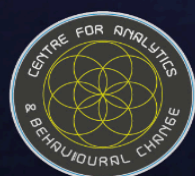


DEMOCRACY 2021 PROJECT

THE DIRTY DOZEN & THE AMPLIFICATION OF INCENDIARY CONTENT DURING THE OUTBREAK OF UNREST IN SOUTH AFRICA JULY 2021

Issued by the Centre for Analytics and Behavioural Change



Email: info@cabc.org.za

Introduction

The Centre for Analytics and Behavioural Change (CABC) has uncovered traces of the RET forces network that participated in and aided the amplification of online incitement of violence that claimed hundreds of lives and brought thousands of businesses to their knees in the week of 11 July 2021.

In May this year, the CABC released a report which identified 51 accounts within the so-called RET forces network - a grouping of accounts that was found to be spreading mis and disinformation online in support of figures implicated in corruption, including former president Zuma and ANC secretary-general Ace Magashule, while criticising anyone tasked with prosecuting them. [READ: Online RET Network Analysis <https://cabc.org.za/2021/05/17/online-ret-network-analysis/>]

This report builds on that research and focuses on Twitter conversation in South Africa during the month of July. Our research targets conversation suspected to contain elements of mis- and disinformation as it pertains to protest mobilisation and calls for unrest, rioting, looting and violence.

Methodology

Using Twitter search functionality and the trending topics function, CABC began its analysis by conducting manual desktop research that identified posts on Twitter that were used for physical mobilisation or contained calls for unrest, rioting, looting or violence.

An example of content used in these tweets that works towards physical mobilisation can be seen in Fig. 1,



Fig. 1 Example of content used for physical mobilisation¹

The content was assigned into categories:

- 1) Calls for physical mobilisation
- 2) Calls for general unrest
- 3) Calls for violent acts

Below are examples from each content category²:

Content category 1: Calls for physical mobilisation

This type of content often contained digital posters listing locations, dates and/or times to mobilise. Examples seen in figures 1 and 2.

¹ https://twitter.com/TellUnknown/with_replies

² Additional examples contained in Appendix C

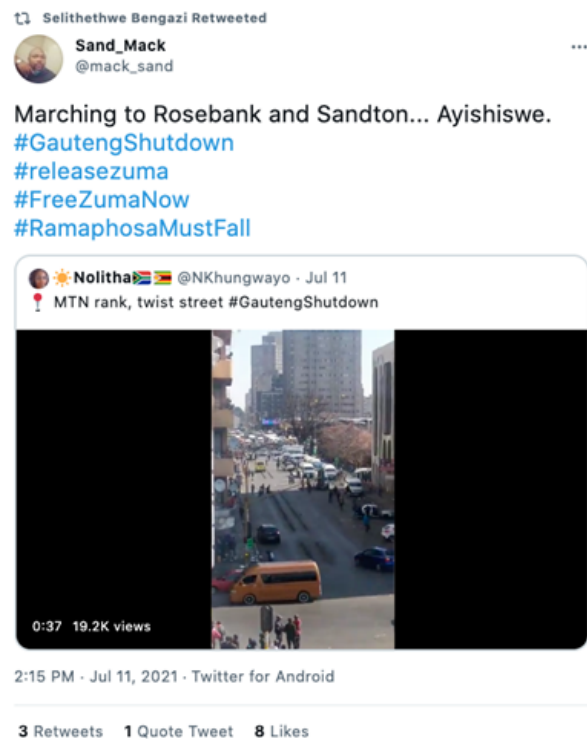


Fig. 2 Physical mobilisation (*Ayishiswe* translates to both “burn it” and “let’s burn it”)³

Content category 2: Calls for general unrest

This type of content is often ambiguous in its interpretation yet potentially dangerous and typically featured imagery of general unrest, rioting, protesting, looting or violence, some of it not even from this period of time. Examples can be seen in figures 3 and 4.

³ <https://twitter.com/selithethwe/status/1414198405543387141>

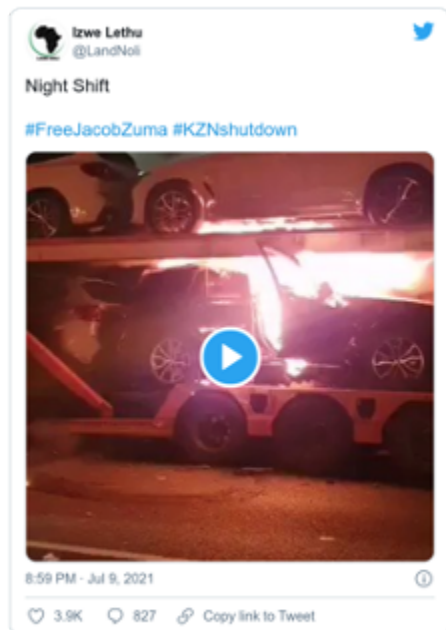


Fig. 3 High traction tweet that was later deleted by author⁴



Fig. 4 Ambiguously worded tweet calling for mobilisation⁵

⁴ <https://twitter.com/LandNoli/status/1413603742130180097>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/Botik61945648/status/1415513157141946371>

Content category 3: Calls for violent acts

This type of content is more direct and feature direct calls for violent act/s or support of such actions should they happen



Fig. 5 Incitement to violence containing one of the hashtags in our query⁶



Fig. 6 Incitement to violence targeting judges⁷

⁶ <https://twitter.com/numbaONEhustla/status/1413538668804034561>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/TellUnknown/status/1413755490794938372>

Further exploration and deeper analysis of the content that exists within these categories will prove valuable in the future, particularly if we can pinpoint how each category of content spreads and manifests in the real world as a result.

Incendiary Content

All content found in this report has been submitted to REAL411⁸. REAL411 is an online complaints portal where members of the public can submit relevant complaints for adjudication by the Digital Complaints Committee (DCC). The DCC is comprised of legal, media and digital experts and reviews each complaint, makes a decision of the appropriate action to be taken in response to the complaint, and provides reasons for the decision. REAL411 is an initiative supported by Media Monitoring Africa (MMA) that works closely with CABC as a partner organization.

Following submission of the content in this report, it was confirmed that many of these posts were “hugely damaging given the current instability”. - see example below (figures. 7 and 8.)



Fig. 7 Example tweet by author claiming to be Duduzane Zuma⁹

⁸ <https://real411.org.za/>

⁹ <https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/blog/analysis-no-thats-not-duduzane-zumas-twitter-account-heres-why>


real411.org.za


ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

#1511

12/07/2021





Tags

[#FreeJacobZuma](#) [Protest](#)

Title

Tweet purportedly by Duduzane Zuma: "let everything burn"

Overview

Complainant states: "This is a clear incitement to violence. Though it is a general statement that doesn't name any particular people, the author's position as an influential figure makes this statement reckless and dangerous."

Background and Ruling

Allowing messaging of this nature is hugely damaging given the current instability. This matter has already been attended to as the tweet in question is no longer available.

Seen on

[Twitter](#)

COVID-19
Online Resource & News Portal
[SAcoronavirus.co.za](#)

real411.org.za

ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

Fig. 8 Real411 adjudication

After identifying, collating and confirming multiple instances of harmful content being disseminated and dividing them into our three content categories, the team compiled a list of hashtags and keywords that were commonly associated with each category of content. Seen below, these hashtags and keywords were then used to create a Twitter search query.

#freejacobzuma	OR
#freezumanow	OR
#freezuma	OR
#kipaumsholoji	OR
#ethnicmobilisation	OR
azishe	OR
amandla	OR
#zumaunrest	OR
amabutho	OR
#gautengshutdown	OR
#shutdown*	OR
#lootingforzuma	OR
#nationalshutdown	OR
#handsoffzumaeconomicliberationnow	OR
#kznprotests	OR
#notosoldiers	OR
#ramaphosamustfall	OR
#releasezuma	OR
#wenzenuzuma	OR
#zumaarrest	OR
#zumajudgement	OR
#zumaprotests	OR
#sashutdown	OR
#100%behindzuma	OR
#handsoffmsholoji	OR
#kznviolence	OR
#maponyamall	OR
#jabulanimall	OR
#releasemsholozinow	OR
#removeramaphosa	OR
#cyrilmustresign	OR

Fig. 9 Keywords & hashtags used in our Twitter search query

This query was used to search Twitter¹⁰ for posts that contain its hashtags and keywords in the month of July. Data from this search was then used to create a dashboard containing all the content and accounts associated with these hashtags and keywords during the month of July. Using this dashboard, we were then able to visualize top accounts authoring tweets containing this type of content by volume (Fig. 10).

