

# Checkdesk<sup>3.0</sup>

**Technology-enhanced verification** As the Checkdesk project moves into its third phase, our technology roadmap envisions a flexible and powerful toolkit for collaboration around verifying user generated content. Checkdesk 3.0 will have the following core features:

- » An open framework for any aspiring citizen journalist to collaboratively fact check social media. Checkdesk will feature close integration with third party services to facilitate the verification process. For example, if a photo is being investigated, Checkdesk will offer reverse image search (via Google Image Search), geo-location (via Google Maps), historical weather information (via Wolfram Alpha), and any EXIF data (via Cloudinary).
- » A library of “helper bots” that perform repeated actions on a link over a period of time. Watchbot monitors a source for consistency and new information, while identifying related reports. Checkbot scans the Checkdesk database to answer a simple question: “What is the verification status of this reference?” The value of Checkbot will grow as the Checkdesk network’s collective verification work grows.
- » Close integration with Meedan’s Bridge platform, to enable fast, high quality translation of UGC. Translation is one of the biggest challenges in verifying online content, in collaborating around verification, and in communicating corrections. Checkdesk leverages Bridge to translate media and add cultural context.

## BACKGROUND

Since 2011, the Checkdesk project has worked to build online tools, support independent journalists and develop media literacy training resources that aim to improve the investigative quality of citizen journalism and help limit the rapid spread of rumors and misinformation online.


The Checkdesk partner network includes: independent media collectives in the Middle East and North Africa, including Mada Masr, SMEX, and Welad El Balad; three international media partners, including Global Voices and open source investigation site Bellingcat; leading online journalism trainers; and researchers from Birmingham City University (BCU) and the Lebanese American University (LAU).

## WHY WE ARE WORKING ON THIS?

The pursuit of the truth is at the core of journalistic practice and essential for functional and democratic societies. Checkdesk supports civil society by strengthening news ecosystems with stronger and more trustworthy news outlets that can combat the spread of misinformation on social networks and help create a better informed citizenry.

Since 2008, Meedan has pushed forward collaborative approaches to highlight and make sense of global citizen media. The increasing importance of social media in contemporary journalism demands new platforms and innovative solutions to facilitate rapid verification and distribution of the critical news of the moment.





After Attack, Residents Wander a Neighborhood Transformed by War  
Hassan Taqulden  
Tue, July 8th at 4:03 PM

Verified by The New York Times

4 verification footnotes

Friday, July 11th, 2014

**Tom Trewinnard** changed status to **Verified** 2:50 am  
This video was posted to YouTube by an account that primarily posts videos from Douma, and was shared on Facebook by a well-known antigovernment group in that city. Douma is in the Eastern Ghouta region outside of Damascus and has been the scene of fierce fighting during the conflict.

**Tom Trewinnard** changed status to **In Progress** 1:20 am

**Rachel Kornhauser** 1:00 am  
<https://twitter.com/ahlelsham/status/416188084565594112>  
**wa7ed shami** @ahlelsham  
Tens of injuries in #Duma #Damascus #Syria after two surface to surface missiles hit the city via @MsMarpleMoshi  
Tue, July 8th at 4:03 PM

**Tom Trewinnard** 12:47 am  
We do not know the full number of casualties caused by this missile attack, but the Facebook group that shared this video posted updates throughout the day on individual residents killed. Activists said surface-to-surface missiles were used in this attack, but that claim could not be verified. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TqDGBgl6IQ>

**Explosion in Daraa Village Said to Kill Activists**  
Domino Recording Co.  
Tue, July 8th at 4:03 PM

Add footnote Send

Posted to Youtube by Hassan Taqulden on 21 March 2013 at 2:00am and added to Meedan by Tom Trewinnard on 23 March 2013 at 8:08am.

Updated at 11:30pm on February 28, 2012 Douma, Syria

PUBLISHED IN

<b>Bombing</b> 800 REPORTS	<b>#syria</b> 200 REPORTS	<b>Douma</b> 20 REPORTS
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