Twitter Thread by @HomegrownTerrorists



@HomegrownTerrorists
@OutTerrorists

THREAD: Here's the story of @homegrownterrorists on Instagram.

If anyone has a direct email to someone at @Instagram who can help get our account back, please DM.

1/x

This begins on Monday, 48 hours before the #CapitolAttack. I was reading about the #StopTheSteal rally and realized it was on the same day as certification. I told a colleague I was concerned there would be a takeover the Capitol Building to block the vote.

2/x

What would come was not a surprise.

On Wednesday, that colleague sent me a Slack message: "Not to freak you out, but…"

3x

knew what was coming and checked Twitter and turned on CNN. I was still horrified. And I wanted to see everyone of the domestic terrorists identified.

4x

Fast-forward a couple hours and I began pulling images together and created the @homegrownterrorists account on Instagram and posting with the U.S. Capitol geotag, a few hashtags, and captions saying "DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS TERRORIST?"

5/x

At 3:43 p.m., Richard "Bigo" Barnett was the first to be identified.

6/x



Immediately some likes came in. Then came comments — from MAGA trolls.

They left despicable comments like, “That’s Breonna Taylor,” “that’s George Floyd,” “that’s Anne Frank,” and so on. Many also said “Samuel Hyde,” which I still don’t understand.

7/x

3:05

Comments

@poopoopeepeebutthole

44s Reply

basedtrombone Peanut Arbuckle

7m 1 like Reply

bloomie.exe Eva Braun

7m 2 likes Reply

youngromanov This is my mother. Krystal Methany.

7m 3 likes Reply

fathers_cum Lisa Burns

6m 1 like Reply

sattana__shitposting Don't block us ma'm

6m Reply

sattana__shitposting That's rude

5m Reply

sattana__shitposting She's called Margaret Thatcher btw

5m Reply

w_f_b_21 Breonna taylor

3m Reply

chloexbeth George Floyd

51s Reply

❤️ 🙌 🔥 👏 😢 😍 😮 😂

Add a comment as homegrownterrorists...

I blocked them and blocked them and blocked them, and they kept coming back en masse, “don’t block us, ma’am.”

I figured out how to only allow comments from followers, figuring they would stop. I also set a filter to block comments using the names they were posting.

8/x

From 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. I posted and amassed around 1,000 followers.

When I woke up at 8 a.m. on Thursday, there were 2,000.

9/x

Shoutouts from major influencers and celebrities came in, including @MeghanMcCain. By 8 p.m. there were 200,000. That’s when I began to get nervous.

10/x

Could the images I was sharing be traced back to an IP, publicly, through the metadata?

Or geolocation?

I archived posts.

These terrorists broke into the Capitol Building. They could break into my house.

11/x

Followers generously sent donations on Cash App, which I used to get a dedicated device and VPN.

I set the account to private get sorted and to hopefully get a better night’s sleep. (I didn’t.)

12/x

I woke up in the morning and began posting again. But I began to run into limits.

My account started showing these pop-ups on every page I opened in the Instagram app, including DMs — which were flooding in by the second.

13/x

homegrownterrorists



2
Posts

Followers

Following

Identify Homegrown Terrorists
fbi.gov/uscapitol/

Edit Profile

Sugg
Only
choos
Clear

New

Try Again Later

We limit how often you can do certain things on Instagram to protect our community. Tell us if you think we made a mistake.

Tell us

OK

Legal Issues
Dozens arrested after

move to impeach Trump if he doesn't resign 'immediately.'

Instagram contacts said, “The FBI is involved with it. That’s all I can say.”

I freaked out more. Is what I’m doing illegal?

Others at IG told me, “The FBI is involved. You’re not doing anything wrong. In fact, your probably safer.”

14/x



I spoke to a reporter at Vice News — and it was nice to talk to someone about it, but my headspace was fucked as the follow count surpassed 250,000.

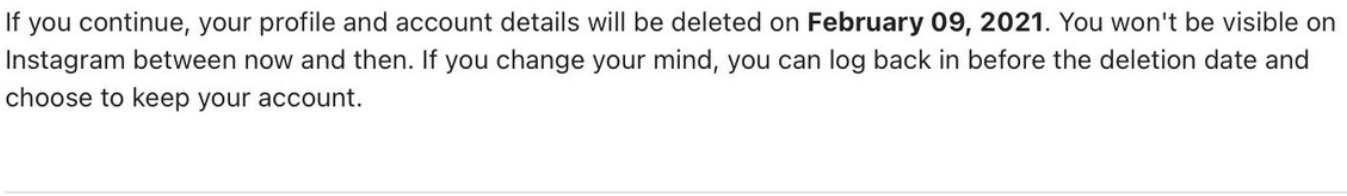
He suggested I get a temporary therapist to reveal all this to. (Not a bad idea! ■)

15/x

Still concerned, I deleted the account, knowing @Instagram let’s you reactivate it if you “change your mind” within 30 days.

Welp, when I went to log back in... @Instagram locked me out. I am still unable to reactivate @homegrownterrorists, despite what IG says.

16/x



I moved to the back up account (which was “nametheterrorists,” but I changed it to @OutTerrorists to match Twitter.)

I set up a new backup, which is still live at https://t.co/PtSWBp655z.