¹⁰ Due to the intrinsic nature of the hashtags and keywords we used, results were limited to conversation in and about South Africa

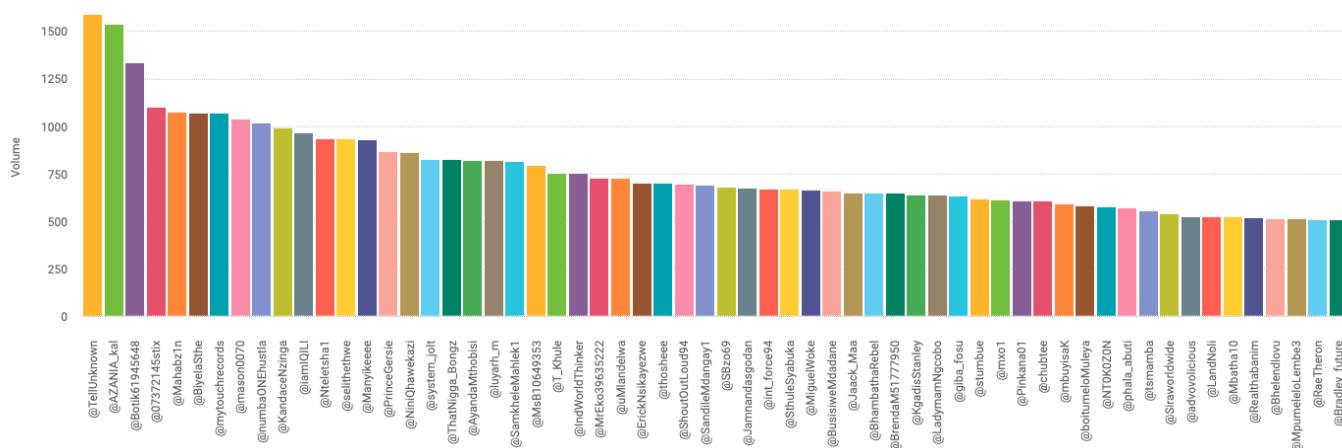


Fig. 10 Top 62 authors by volume

From this data set, we identified 62 accounts that had used the hashtags and keywords in our query more than 500 times in the month of July. During this time period, these 62 authors collectively published 48 070 posts containing the hashtags and keywords in our query.

3 of these accounts (@mahabz1n, @samkhelemahlek1, @terry__mandula) appear to have been subsequently removed by their user.

We then went a level deeper to gain insight into where this content was potentially originating from and to understand how it was spreading. To do this, we isolated the most active of the 62 accounts engaged in the conversation using our search query outlined above. This led us to take a closer look at the top 12 accounts by mention volume (seen in Fig. 11).

@Account	Matching Tweets
@TellUnknown	1589
@AZANIA_kal	1538
@Botik61945648	1331
@07372145stix	1120
@Mahabz1n	1077

@BiyelaSthe	1070
@mytouchrecords	1069
@mason0700	1032
@numbaONEhustla	1020
@KandaceNzinga	995
@iamIQILI	968
@selithethwe	934

Fig. 11 Top Accounts by Mention Volume. As of 29/7/21, User @Mahabz1n appears to have been taken down by its user

We analyzed the most recent 3,200 tweets from each of the 12 accounts and compared them to the 6 CABAC criteria for inauthentic behavior¹¹. The six criteria for inauthentic behavior are as follows:

- High daily median tweet volume (50+/day)
- High lifetime total tweet volume (10,000+)
- High retweet percentage (90%+)
- Engages predominantly in a single narrative (little to no personal content)
- Anonymized or stolen profile pic
- Promotes commercial content

To be considered inauthentic, an account must meet at least 4 of these criteria¹².

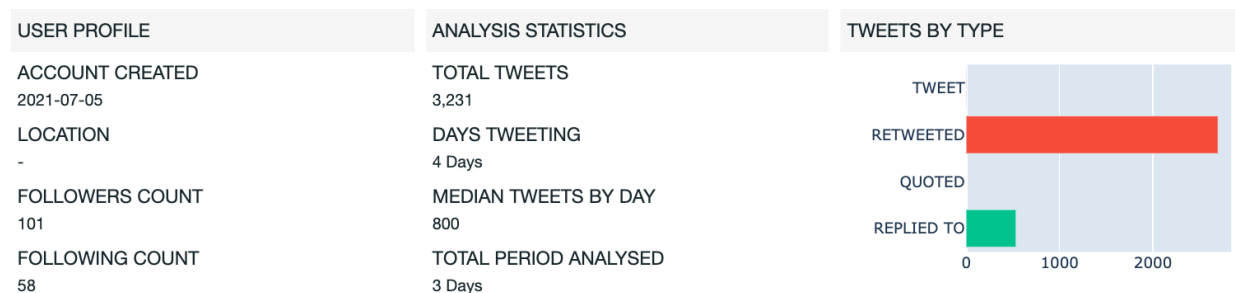
Examples of volume and tweet type analysis can be seen in Fig. 12 and 13.

¹¹ Appendix A shows these criteria applied to the top 12 accounts

¹² Borderline accounts are assessed qualitatively on an ad hoc basis.

@KANDACENZINGA KandaceNzinga

TIMEZONE +02:00



@AZANIA_KAL AZANIA MAGWALA
SEE IF I CARE.

TIMEZONE +02:00

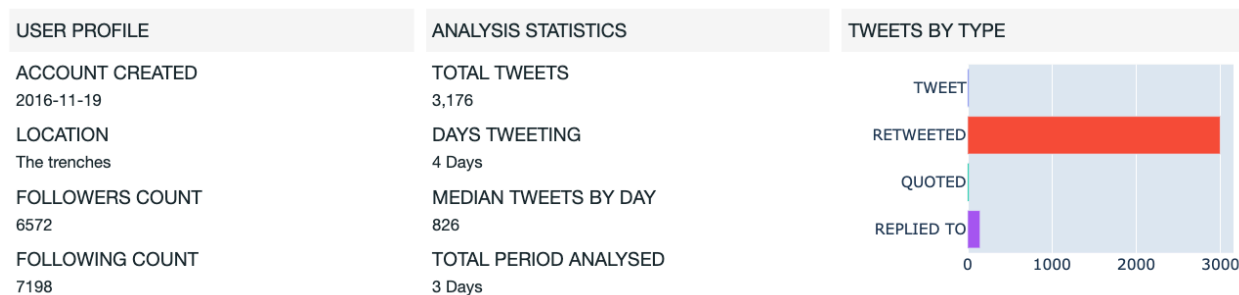


Fig. 12 Two examples of high daily median tweet volume

← **AZANIA MAGWALA**
258.9K Tweets

Fig. 13 High lifetime total tweet volume example. (User: @azania_kal)

In addition to volume and tweet type, we also looked at the accounts they most commonly interact with (Fig. 14), tweets by hour of day (Fig. 15), and most commonly used hashtags and keywords (Fig. 16).

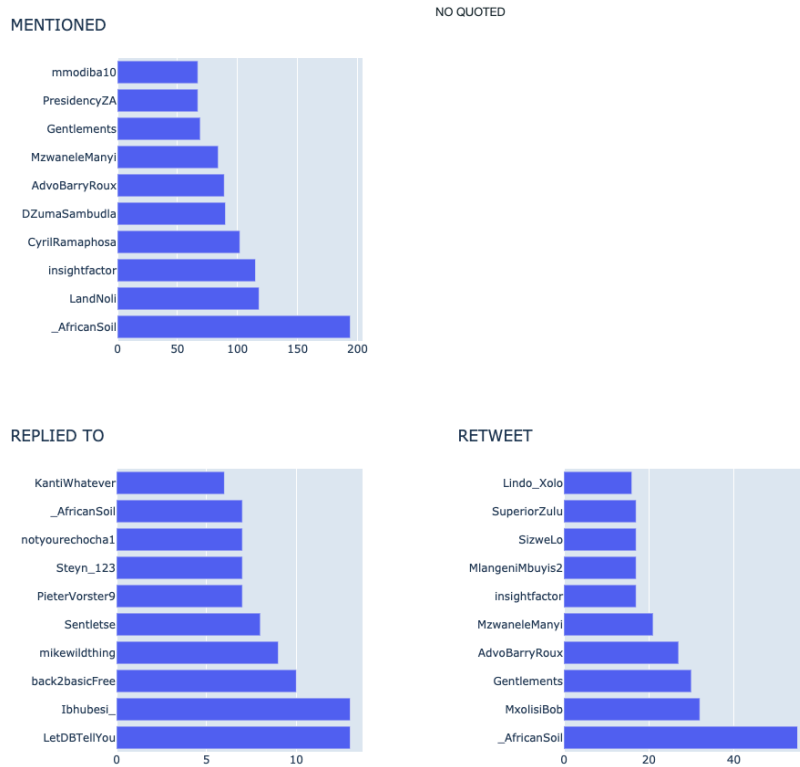


Fig. 14 Most common interactions between accounts are a consideration when assessing whether an account engages predominantly in a single narrative (user: @kandacenzinga)

TWEETS BY HOUR OF DAY (UTC+02:00)

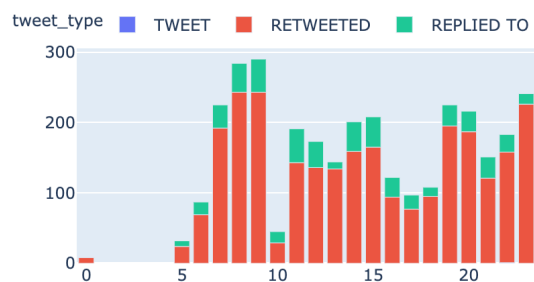
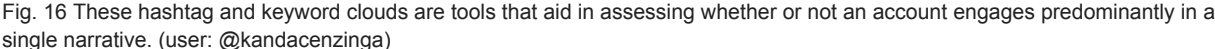


Fig. 15 Activity by hour of day is a consideration when assessing daily median tweet volume (user:@kandacenzinga)



- 1) The dissemination and amplification of incendiary content was taking place during the period of July
- 2) Much of the conversations containing this content was strongly linked with a set of hashtags and keywords that were repeatedly used in association with this content over the same period
- 3) Of the accounts participating in this conversation on Twitter, 12 were almost exclusively and very actively engaged in the conversation containing this incendiary content
- 4) These 12 accounts were responsible for a large number of tweet and retweets and seem to be behaving in a manner that aims to amplify the conversation

With 96 630 total retweets in July, These 12 accounts selected largely incendiary content and retweeted it heavily, amplifying and driving the spread of posts with keywords and hashtags that called for the spread of unrest.

