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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: [REDACTED]

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in room 164, Cannon House Office Building, commencing at 10:06 a.m.

1 department that responds to legal process, so I don't have the specifics on how that
2 works.

3 Q Fair enough.

4 Going back to the nature of the request, this is another example of the FBI asking
5 for information to assist in its own investigations, correct?

6 A It appears so.

7 Q And this was not -- there's nothing in here that you interpreted to be a
8 demand, correct?

9 A Reading this now, it doesn't appear to be a demand.

10 Q Does it appear to be coercive to you?

11 A This looks like a request for a follow-up. I'm not interpreting this as
12 coercive.

13 Q And is this the type of request that Facebook could say, "I'm sorry, we can't
14 provide that information"?

15 A It's hard to talk about a hypothetical. It looks like here I followed up with
16 trying to track down this information. I don't recall what happened afterwards. But
17 it's hard to kind of talk about a hypothetical where this didn't happen.

18 Q Is it fair to say that the tone of this request is typical of the requests you
19 would receive for assistance from the FBI, outside of legal process?

20 A Nothing about this exchange strikes me as unusual.

21 Q Okay.

22 A Hard to comment on tone.

23 Q Fair. Thank you.

24 Now, you mentioned -- I think you just touched on this in the last hour -- that
25 Facebook or Meta would sometimes receive tips from the FBI --

1 A Yes.

2 Q -- about accounts that might violate its community standards, correct?

3 A Generally correct. Not just accounts.

4 Q Okay. What else?

5 A We call them threat indicators. So it could be accounts, it could be IP
6 addresses or other types of threat indicators that could point us to activity on our
7 platform that's violating our standards.

8 Q Thank you. I appreciate that.

9 A Okay.

10 [REDACTED] Exhibit No. 3

11 Was marked for identification.]

12 BY [REDACTED]:

13 Q Okay. So we're looking at an email from September of 2020 where the FBI
14 notified Facebook about an account impersonating a senator in Puerto Rico. Is that
15 correct?

16 A That's what it looks like, yes, from the email.

17 Q And in that email [REDACTED] states -- or in the email from September 8th,
18 2020 -- "We just got a tipper from the San Juan field office. Please see below. This
19 appears to violate your terms of service but we'll defer to you. Let us know if you take
20 any actions."

21 A Uh-huh.

22 Q Is this typical of the types of tips that Facebook receives?

23 A I don't recall the specific interaction. I know I'm on the "to" line here, but
24 I'm not sure how I engaged with it at the time.

25 This is -- I'm not sure actually how typical this is. I've seen instances similar to

1 this in the past, but I'm not sure how frequent.

2 Q And in this situation there's no request for action, correct, other than, "Let
3 us know if you take any actions"?

4 A Right. [REDACTED] is stating here, "We'll defer to you," which I interpret to mean
5 it's your determination on whether this activity violates the terms of service or not. And
6 there's a request to share whether we've taken any action or not.

7 Q And regardless of whether or not Agent [REDACTED] had said, "We'll defer to you,"
8 when Meta receives tips about -- whether it's from the government or elsewhere -- about
9 potential violations of its terms of service, it conducts its own investigation, correct?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q It never just takes down an account because somebody says they think it
12 violates -- somebody outside of Meta thinks it violates Meta's terms of service.

13 A So I can talk about how my teams operate or within my area.

14 Q Thank you.

15 A I'm not sure -- you know, I don't know all of the decisions that are made by
16 the company.

17 But certainly in my area we conduct our independent assessment and
18 investigation. We receive tips from a number of different partners or sources, and we
19 usually use those tips to conduct our own assessment, to confirm their validity or
20 veracity, and corroborate the information.

21 Q And, ultimately, it's Meta who decides whether or not to take any action on
22 an account, on an IP address, on any of the threat indicators that you mentioned earlier.

23 A That's my understanding.

24 Q And if your investigation determines that there is no violation, then no
25 action is taken, correct?

1 A That is -- if you have a specific example, it's easier to talk about it. But
2 that's my general understanding, is that if we don't find our own independent
3 corroboration or additional information to verify the lead, then we wouldn't take action.

4 Q In your time at Meta has -- well, let me back up actually.

5 I just wanted to ask you briefly, you spoke about your interactions with CISA and
6 meetings that you would attend with CISA. Like the meetings with FITF, it was your
7 choice to attend those meetings, correct?

8 A That's my understanding.

9 Q Okay. And it's your understanding that if Meta did not want to work with
10 CISA, it could choose not to attend those meetings and not to have a relationship with
11 them.

12 A That's my understanding. But, again, those meetings weren't scheduled by
13 me or -- and I wasn't always in attendance for those meetings.

14 ██████████: Can we go off the record?

15 ██████████: Sure.

16 [Discussion off the record.]

17 ██████████: We can go back on.

18 ██████████: Thank you.

19 BY ██████████:

20 Q In your time working at Facebook and now Meta, has any government
21 official ordered you to remove an account or a post or demote an account or a post?

22 A Not that I'm aware.

23 Q And has anyone in the government in your time at Meta threatened Meta,
24 to your knowledge, with any adverse consequences if Meta did not remove a particular
25 piece of content or an account?

1 A Not to my knowledge. To be clear, you're referring to the U.S.

2 Government?

3 Q Correct, yes.

4 A Not to my knowledge.

5 Q Any other governments?

6 A Also not to my knowledge.

7 Q Okay. Thank you.

8 You do not experience unrelenting pressure from the U.S. Government to take
9 certain actions or any actions?

10 A I personally have not experienced pressure to take any actions.

11 ██████████. I think that's it for now. Thank you.

12 We can take a break and then --

13 ██████████. That's great.

14 [Recess.]