

Twitter working with probe on online threats

2 March 2015



News of Twitter working with law enforcement officials on unspecified threats, comes following reports that the social network had suspended accounts linked to IS and related entities, including the Nigerian Islamic group Boko Haram

Twitter said Monday it was working with law enforcement officials on unspecified threats, amid reports that the social network had been targeted for blocking accounts linked to the Islamic State.

"Our security team is investigating the veracity of these threats with relevant law enforcement officials," a Twitter spokesman said, without elaborating.

The news comes following reports that Twitter had suspended accounts linked to IS and related entities, including the Nigerian Islamic group Boko Haram.

A page on the online bulletin board Pastebin showed an image of Twitter founder Jack Dorsey in what appear to be the crosshairs of a rifle scope and a message in Arabic.

SITE Intelligence, a US group which monitors jihadist threats, said the post was made by Al-Nusra Al-Maqdisiya, a pro-Islamic State media

group.

A translation of the message by SITE said that Dorsey and Twitter are now being targeted by Islamic militants for suspending certain accounts.

"You began this failed war, and we have told you from the beginning that it is not your war! But you did not understand. You shut down our accounts and we quickly return, but when our lone lions shut down your breathing there will be no return!," the message said.

Like other social media operators, Twitter has struggled with allowing free speech while avoiding being used as a tool for violence.

Twitter's terms of service bar direct, specific threats against others.

But analysts note that terrorist organizations frequently use Twitter and other social media for recruiting, fundraising and communications.

© 2015 AFP

APA citation: Twitter working with probe on online threats (2015, March 2) retrieved 17 June 2021 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-03-twitter-probe-online-threats.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.