Zooming out again, Fig. 17 shows the total mention volume of the hashtags and keywords used in our search query over the course of July. This indicates that their usage peaked on July 12, the day that Zuma asked the Constitutional Court to rescind

his sentence. This was also the same time that protests peaked in Gauteng, resulting in looting, damage to property, and violence resulting in loss of life.

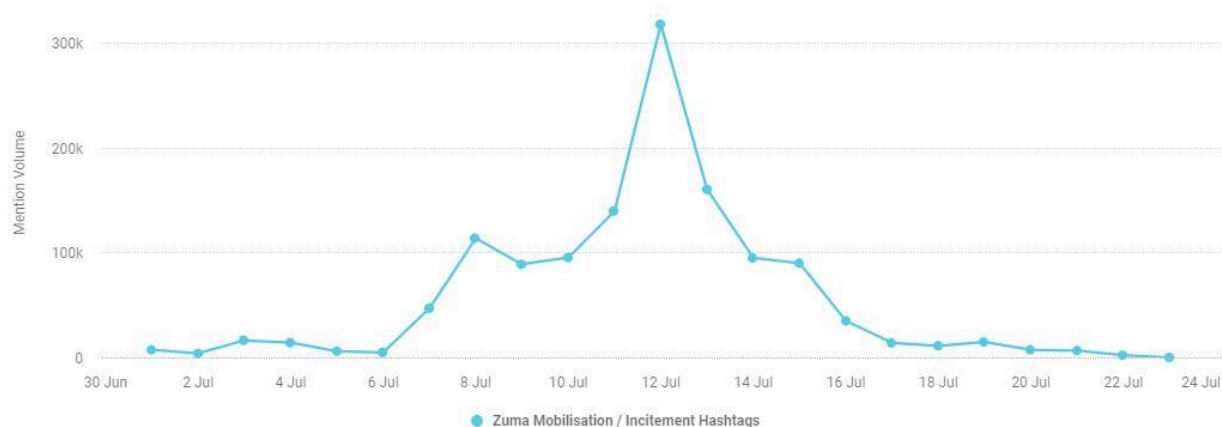


Fig. 17 Total hashtag and keyword volume over time

Fig. 18 shows the total mentions (instance of a post containing a keyword or hashtag from our search query) and reach of the tweets posted by the 12 accounts containing the hashtags and keywords in our query for the month of July.

Total Mentions

13.65k / ▲ 1887%
Previous period: 687

Total Reach

19.37M / ▲ 1379%
Previous period: 1.31 M

Fig. 18 Total mentions and reach for posts containing selected hashtags and keywords by the top 12 accounts in July

Fig 19 shows the top 10 hashtags used in our Twitter query - in other words, the top hashtags used by all users engaged in the conversation



Fig. 19 Top 10 hashtags in our Twitter query by usage volume

Fig 20 shows top 50 hashtags from the total conversation of the top 12 accounts in July - in other words, the top hashtags used across all content posted by the top 12 accounts.



Fig. 20 shows the top 50 hashtags from the total conversation of the top 12 accounts in July

One of our criteria for inauthentic activity determines whether or not an author engages almost exclusively in a single narrative with little or no unrelated content. From the

above it becomes clear that the top 12 accounts are predominantly engaged with and talking about the hashtags outlined above - hashtags that were associated with the creation, dissemination and amplification of content that directly called for intensification of the ongoing unrest, which had taken a violent, destructive form. In this respect, it is fair to claim that the 12 accounts were deliberately stoking further violent unrest.

Furthermore, the two hashtag clouds above shows unification in the 12 account's messaging around three themes¹³:

- Support for former President Jacob Zuma
- Calls to 'shutdown' KZN, Gauteng and SA in general
- Criticism of current President Ramaphosa

We also visualized the total activity of the 12 accounts over the course of the month of July (Fig. 21).

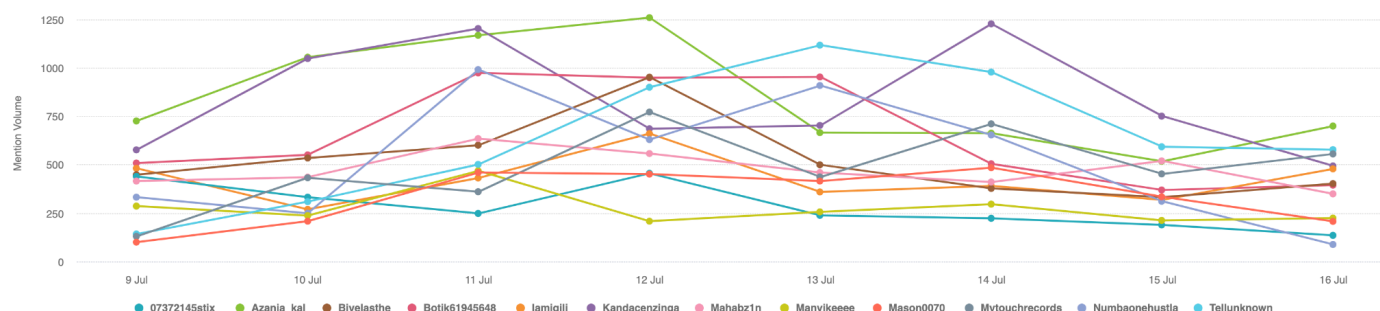


Fig. 21 Top 12 total account activity by volume July 9 - July 16

During this time period, every account on the list of 12 displayed extremely high mention volume. On average, each of the accounts posted 526 times per day. The Oxford Internet Institute's Computational Propaganda unit considers a daily median tweet volume of more than 50 to be suspicious.¹⁴

User @azania_kal recorded the highest daily volume with 1 254 tweets on 12 July. These posts were published between 6:00 and 21:00 (Fig. 22.) During this time period of 15 hours, the user averaged a post every 43 seconds.

This suspicious activity needs to be investigated further. It remains unclear whether this indicates a group of people running the account and or some other explanation for such high account activity.

¹³ See Appendix C for example tweets

¹⁴ <https://medium.com/dfrlab/botspot-twelve-ways-to-spot-a-bot-aedc7d9c110c>

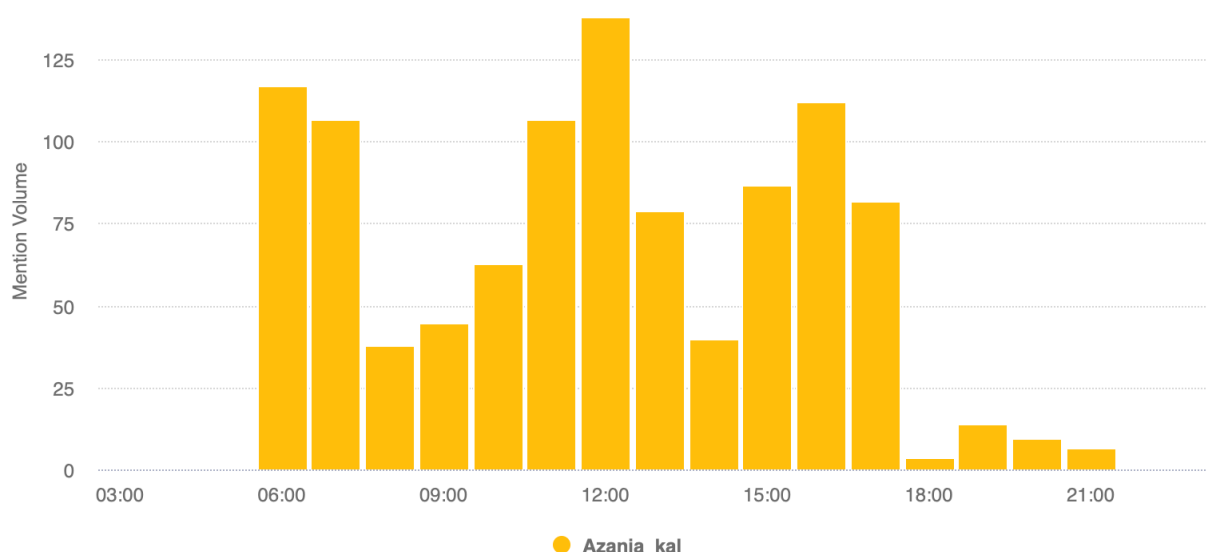


Fig. 22 Total hourly account activity on July 12 2021 (user: azania_kal)

One of the most significant findings from this research was that a majority of the content posted by the top 12 accounts within our search query that did contain incitement of violence conversation was not original content.

