

译

[Back](#)

Company

Information operations directed at Hong Kong

By

[Twitter Safety](#)

Monday, 19 August 2019

We are disclosing a significant state-backed information operation focused on the situation in Hong Kong, specifically the protest movement and their calls for political change.

What we are disclosing

This disclosure consists of 936 accounts originating from within the People's Republic of China (PRC). Overall, these accounts were deliberately and specifically attempting to sow political discord in Hong Kong, including undermining the legitimacy and political positions of the protest movement on the ground. Based on our intensive investigations, we have reliable evidence to support that this is a coordinated state-backed operation. Specifically, we identified large clusters of accounts behaving in a coordinated manner to amplify messages related to the Hong Kong protests.

As Twitter is blocked in PRC, many of these accounts accessed Twitter using VPNs. However, some accounts accessed Twitter from specific unblocked IP addresses originating in mainland China. The accounts we are sharing today represent the most active portions of this campaign; a larger, spammy network of approximately 200,000 accounts — many created following our initial suspensions — were proactively suspended before they were substantially active on the service.

译

All the accounts have been suspended for a range of violations of our [platform manipulation policies](#) (<https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/platform-manipulation>), which we define as:

- Spam
- Coordinated activity
- Fake accounts
- Attributed activity
- Ban evasion

Examples of violative content



HK時政直擊 @HKpoliticalnew

立會經暴亂一役，幾近淪為廢墟。

據《星島日報》報道，昨日，警方組織罪案及三合會調查科到立會蒐證調查，已掌握十名暴徒資料，他們事涉暴力衝擊包圍等事，並於日內拉人。本報於早上亦曾報道，執法者或會拘捕起警底作欺凌者。

#香港 #立法會大樓 #星島日報 #暴徒 #日內拉人





Dream News @ctcc507

The legislative council belongs to the people of Hong Kong. Those people with ulterior motives indicated by forces hide behind the scenes laid siege to the legislative. The path of your darkness and the bright roads of the masses of the Hong Kong people will not inevitably coexist.

译



HK時政直擊 @HKpoliticalnew

#屈穎妍：溫柔的暴力

七一那夜，如果你不是圍着電視，也會盯着手機，與全香港人一同見證這幕立法會暴力衝擊。看到暴徒大肆破壞，我天真地以為，這幕暴力該能敲醒民心吧？

#暴力 #破壞 #立法會 #大公報

全文：<https://bit.ly/2Lxk0ti>

溫柔的暴力

屈穎妍

看到暴徒大肆破壞，我天真地以為，這幕暴力該能敲醒民心吧？誰知，一扭開電台，一名女子聲淚俱下說：「他們沒有傷人害人，只是向死物發泄，那是有秩序的暴力……」

如果，我闖進你的家把所有東西打爛，但沒強姦你女兒、沒毆打你兒子，請問，這算不算暴力？算不算犯法？

我在此建議，先不要清理這立法會廢墟，就免費開放一星期給全香港人參觀吧，讓大家憑弔一下這歷史現場，看看這人間罕有的「有秩序暴力現場」，給全人類好好做一次暴力教育。

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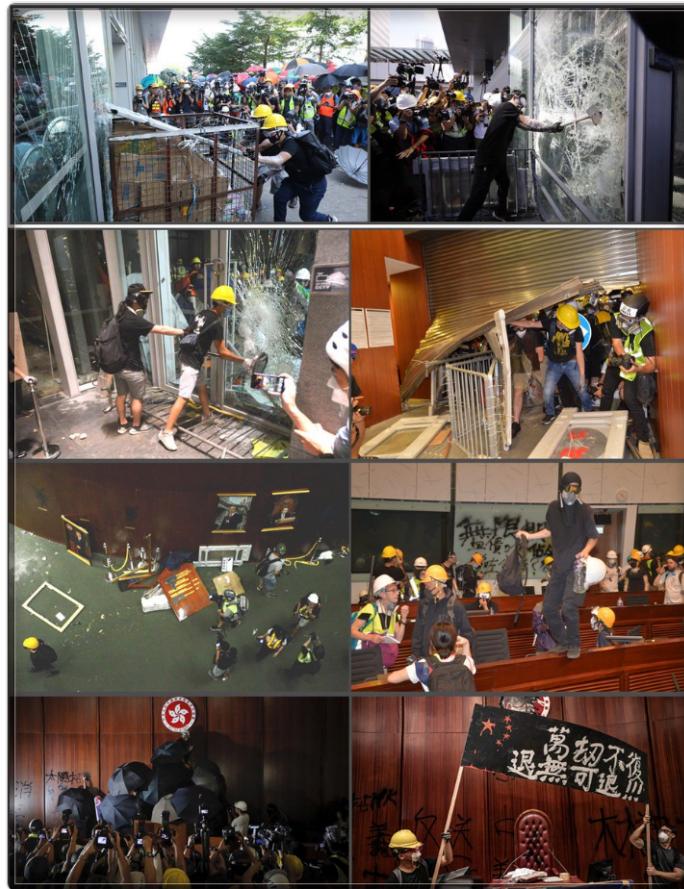




Dream News @ctcc507

Are these people who smashed the Legco crazy or taking benefits from the bad guys? It's a complete violent behavior, we don't want you radical people in Hong Kong. Just get out of here !

译



Next steps

Covert, manipulative behaviors have no place on our service — they violate the fundamental principles on which our company is built. As we have said before, it is clear that information operations and coordinated inauthentic behavior will not cease. These deceptive strategies have been around for far longer than Twitter has existed. They adapt and change as the geopolitical terrain evolves worldwide and as new technologies emerge. For our part, we are committed to understanding and combating how bad-faith actors use our services.



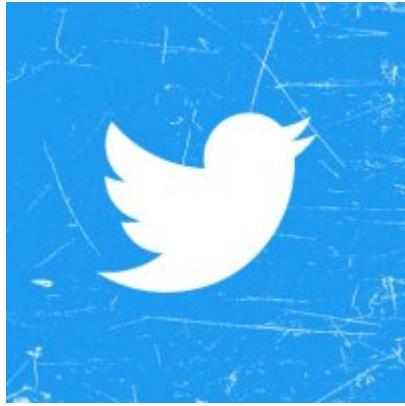
Today we are adding archives containing complete Tweet and user information for the 936 accounts we've disclosed to our archive of information operations — the largest of its kind in the industry.

We will continue to be vigilant, learning from this network and proactively enforcing our policies to serve the public conversation. We hope that by being transparent and open we will empower further learning and public understanding of these nefarious

译

tactics. You can access relevant account and Tweet information on our dedicated [Election Integrity Hub](https://about.twitter.com/en_us/values/elections-integrity.html#data) (https://about.twitter.com/en_us/values/elections-integrity.html#data).

Note: We have divided these archives into two parts to better enable review of the intersecting networks of accounts which comprise this campaign. We have evidence to indicate that both sets are associated with the same entity.



(<https://www.twitter.com/TwitterSafety>)

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