



Monitoring and Analysis of Hateful Language in South Africa

Report #5:
June 13, 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

During the current period, several hate speech court cases made the news. Johannesburg-based businessman Adam Catzavelos made an appearance in court on May 28 for his hate speech case involving a leaked video in which he used the word 'kaffir' while on vacation in Greece. Additionally, the case against Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) official Bongani Masuku, who is accused of hate speech against the Jewish community, made headlines during the reporting period.

Another hate speech-related court case making the news during this period was that over Black First Land First's (BLF's) slogan 'Land or Death,' which was found to constitute hate speech by the Equality Court. This Court ordered BLF to remove the slogan from all of their social media platforms, materials, and website by early June. BLF has refused to follow the order, saying that their slogan is constitutionally protected political expression. The Freedom of Expression Institute assisted BLF in filing court papers on June 4 asking for the judgment by the Equality Court to be overturned.

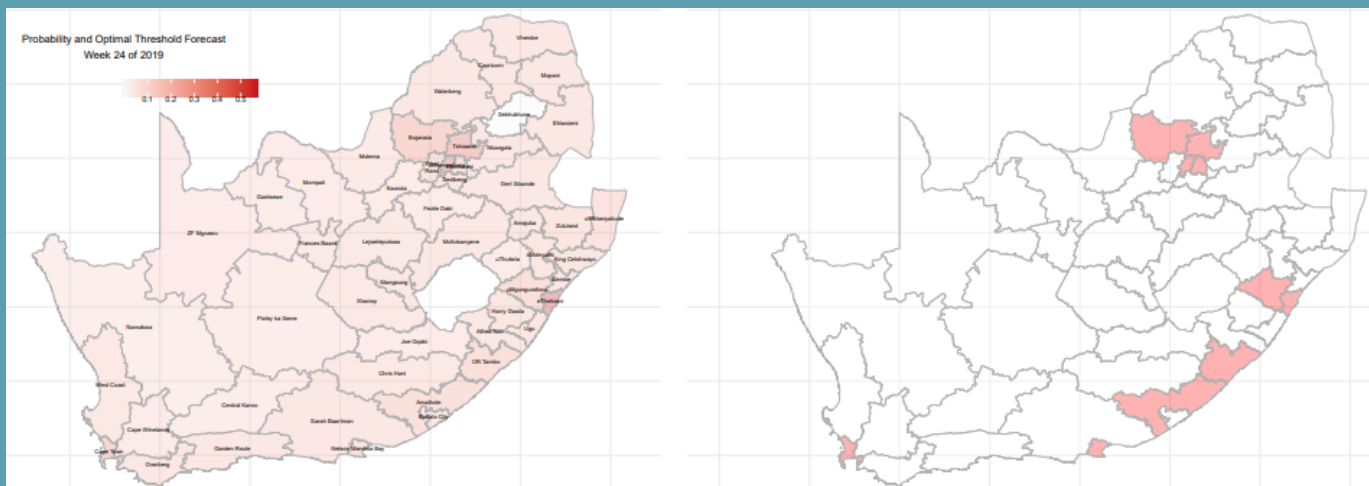
A violent event occurred on June 2 when a white wine farmer was killed in Western Cape. The man, Stefan Smit, previously faced a land occupation of his farm in August 2018 that led him to have the police evict the occupiers. The motive of his killing is unknown, but there is speculation that it is related to the land dispute and the broader issue of land appropriation.

EARLY WARNING OF CONFLICT

Week of June 11-17

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 June 11-17, 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 municipalities are Amathole, Bojanala, the City of Cape Town, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, the City of Johannesburg, Nelson Mandela Bay, OR Tambo, the City of Tshwane, and uMgungundlovu.



[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.](#)



8,542*

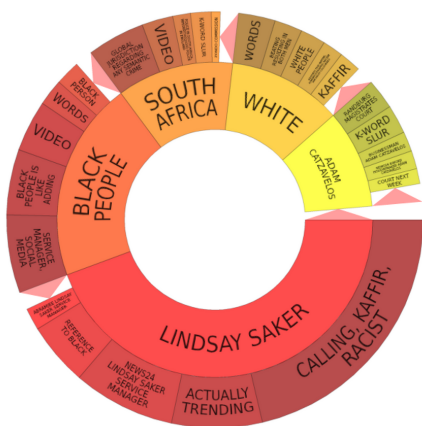
Total Number of Hateful Posts for South Africa for Current Period*

+26%

Change in Hateful Post Volume for Current Period Compared to Previous Two-Week Period

"KAFFIR"

Most Frequently Observed Inflammatory Term for Current Period



Trending Topics Linked to Most Frequently Observed Term

HATEFUL LANGUAGE DATA & ANALYSIS

May 24-June 6

During May 24-June 6, the volume of hateful posts increased by 26% from the previous two weeks, continuing a consistent upward trend in hateful content post-election. Much of the hateful language conversations are likely connected to the court cases and attack discussed above.

