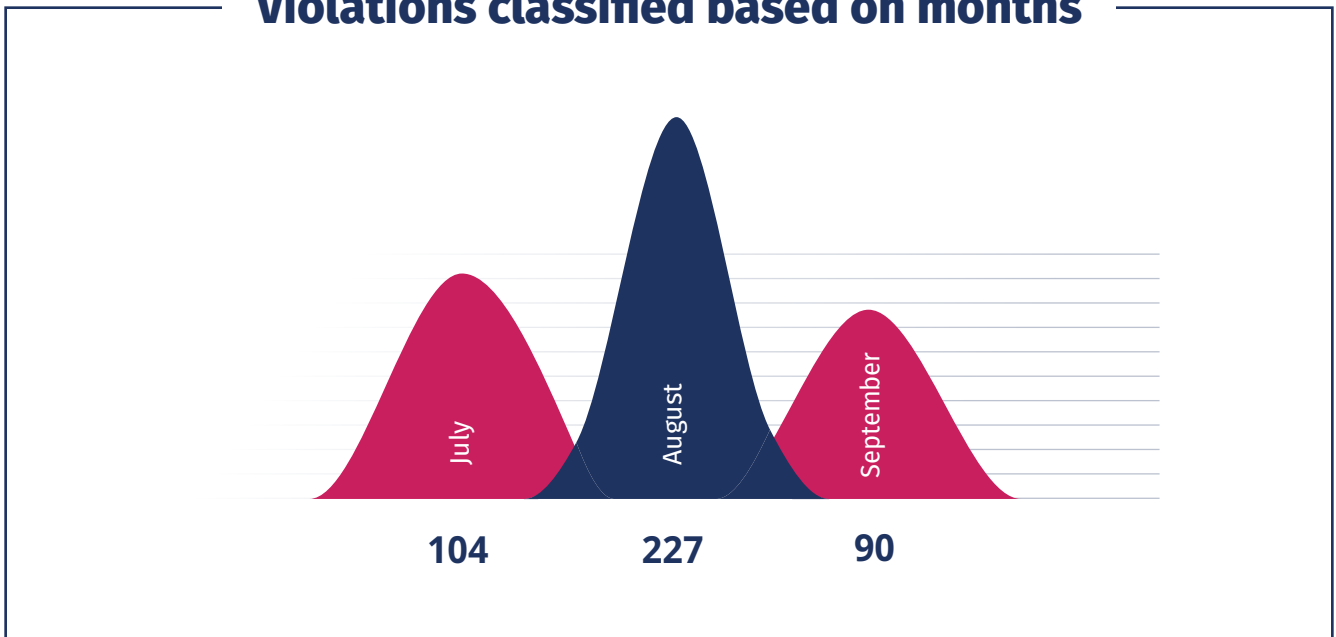
As usual, these political events have contributed to increasing the digital censorship on the Palestinian content during the reporting period. We list the most important digital violations against the Palestinian content hereinafter, and we provide a quantitative analysis of the various forms of violations as well as the nature of the groups affected by them.

