

Twitter Thread by Michiel van Hulten



Michiel van Hulten

[@mvanhulten](#)



Yesterday I did a thread on how Huawei is trying to manipulate Belgian policy audiences with a fake online ecosystem ahead of a key 5G decision. (<https://t.co/Vilp7X5KsN>) Huawei did not take kindly to my research.

So here's the thread on Huawei I promised yesterday. It seems Huawei is using social media black ops tactics to try to convince policy-makers in Belgium that it can be trusted to build 5G networks. \U0001f928 pic.twitter.com/noZKM13RuD

— Michiel van Hulten (@mvanhulten) [December 22, 2020](#)

Mike Bai, the "President of Strategy Marketing Western Europe" for Huawei doubled down and tagged me and the organisations listed in my profile in a promoted (!) tweet. It's still doing the rounds now.

But who is Mike Bai? An analysis of his Twitter account by Botometer rates him a dubious 2.2/5 (by comparison, I rate 0.4, where 0 is best). [@villaraco](#) points out that he gained 800K followers in 9 months: <https://t.co/YfoVaVNq2y>

Totally agree. Seems like a total fake account. For a person with 800k followers with an account created in only 9 months ago, one would expect that it would be a very important or famous person. But a news search with his name is rather disappointing.

— Javier Villaraco \U0001f3f3\u200d\U0001f308 (@villaraco) [December 22, 2020](#)

Bai's sudden and massive online presence for Huawei started at the exact same time as the fake ecosystem of blogs and websites started being built, in March 2020. I can find no job history for him pre-Huawei, starting in March of this year.

I did find another (?) Mike Bai. The other Mike Bai authored a blog that posts Chinese state propaganda about things like the Covid-19 outbreak not originating in China. I won't link to the blog as not 100% sure it's same person, but here's a screenshot of part of the text.

Finally, last night Bai sent me a link to a website suggesting corruption is at play in Belgium's 5G decision to exclude Huawei from its networks. <https://t.co/fx3oH9EsoJ>

Enjoy~<https://t.co/M7IntqNMjG>

— Mike BAI (@Mike_IMC) December 22, 2020

A quick look at the contact page of "<https://t.co/Vp6im1mK9N>" reveals a street address that according to Google Maps doesn't exist: "Crescent de l'Europe". Dwire is another key part of the fake ecosystem, a <https://t.co/sm6Xz4RfQM> audit suggests.

Belgian magazine Knack has now picked up the full story: <https://t.co/IuRndrY5PI>

And as [@ArbiterOfTweets](#) points out, it seems I wasn't the first to spot and analyse the fake campaign. [@bickylover](#) was first! <https://t.co/urjLPMKFR0>

Ik zat al een tijdje op dit dossier, maar gisteren gescooped door [@mvanhulten](#) die parallel hetzelfde uitzocht.

De echte publicatieprimeur komt echter van [@bickylover](#) - volg die man! - die er zondag al een draadje over publiceerde. Dat kan je hier lezen: <https://t.co/m0b8znc4mf>

— Arbiter (@ArbiterOfTweets) December 23, 2020