Fig. 23 shows the total activity of the 12 accounts in July, broken down by tweet type. At 93%, the overwhelming majority of the content from these accounts was retweets. This high retweet percentage suggests that these accounts were primarily 'signal boosting' messaging from content creating accounts.

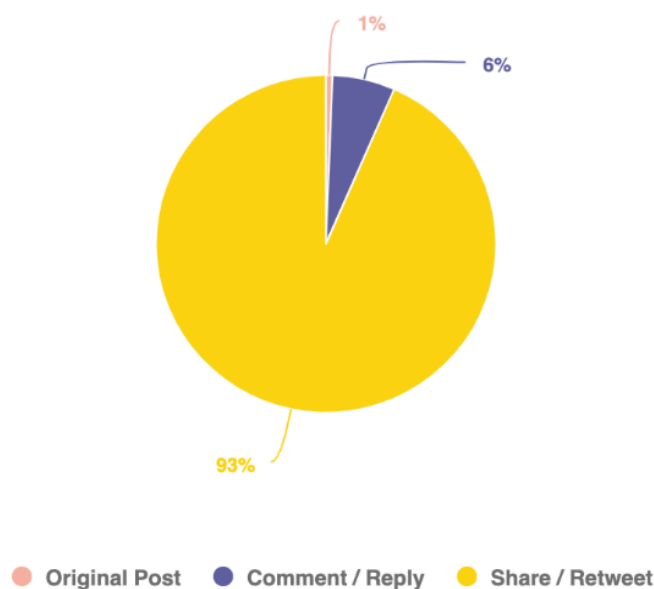


Fig. 23 Total activity of top 12 accounts in July by tweet type

A key factor that requires consideration when understanding the various peaks in traffic that coincided with events that were unfolding (e.g. Jacob Zuma's appeal to the constitutional court) is what causality is at play in driving the peaks. There is no doubt that those peaks would likely be driven by public interest, but what our analysis shows is that the 12 accounts were engaged in deliberate, focused activity to amplify the overall volume of the conversations that called for unrest.

Going Deeper

At this point, we decided to manually take a closer look at these 12 accounts who were actively amplifying this conversation and (as outlined above) predominantly engaged with and talking about the hashtags that are strongly linked with the promotion of and incitement to violence.

A closer look at 2 of these 12 accounts; The first - @tellunknown - posted the highest number of tweets containing the hashtags and keywords in our query.



Fig. 24 Anonymized Twitter bio

This anonymized account published the hashtags and keywords in our query 1 542 times in July, was created in December last year and only has 352 followers. Figure 25 shows a clear incitement to violence by this author.



Fig. 25 Example tweet¹⁵

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/TellUnknown/status/1413755490794938372>

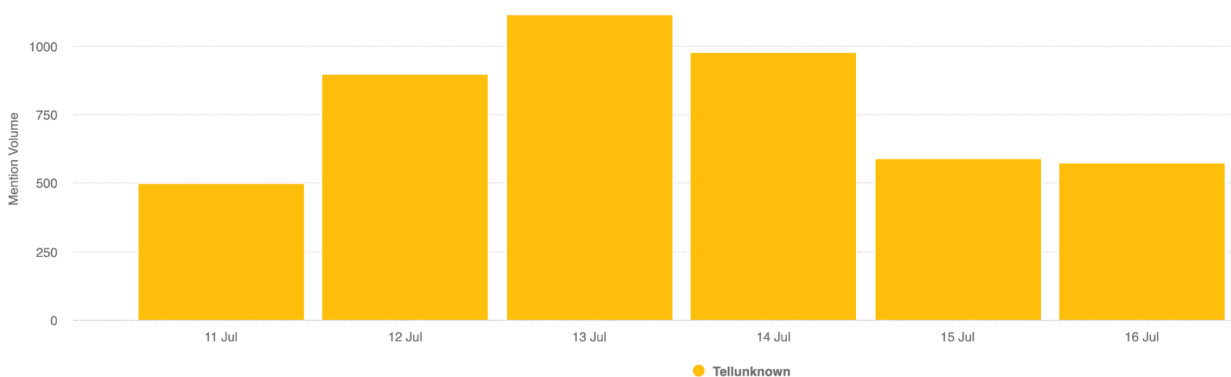


Fig. 26 Mention volume 11 - 16 July (user: @tellunknown)

Fig. 26 visualizes the total activity by author @tellunknown between July 11 and July 16. This extremely high tweet volume consisted of 92% retweets, seen in Fig. 27.

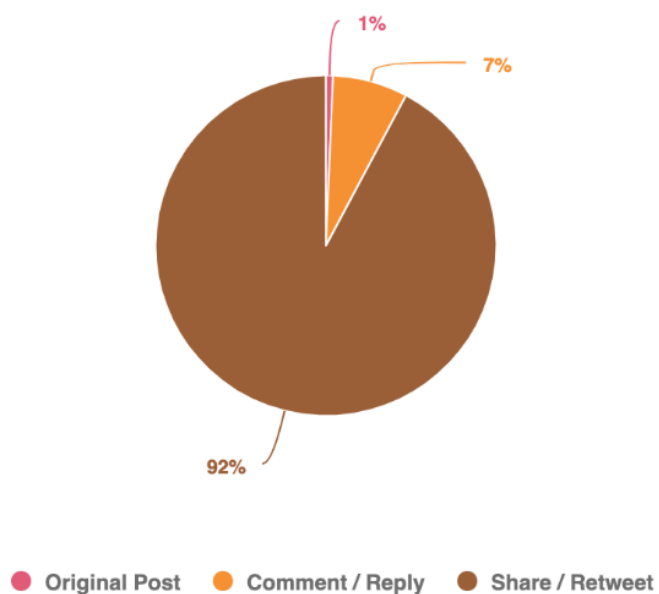


Fig. 27 @tellunknown total tweet activity broken down by tweet type July 11 - 16

To gain insight into what the account was retweeting, we generated Fig. 28 that shows the top ten hashtags used by the account during the time period.

#kznshutdown #phoenixmassacre
#freezumanow #sashutdown
#freejacobzuma
 #gautengshutdown #cyrilmustresign
 #shutdownsa #freejacobzumanow
 #ramaphosamustfall

Fig. 28 Top 10 hashtags 11 - 16 July (user: @tellunknown)

On July 23, we analysed @tellunknown's most recent 3200 tweets (not just those that were directly inciting violence.) Using this data, we visualized the Twitter users most retweeted by @tellunknown (Fig. 29). Eight of these ten accounts have been previously flagged by CABC for inauthentic behavior and association with the online RET network¹⁶¹⁷.

↕ Users most retweeted

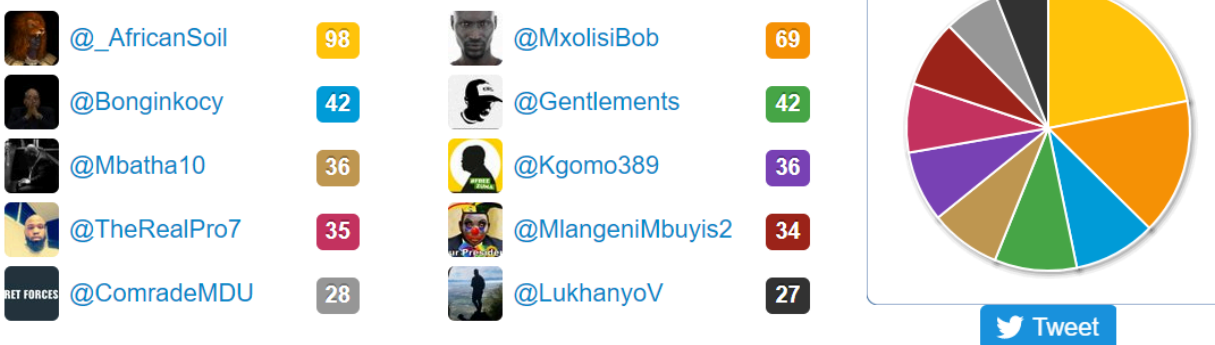


Fig. 29 Most frequently retweeted authors by user: @tellunknown

By looking at the behaviour of this account it seems as if its intended purpose is entirely to either boost or maintain the trending relevance of a conversation.

¹⁶ <https://cabc.org.za/2021/05/17/online-ret-network-analysis/>

¹⁷ Inclusion in Fig. 29 does not mean that every author on the list is guilty of incitement to violence. It simply indicates that as of July 23, 2021, they were one of the 10 most retweeted accounts by user @tellunknown. This graph is included in our reporting to better understand which accounts were being amplified by the retweet activity of user @tellunknown during this time period. This analysis did not investigate the content of every retweet.

