



Public Comment Appendix for
2023-38-FB-MR
Case number

Case Description

In May 2023, a Pakistani news channel posted on its Facebook page a video of a politician addressing members of the country's parliament. In the video, the politician's speech references an ancient tradition in which people were sacrificed in the Nile River to control flooding. The politician uses the tradition as a comparison to what should happen in present-day Pakistan and says that, in a previous speech, they had stated that Pakistan will not "heal itself" until different types of public official, including the military, are hanged.

The politician then alludes to the ongoing political crisis in Pakistan, implicating themselves and their colleagues when they say, "we are all responsible for this." Text overlaying the video and the post's caption repeat the politician's previous statements about hanging public officials. The caption also mentions the strong reaction the speech generated in parliament. The content has been shared about 20,000 times and has about 40,000 reactions, the majority of which are "likes."

The content was posted in the week following the [arrest](#) of Pakistan's former Prime Minister. The arrest prompted [protests and clashes](#) with the police, which left at least eight protestors dead and deepened the country's political crisis. News [reports](#) said that thousands of the former Prime Minister's supporters, including politicians, were arrested following the protests. Journalists have been [targeted](#) with arrest and mutiny charges. Elections are [scheduled](#) for February 8, 2024, having been postponed twice in 2023.

Under Meta's [Violence and Incitement](#) policy, the company removes "statements advocating for high-severity violence." However, it will allow potentially violating statements if shared in an awareness-raising context, including content that clearly seeks to inform others about a specific topic or issue. Meta will also permit these statements under its newsworthiness allowance, which allows otherwise violating content to remain on the company's platforms when the public interest value outweighs the risk of harm.

Between June and September 2023, Meta’s automated systems identified the content as potentially violating 45 times. Several human reviews, including under the [cross-check system](#) and involving Meta’s regional operations team and its policy and subject-matter experts, came to different outcomes. The final review determined the content did not violate the Violence and Incitement policy, and the video remained on Facebook.

Meta referred the case to the Board, stating that it is “significant and difficult because it involves a politician’s violent speech used in a rhetorical manner, and required consideration of the context around the post to reach our decision.”

The Board selected this case because it raises relevant questions around how Meta should treat speech from politicians and any related news coverage of that speech on its platforms, particularly in the lead-up to elections. This case provides an opportunity to directly explore issues around the protection of journalism. Additionally, it falls within the Board’s [strategic priority](#) of Elections and Civic Space.

The Board would appreciate public comments that address:

- The political and human-rights situation in Pakistan, particularly as it relates to criticism of the government in advance of the February 2024 elections.
- Media freedom in Pakistan, including the role that social-media platforms play in disseminating independent coverage of political events.
- Information about government requests to remove social-media content in Pakistan and elsewhere.
- Meta’s moderation of content featuring politicians, particularly when that content features what could be considered violent speech, but which is used in a rhetorical manner.
- What the criteria should be for deciding when content is “newsworthy” or posted for the purpose of “awareness raising.”

As part of 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.



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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.

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.

2023-38-FB-MR

PC-23000

United States &
Canada

Case number

Public comment number

Region

Jason

Carmean

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

Religious sacrifice violates the United States Fourth Amendment definition of privacy.

Link to Attachment

[PC-23000](#)

2023-38-FB-MR

PC-23002

Asia Pacific &
Oceania

Case number

Public comment number

Region

Aidan

Wright

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

What's happening in Pakistan is seen as a Human Rights issue and is incredibly unstable situation where Human rights are being breached constantly and not to mention a Pakistan political figure trying to reinstate the old belief that killing countless innocent people was a sacrifice to control flooding when we the people know this isn't right and shouldn't allow this to ever happen, It would break international law and would prompt a civil war if they don't do something about this, This type of thinking isn't accepted in this day and age for a GOOD reason, It's Murder... on a mass grave scale.

Link to Attachment

No Attachment

2023-38-FB-MR

Case number

PC-23008

Public comment number

Central & South
Asia

Region

Seerat

Commenter's first name

Khan

Commenter's last name

English

Commenter's preferred language

Digital Rights
Foundation

Organization

Yes

Response on behalf of
organization

Full Comment

DID NOT PROVIDE

Link to Attachment

[PC-23008](#)