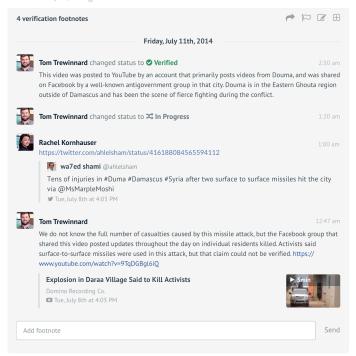


After Attack, Residents Wander a Neighborhood Transformed by War

Hassan Taqulden

■ Tue, July 8th at 4:03 PM

Verified by The New Hork Times



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



O Douma Syria

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Douma

Checkdesk^{3.0}

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 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 translating, verifying and making 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.