With a daily median tweet volume of 826, @AZANIA_kal (the account with the second highest mentions of the hashtags and keywords in our query) tweeted most frequently between 7am - 8am and 7pm - 8pm (Fig. 30.) This is consistent with a strategy we have encountered previously in our work uncovering mis- and disinformation campaigns that aims to push content to trend for the day once in the morning and again when user activity spikes after people get off work. 94% of its most recent 3200 tweets are retweets.

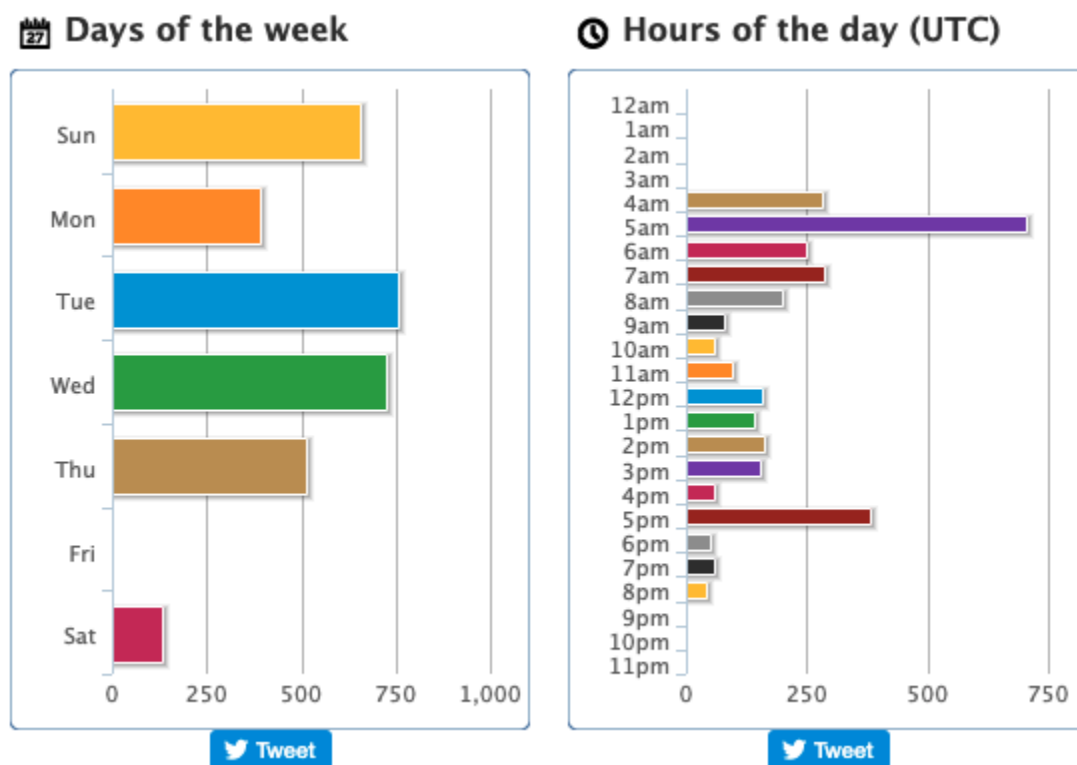
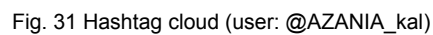


Fig. 30 Tweet activity broken down by days of the week and hours of the day (user: @AZANIA_kal)

Fig. 31 shows the top hashtags used by @AZANIA_kal during the period July 10 - July 14. The most commonly used hashtags were those related to shutting down the country and releasing Zuma.



A bar chart illustrating the daily mention volume for the name 'Kandacezinga' over a 23-day period from July 4 to July 26. The y-axis, labeled 'Mention Volume', ranges from 0 to 1250 in increments of 250. The x-axis shows dates at two-day intervals. The volume starts near zero on July 4, rises to about 100 on July 7, and then continues to climb, reaching a peak of approximately 1200 mentions on July 14. Following the peak, the volume fluctuates, with another notable peak of about 780 on July 21, before ending at 500 mentions on July 26.

Date	Mention Volume
4 Jul	0
5 Jul	0
6 Jul	0
7 Jul	100
8 Jul	420
9 Jul	580
10 Jul	1050
11 Jul	1180
12 Jul	680
13 Jul	700
14 Jul	1200
15 Jul	750
16 Jul	480
17 Jul	550
18 Jul	450
19 Jul	500
20 Jul	650
21 Jul	780
22 Jul	620
23 Jul	480
24 Jul	150
25 Jul	200
26 Jul	500

Fig. 32 Mention volume over time (user: @kandacenzinga)



Fig. 32 Top 10 Hashtags (user: @kandacenzinga)

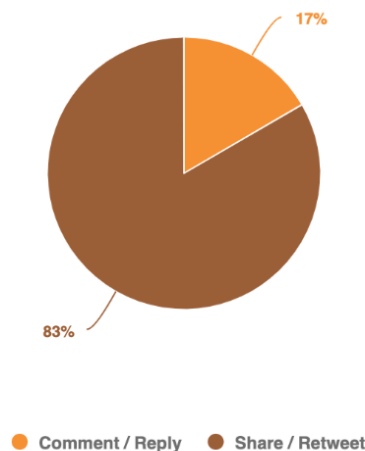


Fig. 33 Volume by tweet type (user: @kandacenzinga)

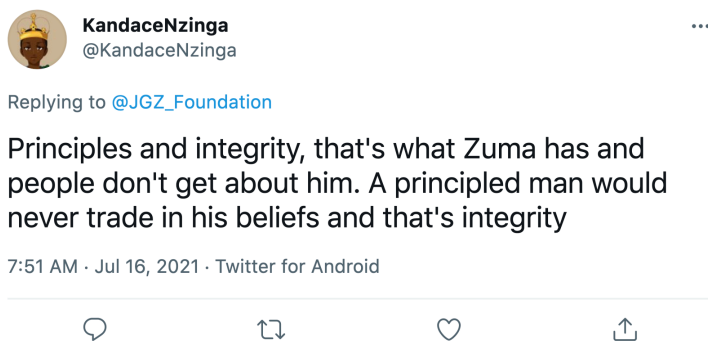


Fig. 34 Example tweet (user: @kandacenzinga)

Connections to the Online RET Network

Of these 62 accounts that used the hashtags and keywords in our query more than 500 times in July, 11 had been previously flagged for inauthentic activity and association with the online RET network in this [report](#) by the CABC.

The previously flagged eleven accounts are: @BiyelaSthe, @Botik61945648, @iamIQILI, @mytouchrecords, @ThatNigga_Bongz, @Jamnandasgodan, @BrendaM51777950, @stumbue, @mxo1, @LandNoli and @Mbatha10.

Four of these accounts (@BiyelaSthe, @Botik61945648, @iamIQILI and @mytouchrecords) featured in the top 12 accounts analyzed in this report.

@Account	RET Network	TOP 12
@BiyelaSthe	YES	YES
@Botik61945648	YES	YES
@iamIQILI	YES	YES
@mytouchrecords	YES	YES
@ThatNigga_Bongz	YES	NO
@Jamnandasgodan	YES	NO
@BrendaM51777950	YES	NO
@stumbue	YES	NO
@mxo1	YES	NO
@LandNoli	YES	NO
@Mbatha10	YES	NO
@TellUnknown	NO	YES
@AZANIA_kal	NO	YES
@mason0070	NO	YES
@selithethwe	NO	YES
@07372145stix	NO	YES
@Mahabz1n	NO	YES
@numbaONEhustla	NO	YES
@KandaceNzinga	NO	YES

Fig. 35 Accounts flagged for inauthentic behaviour and association with the Online RET Network that also used the keywords and hashtags in our query more than 500 times in July

As part of our analysis, we visualized the users that each of the top 12 authors engages with most frequently. This led to the finding that the top 12 accounts interact heavily with the 51 accounts that make up the online RET network.

In the report cited above [READ: Online RET Network Analysis <https://cabc.org.za/2021/05/17/online-ret-network-analysis/>], we identify @_AfricanSoil as the central content creating account in the online RET network. In our research into the top 12 accounts, we found that 9 of the 12 accounts retweet more content from @_AfricanSoil more than any other user¹⁸.

This finding points to a strong connection between at the very least 4 of the top 12 accounts and the online RET network identified in our previous reporting. This link is something we would like to investigate in future research.

Discussion

Our team took a deep dive into the content containing hashtags and keywords associated with physical mobilisation and incitement to unrest, rioting, looting and violence in the month of July. Through the process outlined in the *Methodology* section, we uncovered a grouping of accounts that share two distinguishing features:

- High tweet count containing the hashtags and keywords in the month of July, ranging from over 900 to nearly 1 600 each
- Activity that meets the CABC criteria for inauthentic behaviour

In a period of less than a month, these 12 accounts authored nearly 102 000 tweets. Of these tweets, nearly 14 000 contained the hashtags and keywords our team had identified. Much of this content centred around calling for Zuma's release - with the ultimatum of shutting down the country.

