

DISARM Incidents for Fact Checkers

Third Party Reports Tagged
with DISARM Techniques for
Fact Checkers

Introduction

DISARM provides a framework of commonly occurring behaviours exhibited during information manipulation and interference incidents, called “DISARM Techniques”. Augmenting Fact Checks by documenting observed Techniques enables data-driven development of long-term disruption strategies, alongside vital efforts to verify veracity of viral narratives.

DISARM has associated third party Fact Checks and similar reporting with Techniques introduced as part of the DISARM 1.7 Fact Checker focused update, with the goal of demonstrating Techniques’ usage in a ‘real-world’ setting, and amplifying the work of the defender community. This information can be used to better conceptualise what each Technique might look like when encountered in your own investigations.

This document highlights a just few of the over 100 reports DISARM has added to its database in the 1.7 update, focusing on incidents which demonstrate usage of new Techniques, and help users understand potentially complex behaviours or nuanced applications.

Incident Format

In these examples, DISARM has applied inline tagging to third party reports; pulling quotes from publicly available reporting, and inserting DISARM Techniques inline after relevant sentences.

The report title is given, followed by key Techniques it relates to, and a short description of the Techniques and the report. This is followed by information about the author, publication and date, and links to view the full report. Quotes are displayed in italicised red text, with Techniques applied by DISARM bracketed and bolded in black.

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Images of a ‘Palestinian girl’ being rescued were taken in Syria in 2016

T0162: Reframe Context

T0162.004: Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Another Location

T0162.003: Historic Content Incorrectly Presented as Current

The Technique **T0162: Reframe Context** contains Sub-Techniques which can be used to document common ways in which media’s context is reframed. Where atypical reframing strategies are deployed, **T0162: Reframe Context** can be used to denote that media was reframed in some way (without being specific).

This case demonstrates a case where actors reframe content’s context in a way specific to their narrative. Images which show a Syrian child passed between different rescuers in 2016 was reframed as evidence of faked rescues of Palestinian children in 2023. While the resharing of historic imagery as current, and reframing of a location could be documented by Reframe Context’s Sub-Techniques, the unique reframing of the image as showing three staged rescues of the same child had to be documented using **T0162: Reframe Context**.

This case also provides an example of two commonly co-occurring Sub-Techniques; **T0162.004: Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Another Location** and **T0162.003: Historic Content Incorrectly Presented as Current**. Many Fact Checks reviewed while working on this update showed historic media taken out its original context, and reframed as showing current events (in another location).

Hannah Smith

Full Fact

2023/10/30

[Link](#)

[Archive](#)

Posts on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) sharing images of a girl being rescued claim: “This Palestinian girl is saved by 3 different people from 3 different locations on 3 different days and all locations are 50 KM apart from each other. Wondering why she keeps travelling so far especially in the conflict zone?”

*It’s not entirely clear what these posts are suggesting. We have not seen any reports that could misleadingly suggest the same Palestinian girl has been rescued on three separate occasions. And if we take the posts literally, they are not true, because we can say for certain that these images come from Aleppo, Syria (**T0162.004: Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Another Location**), in the aftermath of a bombing that took place on 27 August 2016 (**T0162.003: Historic Content Incorrectly Presented as Current**).*

They do not come from the current conflict in Israel and Gaza, and do not show rescues taking place in Gaza.

Reverse image searches of each photo show that they were all taken on the same day, at the same location, and show the same girl being passed between different rescuers (T0162: Reframe Context).

The first photo featured in coverage of the Aleppo bombing by the Daily Mail and The Sun. The second featured in reports on the same bombing by NBC News, while the third was published alongside a report on the bombing by Arab Times, and also appears in an ABC News report on the impact of the war in Syria on children, with a caption stating that it was taken at the 27 August 2016 bombing.