The inflammatory phrase that appeared most frequently in this period was 'kaffir.' The increased volume of this term is likely related to the Catzavelos case as the video in question shows him talking about how there was "not a kaffir in sight." This video went viral on social media. Catzavelos' next court appearance is scheduled for June 13, and the term may see another spike in online conversations around this date.

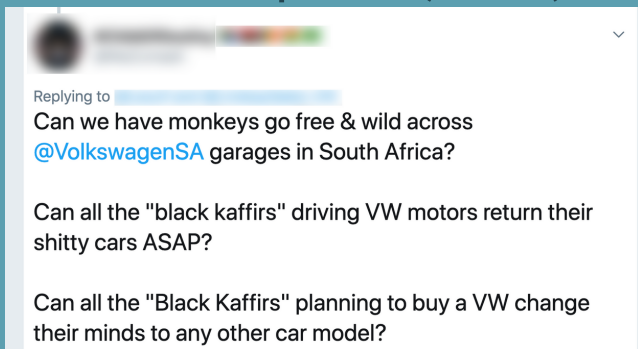
The second and third most common inflammatory phrases during this period were 'kill the whites' and 'umlungu.' This trend is likely linked to the farmer murder that occurred on June 2. The reports that this farmer's land had previously been illegally occupied by residents who had built informal shacks, and the speculation that the killing is linked to this, likely led to conversations around land appropriation which are known to spark use of these terms. The BLF court case is also closely connected to this issue and has likely played a part in the discussion.

*Number of posts drawn from Twitter posts monitored via Crimson Hexagon and Facebook posts monitored via Dataminr by analysts from Media Monitoring Africa.

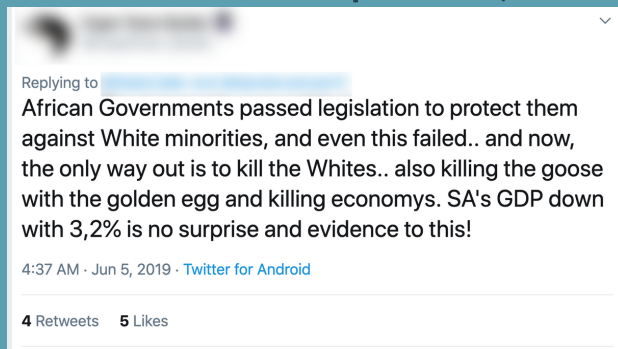
HATEFUL TERMS & PHRASES SAMPLE POSTS

May 24-June 6

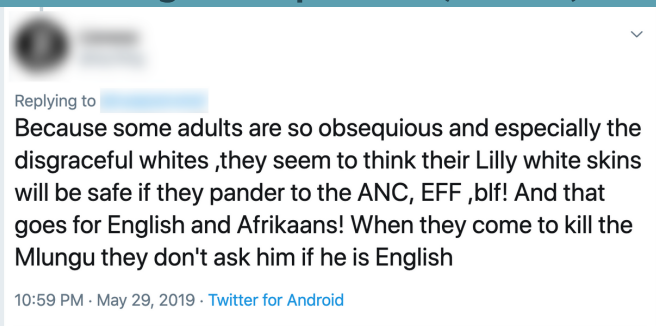
"Kaffir" Sample Post (Twitter)



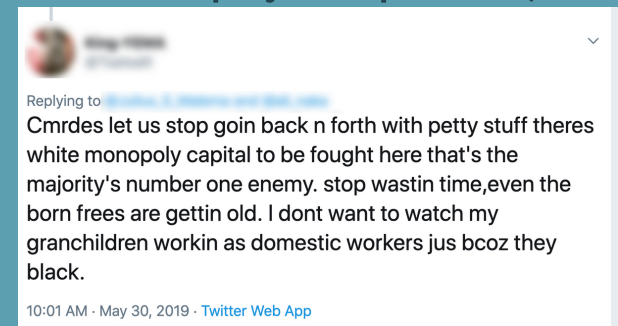
"Kill the Whites" Sample Post (Twitter)



"Mlungu" Sample Post (Twitter)



"White Monopoly" Sample Post (Twitter)



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