Violations

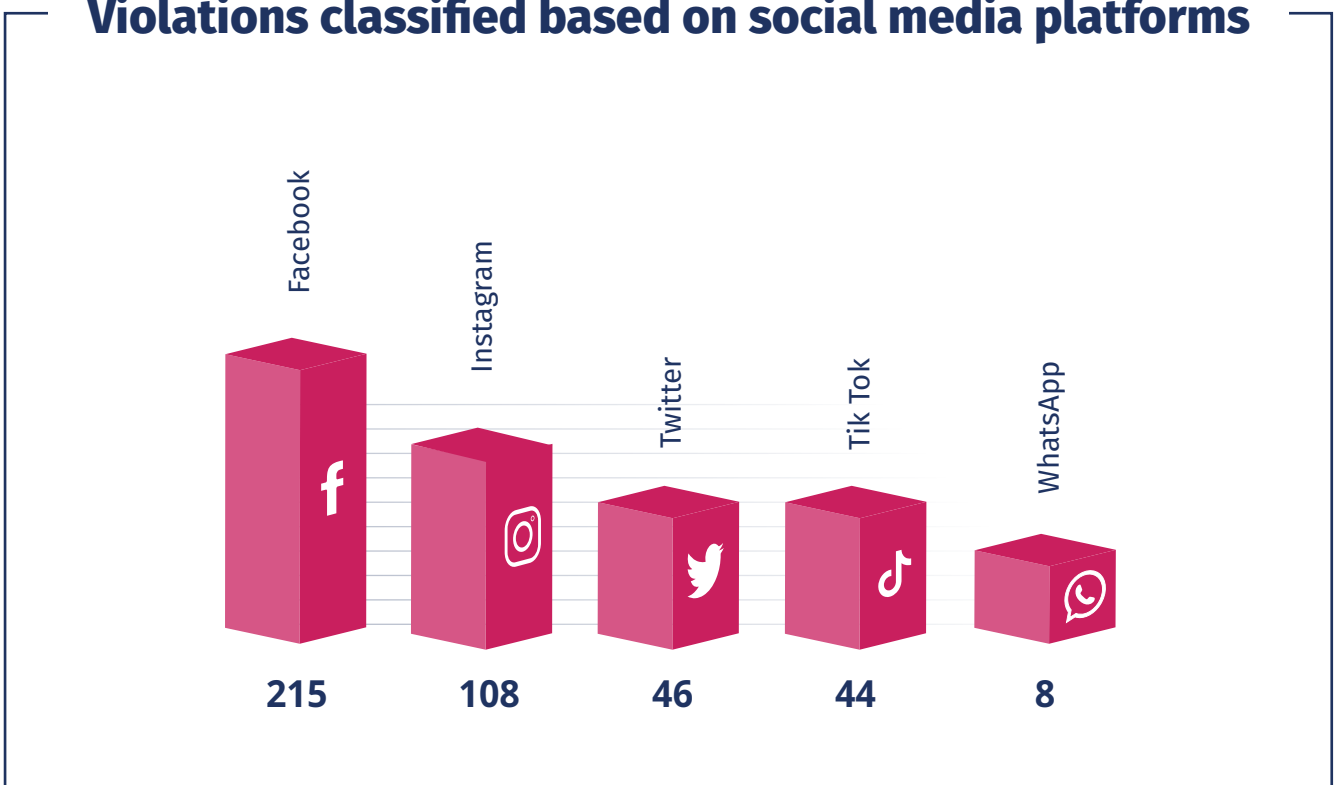
Social media companies continued to suppress the Palestinian narrative and content during the third quarter of the year. The total number of violations is 421:



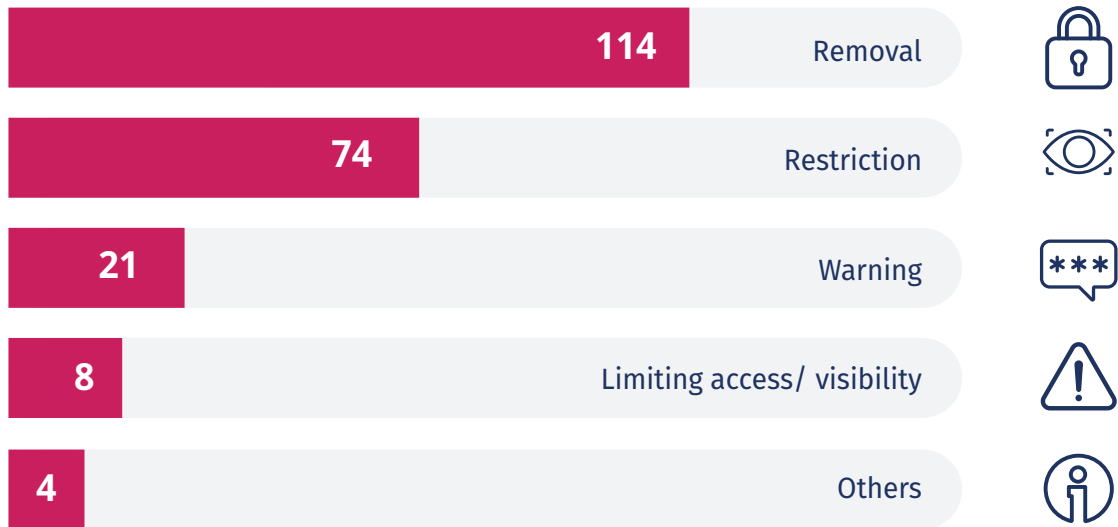
Violations classified based on months



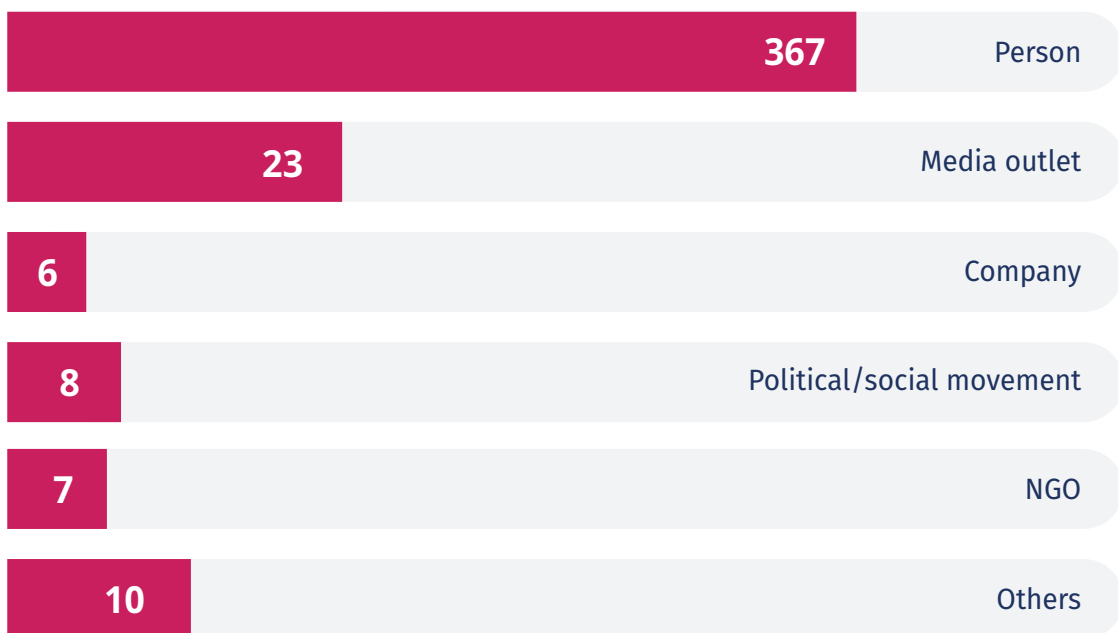
Violations classified based on social media platforms