Social media posts about these images were previously fact checked by Snopes in 2016 (T0160.006: Content Previously Fact Checked), and Africa Check in 2019 (T0160.006: Content Previously Fact Checked) after it was claimed that CNN had used them to illustrate three different refugee crises.

Video of ‘Rafah actors’ actually from Palestinian TV drama series

T0162.010: Entertainment Media Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Reality

A recurring theme in Fact Checks was the reframing of content produced for entertainment being reframed as depicting reality, including footage from TV shows or movies, but also YouTube videos, and other footage associated with the media industry.

In this example, behind-the-scenes footage from a TV series is falsely presented as depicting Palestinians staging civilian casualties ahead of Israel’s 2024 assault on Rafah.

Charlotte Green

Full Fact

2025/05/10

[Link](#)

[Archive](#)

A video is being shared online with the implication that it shows “Rafah actors” preparing to pretend to be dead or injured in Gaza. This comes amidst reports Israel appears to be set to launch a large-scale assault on the city in the south of Gaza.

In the clip, which is circulating on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, and shared over 4,000 times on X (formerly Twitter), a man lies on a stretcher

while a woman applies makeup to his chest and neck, and another man sits in what appears to be a body bag—while smoking a cigarette.

Text overlaid on the video says “Make-up Gaza Style” and has a watermark of an account which shares what it claims are “Pallywood” videos—a portmanteau of Palestine and Bollywood (T0165: Edited Content).

Full Fact has written several times about this term, which in some cases has been previously used to caption videos or images incorrectly claiming to show those in Gaza faking images of harm to civilians during the war (T0160.007: Claim Previously Fact Checked).

A caption with one post sharing the video on Facebook says: “Rafah actors are preparing, and we may soon witness disturbing footage from Rafah.”

But this video actually shows behind-the-scenes footage of a Palestinian drama series, called *Bleeding Dirt* (T0162.010: Entertainment Media Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Reality), and is unrelated to Israel’s planned military offensive in Rafah (T0160.002: Information is False).

Obama's speech on disinformation taken out of context

T0162.008: Context Reframed by Edits to Media

T0162.009: Statement Reframed by Removal from Context

T0165.001: Clipped Content

Legitimate material can be given a new meaning when edited to remove it from its original context. The type of edit made can be documented using Sub-Techniques of **T0165: Edited Content**

In this example, a statement made by President Obama was clipped from a longer video to remove the context that he was describing authoritarian playbook, presenting it instead as his own strategy.

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| Prabhanu Das | Logically Facts | 2024/10/08 | n/a | Archive |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|-----|-------------------------|

Several posts on X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook have shared an approximately 40-second clip of a speech by former U.S. President Barack Obama. In the clip, he states, "You just have to flood a country’s public square with enough raw sewage. You just have to raise enough questions, spread enough dirt, and plant enough conspiracy theorizing that citizens

no longer know what to believe. Once they lose trust in their leaders, in mainstream media, in political institutions, in each other, in the possibility of truth, the game's won."

The captions accompanying these posts quote parts of his speech, with some labeling Obama as a villain and insinuating that he advocates for using conspiracy theories to manipulate people through disinformation. [...]

The clips of Obama's speech, however, have been taken out of context, creating the false impression that he is endorsing disinformation. In reality, Obama was addressing how authoritarian leaders worldwide utilize disinformation as a weapon against democratic nations (**T0162.009: Statement Reframed by Removal from Context, T0162.008: Context Reframed by Edits to Media**).

A keyword search revealed that the clip was extracted from Obama's keynote address at Stanford University on April 21, 2022. The address focused on the dangers of disinformation to democracy.

Following this lead, we found the full speech on Youtube, uploaded by multiple channels. The relevant clip appears between 31:38 and 32:16 in the video (**T0165.001: Clipped Content**).

Fact Check: Clip of schoolchildren being instructed to chant 'Allahu Akbar' likely AI, experts say

T0166: AI-Generated Content

T0162.006: AI-Generated Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Reality

AI-Generated material is being increasingly spread online. **T0162.006: AI-Generated Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Reality** enables documenting cases where people treat AI-Generated content as legitimate, human-generated material, without asserting that they have done so intentionally.

