



Fact Check: WEF Did NOT Announce Recruitment Of 'Information Warriors' To Control Narrative On Social Media

Aug 19, 2022

by: Dana Ford

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Did the World Economic Forum (WEF) announce the recruitment of "information warriors" to control the narrative on social media? No, that's not true: The WEF has recruited no such people. An article making the claim misrepresents a [UN initiative](#) called "Verified," which was launched in May 2020 in an effort to fight misinformation around COVID-19.

The [article](#) (archived [here](#)) was published by News Punch on August 17, 2022. Titled "WEF Announce Recruitment of



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” The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced it has recruited hundreds of thousands of 'information warriors' to control the internet, policing social media and forums for 'misinformation' and conspiracy content which will then be systematically shut down.

Users on social media saw this at the time of writing:

NEWS PUNCH BAXTER DMITRY



WEF Announce Recruitment of 'Information Warriors' To Control the Narrative on Social Media - News Punch

[Read the article on](#)

The News Punch article includes a link to a WEF podcast, which can be read about and heard [here](#). The podcast makes clear that the initiative the article refers to is not

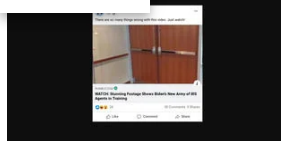
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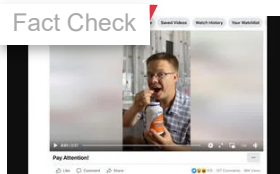
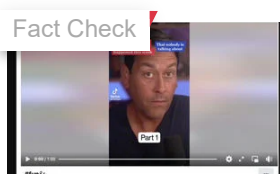
The WEF podcast features [Melissa Fleming](#), who leads global communications for the UN, talking about Verified, launched in May 2020 in an effort to fight misinformation around COVID-19. At the 7:23 mark, she says:

”

So far, we've recruited 110,000 information volunteers, and we equip these information volunteers with the kind of knowledge about how misinformation spreads and ask them to serve as kind of 'digital first responders' in those spaces where misinformation travels.

Note her use of the phrase "information volunteers," not "information warriors."

[News Punch](#) (formerly [YourNewsWire](#)) has published hoaxes and fake news articles in the past, so anything it writes or publishes should be taken with a large grain of salt. Its Facebook page ["The People's Voice"](#) even lost its verification checkmark,

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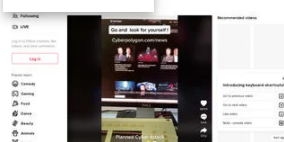
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Dana Ford is an Atlanta-based reporter and editor. She previously worked as a senior editor at Atlanta Magazine Custom Media and as a writer/ editor for CNN Digital. Ford has more than a decade of news experience, including several years spent working in Latin America.

[Read more about or contact Dana Ford](#)



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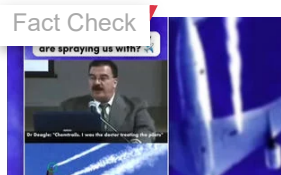
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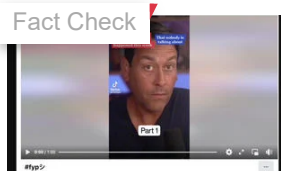
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