



## Social Media Attacks on pro-Israel Accounts During Operation “Guardian of the Walls” Malaysian Cyber Warfare

July 1, 2021

### Main Findings

- ▶ Recently, during the “Guardian of the Walls” operation in Gaza (May 10<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>), there was a massive attack on mainstream social media and messaging platforms against Israelis and pro-Israelis. Those attacks led to aggressive spamming of pro-Israeli content and also to suspension or blocking of accounts.
- ▶ From an extensive web research, we found that the source of these social media attacks comes mostly from the Malaysian arena, organized and led by a network of Malaysian anti-Israel organizations and groups, with tremendous exposure online of hundreds of thousands of views and followers
- ▶ Those Malaysian orgs and groups designed and spread meticulous instructions of - how to attack, whom to attack and what content to use - for the masses of their viewers and followers
- ▶ **The attacks were operated in two main dimensions :**
  - ◆ Harassing and trolling pro-Israel accounts
  - ◆ Suspending and blocking pro-Israel accounts
- ▶ **Many thousands of Israelis and pro-Israelis were targeted by these attacks :**
  - ◆ Well-known personas and orgs in all sectors, such as - PM Benjamin Netanyahu, IDF Arab media spokesperson Avichay Adraee, Israeli Hollywood actor Gal Gadot, IDF’s accounts, Christians Unite for Israel (CUFI) accounts, etc.
  - ◆ Accounts that used main pro-Israel hashtags in their social media content, such as - #IsraelUnderFire, #IsraelUnderAttack, or expressed their support for this content
  - ◆ Israeli accounts that probably appeared on former cyber leaks
- ▶ One of the main hashtags that was used during the attacks and was created at the beginning of the operation is #IsraelKoyak. “Koyak” is a Malay word, meaning “torn”. It is also “a Malaysian slang used for someone who is easily frustrated/have mental breakdown, usually

uses to insult other people during a fight”<sup>1</sup>. According to our research this hashtag was mentioned over 557K times on Twitter only during the days of the operation in Gaza, with a potential reach of over 251M.

► 481K of the mentions (86%) were comments and retweets – which aligns with the nature of this dictated campaign



<https://twitter.com/NajmiFetih/status/1393086858284859396/photo/1>



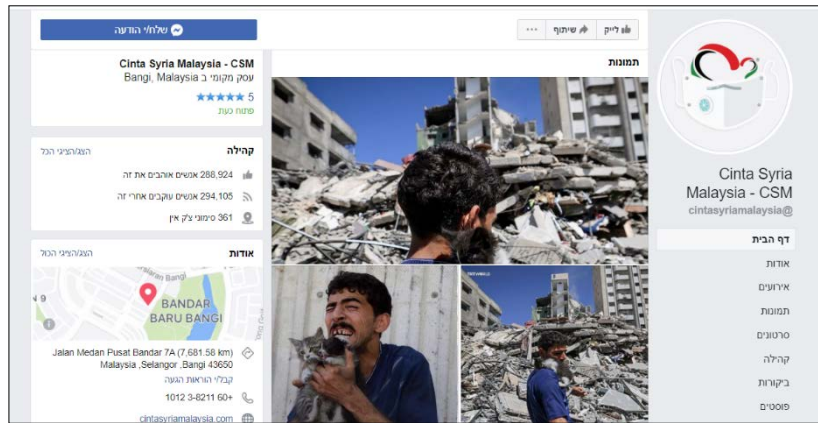
<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=koyak><sup>1</sup>

## Conclusions and recommendations

- ▶ It seems that the attacks conducted in practice mostly by authentic Malaysian and other anti-Israel Muslim people that followed the detailed instructions and used the materials supplied by the attacks' organizers online.
- ▶ It is possible that automatic infrastructures, such as - bots or pay-per-like/comment services were also involved in the attacks. Although, no actual indications of this have been identified.
- ▶ The massive and aggressive attacks against pro-Israel accounts during the operation in Gaza demonstrates the power of the anti-Israeli Muslims on the web.
- ▶ The findings of the research indicate that there is a large and powerful network of anti-Israel groups and orgs in Malaysia, that should be further researched for it connections to DLG, etc.
- ▶ These attacks damaged the ability of free expression of many thousands of Israelis and pro-Israelis that wanted to share their legitimate feelings and views on the situation in Israel during the operation, without any intent of violence or racism.
- ▶ Therefore, these attacks illustrate (once again) the lack of real responsibility of social media platforms towards the public of their users, and the urgent need for proactive and comprehensive actions from their side, in order to ensure safe and proper use
- ▶ Such attacks can be stopped or at least restrained by the platforms, by blocking the dominant accounts and channels of these Malaysian orgs and groups so they will not be used as platforms for incitement