In this example, Fact Checkers identify that a video is likely AI-Generated, and had been misrepresented as legitimate, without asserting that those publishing the video knew they were spreading false information.

Reuters Fact
Check

Reuters

2025/11/12

[Link](#)

[Archive](#)

A video shared online purporting to show a teacher in a headscarf instructing white children to bow and chant “Allahu Akbar” has probably been created using AI (T0166: AI-Generated Content), according to two AI forensics analysts who reviewed the footage for Reuters.

The 15-second clip, shared widely on social media on November 7 as if authentic, mimics CCTV footage and has a timestamp of 10:24 on November 6, 2025. It shows around a dozen uniformed pupils kneeling on prayer mats in a classroom, led by a woman, apparently a teacher, who has a British accent and is wearing a headscarf.

The children raise their hands and repeat “Allahu Akbar” (“God is Great” in Arabic) after the teacher, who then stands up and lowers herself as if sitting down, tells the children to repeat: “Subhan Allah al-A’la” (“Glory be to God the Most High” in Arabic).

One X post with 1.8 million views captioned the clip: “Young, white children are being indoctrinated into Islam. They raise their hands in the air and chant Allah Akbar. This has to stop” (T0162.006: AI-Generated Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Reality), while another X post viewed 1.1 million times said: “This is sick. This is the Muslim indoctrination” (T0162.006: AI-Generated Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Reality).

However, the two AI analysts told Reuters that visual inconsistencies that would not occur in a genuine video implied it had been created using AI (T0166: AI-Generated Content).

Siwei Lyu, a computer science professor at the University at Buffalo, United States, said via email the clip “exhibits multiple signs of AI generation”.

He said visual anomalies included the teacher sitting on an invisible chair and her face appearing distorted, the heads of students in the front row stretching unnaturally, wall decorations and texts changing over the course of the video, and a girl’s twin braids appearing and disappearing.

BBC News video claiming Prigozhin death was staged is a fake

T0161.001: Impersonated Content

Content which has been produced to look like it was made by another individual or institution is documented using **T0161.001: Impersonated Content**; a common issue addressed by Fact Checkers.

In this example, it is paired with **T0097.202: News Outlet Persona** to denote that the content is presented as having been produced by a news outlet.

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| Nikolaj Kristensen | Logically Facts | 2023/08/30 | n/a | Archive |
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An alleged BBC News social media video containing claims that the Kremlin staged the death of Yevgeny Prigozhin and that the Wagner leader is still alive is circulating on social media. "BBC is going full conspiracy theory 'It was all staged - Prigozhin is alive,'" reads one post containing the video, uploaded to X (formerly Twitter) on August 29, 2023, that has amassed 335,000 views.

The video is edited in the style of videos uploaded to the BBC's social media channels, using the BBC News logo. However, the video is a fake (T0087: Develop Video-Based Content, T0068: Respond to Breaking News Event or Active Crisis, T0161.001: Impersonated Content, T0097.202: News Outlet Persona) . The BBC has not reported that Prigozhin's death was staged or that he is still alive. On the contrary, the BBC has cited Russian authorities sources that Prigozhin died in a plane crash on August 23, 2023, and have reported from the cemetery where he is believed to have been buried on August 29.

BBC Verify journalist Shayan Sardarizadeh debunked the video on X (formerly Twitter). "A fake video with the logo and branding of BBC News is being shared online, claiming that Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin's death was staged by the Kremlin. The video is completely fake. BBC News has never published such a video," wrote Sardarizadeh in a post.

Hackers publish fake story about Ukrainians attempting to assassinate Slovak president

T0145.005: Compromised Persona

T0145.005: Compromised Persona is applied when a threat actor takes control of an asset which had a legitimate established identity, and maintains that identity to take action while presenting as the asset's original owner. For example, somebody hacks an account owned by a celebrity, and posts a false bitcoin scam from that celebrity's account.

