

News Item

How pro-Bolsonaro Facebook misinformation networks operate | The Brazilian Report

By José Roberto Castro & Renato Alves July 14, 2020

On July 8, Facebook Inc. announced it had taken down a network of social media profiles owned by figures linked to Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and two of his sons, who are also in politics. The justification for the removal was that these profiles engaged in "coordinated inauthentic behavior," which violates the company's terms of use. Combined, the pages and profiles in question had an audience of more than two million accounts.

The network comprised 14 Facebook pages, 35 personal accounts, 38 Instagram pages, and one Facebook group. Beyond being linked to advisors of the First Family, the accounts acted to spread positive information about this political group, promoting themselves and the Bolsonaro administration. The problem is that they did so illegally.

In partnership with Facebook, the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab had the chance to analyze the content and behavior of these accounts before they were taken down.

[...]

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