It is important to note that while the 12 accounts that were identified as amplifying calls for unrest, rioting, looting or violence, not all the tweets they retweeted were of an incendiary nature, and neither were all the accounts they retweeted engaged in incendiary rhetoric or calls for violence.

Some of these accounts engaged with by the top 12 are legitimate people sharing legitimate opinions and views that aren't incendiary in any way. This is typical of sophisticated disinformation activities, where credible opinion and media is retweeted alongside conspiracist innuendo and disinformation to create a smokescreen against easy detection.

¹⁸ Mostly commonly retweeted authors by each account are visualized in Appendix B

However, our experience in this field together with the weight of evidence presented in the report have led us to the conclusion that it is likely that coordinated narrative manipulation took place in this conversation. As we have seen in the past, the apparent strategy is to grow a following by creating the illusion of organic support among ordinary South Africans contributing independent opinions to the conversation online. When successful, this illusion of organic support is able to rope in unsuspecting social media users to the conversation. Ultimately amplifying real world impact, these users unknowingly further the agenda of those responsible for the orchestration of mis- and disinformation.

What is clear from the research we have conducted is that deliberate, coordinated attempts at narrative manipulation are now a recurring feature in the public discourse of the country. Indeed, since Bell-Pottinger's ill-fated 2016 campaign in South Africa we have remained vulnerable and unprotected from the dangers of social media manipulation by nefarious actors. Indeed, much of the damage that was done to the body politic by that campaign persists today.

While social media is by no means solely responsible for the unrest that unfolded in the week of 12th July in Kwazulu-Natal and Gauteng, there can be little doubt that it formed part of a concerted strategy to amplify the unrest by exploiting socio-economic divisions. It is likely that the role that encrypted platforms played was even more damaging than what transpired on publicly available social media, but there can be no doubt that public-facing platforms were abused in order to foment, intensify and extend the unrest.

Our findings indicate as much, and it is imperative that alongside helping create informed consumers of social media, that we develop the skills and tools to counter attempts to divide society. It also requires us to begin thinking about how we foster social media interactions that encourage healthy public discourse and engagement, where tolerance and respect prevail over malicious attempts to divide society through manipulation of social media platforms.

As a research-based civil society organization, we do not investigate the parties responsible for this activity, and it is not our mandate to do so. Our mandate is to uphold the South African Constitution that all South Africans subscribe to, and to promote and protect online social cohesion. Hence, we research publicly available online conversations and narratives that may undermine social cohesion on a variety of topics (e.g. gender-based violence, xenophobia, Covid-19 sentiments under lockdown, Covid-19 disinformation and vaccine hesitancy, white genocide narratives) and report our findings. Where appropriate, we intervene in the conversation in hopes of

contributing to positive real world impact. Informing the public about what is transpiring on social media, particularly where deliberate, coordinated narrative manipulation is occurring is essential to the healthy consumption of social media by the public and raising awareness of the need for informed, educated use of social media.

The recent unrest has revealed the vulnerability of South African society in respect of how pre-existing socio-economic divides and fractures can be manipulated to heighten tensions and bring the country to a breaking point. Analysing these recent events, it's clear that the same social media that was created to bring different people together can also be used to drive negativity and fuel the flames of division to a point where lives and livelihoods are at risk. This speaks directly to the fundamental mission of the CABC: to push back against mis- and disinformation and promote social cohesion in South Africa.

Appendix A: CABC Criteria for Inauthentic Activity Applied to Top 12 Accounts

Handles	Daily Median Tweet Volume	Lifetime Total Tweet Volume	Engages Predominantly in RET/Pro-Unrest Narrative	Anonymized or Stolen Profile Pic	Retweet %	Commercial Content
TellUnknown	831	15,000	Y	Y	86%	N
AZANIA_kal	826	258,000	Y	Y	94%	N
mason0070	373	21,000	Y	Y	76%	N
selithethwe	106	5,000	Y	N	51%	N
Mahabz1n	502	3,178	Y	Y	98%	N
07372145stix	294	67,000	Y	Y	95%	N
numbaONEhustla	186	120000	Y	Y	93%	N
KandaceNzinga	800	13,000	Y	N	83%	N
Botik61945648	353	130,000	Y	Y	93%	N
BiyelaSthe	284	52,000	Y	N	100%	N
mytouchrecords	276	181,000	Y	N	99%	N
iamIQILI	106	84,000	Y	Y	92%	N

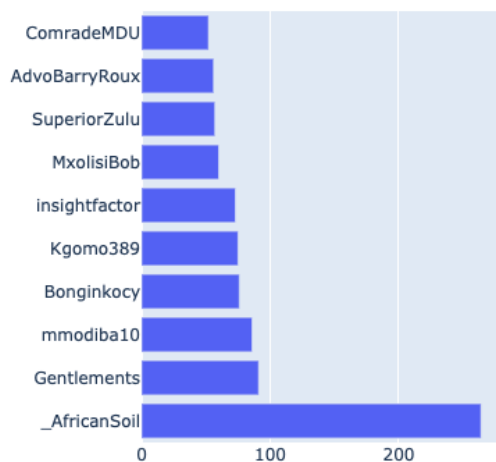
Appendix B: Most Frequently Retweeted Authors