This is distinct from compromising an asset and repurposing it to present another identity (i.e. **T0150.004: Repurposed Asset**). This is done to circumvent more stringent automated moderation applied to newly created assets. Fact Checkers are much more likely to address **T0145.005: Compromised Persona**.

In this example, a news outlet's website is compromised, and used to post a statement falsely attributed to the news outlet - that an assassination attempt had been made on the president (**T0161.002: Statement Incorrectly Presented as Made by Individual or Institution**).

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| Alexander Martin | The Record | 2024/04/24 | Link | Archive |
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An unidentified attacker hacked a Czech news service's website and published a fake story on Tuesday claiming that an assassination attempt had been made against the newly elected Slovak president, Peter Pellegrini (T0152.004: Website Asset, T0150.005: Compromised Asset, T0097.202: News Outlet Persona, T0145.005: Compromised Persona, T0161.002: Statement Incorrectly Presented as Made by Individual or Institution).

According to the government-owned public service Czech News Agency (CTK), the attacker posted the false article directly to its website, meaning the story was not distributed to the service's clients.

The article has since been retracted, with CTK declaring it to be a fake and announcing that it had informed the country's intelligence agencies and cybersecurity authority about the breach.

The headline of the fake story claimed that Slovakia's domestic intelligence agency, the Security Information Service (BIS), "prevented an assassination attempt on the newly elected Slovak President Petr Pelligrini."

Readers noted that the story misspelled Peter Pellegrini's name.

Pellegrini was elected earlier this month (T0068: Respond to Breaking News Event or Active Crisis), providing what Reuters reported was a boost to Slovakia's pro-Russian prime minister Robert Fico. [...]

The false story published on Tuesday in both Czech and English said that the fictitious attempted assassination of Pellegrini was planned by Ukrainian nationals. It named Vitaliy Usatyy, Kyiv's charge d'affaires in Prague, as one of the perpetrators.

Fact Check: False posts say AP reported on Trump ‘child molestation charges’

T0161.002: Statement Incorrectly Presented as Made by Individual or Institution

The previous example involved hacking a news website to post material falsely attributed to them - but statements can be incorrectly attributed to entities without going through such efforts, while still gaining significant reach. In this example, a Facebook post falsely claims that the AP had reported something it hadn’t, and gained enough traction to necessitate addressing by Fact Checkers.

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| Reuters Fact Check | Reuters | 2024/07/11 | Link | Archive |
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The Associated Press did not say prosecutors were “reconsidering” bringing child rape and molestation charges against former U.S. President Donald Trump, contrary to baseless posts on social media (T0161.002: Statement Incorrectly Presented as Made by Individual or Institution).

Facebook posts say, “BREAKING NEWS. Prosecutors Are Reconsidering Bringing Charges Against Former President Donald J. Trump On Child Rape And Molestation Charges. - AP News.”

Lauren Easton, a representative for the AP, said in an email that the agency did not report any such story.

No such article or alert exists on the AP website.

The posts surfaced days following the July 1 release of transcripts from the prosecution of disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein in 2006 (T0068: Respond to Breaking News Event or Active Crisis). The transcripts, ordered by Florida Judge Luis Delgado, contain almost 200 pages of details about Epstein including first-hand reports from victims and settlements with the victims, the BBC reported.

Rosie Holt: the satirist whose ‘Tory MP’ video had so many fooled

T0160.005: Content Produced as Satire

T0162.011: Content Originally Produced as Satire Presented as Not Satire

This case exemplifies differentiating between **T0160.005: Content Produced as Satire** and **T0162.011: Content Originally Produced as Satire Presented as Not Satire**.