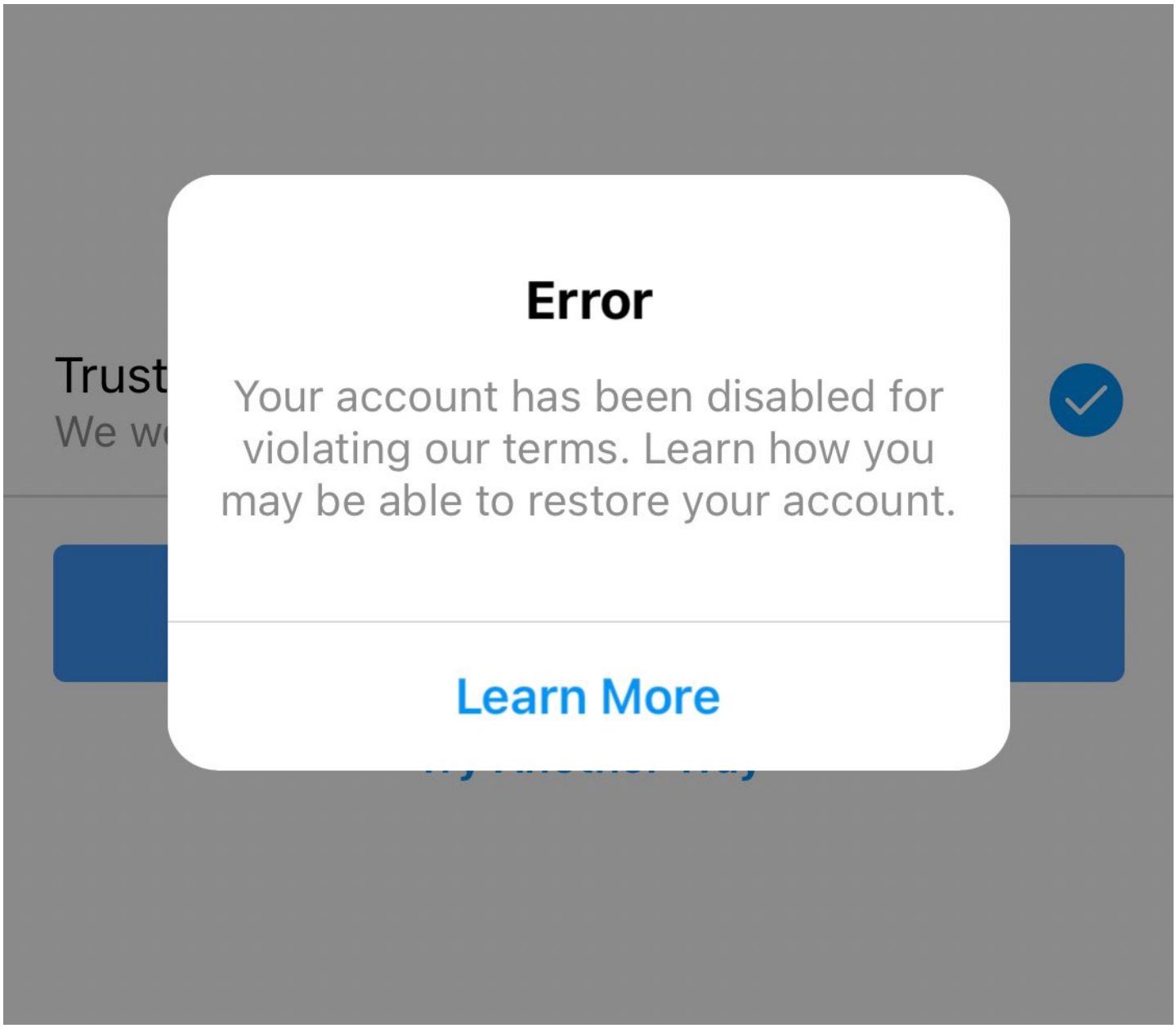
17/x



@OutTerrorists climbed to 60-65,000 followers and then was deactivated after posting info from Wimkin about the Million Militia March planned for Inauguration Day.

I still am locked out.

18/x



I have emailed a few emails at Facebook hoping to get back into either, but it seems like a lost cause at this point.

There are thousands of DMs with tips sitting in the accounts that cannot be recovered, it seems.

19/x

I was given your contact by an actress. I am trying to recover my accounts, @HomegrownTerrorists and @OutTerrorists to hand off to the FBI.

I deleted @HomegrownTerrorists temporarily and am unable to reenable when I login. Why is there not an option to reactivate it? I should be able to reactivate within 14 days. I attempted to fill out forms on FB, but they don't work.

Multiple FB employees have privately reached out to me and tried to help, alas, the methods have not worked.

•••

> There are hundreds to thousands of DMs and I want to make sure they get in the right hands; I'm not looking for trouble, just to cooperate.
>
> Thank you
> - @HomegrownTerrorists

The journalist I spoke with at Vice told me his FB contact sent him this:

“We aren’t seeing anything on our end that could be causing this. It might be helpful…to download the latest version of the app. The account is unavailable, confirming IG didn’t remove the account.”

20/x

That’s the story so far.

If you’ve got a contact at @instagram, gimme a shout in the DMs.

21/21 https://t.co/EPWQqKD2uo

> Hey, @instagram. \U0001f44b
>
> Can you please recover my accounts, @HomegrownTerrorists and @OutTerrorists, and help me to hand them off to @FBI/@FBIWFO?
>
> There are hundreds to thousands of DMs.
>
> cc: @Facebook
>
> — @HomegrownTerrorists (@OutTerrorists) January 9, 2021