Procedures classified based on removal/ restriction type



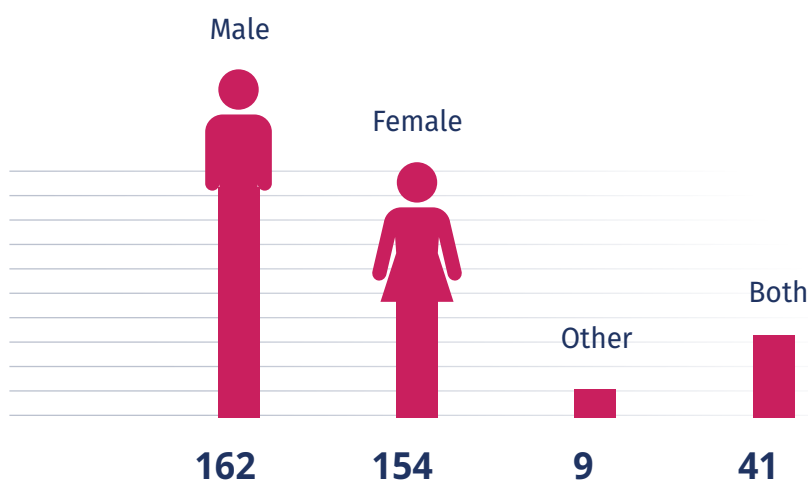
Violations based on the group affected



Violations classified based on the victim type ⁽¹⁾

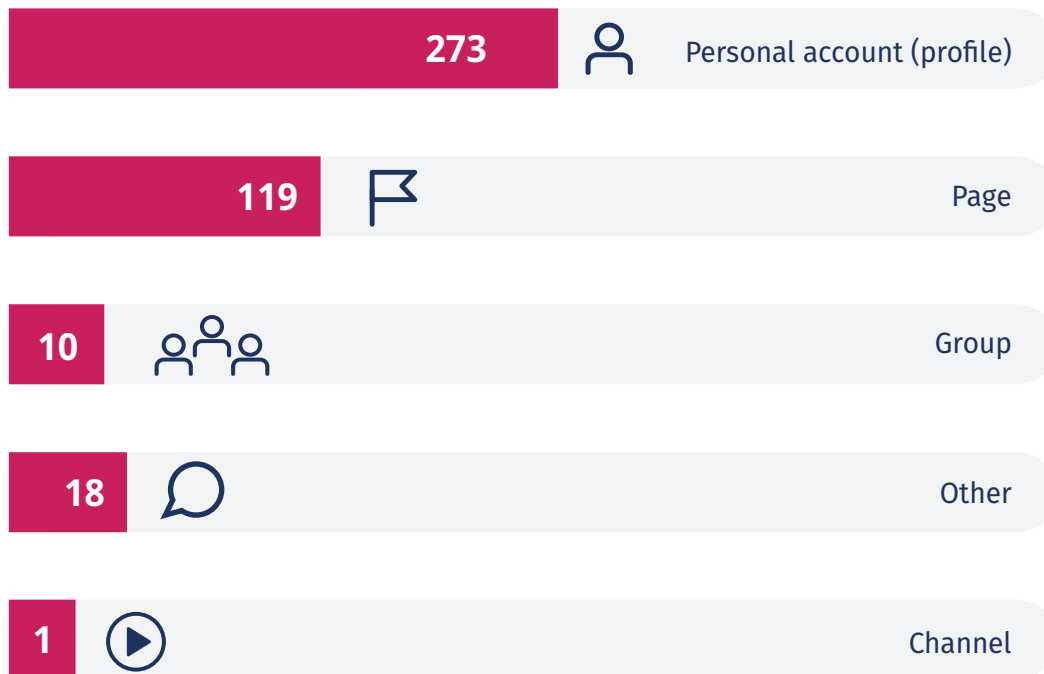


Victims classified based on gender

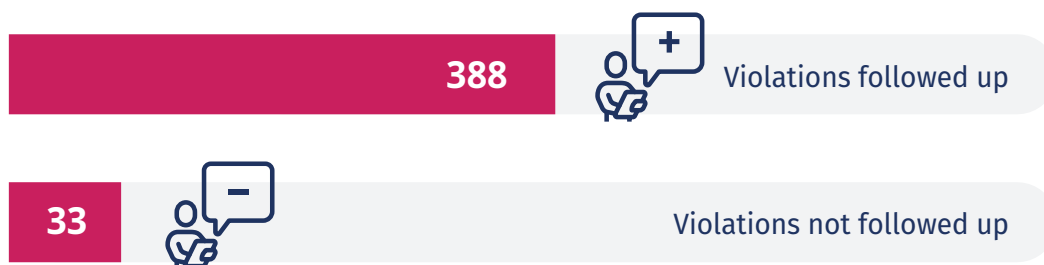


(1) The person may have more than one title at the same time. For example, he or she may be a political activist and a journalist. Therefore, the number of titles is greater than the number of the affected persons.

