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August 17, 2021

Mr. Jack Dorsey
Chief Executive Officer
Twitter
1555 Market Street, Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

I write today to express concerns over the double standards and potential bias involved in Twitter's speech standards.

On January 8th, Twitter decided to permanently ban President Donald Trump from the platform. You cited that the ban of Donald Trump was due to the "risk of further incitement of violence" under your Glorification of Violence policy, which "aims to prevent the glorification of violence that could inspire others to replicate violent acts." However, Twitter currently allows Taliban spokesmen Zabihullah Mujahid (@Zabehulah_M33) and Yousef Ahmadi (@QyAhmadi21) to remain on the platform. Recently, Zabihullah Mujahid, whose account has over 290,000 followers, has been providing updates on the Taliban's seizure of Afghanistan. These propaganda updates usually assert that the overthrow has been largely peaceful, despite reports to the contrary.

Under your 'violent organizations policy,' you state, "there is no place on Twitter for violent organizations, including terrorist organizations, violent extremist groups, or individuals who affiliate with and promote their illicit activities." More specifically, in your 'violent organizations policy,' you state that a violation is "engaging in or promoting acts on behalf of a violent organization." It is clear that the Taliban is a violent organization and should fall under this category. The Taliban are currently executing interpreters and other Afghans who helped the United States Government. CNN even reported that the Taliban executed 22 Afghan commandos as they tried to surrender.¹ Furthermore, the Taliban's strict interpretation of sharia law also poses a serious threat to women throughout Afghanistan as many are being forced into prostitution, and girls as young as 12 are being married against their will.²

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/13/asia/afghanistan-taliban-commandos-killed-intl-hnk/index.html>

² <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9883367/Taliban-going-door-door-forcibly-marrying-girls-young-TWELVE.html>

In my review of these accounts, I did not find a single fact check on any of their tweets, nor any warnings for false or misleading content. It is impossible to see how the accounts of Zabihullah Mujahid and Yousef Ahmadi do not violate your policies.

It is clear that Twitter has political bias in its algorithms and a troubling double standard. I look forward to a prompt reply on why a former United States President is banned while two Taliban spokesmen are allowed to remain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Lamborn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Lamborn

Member of Congress