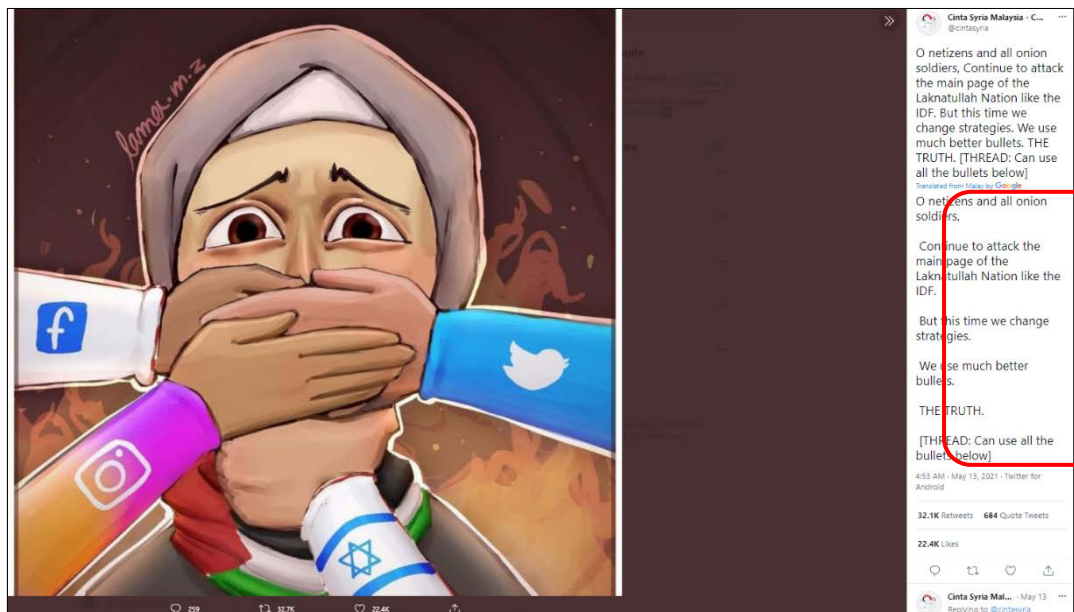
## Details of the findings

- ▶ **This section details main organizers of the two types of the attacks**, the nature of the attacks, sequence of matters. The details accompany by visual examples.
- ▶ Harassing and trolling pro-Israel accounts :
  - ◆ Cinta Syria Malaysia (CSM) is a Malaysian NGO that deals with humanitarian aid to Syrians but seems to be also much involved in the Palestinian cause for some years



**This org has almost 300K followers in their FB page**

- ◆ On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the org published on their Twitter account a tweet that calls for an attack on pro-Israel accounts on social media. This tweet is a thread with a lot of materials to be used by the campaign participants with instructions on the tweet, such as to keep attack main Israeli pages like IDF (all instructions are in Malay and translated to English). This is still their pinned tweet, which received 32.7K retweets and 22.4K likes



- ◆ In addition, on May 14<sup>th</sup> the following tweet was first posted on the Twitter account @Faiqueee and later on the Twitter of CSM. The infographic of the tweet contains actual instructions of how to attack. OCR and Google translate of the infographics: Right time to hit: 10 AM for two hours, the right guerilla: 1 comment every 5-10 minutes for two hours = 12 comments, the right hashtag: #ShameOnIsrael,



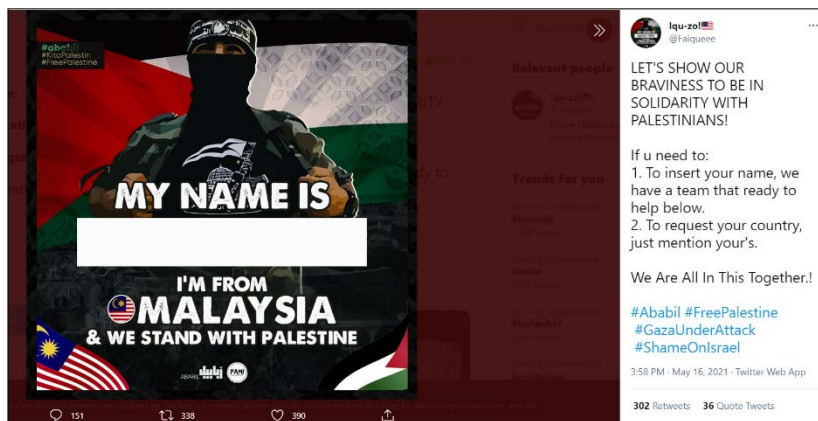
**#IsraelKoyak, #IsraelRealTerrorist, #FreePalestine, #SaveGaza, the right materials: cintasyria Twitter, the right comment not to be banned: Israhell, Filastini, zio\_nis. “You are ready for cyber war”**

- ✓ The barcode inside the infographics leads to the pinned tweet of CSM (detailed in section b)
- ✓ The tweet received 15.6K retweets and 11.8K likes
- ◆ On May 17<sup>th</sup> @Faiqueee posted another tweet with similar infographic, which contains additional instructions. OCR and Google translate of the infographics: Change privacy settings to hide email & phone numbers, set 2 factor authentications, use US or Israel VPN, use hashtags #FreePalestine, #GazaUnderAttack, #IsraelStopPlayingVictim, #IsraelTrrorists -



◆ Important to note that this infographic contains the logo of PAMI - Projek Anak Muda Islam (The Muslim Youth Project)

- ✓ PAMI FB page has 9K followers
- ✓ PAMI also designed a profile picture frame for the use of the attacks' participants, according to [the following tweet](#) -



## Trolling examples against pro-Israel accounts by Malaysian users (1)

- ▶ Malaysian comments to IDF Twitter page with images and hashtags from Cinta Syria Malaysia campaign materials kit thread