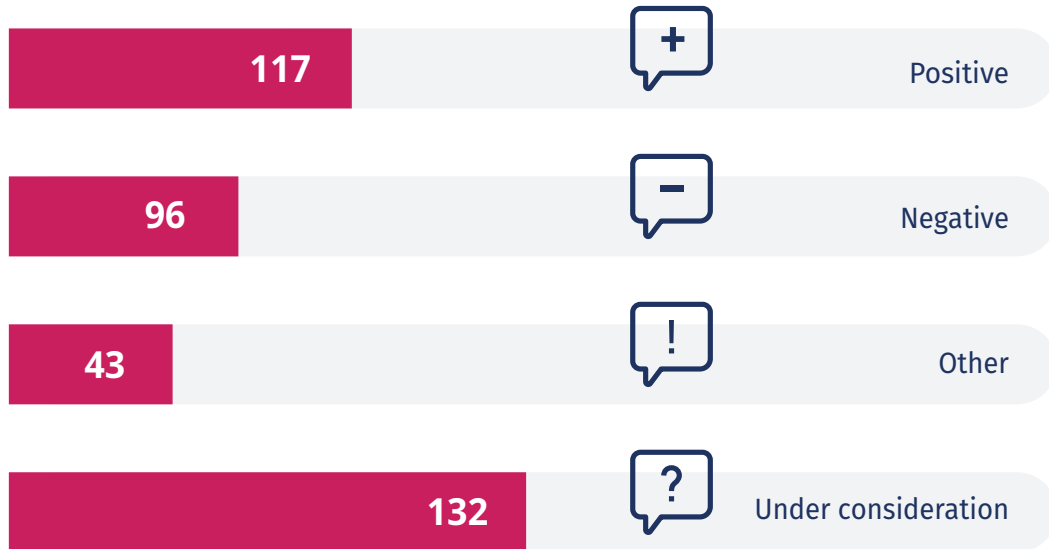
Victims classified based on the account type



The number of violations that have been followed up



Social media companies' responses to the follow up by 7amleh so far



Conclusion

Based on the documentations and numbers presented in the report, various observations can be made about the state of digital rights during the third quarter of this year, most notably:

1 social media companies are still the most prominent entities that suppress freedom of expression on social media, whether through their own mechanisms and policies or the requests and pressures exercised by the Israeli authorities and the Zionist organizations.

2 Meta company- through its different platforms; Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp- is still on top of the companies that extensively restrict and censor the Palestinian content, while tolerating the Israeli content in Hebrew as revealed [by the investigation of the global network “Business for Social Responsibility” \(BSR\)](#), which has been assigned the role of examining Meta’s content management policies regarding the Palestinian issue.

3 violent and defamatory content across social media platforms coincides with political and social developments on the ground. These developments are usually accompanied with a significant increase in hate speech, defamation and incitement against different groups of society, particularly women and female activists and journalists.

4 it is noted that most digital violations in their various forms are targeted against individuals, while institutions, media outlets and companies are less targeted. This is quite expected knowing that most of social media accounts are individual accounts. Therefore, individuals are more affected and more vulnerable to digital restriction and harmful content than the rest.

5 most account restrictions/suspensions on social media platforms in the Palestinian context are politically motivated and occur as a result of criticizing the occupation practices and supporting the Palestinian narrative and symbols.

6 it is noted that social media companies tolerate their policies not being applied against the violent and defamatory content in the Palestinian social context, while effectively applying the same policies against the political content directed against the occupation and the Israeli authorities.

7 it is noted that most of the digital violations occurred during August due to the major political events, notably the Israeli aggressive attack on Gaza. This has been significantly reflected on removing and restricting the accounts that spread the Palestinian narrative.



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