
From: Tom Phillips
To: Craig Silverman
CC: Alan White
Sent: 12/3/2014 12:39:14 PM
Subject: Re: Verification, CEN and Emergent

OK, I'm going to look at some of the ones you've added to the doc, and I'm also going to start going through some old stories I did from their copy at Metro years ago, just to see if I can trace some patterns back.

Shall we just divide up the doc into pages for separate stories, put our names down for any as-yet-undebunked ones we are going to look at, and add in results of any research in as we go? That way we've got a sort of breadcrumb trail of our research.

Additionally, Alan suggests having a spreadsheet where we can list all the sites that ran each particular story – I've set up the very rudimentary beginning stages of one here.

On Wed, Dec 3, 2014 at 5:19 PM, Craig Silverman <silvermancraig@gmail.com wrote:

Hi guys,

I'm looking forward to working together on this. I just loaded in a bunch of suspect stories, two of which are of the penis-chopping variety. The others originated on Leidig's Croatian Times and Austrian Times sites. They have suspect sourcing and pics. Looks like we have a lot to go through and I'd say that Tom's suspicion that trouble starts when they go far afield from Eastern Europe is correct.

How do we want to divide up the work? And we should think also think about our methodology for looking into these. That way we can say we applied the same test for each of them.

Best regards,
Craig

On 2 December 2014 at 09:34, Alan White <alan.white@buzzfeed.com wrote:

Google hangout here

https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/gu3zxptdjl3lklxz6lbidut6ma

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 6:53 PM, Tom Phillips <tom.phillips@buzzfeed.com wrote:

That works for me too – look forward to talking then!

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 6:12 PM, Craig Silverman <silvermancraig@gmail.com wrote:

Hangout is good with me.

On 1 December 2014 at 13:08, Alan White <alan.white@buzzfeed.com wrote:

Works for me! Tom?

What's your preferred method of communication? Google hangout?

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 6:06 PM, Craig Silverman <silvermancraig@gmail.com wrote:

Oh gosh -- sorry. That is a silly time to ask to talk. I for some reason had it in my mind that later afternoon was good for you. I could do 9:30 am my time tomorrow morning if that 's more sane.

On 1 December 2014 at 12:17, Alan White <alan.white@buzzfeed.com wrote:

Hi Craig,

Lovely to meet you too. It would be great to do a definitive piece on CEN. Surprised one hasn 't already been done to be honest. So this would be 9pm GMT. I could make that - Tom?

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 4:03 PM, Craig Silverman <silvermancraig@gmail.com wrote:

Hey guys,

Alan, very nice to meet you! Tom, thanks for the intro. I have a couple of other CEN stories that I would add to the list. I am trying to dig into one right now, though I am committed to doing that for Digg. (We have a content partnership whereby I write up some of the rumors I track for them as Digg Originals.)

I 'd love to talk, as I think CEN needs to be exposed. I 'd also love to chat about Emergent in general. I 'm currently working to raise financing for it and am also looking for partnerships, such as the initial one I have with Digg. I 'm heading to the middle east on Wednesday but I could talk today at 4 pm Montreal time (same time zone as New York) or tomorrow at 5 pm.

Best regards,
Craig

On 1 December 2014 at 10:50, Tom Phillips <tom.phillips@buzzfeed.com wrote:

Hey Craig – just wanted to drop you a line for a couple of reasons...

First up, I just wanted to introduce you a chap on our news team here at BuzzFeed UK - Alan White. Alan 's one of our resident viral news experts and is very good at spotting hoaxes from a mile off, so he 'd a handy guy to know. Alan, meet Craig. Craig and I go way back (in internet debunking years).

Secondly, we 've been thinking about doing a piece on CEN/Central European News as a source for a large number of dubious stories that go big on the web (such as [the Justin Bieber/bear story](#) you wrote about – I remember we 've chatted about them before.) A lot of their stuff falls into that tricky territory of "looks unlikely but hard to definitively debunk ", and we 'd like to get your opinion on some of it.

For starters, here are a couple of stories Alan 's flagged up – <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2791108/mob-rule-chinese-adulteress-stripped-naked-beaten-senseless-latest-attack-kind.html> and <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/520992/Penis-cut-off-meat-cleaver-India> – have either of them crossed your radar?

Also, as I think I said before, we 've been looking at Emergent quite a lot recently, and it 'd be really good to have a general chat about that too...

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Tom Phillips
Senior Writer, **BuzzFeed UK**

19-21 Hatton Garden
London, EC1N 8BA
07773914795 | @flashboy

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Craig Silverman

Fellow, Tow Center For Digital Journalism , Columbia University
Editor of Regret the Error . The Poynter Institute

Blog | Twitter | Facebook
514.808.0548

Read the free Verification Handbook:
<http://verificationhandbook.com/>

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Alan White

Breaking News Reporter, BuzzFeed UK

@aljwhite

19-21 Hatton Garden
London EC1N 8BA

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Alan White

Breaking News Reporter, BuzzFeed UK

@aljwhite

19-21 Hatton Garden
London EC1N 8BA

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Tom Phillips
Senior Writer, BuzzFeed UK

19-21 Hatton Garden
London, EC1N 8BA

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Alan White

Breaking News Reporter, BuzzFeed UK

@ [aljwhite](#)

19-21 Hatton Garden

London EC1N 8BA

--

Craig Silverman

Fellow, [Tow Center For Digital Journalism](#), Columbia University

Editor of [Regret the Error](#), The Poynter Institute

Blog | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

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Tom Phillips

| Editorial Director, BuzzFeed UK

07773 914795 | @flashboy

BuzzFeed

19-21

Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8BA

LOL omg cute 