

Case Number and Summary

2021-007-FB-UA

In early 2021, a Facebook user in Myanmar posted a text in Burmese on the platform. According to the translation Facebook provided to the Board, the post criticizes the current situation in Myanmar following the 2021 military coup d'état and suggests ways to limit financing to the military. It proposes that the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), a group of legislators opposed to the coup, announce that there be no legal guarantees for companies that do business with the military and that legal consequences for these companies be explored. The post proposes that tax revenue be given to the CRPH. It also suggests that individuals have access to foreign online banking and cites Hong Kong as an example. Facebook's translation included several terms referring to "China" or "Chinese," possibly with profanity (Facebook identified "\$၀၅၀၅" as the phrase that violated its policy). The post received about 500,000 views and was shared about 6,000 times.

Facebook removed the post under its Hate Speech policy after it was reported by an "Administrative Action Bot." No Facebook users reported the post. Under its [Hate Speech Community Standard](#), Facebook takes down content targeting a person or group of people on the basis of their race, ethnicity and/or national origin with "profane terms or phrases with the intent to insult, including but not limited to: fuck, bitch, motherfucker."

The user submitted their appeal in English to the Oversight Board on April 16, 2021. The user stated in their appeal that they posted this content to "stop the brutal military regime" and restore democracy in Myanmar. The user also reiterated their position against the Myanmar military regime's funding and source of income. The user speculated that the Myanmar military regime's informants reported their post and profile "as threat" and as violating Facebook's Community Standards. The user also stated that "someone who understands Myanmar Language" should review their post.

The Board would appreciate public comments that address:

- Whether Facebook's decision to remove the post is consistent with the company's Hate Speech Community Standard, specifically the rule against profane terms or phrases with the intent to insult.*
- Whether Facebook's decision to remove the post is consistent with the company's [stated values](#) and [human rights responsibilities](#).*
- Information about the social and political context in Myanmar, including efforts to discourage companies from engaging financially with the Myanmar military regime and to financially support the CRPH as well as the relationship between the Myanmar military regime and China. This information would help the Board better understand the possible intent and impact of the post.*

- *Trends in discourse around foreign government intervention in Myanmar and use of potentially discriminatory language in that context.*
- *Information about Facebook’s potentially erroneous enforcement of Community Standards, for example on Hate Speech, to restrict political speech in Myanmar.*
- *Whether Facebook users have noted changes in Facebook’s moderation and appeals in Myanmar-related posts since the 2021 coup.*
- *Content moderation challenges specific to the Burmese language.*

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Acceptable languages to submit public comments: Burmese,English

Deadline: Thursday, June 3rd, 11:00AM EDT/15:00 UTC

Public Comment Instructions

The Oversight Board is committed to bringing diverse perspectives from third parties into the case review process. To that end, the Oversight Board has established a public comment process to invite subject matter experts and interested groups to share relevant research and information that may help the Oversight Board deliberate specific cases. This input will allow Board Members to tap into more knowledge, expertise and context as cases will cover a variety of issues and geographies.

The Oversight Board will share updates when a case has been selected by the Board Members to review. As cases are assigned to panels, the Oversight Board will post a brief, anonymized description of the cases under review on the Oversight Board website. For fourteen days after this posting, individuals and organization have an opportunity to share their insights. For expedited cases, this timeframe will be shortened.

The case descriptions are based on the information provided to the Board by users and Facebook as part of the appeals process, and are being posted before panels begin deliberation to provide time for public comment. As such, they reflect neither the Board’s assessment of the case, nor the full array of policy issues that a panel might consider to be implicated by the case. A panel may decide to post additional information relating to the case, with an updated deadline for submission of comments.

To protect privacy and security, the comments will only be viewed by the Oversight Board and as detailed in the [Oversight Board's Operational Privacy Notice](#). Anyone submitting comments will have an opportunity to provide consent to the Oversight Board to publish or attribute their comments publicly, as well as allow the Oversight Board to follow up with them regarding the content of their comments. The Oversight Board expects to publish comments in an appendix to each case decision, provided the comments meet the guidelines and the commenter has consented to the publication.

Submissions should meet the following requirements:

- Received within the stated deadline, set fourteen days from the date of publication of the case summary.
- Written in English or the languages identified by the Board in the portal as acceptable languages to submit public comments for the relevant case.
- No more than 2 pages in PDF, Word or .txt format, Times New Roman 12pt font.
- Must include commenter's full name and organization.
- Must respond to the issues identified by the Oversight Board.
- Content which is irrelevant, abusive, or disrespectful of the human and fundamental rights of any person or group of persons, or otherwise in breach of the [Oversight Board Terms for Public Comment](#), may not be considered.
- In addition, please do not submit information or comments that contains your [Special Category Data](#) (choosing to do so means that you consent to us using your Special Category Data). You must not provide the Special Category Data of any third party.

The Oversight Board expects to receive a large volume of submissions and will review this initial process once the Oversight Board has a better understanding of needs and resources. The panels reviewing cases will consider submissions at their sole discretion, and do not expect to be able to consider every submission in their deliberations.

[Sign up here](#) to receive updates on cases and public comment opportunities. You will be able to opt out of receiving updates at any time.