Re: Follow-up on Meta TPP Internews Report?

uismayil@usaid.gov Ulvi Ismayil Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 10:28:14 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: vzakem@usaid.gov Vera Zakem
Cc: cthanassi@usaid.gov Cara Thanassi, cayogu@usaid.gov Chioma Ayogu, camitchell@usaid.gov Carrie Mitchell, cagarwal@usaid.gov Chantal Agarwal, dburgipalomino@usaid.gov Daniella Burgi-Palomino, dmenaker@usaid.gov Drusilla Menaker, gbland@usaid.gov Gary Bland, kgoodson@usaid.gov Kayla Goodson, lmeils@usaid.gov Lorri Anne Meils, suabbott@usaid.gov Susan Abbott

Hi Daniella et al,

All I remember from that meeting and further conversations with Internews is that Meta broke its ties with Internews when this report was published. Internews even noticed that some NGOs that were previously in a coalition with Internews stopped answering emails. I'm not surprised that Meta's reaction to that question was short.

Best regards,

Ulvi Ismayil,
Senior Media Advisor
USAID | Washington, DC
Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG)
[redacted]
uismayil@usaid.gov

> On Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 8:52 PM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:
> Thanks Cara! Just from Agency perspective, I am not comfortable in pressing on this further at this time.
>
> > On Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 4:44 PM Cara Thanassi <cthanassi@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > Thanks Chioma et al - we'll certainly loop in GC as LAC considers next steps on this.
> >
> > *Cara L. Thanassi*
> >
> > **Democracy Specialist for Latin America and the Caribbean**
> >
> > **USAID** Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Democracy and Human Rights Team
> >
> > Cell: [redacted]
> >
> > > On Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 6:39 PM Chioma Ayogu <cayogu@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > >
> > > ~~ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED~~
> > >
> > > I would also add that with respect to ongoing discussions with Meta or others, USAID will need to continue to tread carefully and continue to ensure that it is not and is not perceived to be putting pressure on them to change policies. My understanding is that USAID has already asked about issues with the program and received answers from Meta. If USAID is not asking new questions or presenting new undiscussed issues the risk that USAID's repeated pointed questions about the same program may be viewed as coercive. Further, the talking points for such discussions would need to be carefully reviewed by GC to make sure they do not cross legal redlines.
> > >
> > > These types of discussions should be conducted consistent with FAQ #16 of the GC guidance.
> > >
> > > Warm regards,
> > >
> > > Chioma
> > > **CHIOMA AYOGU**
> > > Senior Counsel
> > >
> > > Office of the General Counsel, Development, Democracy and Economics (GC/DDE)
> > > Clients: DRG Bureau
> > > cayogu@usaid.gov

Phone: [redacted]
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20523

On Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 3:10 PM Chioma Ayogu <cayogu@usaid.gov> wrote:
> Thanks for looping me in, Vera. I would be happy to review. Also happy to chat, if helpful.
>
> Best,
>
> Chioma
>
> **CHIOMA AYOGU**
> Senior Counsel
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> On Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 3:04 PM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > ~~Attorney Client Privileged~~
> >
> > I am adding Chioma to this thread. I think this request and review should be reviewed by GC in accordance to the guidance that we (Agency, IRC, not DRG are issuing on this).
> >
> > I'd like Chioma to connect with folks before you all proceed further. This is why I have not pushed on this issue.
> >
> > thanks, vera
> >
> > On Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 3:02 PM Cara Thanassi <cthanassi@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > Hi All -
> > >
> > > Just weighing in here. From the LAC side of the house, we plan to review the report again, identify LAC specific issues, and have a follow up conversation with them regarding any concrete actions they have taken as a result of the report or plan to take. From the report, I would be reluctant to recommend organizations participate in the TPP.
> > >
> > > However, since this is a global issue, having a common agenda on this driven by the DRG Bureau in collaboration with the regional bureaus would be useful and likely more effective.
> > >
> > > Thanks,
> > > Cara
> > >
> > > On Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 2:55 PM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > > No. We have not.
> > > >
> > > > On Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 2:50 PM Daniella Burgi-Palomino <dburgipalomino@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > > > Hi colleagues,
> > > > >
> > > > > Just following up to see whether there has been any further follow-up with Meta from the DRG Bureau on the Trusted Partners Program (TPP) and how they are addressing/ have addressed the recommendations outlined in the Internews report since this August 2023 call. Happy to schedule a call if that's easier. Just let me know. Thanks!
> > > > >
> > > > > Best,
> > > > > Daniella
> > > > >
> > > > > On Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 5:20 PM Daniella Burgi-Palomino <dburgipalomino@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > > > > Hi colleagues,

A few of us in LAC and Vera had a meeting with Meta's Sandra Luff, and Public Policy Managers for South and Central America/ Mexico on April 9th (notes here). We asked them about how they responded to the challenges identified in the Internews report related to the Trusted Partners Program (TPP) and you can see their (brief) response in the notes. I know our old colleague Josh Machleder once organized a call last August (invite below) with Internews on the report that some of us joined but we were wondering if there had been any further follow-up with Meta from the DRG Bureau on the TPP and how they are addressing/ have addressed the recommendations outlined in the Internews report since this August 2023 call.

Please let us know if and/ or if you prefer to organize a brief call on this to discuss, feel free to let me know who should join and I can look for a time next week. We'd like to know as we consider any follow-up from our recent meeting with them. Many thanks!

Best,
Daniella

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Joshua Machleder** <jmachleder@usaid.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2023 at 4:35 PM
Subject: Invitation: Meta Trusted Partners review (link to read-ahead attached) @ Tue Aug 15, 2023 11am - 11:50am (EDT) (cagarwal@usaid.gov)

Please meet with the authors of "*Safety at Stake: How to Save Meta's Trusted Partner Program*" to address any questions you may have about this report. A copy can be found at: https://internews.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SafetyAtStake_Internews.pdf

When

Tuesday Aug 15, 2023 · 11am – 11:50am (Eastern Time - New York)

Location

RRB 3.10.2
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Guests

jmachleder@usaid.gov - organizer
suabbott@usaid.gov
amalessa@usaid.gov
ewaytoti@usaid.gov
jgulledge@usaid.gov
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Chief Digital Democracy and Rights Officer

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