

ROUNDTABLE

Navigating the Digital News Environment and Information Ecosystem from the Struggles

Coordinator

Saw Bosco

Roundtable Description

Information manipulation and online propaganda in Myanmar are heavily concentrated in conflict-affected areas, disaster-prone zones, and pro-revolution territories. These areas are strategically targeted for misinformation and disinformation campaigns to weaken revolutionary morale, discredit local groups, and manipulate public perception. The content patterns and narratives are used in different ways. The key themes are recycling of old events, ethnic and religious manipulation, disaster-related disinformation, military denial narratives, anti-revolution propaganda, amplifying bad actors' success, doxxing and online threats, and a call for action. At the same time, technological evolution is one of the greatest challenges to the audience, as the actors have been using AI to spread misinformation, disinformation, and dangerous content. In the past, edited photos and videos were used to spread, but now, AI-generated content has become widespread, like highly realistic, high-quality visuals and longer clips, suggesting the use of AI tools. This trend raises concern over AI's role in rewriting history, such as portraying military leaders as legitimate national figures through repeated pro-military prompt usage. Poses a threat of historical erasure and normalization of military crimes through technology. Misinformation, disinformation, and dangerous content are not limited to isolated posts; it is coordinated propaganda ecosystem to amplify pro-military messages and to legitimize and circulate the propaganda. The actors' behavior and coordination are one of their greatest strategies to run their platforms; they operate across Facebook, TikTok, Telegram, and YouTube, seeking new spaces as platforms impose restrictions, making visible efforts to re-establish monetization through alternative pages and follower migration, and many now display revenue generation as part of their content strategy. Myanmar's current information ecosystem reflects a complex hybrid warfare environment in which technology and AI are increasingly weaponized to manipulate history and distort reality. Propaganda actors have evolved into semi-professional media enterprises, systematically producing and amplifying content that aligns with military interests. Close coordination between the military, state institutions, and online influencers sustains an integrated disinformation network that blurs the boundaries between truth and propaganda. As a result, civic trust and information integrity continue to deteriorate, making it ever more difficult for the public to distinguish authentic information from state-orchestrated manipulation. At the same time, widening gaps are emerging between conflict-affected communities and urban populations, as well as those living abroad, particularly in terms of media and digital literacy, both of which are fundamental to the right to information. Many people continue to struggle with limited access to reliable information in their daily lives, while also facing increasingly complex risks such as online gambling, digital scams,

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and human trafficking, which disproportionately target vulnerable communities within a rapidly evolving global threat environment. The roundtable will draw on the findings of the Red Flag report, "Signals, Narratives, and the Myanmar Information Ecosystem," conducted in late 2025. It will bring together partner organizations working on freedom of expression, civic engagement, social media governance, media development, and fact-checking initiatives. Beyond presenting research findings, the roundtable will adopt a multidimensional approach, fostering dialogue that centers human experiences and community-based perspectives in addressing these challenges.

Keyword: Signals, narratives, and Myanmar information ecosystem, Freedom of Expression,, Usage of AI, Civic engagement and people perspectives in social media, Gaps of the information accessibility in active conflict areas