

## Facebook's biggest Black Lives Matter page was reportedly fake, according to CNN

April 10 2018, by Brett Molina, Usa Today

One of Facebook's biggest pages devoted to the Black Lives Matter movement was reportedly fake.

According to CNN, the page titled "Black Lives Matter" boasted 700,000 followers, more than double the movement's official Facebook page. However, the report claims the page was a scam tied to a middle-aged white man in Australia.

The discovery again raises concerns whether Facebook is capable of weeding out pages or ads with fake information or propaganda ahead of CEO Mark Zuckerberg's testimony Tuesday before Congress.

The report said the page was connected to online fundraisers raking in at least \$100,000, but some of those funds were transferred to Australian bank accounts. CNN said the page was taken down shortly after it contacted one of the men who may have been linked to it.

Buzzfeed reports a branch vice president with the Australian National Union of Workers has been suspended pending an investigation into whether he was linked to the page.

Patrisse Cullors, a co-founder of Black Lives Matter, said the group has asked Facebook multiple times to take down <u>fake accounts</u>. "It's so unfortunate folks were scammed by fake BLM accounts and people," she wrote on Twitter.



In a statement, Facebook said it investigated the situation and disabled the page's administrator for maintaining multiple profiles. "We continue to look into the situation and will take the necessary action in line with our policies," read Facebook's statement.

On Tuesday, Zuckerberg will testify before a joint hearing of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee. On Wednesday, he will testify before the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Zuckerberg will use his time before lawmakers to convince them the company can solve problems including protecting users' privacy and stopping the spread of propaganda or false information without government regulation.

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Citation: Facebook's biggest Black Lives Matter page was reportedly fake, according to CNN (2018, April 10) retrieved 26 June 2024 from <a href="https://phys.org/news/2018-04-facebook-biggest-black-page-reportedly.html">https://phys.org/news/2018-04-facebook-biggest-black-page-reportedly.html</a>

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