ADL Debunk: Disinformation and the BLM Protests

The May 2020 murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer sparked nationwide protests against police brutality and systemic racism. As the demonstrations spread to communities across the country, so too did disinformation about the protests and protesters. In a time of national unrest and racial tension, these false claims intentionally sowed fear and division, while also undermining protesters’ efforts to build coalitions and bring about lasting structural change.

Researchers in ADL’s Center on Extremism documented a range of examples of disinformation related to the protests. These campaigns often included the deliberate mischaracterization of groups or movements, such as portraying activists who support Black Lives Matter as violent extremists or claiming that
antifa is a terrorist organization coordinated or manipulated by nebulous external forces. ADL’s researchers found evidence of white supremacists creating or promoting some of these fabricated claims and rumors to further their own agendas. Certain pieces of disinformation which originally appeared years ago have reemerged in the context of the current protests. In some cases, unsubstantiated rumors migrated from digital platforms to physical-world responses.

It is important to note that the following list is not intended to be a comprehensive collection of all misinformation and disinformation circulating about the protests. Rather, it is a sampling of specifically extremist-related and hate-based disinformation campaigns around the ongoing Black Lives Matter demonstrations. It is also important to understand that the Black Lives Matter movement is a decentralized, grassroots movement that is not directed by a particular Black Lives Matter organization.

Select one of the topics below to learn more:

**Topics:**

**Disinformation: Propaganda advocating for violence against white people using hashtags associated with Black Lives Matter and antifa**
Disinformation: #AllWhitesAreNazis and #AWAN

Disinformation: Antifa planning violent attacks on white suburbs

Disinformation: Claims about Black Lives Matter and antifa collaborating with Muslim groups to impose Sharia law
Disinformation: “Black Lives Matter Global” campaign

Disinformation: Antifa manual
Introduction

If you are reading this, it’s because someone close to our movement trusted you with it. Please do not distribute to anyone who may attempt to harm or denigrate what we are doing.

This is an ANTI-FASCIST or ANTIFA manual. If you are reading this, you already know that we are a social justice movement against hatred, intolerance and bigotry.

This manual outlines where we’ve been, where we’re at, and where we’re headed within the next 100 years.

But first, to understand how we got here, we have to understand ...

White Privilege

Disinformation: Conspiracies connecting George Soros to protests and antifa

Disinformation: Suspicious piles of bricks
Disinformation: Rumor about Black Lives Matter activists distributing an antisemitic flier

Disinformation: Antifa’s 4th of July flag burning event
Disinformation: Buses of protesters

We're being told that buses are en route from Fargo for today's march downtown. DT businesses - please bring in any furniture, signs, etc. that could possibly be thrown through windows. Let's keep our city safe and peaceful!

Disinformation: Exaggerated claims of targeted antisemitic violence in Los Angeles
Atrocious - L.A. riots have reached full blown into antisemitism territory as the city of Beverly Hills was vandalized with "KILL THE JEW!"

10:16 PM - May 31, 2020 - Twitter for iPhone

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