



## Public Comment Appendix for

Case 2023-21-FB-MR

Case number

Case description

In May 2023, a Facebook user posted a video with a caption in Haitian Creole. The video shows a large group of people, who are wearing civilian clothing, walking into a police station and approaching a locked cell that has a man inside. The video also shows an individual from that group attempting to break the cell's lock. Several other people shout words of encouragement. Toward the end of the video, someone yells "bwa kale na boudaw." Meta's literal translation of this phrase is "stick up your ass."

According to Meta's interpretation when referring the case to the Board, this phrase indicated a call for the group "to take action against the person 'bwa kale style'—in other words, to lynch him." Meta interprets the use of the term "bwa kale" to refer to the civilian movement of the same name which involves civilians taking justice into their own hands against alleged gang members. The video is accompanied by a caption describing what happens and which also states that the police "can't do anything." The post was viewed over 500,000 times and the video was viewed around 200,000 times.

Meta removed the content from Facebook under its [Violence and Incitement](#) Community Standard. A trusted partner had previously flagged the video to Meta for review, warning it might incite further violence. Meta's [Trusted Partner](#) program is a network of non-governmental organizations, humanitarian agencies, human rights defenders and researchers from 113 countries around the world. Trusted Partners can report content to Meta and provide feedback on the company's content policies and enforcement. Meta determined the video both represented a statement of intent to commit and a call for high-severity violence, and removed it. The company's Violence and Incitement policy prohibits "threats that could lead to death (and other forms of high severity violence)," which includes "statements of intent to commit high-severity violence" and "calls for high-severity violence." Meta allows content that would otherwise violate this policy if it is shared to condemn high-severity violence or

raise awareness of it, and this intent is clear. However, Meta found no clear intent in this case.

Meta referred the case to the Oversight Board, stating that it raises questions about how the company should treat content “by an anti-gang vigilantism movement in Haiti,” which is how it describes Bwa Kale. Meta explains that the case is significant and difficult because of the insecurity in Haiti and the impact the Bwa Kale movement -is having on individuals. Meta also notes that its decision to remove the content relied on regional input and context.

The Board selected this case to explore Meta’s policies and practices in moderating content during the ongoing crisis in Haiti. This case falls under one of the Board’s [seven strategic priorities](#), specifically “crisis and conflict situations.”

The Board would appreciate public comments that address:

- How content that depicts scenes of gang or vigilante violence should be treated, and how Meta should assess whether such content could cause or contribute to offline violence.
- Meta’s content moderation in Haitian Creole.
- Insights into the crisis in Haiti, particularly the Bwa Kale movement and its depiction on social media.
- Meta’s operation of the Trusted Partner program and its impact on crisis and conflict situations.

In its decisions, the Board can issue policy recommendations to Meta. While recommendations are not binding, Meta must respond to them within 60 days. As such, the Board welcomes public comments proposing recommendations that are relevant to this case.



## Public Comment Appendix for

Case 2023-21-FB-MR

Case number

The Oversight Board is committed to bringing diverse perspectives from third parties into the case review process. To that end, the Oversight Board has established a public comment process.

Public comments respond to case descriptions based on the information provided to the Board by users and Facebook as part of the appeals process. These case descriptions are posted before panels begin deliberation to provide time for public comment. As such, case descriptions reflect neither the Board's assessment of the case, nor the full array of policy issues that a panel might consider to be implicated by each case.

To protect the privacy and security of commenters, comments are only viewed by the Oversight Board and as detailed in the [Operational Privacy Notice](#). All commenters included in this appendix gave consent to the Oversight Board to publish their comments. For commenters who did not consent to attribute their comments publicly, names have been redacted. To withdraw your comment, please email [contact@osbadmin.com](mailto:contact@osbadmin.com).

To reflect the wide range of views on cases, the Oversight Board has included all comments received except those clearly irrelevant, abusive or disrespectful of the human and fundamental rights of any person or group of persons and therefore violating the [Terms for Public Comment](#). Inclusion of a comment in this appendix is not an endorsement by the Oversight Board of the views expressed in the comment. The Oversight Board is committed to transparency and this appendix is meant to accurately reflect the input we received.



## Public Comment Appendix for

Case 2023-21-FB-MR

Case number

9

Number of Comments

## Regional Breakdown

|                        |                           |                        |                              |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1                      | 1                         | 7                      | 0                            |
| Asia Pacific & Oceania | Europe                    | United States & Canada | Middle East and North Africa |
| 0                      | 0                         | 0                      |                              |
| Sub-Saharan Africa     | Latin America & Caribbean | Central & South Asia   |                              |

Case 2023-21-FB-  
MR

PC-16002

United States &  
Canada

Case number

Public comment number

Region

Jean

Knowlton

English

Commenter's first name

Commenter's last name

Commenter's preferred language

DID NOT  
PROVIDE

No

Organization

Response on behalf of  
organization

-----

Full Comment

A video cheering people going to take someone from a cell and lynch him should not be spread and treated as if this is a thing brave people do. These are arrogant, lawless people. If they were there to free someone who was wrongfully arrested it would still be wrong because it advocates vigilante action and a disregard of the law. The person in the cell should receive a fair trial, and if any of these people saw what happened to cause the arrest or have pertinent information, they should contact either the prosecutor's office or the defendant's lawyer, not storm the jail.

Link to Attachment

No Attachment

Case 2023-21-FB-  
MR

Case number

PC-16003

Public comment number

United States &  
Canada

Region

Kevin

Commenter's first name

Hodge

Commenter's last name

English

Commenter's preferred language

DID NOT  
PROVIDE

Organization

No

Response on behalf of  
organization

-----

Full Comment

I believe that news is vital to be shared in this day and age....at least if all news is shared everyone can form their own opinion

Link to Attachment

No Attachment

Case 2023-21-FB-  
MR

Case number

PC-16007

Public comment number

United States &  
Canada

Region

Victor

Commenter's first name

Rodriguez

Commenter's last name

English

Commenter's preferred language

DID NOT  
PROVIDE

Organization

No

Response on behalf of  
organization

-----

Full Comment

Unless there is a translation problem, it seems like a clear case of a call for violence and should be deleted.

Link to Attachment

No Attachment