

News Item

Saudi, UAE Twitter takedowns won't curb rampant disinformation on Arab Twitter | The Washington Post

By Marc Owen Jones September 25, 2019

Twitter <u>announced</u> this weekend that it took down about 4,525 accounts linked to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt — and 4,248 of these were operating uniquely from the UAE. Twitter accused all of the accounts of promoting "political spam" — effectively a euphemism for propaganda.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE, in particular, have <u>long been accused</u> of weaponizing social media platforms to promote their increasingly aggressive foreign policy agenda. In 2017, hundreds of thousands of bots were <u>used to launch attacks</u> on Qatar as part of a blockade. Even verified Twitter accounts <u>have been</u> hacked to spread pro-Saudi propaganda.

Source: Saudi, UAE Twitter takedowns won't curb rampant disinformation on Arab Twitter - The Washington Post