Left : The Comment , Right : The Source



Left : The Comment , Right : The Soucre



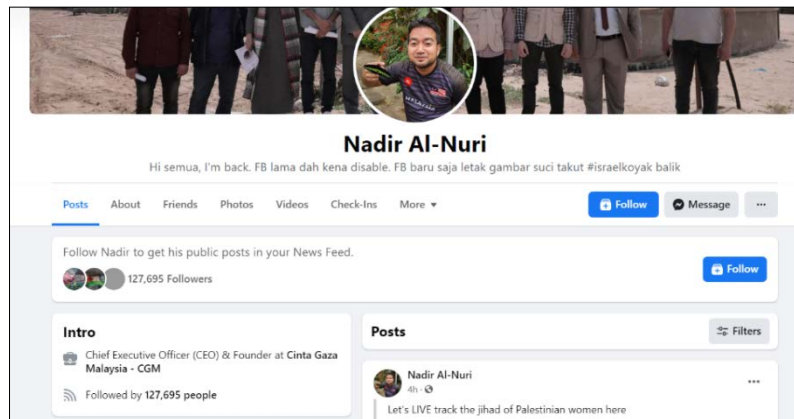
A Malaysian user, using the Malaysian campaign profile picture template, and replying to IDF using the term “Israhell”.

◆ Cinta Syria Malaysia (CSM) has a sister group called Cinta Gaza Malaysia (CGM). This organization had also significant part in the campaign.

✓ According to its [Instagram](#) account, CGM is a “Malaysian NGO founded by the sole Malaysian student in Gaza @nadiralnuri” + “Sharing news and info from Gaza”. The account of the NGO has 102K followers. Its [Facebook](#) account has 82K followers

◆ The founder and CEO of CGM is Nadir Al-Nuri, a Malaysian anti-Israel activist [who lives in Gaza](#) and describes himself in all of his social media account as “The only Malaysian in Palestine. Sharing daily life in Gaza”.

✓ In his [Instagram](#) account he has 227K followers and in his [Facebook](#) account he has over 127.6K followers



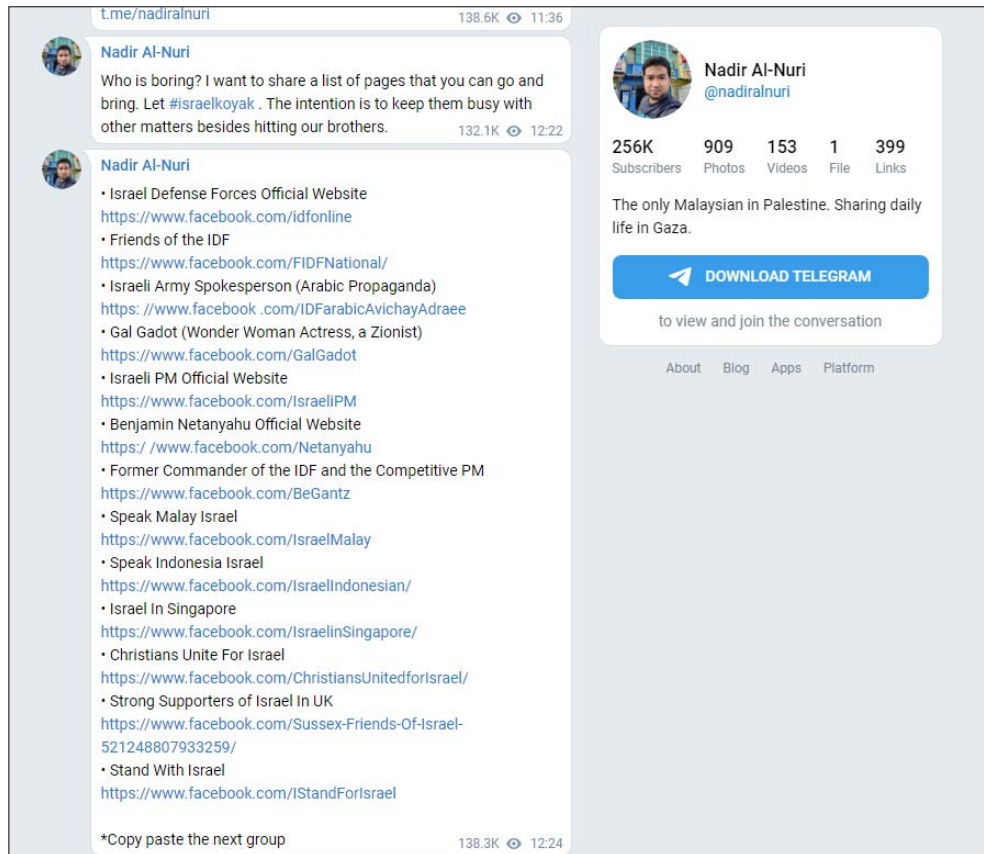
✓ Al-Nuri is also the founder of another organization called My Aqsa Defenders.

