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How To Navigate the Digital Landscape of Misinformation | Andrew Schuster

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Links to Activists and Social Media Influencers to Follow on X and Instagram

Avi Melamed

Strategic Intelligence Analyst & Regional Expert specializing in Current Affairs of the Arab and Muslim world and their impact on Israel and the Middle East, Founder, Inside The Middle East Intelligence Perspectives [ITME] Institute

X: @avimelamed https://x.com/AviMelamed

Dalia Ziada

Egyptian writer, scholar, and Senior Fellow at Jerusalem Center

• X: (@daliaziada) https://x.com/daliaziada

Hayvi Bouzo

Broadcast Journalist, Peace Builder, Co-Founder of Yalla Productions, and Host of The Yalla Show

- X: https://x.com/hayvibouzo?s=21
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/hayvi_bouzo?igsh=MTJ5M3JzcnZwazNiaw==

Yalla

A platform dedicated to building bridges of peace and promoting people-to-people connections in the MENA region, in both Arabic and English.

- X: https://x.com/watchyalla?s=21
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/watchyalla?igsh=Nmk1cGpvdzFrbjE2

Hussain Abdul-Hussain

Middle East Expert and Research Fellow at FDD

X: @hahussain https://x.com/hahussain

Amjad Taha

Bahraini Middle East Expert and Researcher

- X: https://x.com/amjadt25?s=21
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/amjadt25?igsh=MWF6eHR0eXR3dHpxcQ==

Builders of the Middle East

A Platform Aiming to Promote Peace in the Middle East

- X: https://x.com/buildersmideast?s=21
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/buildersofmideast?igsh=bzl4cnpsM3QwZzBi

Chama Meshtaly

Moroccan Peace Activist

• Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/millennialmoor?igsh=MWJjZW45ZmNsbGdwOQ==

John Aziz

Palestinian Musician, Peace Activist, and Analyst

X: https://x.com/aziz0nomics?s=21

Johnathan Elkhoury

Lebanese-Israeli Columnist, Public Diplomacy Adviser

- X: https://x.com/jonathan_elk?s=21
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/jon_elk?igsh=MXhuaHpiYjJ2OHFvaw==

Luai Ahmed

Peace Activist and Anti-Islamist Extremism Activist from Yemen and Host of Builders of the Middle East

- X: https://x.com/justluai?s=21
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/justluai?igsh=MXB4anM4OXRiOHhmcw==

Loay Alshareef

Saudi Social Media Influencer, Linguist, and Peace Activist

- X: https://x.com/lalshareef?s=21
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/lalshareef?igsh=MWh1eHAxb3RpOWU2aw==

Montana Tucker

American Singer, Dancer, Social Media Influencer, and Educator

- X: https://x.com/montanatucker?s=21
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/montanatucker?igsh=NmptOTFhdjcyaWNs

Mosab Hassan Yousef

The Son of One of Hamas's Founders

• X: https://x.com/mosabhasanyosef?s=21

Noa Tishby

Israeli Activist and Actress

- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/noatishby?igsh=ejA2Ynl0YjMyM3Rm
- X: https://x.com/noatishby?s=21

Rawan Osman

Syrian-Lebanese Peace Activist and Founder of Arabs Ask

- X: https://x.com/rawaneosmane?s=21
- Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/rawanosman2024?igsh=MTBndTRyY2dhZm9zZQ==

Visegrad 24

Polish News Platform Providing Fast-Paced News Developments

- X: https://x.com/visegrad24?s=21
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/visegrad.24?igsh=MTBmOWprZXVmc3R2MA==

Yoseph Haddad

Arab-Israeli Journalist and Activist

- X: https://x.com/yosephhaddad?s=21
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/yosephhaddad?igsh=MjB0OWJnZjk2ZW42

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Fact Sheet: Combating Misinformation & Disinformation

Effective Tools and Resources to Verify Information Before Sharing

Key Definitions

- Misinformation: False or inaccurate information shared without intent to deceive.
- Disinformation: Deliberately deceptive information spread to manipulate or mislead.

Steps to Verify Information

1. Check the Source

- O Verify if the source is reputable and known for fact-based reporting.
- o Investigate the author's credentials and potential biases.

2. Cross-Check Information

- O Look for multiple sources to confirm the accuracy of the information.
- Use fact-checking platforms (see list below) to verify contentious claims.

3. Examine the Date

• Ensure the story is current, as outdated articles can mislead when circulated as new.

4. Be Skeptical of Sensational Headlines

O Avoid sharing stories with overly emotional or clickbait-style headlines without verifying the content.

5. Reverse Image Search

O Use reverse image search tools (e.g., Google Reverse Image Search, TinEye) to verify the authenticity and context of images.

Trusted Fact-Checking Resources

Snopes

URL: www.snopes.com

Coverage: A widely used resource for checking the truthfulness of rumors, viral claims, and news stories.

FactCheck.org

URL: www.factcheck.org

Coverage: A nonpartisan project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, fact-checking political claims and social issues.

PolitiFact

URL: www.politifact.com

Coverage: Focuses on fact-checking U.S. political issues, offering a Truth-O-Meter score

for claims.

• Reuters Fact Check

URL: www.reuters.com/fact-check

Coverage: Verifies claims found on social media, particularly images, videos, and other multimedia content.

BBC Reality Check

URL: www.bbc.com/realitycheck

Coverage: Provides fact-checks on global news stories, focusing on the U.K. but with international reach.

• The Washington Post Fact Checker

URL: www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/

Coverage: Covers U.S. politics, particularly claims made by public officials. Tools to Detect Manipulation

• Bot Sentinel

URL: www.botsentinel.com

Detects bot activity on Twitter to help you spot automated accounts spreading disinformation.

Hoaxy

URL: hoaxy.iuni.iu.edu

Visualizes the spread of articles online and shows which ones are fact-checked.

• Google Reverse Image Search

URL: images.google.com

Helps you verify the origin and context of images by uploading or pasting the image URL.

Additional Reading

- How to Spot Fake News (FactCheck.org)
- o www.factcheck.org/2017/11/how-to-spot-fake-news/
- Offers tips for identifying fake news and suspicious stories.
- Combating Disinformation in the Digital Age (Council on Foreign Relations)
- o www.cfr.org/report/combating-disinformation-digital-age
- Focuses on how state actors and other organizations spread disinformation online.
- Digital Literacy and the Fight Against Fake News (MIT)
- o www.mit.edu/research/digital-literacy/
- Explores the importance of media literacy in stopping the spread of misinformation.

Stay Informed

- Sign up for Newsletters from trusted fact-checkers like PolitiFact and FactCheck.org to receive regular updates on trending misinformation.
- Follow Reputable Sources on social media that are known for journalistic integrity and fact-based reporting.

By verifying the information you share online, you help reduce the spread of misinformation and contribute to a more informed, responsible digital community.