The comedian Rosie Holt posted a comedy skit in which she parodied a politician. The video was not misrepresented as a legitimate video of an MP, and seen within the context of her other videos in which she isn’t presenting the parody MP persona, it would be clear that this was a satirical video.

However, in today’s fast-paced information environment, people don’t always have the time to check the details of everything they encounter online; even without misrepresentation as legitimate, several public figures reacted to the video as if it were genuine - and in doing so unintentionally amplified satirical content to their audiences as if it was non-satirical.

James Tapper

The Guardian

2022/01/15

[Link](#)

[Archive](#)

The video was, according to former Ukip leader Henry Bolton, evidence of the declining quality of MPs. Anthony Grayling, the philosopher, described her as a “bald-faced emetic” and Philip Pullman, the author, said he was “aghast” (T0162.011: Content Originally Produced as Satire Presented as Not Satire).

Their collective outrage was directed at the words of Rosie Holt who, asked by an interviewer whether she attended any of the Downing Street parties, said that until Sue Gray completes her report “your guess is as good as mine: I don’t know whether I attended the party” (T0068: Respond to Breaking News Event or Active Crisis).

Holt added: “If there was a party in lockdown when we told everyone they couldn’t even attend funerals, but no one knew about it, was there a party?”

At a glance, Holt may be hard to distinguish from the declining number of Tory MPs prepared to stand up for the prime minister, but she is in fact a satirist (T0097.110: Party Official Persona, T0143.004: Parody Persona) – an actor and comedian with a strong line in parodies of the political speech that veers into drivel. This video sketch (T0087: Develop Video-Based

Content, T0160.005: Content Produced as Satire) *has taken off – 6 million views on Twitter so far – partly because “an awful lot of people” think it’s real, she said.*

“I don’t go in there to hoodwink people,” she told the Observer. “I get a bit unnerved when lots of people think it’s real because that’s not what I’m trying to do. [...]

This particular video was created by splicing Holt’s footage with questions from a Sky News reporter to Boris Johnson in which he dodged questions about whether he had gone to the 20 May 2020 garden party (T0162.002: Edits Made to News Report which Reframe Context).

Naga Munchetty: Scammers spread fake nude pictures of me on social media

T0167.001: Use of Clickbait

T0161.004: Imagery Depicting Individual Edited to Introduce Sexual Material

DISARM defines clickbait as content with attention grabbing, knowledge gap titles which have the effect of enticing viewers to learn more.

Clickbait is traditionally thought of as applying to web articles, but in DISARM it can also apply to things like videos, social media posts, and other online content - as long as it meets the attention grabbing, knowledge gap criteria.

In the following report, a clickbait advert is used alongside faked sexual imagery depicting a female reporter.

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| Naga Munchetty | BBC News | 2025/02/05 | Link | Archive |
|----------------|----------|------------|----------------------|-------------------------|

"Naga Munchetti: This is the most humiliating day of my life. Yesterday's news shocked the whole of the UK."

The headline was enough to make me want to read more (T0167.001: Use of Clickbait) – but the fact they had spelled my name wrong made me immediately question the credibility of the journalism involved – if there was any.

I'm used to seeing misleading articles about myself online, but the screenshots I've been sent by friends and followers on social media in recent weeks are a lot more insidious than most.

Paid-for advertisements (T0114: Deliver Ads) are popping up across X and Facebook, some including crudely mocked-up images of me naked – my face badly photoshopped onto someone else's body (T0161.004: Imagery Depicting Individual Edited to Introduce Sexual Material).

I was both mortified and bemused, curious about who would pay good money to spread such obvious nonsense. And what was their motive? Is it something malicious? Someone with an axe to grind?

I discussed it with my 5 Live production team, and we began to dig into it more. It soon became apparent that my name and image were being used by scammers to try to hoodwink people out of money (T0137.002: Scam).

Clicking on the adverts took you through to a fake news article, complete with BBC logo and imagery (T0161.001: Impersonated Content, T0097.202: News Outlet Persona).