◆ The Facebook page of this org has been created only on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and **has already more than 70K followers** -



✓ In addition to all above, Nadir Al-Nuri has a [Telegram](#) channel with 256k subscribers. In this channel, on May 14<sup>th</sup>, he [posted](#) a list of pro-Israel Facebook pages to be used as targets for his followers as part of the social media attack - As he posted “the intention is to keep them busy with other matters besides hitting our

brothers” (originally written in Malay and translated to English). This post alone was viewed by 138k subscribers, while it was also asked to be forwarded to other groups (see bottom of the post)

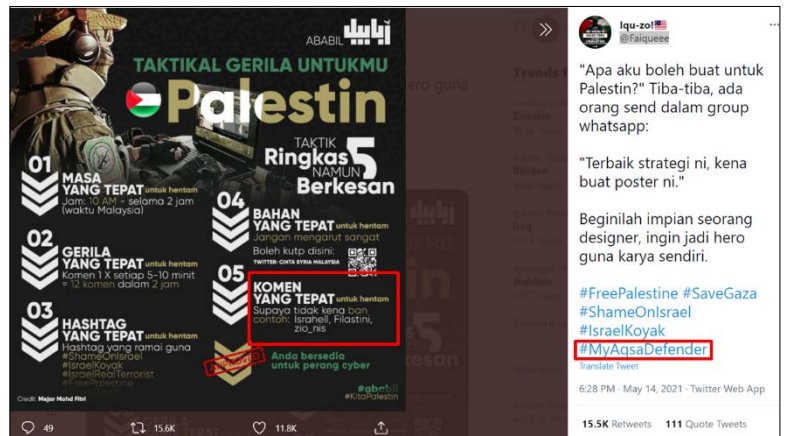


**This list of targets was also posted on Twitter by several accounts, which mentioned that the source is Nadir Al-Nuri Telegram channel (translated from Malay to English)**



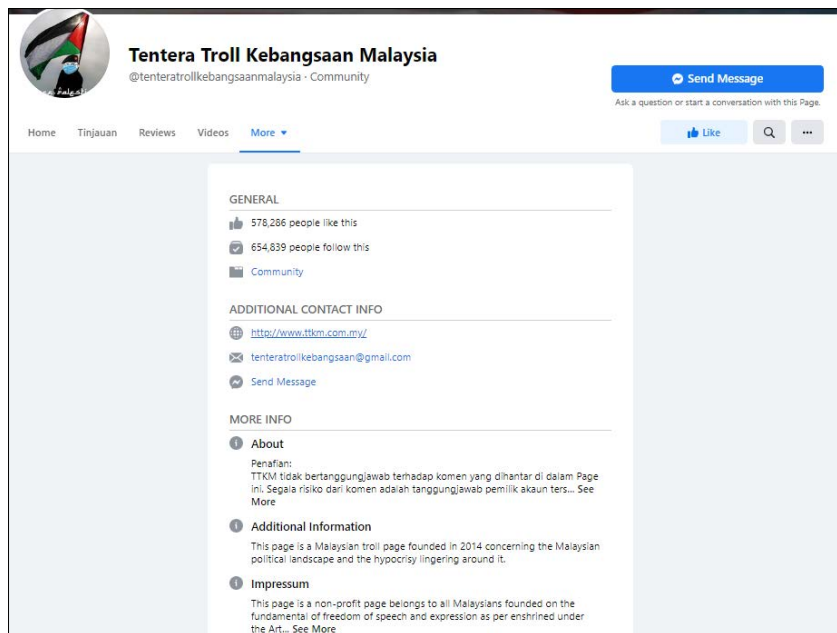
**Trolling examples against pro-Israel accounts by Malaysian users (2)**

► A Malaysian user that replied to IsraeliPM on Twitter using the terms zio\_nis, Israhell



**Left : Defenders and CSM , Right : Filastini as advised by PAMI, My Aqsa**

◆ Another dominant group that took part in the attacks - Tentera Troll Kebangsaan Malaysia / Malaysian National Troll Army which has more than half a million followers on Facebook. It seems this group in general aims to deal with Malaysian political issues, but during “Guardian of the Walls” operation they were very active on attacking Israel.



**See examples of posts inside the page, calling to troll pro-Israeli accounts and posts**

Tentera Troll Kebangsaan Malaysia  
May 11 at 7:18 PM · 🌐

Let's feast them!  
🔗 See original · Rate this translation



**2021 OPERATION GUARDIAN OF THE WALLS**

Israel Defense Forces  
May 11 at 3:59 PM · 🌐

In the last 24 hours, Hamas and Islamic Jihad have launched continuous attacks on Israel from Gaza. The IDF is operating in response to these attacks by striking terror targets and operatives in Gaza. This is Operation Guardian of the Walls.

👍 2K 425 Comments 95 Shares

Tentera Troll Kebangsaan Malaysia  
May 14 at 1:20 PM · 🌐

His bump can't blah  
Feast link: <https://www.facebook.com/idfonline/videos/1374480009617917>  
🔗 See original · Rate this translation



**LOOK THIS MASSIVE DAMAGE TO ISRAEL'S APARTMENT AFTER BEING HIT BY HAMAS ROCKET**

**MASSIVE DAMAGE! ACCORDING TO ISRAEL DEFENCE FORCE: BUILDING INTACT**


**GAZA ACTUAL MASSIVE DAMAGE! IN GAZA AFTER BEING HIT BY ISRAEL'S MISSILES FROM FIGHTER JETS: 13TH STOREY APARTMENT COLLAPSED.**

TTKM

👍 1.1K 193 Comments 160 Shares

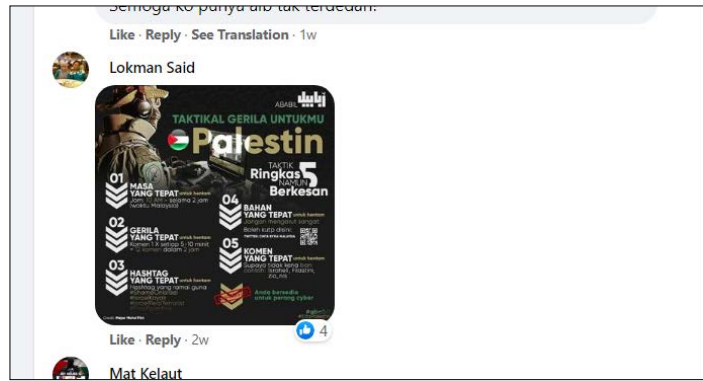
Tentera Troll Kebangsaan Malaysia  
May 12 at 9:08 PM · 🌐