@IAMIQILI

Siyanda Nxumalo

IQILI elizikhotha emhlan' Father of two Foundi

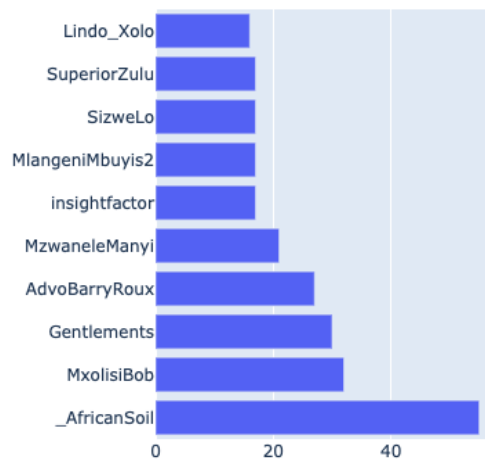
RETWEET



@KANDACENZINGA

KandaceNzinga

RETWEET

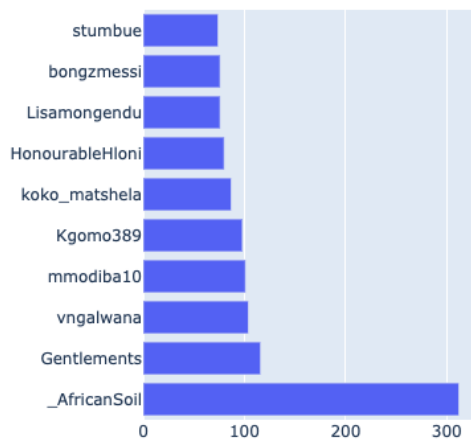


@MYTOUCHRECORDS

Pitchou kembo Flex

One day is one day

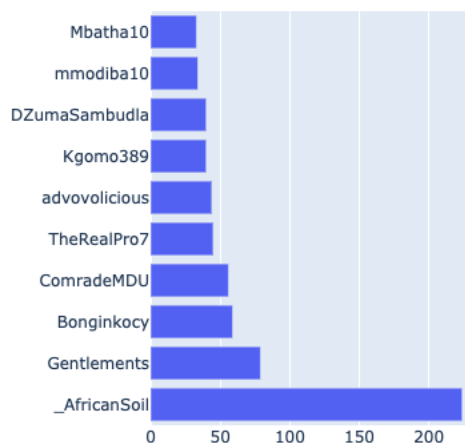
RETWEET



@MAHABZ1N

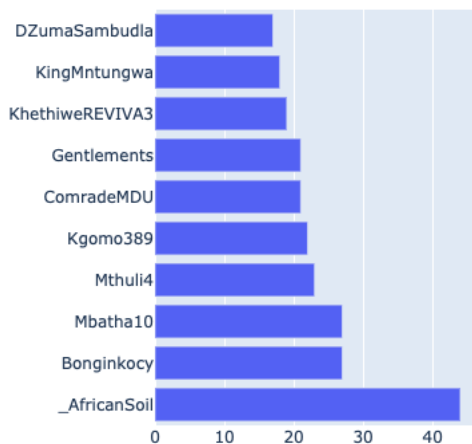
Mahabile

RETWEET

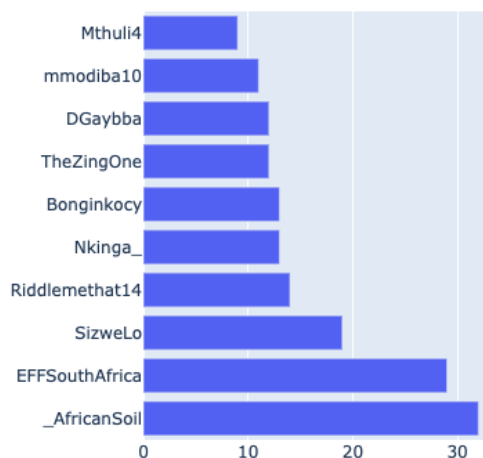


@07372145STIXEntrepreneur
Politics & business

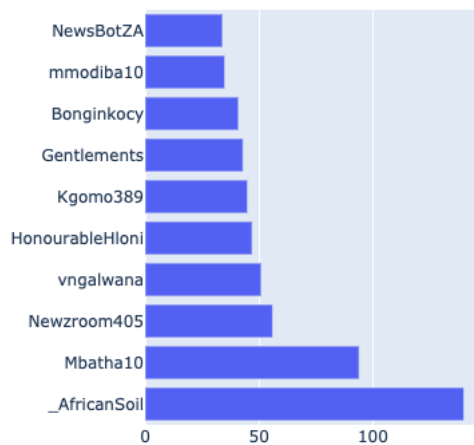
RETWEET

**@NUMBAONEHUSTLA**Bantu Power 🍌🍌
Dreams To Build Empir
Experience.

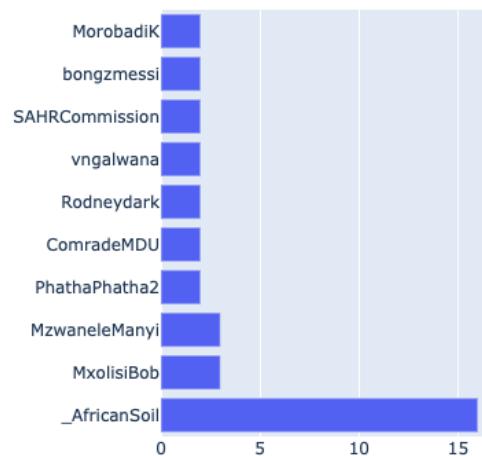
RETWEET

**@BIYELASTHE**Sthe Biyela
I dream of a free SA which puts its ma

RETWEET

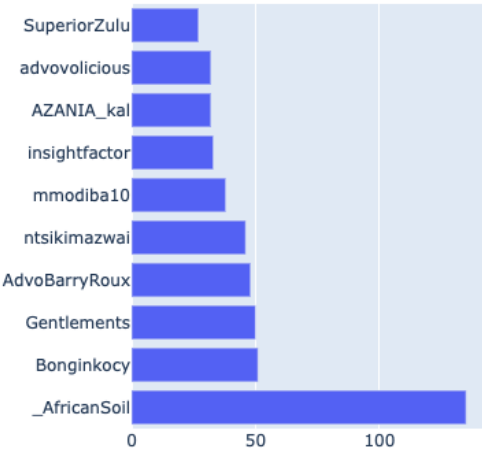
**@TELLUNKNOWN**Unknown!TellYou
just like the name... unknown

RETWEET



@AZANIA_KAL AZANIA MAGWALA
SEE IF I CARE.

RETWEET



Appendix C: Example Tweets

Calls for Physical Mobilisation

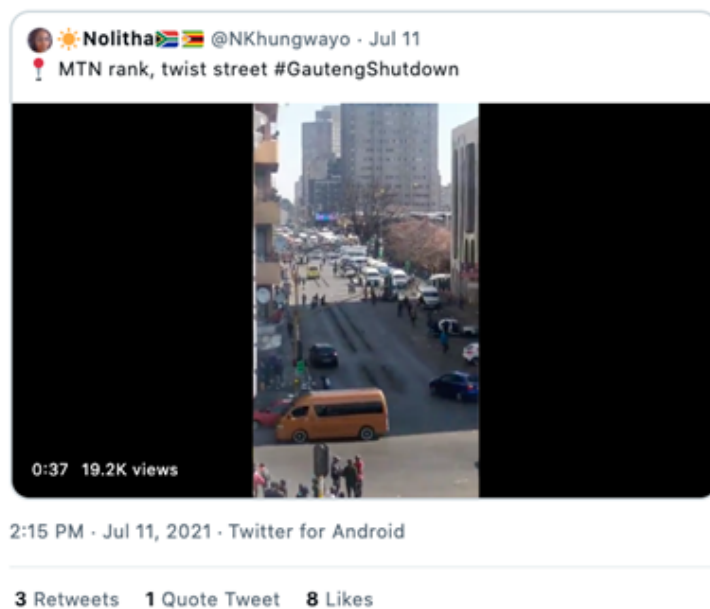


Fig. X Physical mobilisation

https://twitter.com/sthabiso_za/status/1413090192290983939



https://twitter.com/TellUnknown/with_replies



<https://twitter.com/selithethwe/status/1414198405543387141>



https://twitter.com/_AfricanSoil/status/1413574072764620805?s=20

Calls for General Unrest



<https://twitter.com/TellUnknown/status/1414227297725464581>



<https://twitter.com/Botik61945648/status/1415731754573484041>



<https://twitter.com/KandaceNzinga/status/1413251754012168200>



<https://twitter.com/RealbernardJR/status/141468697473313178>

↳ Selithethwe Bengazi Retweeted



Missblack_lf
@Missblack_lf

...

[#FreeZumaNow](#) let's sacrifice for a better future because if we don't...things won't change.
[#RamaphosaMustFall](#)



12:39 AM · Jul 12, 2021 · Twitter for Android

2 Retweets 4 Likes

<https://twitter.com/selithethwe/status/1414360906474135554>

↳ Entrepreneur Retweeted



#ZumalsFree
@ComradeMDU

...

Until President Zuma is released. There will be no peace in this colony.

[#FreeJacobZuma.](#)

9:00 PM · Jul 14, 2021 · Twitter for Android

36 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 146 Likes

<https://twitter.com/07372145stix/status/1415389984660525059>

Entrepreneur Retweeted



Slave
@Tlhalefi2

...

The evil one will not free him, We can do it ourselves.

let'sFreeJacobZumaOurSelves



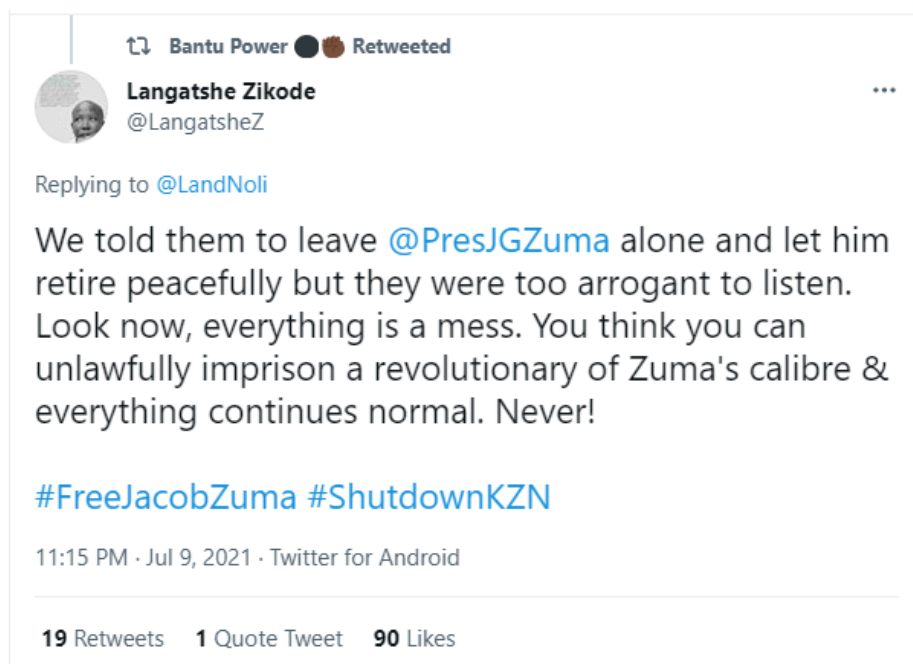
12:10 AM · Jul 14, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

1 Retweet 3 Likes

<https://twitter.com/07372145stix/status/1415078448876371970>



<https://twitter.com/BiyelaSthe/status/1413617718469738499>



<https://twitter.com/numbaONEhustla/status/1413613623205847040>

Calls for Violent Acts



UnknownITellYou
@TellUnknown



Burn everything forces. President Jacob Zuma was sent to prison by thugs in robes who take bribes. Burn everything. We must find addresses of judges
[#FreeJacobZuma](#) [#KZNshutdown](#) [#AceMagashule](#)

9:02 AM · Jul 10, 2021 · Twitter for Android

1 Retweet 4 Likes



<https://twitter.com/TellUnknown/status/1413755490794938372>



Siyanda Nxumalo
@iamIQILI



Replying to [@SAfmnews](#)

Fuseg. Benithule izolo ngicabanga ukuthi it will end. The former president is unlawful arrested. The is just the beginning remember this today is Day 3 of 15. Let it burn.

