

Rappler Statement: Manipulated video under consideration by Meta's Oversight Board

This is a statement concerning [case number 2025-050-FB-UA](#) that was published by Meta's Oversight Board on July 22, 2025. The case refers to a video of a protest from Serbia which was manipulated and presented as a mobilization in support of former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte.

We raise concerns about how the Oversight Board described the circumstances surrounding this case: that Meta did not act on this fake video because fact checkers had chosen not to rate it.

This is not true.

Rappler, as well as other fact checkers in the Philippines (Vera Files, AFP Fact Check), fact checked and rated various versions of this video.

Multiple versions of this specific manipulated video went viral on Facebook in March 2025, part of a resurgence of information operations documented by Rappler after Duterte's arrest by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged crimes against humanity.

Fact checkers are not required to rate all possible instances of content similar to content that they had already fact checked. This is simply impossible. Meta is supposed to be using its AI tools precisely to help scale the work of fact checkers.

This video, and how it was distributed, is not merely misinformation, as described by the Oversight Board. It is disinformation: there was clear intent to deceive audiences and manipulate public opinion at scale.

Meta should take down **not just this piece of content** but also the other content that is part of this **inauthentic and organized campaign. To do so would be in accordance with its** publicized policy against inauthentic coordinated behavior.

Apart from this particular video, Rappler's fact checkers also monitored a significant number of other manipulated and synthetic content, which tended to show a supposed groundswell of support for Duterte following his arrest or and made him look like a victim. While it is true that the former president continues to enjoy support from his

political base who see “injustice” in his ICC arrest, the cascades of inauthentic content on Facebook propping him up show an intent to manipulate public opinion and behavior in his favor. (want to add something here about its impact?)

The link below shows some examples:

<https://www.rappler.com/topic/duterte-fact-checks/>

A significant number of these appear to be posted by anonymous accounts and anonymously managed pages. (See link below)

[DECODED] How online supporters made a victim of Duterte after ICC arrest
<https://www.rappler.com/technology/decoded-how-online-supporters-made-victim-rodri-o-duterte-icc-arrest/>

The continued circulation of this video, part of information operations, contributed to exacerbating tensions which will likely heighten further **as the ICC prepares to hear evidence of human rights abuses against Duterte.**

Meta has a policy concerning inauthentic coordinated behavior.

We believe that the repeated and coordinated republication of various versions of this video – which were all clearly manipulated to promote a specific agenda – is covered by this policy.

FACTS OF THE CASE

The Oversight Board described [case number 2025-050-FB-UA](#) thus:

“In March 2025, shortly after former Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte was arrested to face charges before the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged crimes against humanity, a Facebook user reshared an eight-second video. It was originally posted by another Facebook user and shows crowds of people protesting on the street, carrying signs and the Serbian flag.

The video is accompanied by audio of people repeatedly chanting “Duterte!” Playing over the video is a patriotic Tagalog song, “Bayan Ko,” which was

popular during protests against the Marcos dictatorship. The video also contains text overlay stating, “Netherland.” The original post’s caption says, “Netherlands supporters,” while the post resharing the video, which is the subject of this case, has pleading-face emojis with no text. Meta's fact-checkers have rated similar footage, paired with similar audio and described as pro-Duterte protests, as “false.” The original video footage appears to be of an anti-corruption protest that took place in Serbia, rather than a pro-Duterte rally in the Netherlands, where the ICC is based. Moreover, the audio appears to be unrelated to the rally depicted in the video.

The board further said:

When the original video was posted, a Meta classifier identified the content as possible misinformation and sent it to third-party fact-checkers for review. According to Meta, its “technology can detect posts that are likely to be misinformation based on various signals, including whether users flag it as false information or comments ‘express disbelief.’” **Fact-checkers decide which posts to review, and according to Meta, fact-checkers did not rate the original post.** Days later, a user reported the content resharing the original post. Based on its guidelines for prioritizing reviews, Meta did not review the content, and it remained on Facebook.

Given the information above, Rappler reviewed similar content it has fact-checked and rated. We noted that on March 13, 2025, Rappler published a fact check article on a video of [a protest in Serbia](#) which has been manipulated and misrepresented as a mass demonstration in the Netherlands in protest of the former President's arrest.

For reference, this is the link to said fact check article.

<https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/fact-check/rodrigo-duterte-chant-manipulated-video-netherland>

After publishing the fact check, one of Rappler’s fact checkers rated Facebook links which published said video. At the moment, these links are already inactive. We are unaware of whether these were taken down by Meta or deleted by the user who published them.

Apart from Rappler, Meta’s other 3rd Party Fact Check partners also published their own fact checks on similar video. Below are links to said fact checks:

- <https://factcheck.afp.com/doc.afp.com.372P6ZJ>

- <https://verafiles.org/articles/fact-check-video-shows-serbian-protesters-not-duterte-supporters>

We assume that this means that they have also rated content similar to the ones we fact checked.

The point being made here is that the content that [case number 2025-050-FB-UA](#) is referring to evaded being rated not because we, as fact checkers, chose not to rate it.

When we were notified of the case published by Meta's Oversight Board, we searched for additional content that fit the description of the video concerned. **Using the additional keywords provided**, we noticed that there were indeed a number of similar videos which have not been rated yet. We have since rated those we spotted.

However, the manner by which the videos were manipulated makes it practically impossible for human fact checkers to find all instances of these videos. Without the additional keywords mentioned in the Oversight board's case, we would not have found these additional versions.

To reiterate, the manner by which video contents were manipulated indicated clear intent to deceive:

1. While these videos were, in fact, proven to have been of a protest action in Nis, Serbia, they were being misrepresented as taken in Netherlands through a label in capital letters emblazoned across the video.
2. Apart from the label, another clear indication of intent to manipulate were audio overlays added to the original video, which included people chanting "Duterte."

This is disinformation. And this is coordinated inauthentic behavior.

This is in violation of Meta's own policies.