Monitors and Analysis of Hateful Language in South Africa

Report #3: May 15, 2019

This report is part of an initiative by PeaceTech Lab to analyze hateful and inflammatory language online in South Africa to mitigate the threat of this language to fuel violence during the election period. The terms discussed come from the Lab’s recently published South Africa Lexicon of Hateful Terms while the data comes from our Hate Speech and Election Violence portal, which is updated regularly. These resources examine terms and phrases that are offensive and inflammatory, are directed towards individuals or groups based on ethnicity, religion, race, gender, national identity, or political affiliation, and may lead to violence.

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Latest Events

On May 8, the South Africa general elections were held, with the African National Congress (ANC) retaining power with a reduced majority after receiving 57.5% of the votes. Ahead of the election, Julius Malema of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) held a campaign rally in Free State. At the rally, Malema said that white people knew the EFF would never kill them and that the EFF was just trying to gain equality for black people. He also asked people to read the EFF’s documents and show where they called for the killing of white people. He used the phrases "one settler one bullet" and "kill the whites" but in the context of arguing that the EFF did not support these statements.

In another incident, the Democratic Alliance (DA) reportedly sent messages to residents of Western Cape urging them to vote for the DA to prevent a coalition government between the ANC and EFF. Reports suggest that the DA was fearful of a potential coalition due to the belief that the large proportion of white farmers in Western Cape could lose their land as both the ANC and EFF have supported land expropriation. In the election, the DA retained governance over the Western Cape.

Also in this period, a case was taken to the Human Rights Commission over Black First Land First’s (BLF’s) slogan "Land or Death." The complaint was taken to the Equality Court and the slogan was ruled as hate speech on May 6th. This received a lot of media attention because it occurred during an election period in which BLF was participating, and because of the ongoing debate in South Africa over what constitutes hate speech.

EARLY WARNING OF CONFLICT

Week of May 14-20

The predictive maps below present the likelihood of each municipality experiencing one or more of the following event types (as classified by ACLED): 1) Violence against Civilians; 2) Battles; 3) Protests or Riots. For the Week of April 30-May 6, PeaceTech Lab’s statistical model predicts higher likelihoods of these events in the municipalities shown in darker red on the map on the left. The map on the right applies a probability threshold to forecast which of these municipalities can be expected to experience one or more of these types of events over the next week.

These districts are Bojanala, Buffalo City, the City of Cape Town, Ekurhuleni, eThekwini, iLembe, the City of Johannesburg, Nelson Mandela Bay, OR Tambo, the City of Tshwane, uMgungundlovu, and Zululand.

Click on the map to visit our Hate Speech and Election Violence data portal for South Africa and read more about this predictive model and our data analytics.
### HATEFUL TERMS & PHRASES SAMPLE POSTS
#### April 26-May 9

**"Kill the Farmer" Sample Post (Twitter)**

So can we continue singing kill the Boer kill the farm?

**"Kill the Boers" Sample Post (Twitter)**

Mna am waiting for call to kill the Boer we can stand this #ApartheidFlag #IhateBoer

**"Land Thief" Sample Post (Twitter)**

LAND OR DEATH. LAND FOR AFRICANS OR DEATH FOR LAND THIEVES. ITS THAT SIMPLE.

**"White Monopoly Capital" Sample Post (Twitter)**

RET Forces will be represented by BLF in Parliament. RET Forces are voting BLF. White Monopoly Capital Pawns will be represented by DANCEFF.

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If you have any feedback on this report and/or suggestions of the most useful types of content to include, please email us at info@peacetechlab.org.