

India's spat with Twitter heats up again | First Draft

By First Draft staff

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Twitter's managing director in India, Manish Maheshwari, was asked last week to appear before police as part of a legal notice over the spread of posts linked to the assault of a Muslim man in Ghaziabad that sent ripples across India. Maheshwari today said he is available via video call.

Claims that the Muslim man was beaten up for refusing to chant a Hindu slogan spread on the platform last week, including by well-known journalists and fact checkers, some of whom have been charged by police alongside Twitter for stoking communal tensions. Police say the attack was reportedly over a dispute about amulets; the man's family says it was an attack motivated by religious hatred. Indian law enforcement agencies also asked Twitter to restrict 50 tweets that contained videos and images in connection with the attack in Ghaziabad, according to the Lumen database that tracks online removal requests.

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