
Twitter Erupts After 2,000 Pro-Venezuelan Accounts Are Deleted

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A total of 1,196 social media accounts based in Venezuela suspected of “influencing domestic audiences.”

Nearly 2,000 pro-Venezuelan Twitter accounts have been removed for “engaging in a state-backed influence campaign,” the social media company said in a blog post on Thursday.

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A total of 1,196 [social media accounts](#) based in Venezuela suspected of attempting to “influence domestic audiences” were purged last week.

Another 764 accounts were deleted, although the San Francisco-based company told users, “We are unable to definitively tie the accounts located in Venezuela to information operations of a foreign government against another country.”

Allegations of censorship soon filled the site’s timeline.

Television host for the investigatory series, Empire Files, Abby Martin tweeted, “While pro-coup Venezuelans & right-wing exiles dominate the media sphere,

tech companies are actively censoring pro-government accounts they say are working to "influence" people."

Another journalist, Ben Norton, accused the company of catering to "U.S. government interests:" Twitter is now removing thousands of accounts supposedly linked to Venezuela's sovereign government. This comes after Twitter suspended Venezuelan government accounts 1.5 years ago. Social media corporations act as an extension of US government interests."

[@BenjaminNorton](#)

Ben Norton Retweeted Marco Rubio

Twitter is now removing thousands of accounts supposedly linked to Venezuela's sovereign government. This comes after Twitter suspended Venezuelan government accounts 1.5 years ago. Social media corporations act as an extension of US government interests

S government interestss".

[@BenjaminNorton](#) This is absolutely outrageous: Twitter is suspending foreign elected governments for criticizing the US, while it verifies literal Nazis

[@marcorubio](#) Twitter took down 2,000 accounts located in [#Venezuela](#) engaged in a "state-backed disinformation & influence campaign via [@POLITICO](#) for iOS

In another blog post, Twitter announced the release of five new datasets which were allegedly created in relation to suspected foreign interference efforts it had encountered.

Editor of the Greyzone Project, Max Blumenthal wrote, "Amazing how one dataset is Venezuela, just days after US set a coup into motion against its government. As usual, the caveat is buried: "We are unable to definitively tie the accounts located in Venezuela to information operations of a foreign government against another country."

[@MaxBlumenthal](#)

Max Blumenthal Retweeted Yoel Roth

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The decision coincides with harsher sanctions against Venezuela imposed by the

United States after opposition lawmaker Juan Guaidó lead a coup on Jan. 23, declaring himself the country's "interim president," an illegal and unconstitutional move.

Guaidó, the United States and right-wing governments in the region have been calling on the Venezuelan military to oust Maduro. There have been whispers in Washington that the Donald Trump administration is "seriously considering" a military intervention in Venezuela if Maduro does not step down or be ousted internally.

RT Correspondent Dan Cohen, tweeted, "Since I began reporting on the coup attempt, I've been inundated with hate from accounts that appear to be exiled, right-wing Venezuelans. Like clockwork, Twitter shuts down accounts providing a counter-narrative to the propaganda onslaught."

The social media company has been known to arbitrarily delete accounts before particularly those supporting movements in Iran, Russia, or Bangladesh, citing "malicious" activity, "inauthentic behavior" or contributing to national conflict.