Camera ready? Action! 😂 cc Israel Defense Forces

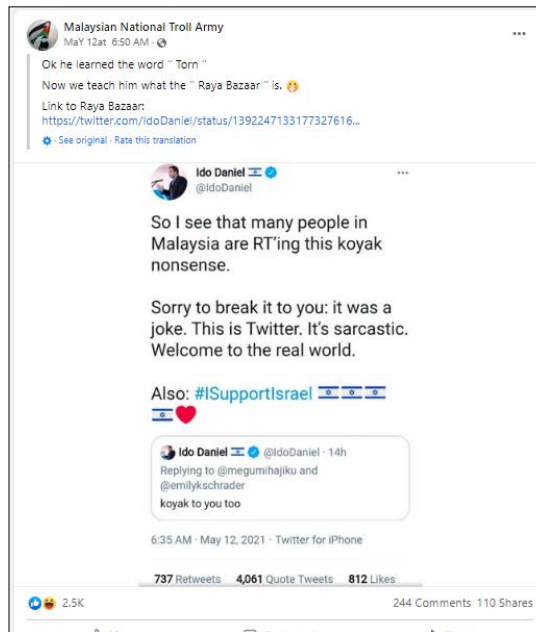


👍 4.5K 410 Comments 106 Shares

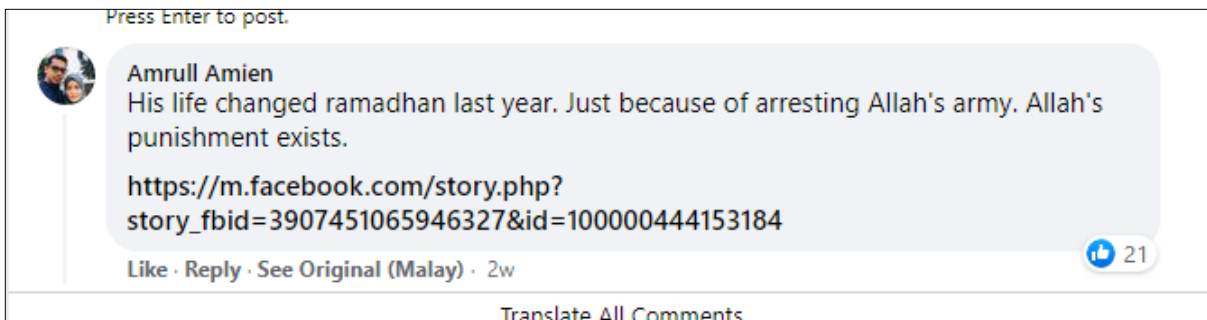
👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share



(One of the comments to this post includes CSM official campaign infographic)



A post calling to troll Ido Daniel's Tweet



[Translate All Comments](#)

A comment calling to troll a post by Israeli soldier that was injured. His post got many radical reactions by Malaysian accounts.



**A post calling to troll International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ) member's post.**



► Her post got 220k 'haha' likes out of 314k reactions in total, many seem to be Malaysian, along with many radical comments by anti-Israel Muslim accounts.