12:38 PM · Jul 10, 2021 · Twitter Web App

1 Retweet 9 Likes

<https://twitter.com/iamIQILI/status/1413809821996961795>



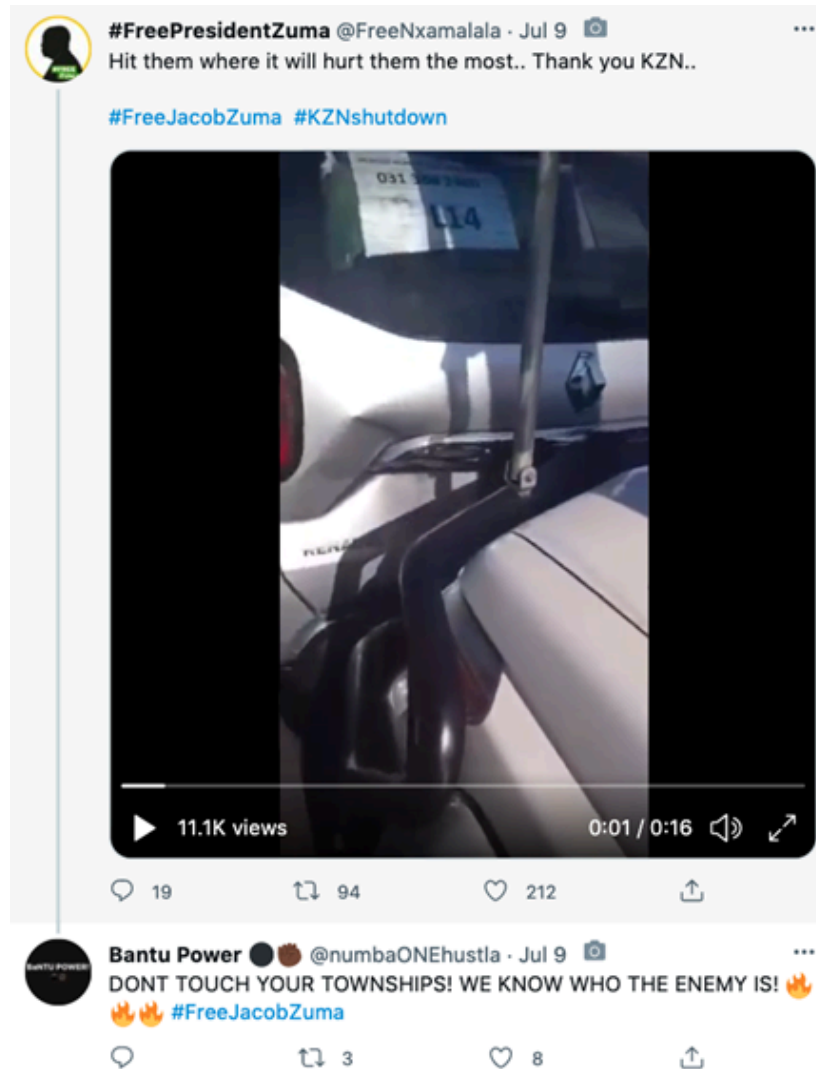
<https://twitter.com/numbaONEhustla/status/1413538668804034561>



<https://twitter.com/numbaONEhustla/status/1413538218541293570>



https://twitter.com/Chief_Bango/status/1414146797212155911



<https://twitter.com/numbaONEhustla/status/1413542451034402817>

↻ Entrepreneur Retweeted



Mthuli
@Mthuli4

...

LET THEM GET SOME NEW STOCK WHILE WE
WAIT FOR @ConCourtSA JUDGMENT.
[#FreeJacobZumaNow](#)

2:36 PM · Jul 14, 2021 · Twitter for Android

12 Retweets 58 Likes

<https://twitter.com/07372145stix/status/1415394361647448067>

↻ Mahabile Retweeted



Dudu Zuma-Sambudla
@DZumaSambudla

...

Mtubatuba...We Are Still Seeing You! Amandla 🖐️🖐️
🖐️!!! [#FreeJacobZuma](#)



<https://twitter.com/FreeGura576/status/1413614949474127872>



Siyanda Nxumalo

@iamIQILI

...

Replying to @SAfmnews

Fuseg. Benithule izolo ngicabanga ukuthi it will end.
The former president is unlawful arrested. The is just
the beginning remember this today is Day 3 of 15. Let it
burn.

12:38 PM · Jul 10, 2021 · Twitter Web App

1 Retweet 9 Likes

<https://twitter.com/iamIQILI/status/1413809821996961795>

REAL411 Adjudications

real411.org.za


ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

#1499 09/07/2021


MTN-SA-Take Care Mz...

Thread


 Advovolicious
@advovolicious

The protests have started, let the country burn 🔥

#FreeJacobZuma



Tweet your reply



Tags

#FreeJacobZuma Protests

Title

Tweet: "let the country burn" (in support of Zuma)

Overview

The complainant states: "The user is calling for the country <South Africa> to burn in support of President Jacob Zuma".

Background and Ruling

The phrase "let the country burn" (and accompanying image) does not meet the legal criteria for incitement to violence. However, we note that this tweet, featuring the hashtag #FreeJacobZuma has been retweeted 225 times, quoted 37 times and liked 634 times. Included in the comments are responses by high profile Twitter users who are encouraging the continuation of such behaviour.

Seen on

Twitter

COVID-19

Online Resource & News Portal

SACoronavirus.co.za

real411.org.za

ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

real411.org.za

ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

#1487

07/07/2021

Tags

Zuma

Cyril Ramaphosa

Jacob Zuma

President Cyril Ramaphosa

#Nkandla

Title

Twitter: Quoted Tweet insinuates violent action

Overview

The quoted tweet involves video evidence of weapons being used as a threat to South African police for their order to arrest the previous president Zuma. Link to quoted Tweet: https://twitter.com/DZumaSambudla/status/1410719186141071918?reply_id=1410719186141071918&reply_s=20

Background and Ruling

While a broad interpretation of the quoted video clip and accompanying text may not meet the strict criteria for incitement to violence, there are a few factors that must be taken into consideration. (1) The fact that the author of the quoted tweet is a publically known and has a following of 94K on Twitter; (2) the current political tension and Jacob Zuma's recent arrest; (3) previous threats of violence and the mobilisation of violent groups that are currently causing unrest in his name; and (4) the fact that it has been retweeted 626 times, quoted 845 times and has 1622 likes. Although the video used in the tweet is all from Venezuela and is not current or local, its appropriateness in positioning as what is going to happen in Nkandla is highly problematic. Regarding the words above the video "iziqhokeleli zintombi zingaphila" could be taken to mean explosives/ guns, and silindile mihleba are waiting". The use of the hashtag #nkandla indicates a specific location. Directly translated, it could be interpreted as a threatening statement aimed to incite (guns in KZN... weapons are waiting).

Seen on

Twitter

COV

Online Resource

SACoronavirus

real411.org.za

ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

<https://real411.co.za/complaints-view/945D98J4?pt=ab3325cd-7d7c-4828-afb6-f913ca7888e2>

real411.org.za

ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

#1518

13/07/2021



Tags

Zuma Foundation

Con Court

Title

Zuma Foundation Tweet Constitutes Mis - or disinformation

Overview

Tweet posted by Zuma Foundation makes unfounded allegations about former President Zuma's incarceration and the causes of the violence

Background and Ruling

The tweet submitted for review meets our criteria for disinformation because the but not all of the requirements for incitement. It is false that it was "just pure malice to incarcerate President Zuma whilst litigation on his Detention Without Trial case (for a civil contempt) was on-going." The former President was incarcerated pursuant to an order by the Constitutional Court.

Seen on

Twitter

COVID-19

Online Resource & News Portal
SAcoronavirus.co.za

real411.org.za

ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

<https://www.real411.org.za/complaints-view/LYMEX4L9>

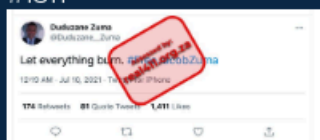
real411.org.za

ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

#1511

12/07/2021



Tags

#FreeJacobZuma

Protest

Title

Tweet purportedly by Duduzane Zuma: "let everything burn"

Overview

Complainant states: "This is a clear incitement to violence. Though it is a general statement that doesn't name any particular people, the author's position as an influential figure makes this statement reckless and dangerous."

Background and Ruling

Allowing messaging of this nature is hugely damaging given the current instability. This matter has already been attended to as the tweet in question is no longer available.

Seen on

Twitter

COVID-19Online Resource & News Portal
SAcoronavirus.co.za

real411.org.za

ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

<https://www.real411.org.za/complaints-view/RG0GGMBV>

real411.org.za

ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

#148607/07/2021



Tags

ZumaJacob ZumaViolence

Title

Tweet - Zulus will protect Zuma - he won't go to jail

Overview

Complainant states: "It relates to the previous president's arrest order. The tweet is encouraging violence against this movement."

Background and Ruling

While the Tweet makes suggestions of violence, it comes across as posturing without meeting the legal criteria for incitement to violence.

Seen on

Twitter

COVID-19

Online Resource & News Portal

SACoronavirus.co.za

real411.org.za

ALERT

Stop the spread of disinformation

<https://www.real411.org.za/complaints-view/vbplsyc>