

Proposal

PAKISTAN

v 1.0

# Pakistan

## Pakistan Proposal:

**Objective:** The development of an effective early warning system for potentially endangered dissident voices, aims to provide timely alerts and help to increase their real-world safety. Furthermore, an evidence-gathering approach is needed to provide sufficient pressure on social media companies to adopt a human rights based approach on their platforms.

**Context:** The Pakistan workshop looked at the role of social media companies and their complicity in human rights violations. In the interest of global growth strategies, social media companies appear to be actively facilitating abusive regimes, resulting in the capture and torture of people.

We sought to answer the following questions regarding social media companies: *Do they facilitate state censorship? Are they facilitators of hate speech and fake news through inaction? Do they hand over personal data to governments? Does their cooperation aid in the policing of social media for repressive regimes? Are they a threat to anonymity and freedom of speech?*

### Results:

- Make social media companies set up a Protection Fund for affected activists and VHRVs, who suffer due to their activism on social media platforms
- Develop a tech tool available in opensource, with the functionality of Crimson Hexagon (or other social media trend monitoring tools)
- Find legal assistance in EU region to file legal cases against tech companies under GDPR provisions.
- Promote a human rights based approach on social media/tech platforms

To improve the safety of HRDs we proposed an open source social-media monitoring tool that utilizes artificial intelligence to display trends, and act as an early warning system for possible threats. This was further explored in the focus workshops where we extrapolated that policy effects could also be monitored, and data-mining these results could possibly be an effective approach to counter fake news.

During the Hague Hacks festival 2018, a connection was also formed with the hi-tech company Klarrio, whose demonstration of their fake-news detection software (commissioned by Nato) illustrated how such a tool could be developed and work in practice.

**Summary:** To safe-guard the short-term safety of Human Rights Defenders (HRD) and Victims of Human Rights Violations (VHRV), we propose the development of an open source social-media monitoring tool to display trends, and act as an early warning system for possible threats.

As long term objectives we intend to promote a human rights based approach on tech platforms. Through evidence collection and legal avenues we hope to encourage social media companies to develop a protection fund for activists, who suffer due to their activism on Facebook, Twitter or Google platforms. This protection fund should be used for legal assistance, relocation and other support mechanisms for individual activists.

## **How can you help?**

### **Discussion Questions**

- How likely is it that these plans will lead to the claimed human rights benefits?
- Are we one of many human rights groups that are currently trying to do the same thing? Are we doing double work? Are we competing? Should we cooperate?
- Do these solutions already exist? Are we re-inventing the wheel?
- Are they technically viable?
- Can this proposal be improved?
- How do we acquire funding?
- Can we create a business model?