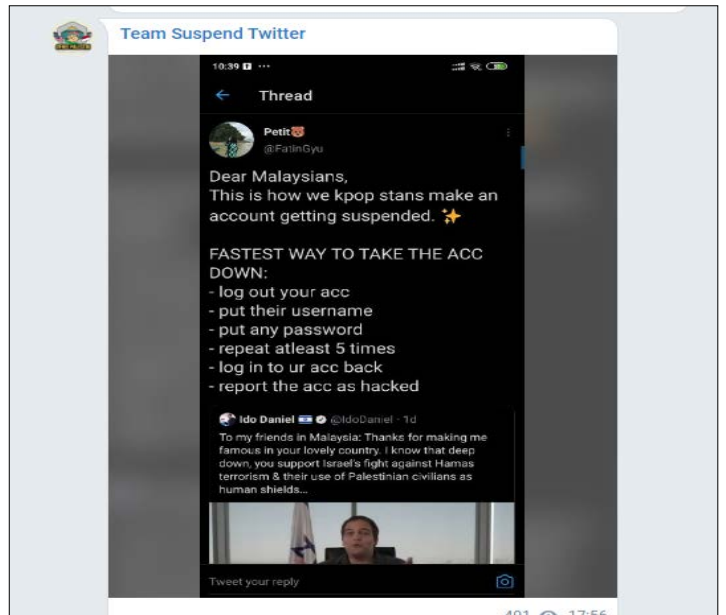
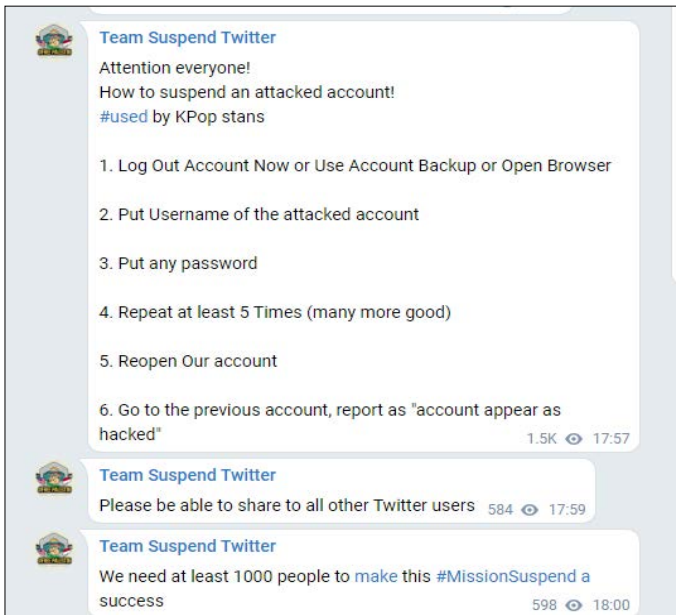
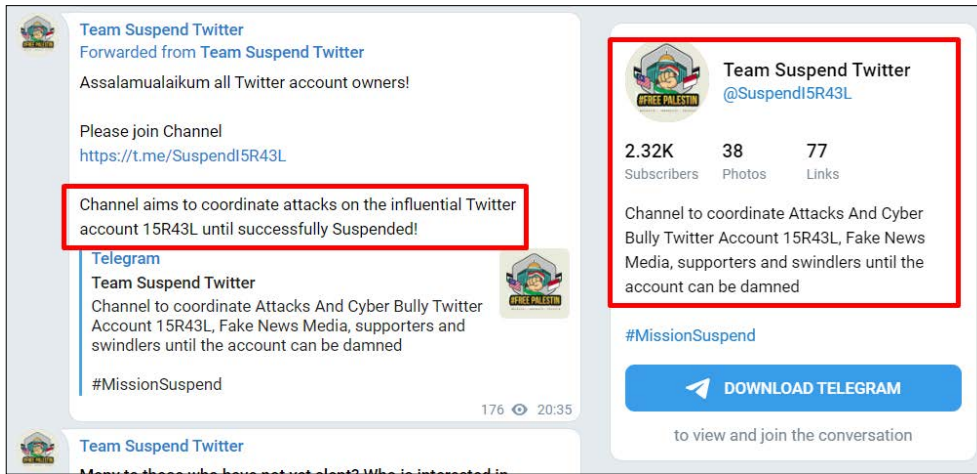
► Suspending and blocking pro-Israel accounts -

◆ On May 14<sup>th</sup> a new Telegram channel called "Team Suspend Twitter" was created. This is a Malaysian channel that aims to suspend pro-Israel accounts on Twitter.

✓ The channel explains the methodology to suspend accounts by brute forcing log in to a target account with multiple false passwords, and then reporting the account as "Hacked"

✓ The channel coordinated the attack to 10 AM May 15<sup>th</sup>, with a goal that at least 1000 people will participate

- ✓ The channel mentioned an updated list of accounts to be attacked. The group aimed against Israelis, Israel supporters (Indians also) and Jews in general



### The Account Suspension Methodology

Proposed Account to be attacked:

**Time: 10 AM**

Small Account (Cybertrooper)


1. @User1993
2. @israelunderfire
3. @maorashir
4. @StandWithUs
5. @HonestReporting

Indian Supporter Account:

1. @AskAnshul
2. @ HananyaNaftali
3. @RubenRMizrahi
4. @ROMESHSHAH2
5. Majnu\_shetty ✓
6. Maor Ashir ✓

Influential Account (Influencer)

1. @IdoDaniel
2. @GalGadot
3. @IDF
4. @EliyahHavemann
5. @HillelNeuer
6. @michealdickson
7. @emilykschrader
8. @Shehzad\_Ind
9. @HillelNeuer
10. @Ostrov\_A
11. @Axiolie
12. @sebastiankurz
13. @AOC
14. @LZ\_DGN



**Team Suspend Twitter**  
@Suspend15R43L

2.32K Subscribers   38 Photos   77 Links


Channel to coordinate Attacks And Cyber Bully Twitter Account 15R43L, Fake News Media, supporters and swindlers until the account can be damned

#MissionSuspend

▶ DOWNLOAD TELEGRAM

to view and join the conversation


About   Blog   Apps   Platform



**Team Suspend Twitter**

Okay before closing, all admins decide for every 1230 hours (closing day) we report acc Ido & Netanyahu. Repeat everyday. Okay then? 😊

1.1K   19:30



**Team Suspend Twitter**

LAST MISSION BEFORE BED:

<https://twitter.com/IsraeliPM?s=09>

<https://twitter.com/IdoDaniel?s=09>

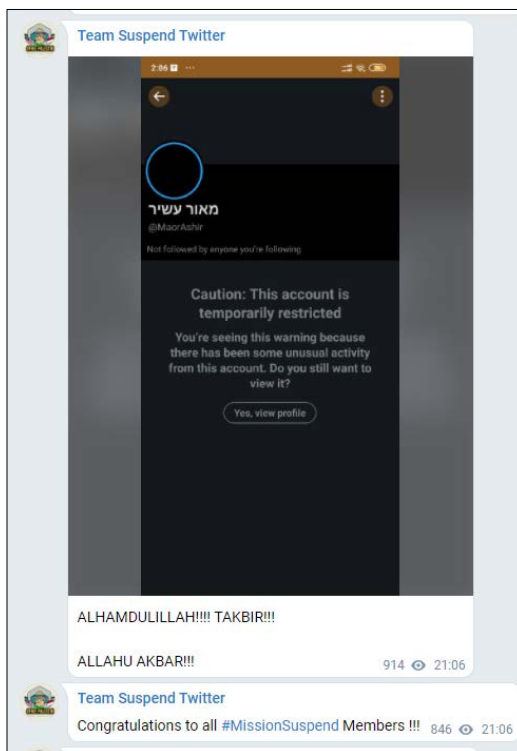
**Twitter**

**PM of Israel (@IsraeliPM) | Twitter**

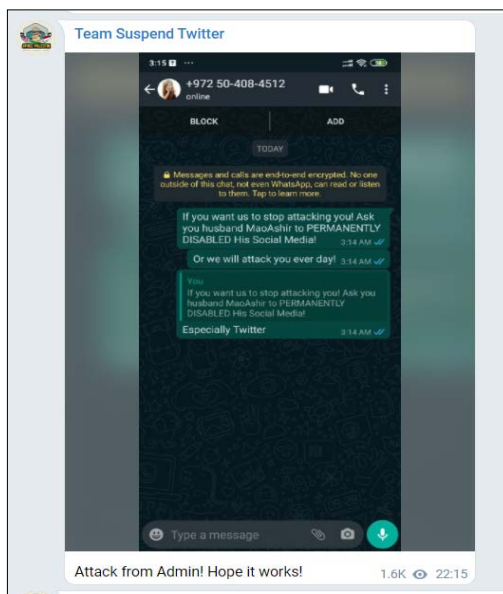
The latest Tweets from PM of Israel (@IsraeliPM). The official Twitter account of the Office of the Prime Minister of Israel 🇮🇱. Jerusalem, Israel

1.1K   19:34

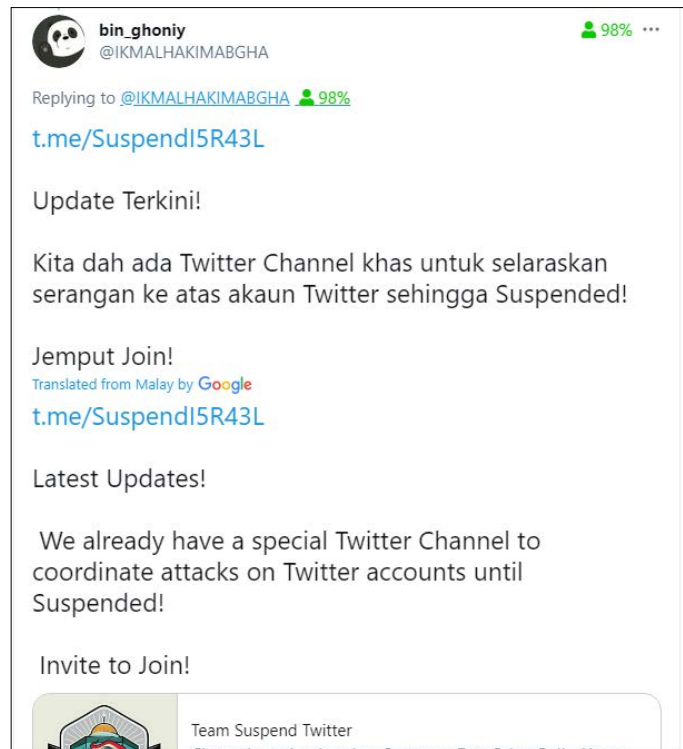
**The list of target accounts  
(those with a green mark are the ones successfully suspended at the time)**



**An example for a suspended account**

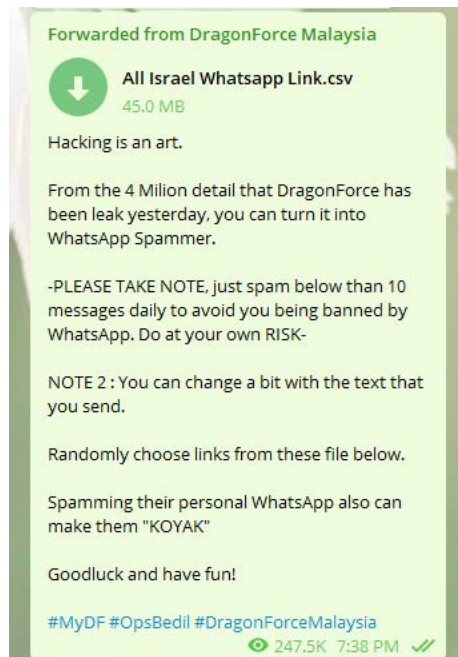


**A call for cyber bullying Maor's wife on Whatsapp and a message that was sent to her**



**The first user who shared the channel's link on Twitter**

- ◆ As part of the Malaysian cyber warfare against Israel, Malaysian hacking groups such as DragonForce Malaysia leaked lists of Israeli phone numbers. Those numbers were used by many followers to harass Israelis phones on WhatsApp and to make them blocked

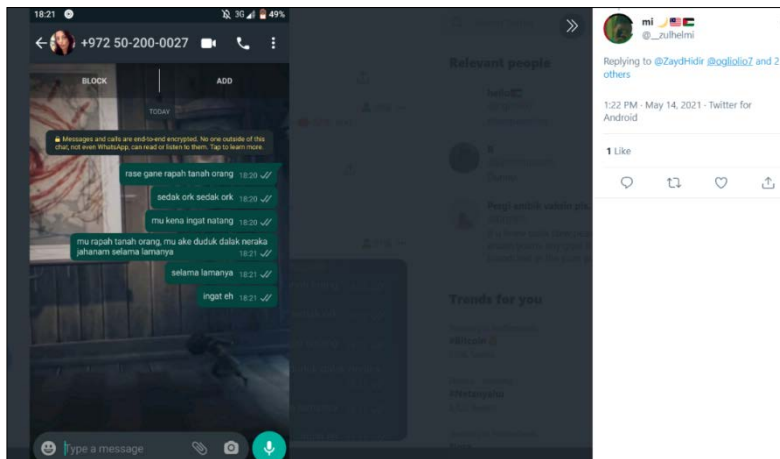
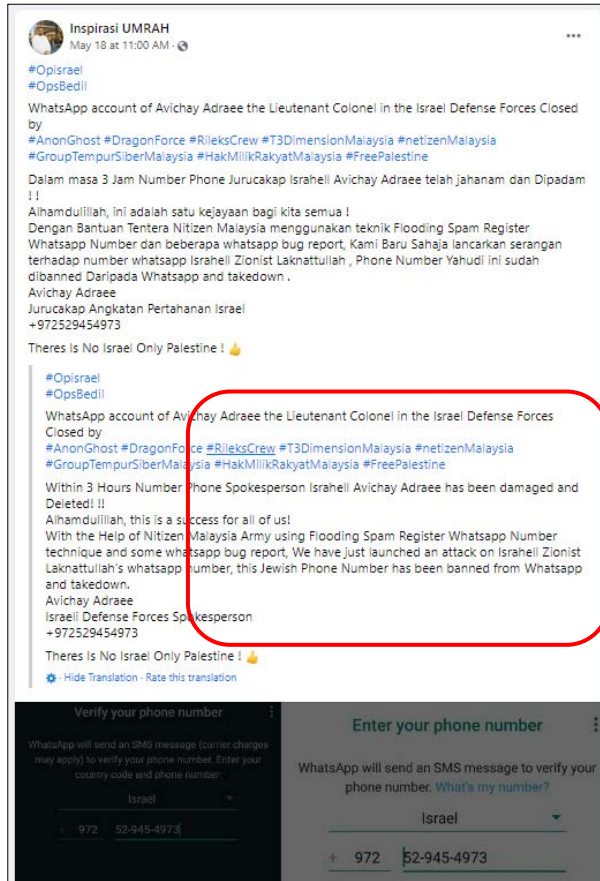


ISRAEL AIR FORCE  
 #fuckisrael  
 lonely? looking for who to call or text?  
 say no more  
<https://api.whatsapp.com/send?phone=972502000020&text>  
<https://api.whatsapp.com/send?phone=972502050457&text>  
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 DOCTOR

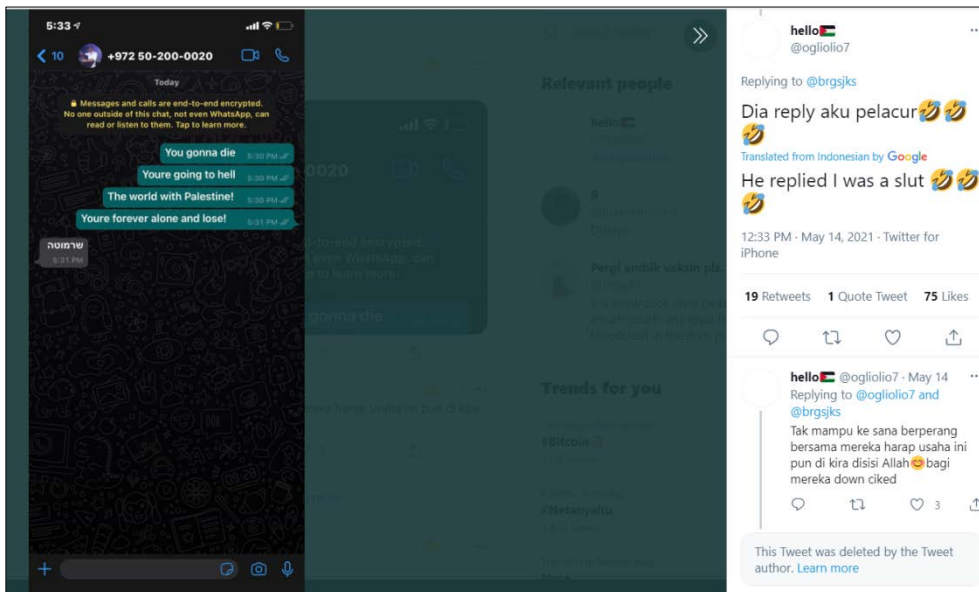
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 #Mill3rz  
 #Free\_Palestine

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► A Facebook post saying that “with the help of Tentera Netizen Malaysia” which means The Malaysian Army of Internet Citizens aka Malaysian trolls army, the phone number of IDF Spokesperson Avichay Adraea was blocked within 3 hours and through the use of WhatsApp spam flooding and bug reports. This post celebrates the successful attack on an Israeli representative



Twitter post of Malaysian user shares a WhatsApp attack against random Israeli account



Another Example of a user on Twitter sharing his attack on an Israeli WhatsApp account