Vol. 04, No. 2, pp. 538-553 | DECEMBER 2024
DOI: https://doi.org/10.34118/jskp.v4i02.4055

Article history (leave this part):
Submission date: 2024-08-23
Acceptance date: 2024-12-13
Available online: 2024-12-23
Keywords:
: Social Media Platforms, Facebook, Content, Trend, Street Gangs.
Funding:
This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.
Competing interest:
The author(s) have declared that no **competing interests** exist.
Cite as (leave this part):
Keltoum GADJA, K. (2024). Tiltle . Journal of Science and Knowledge Horizons, 4(01), 424-439. https://doi.org/10.34118/jskp.v4i01.3874

The authors (2024). This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY NC) (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) , which permits non-commercial re-use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Journal of Science and Knowledge Horizons
ISSN 2800-1273-EISSN 2830-8379

Social Media Platforms and Combating Street Gangs in Algeria: An Analytical Study of the Content and Trends of 'Street Gangs Control 2' Facebook Page

Dr. rym fatiha Kaddouri

Ahmed Zabana University - Relizane (Algeria),
Rymfatiha.kaddouri@univ-relizane.dz
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1376-0319

Abstract:

This study sought to examine the role of social media platforms, specifically Facebook, in the efforts to combat and control street gangs in Algeria. Against the backdrop of the widespread

prevalence of street gangs across Algerian cities, community members have turned to social media platforms as a means to address the challenges that came along. In order to explore this topic, the study adopted the theoretical framework of the Public Sphere theory as proposed by Habermas. Employing a descriptive survey-based approach, the researchers conducted a content analysis at the primary level, focusing on an examination of posts from "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page.

The sample consisted of 79 posts, which were subjected to a detailed analysis. The findings shed light on the vital impact of social media platforms, particularly Facebook, on the fight against street gangs in Algeria. "Street Gangs Control 2" page was found to disseminate negative content and trends, characterized by labeling gang members as "delinquents" with the aim of revealing their identities and locations. However, the page lacked an accompanying focus on preventive measures or initiatives. Moreover, the analyzed Facebook page fell short in terms of raising awareness about strategies and mechanisms to prevent the proliferation of street gangs. Instead, it resorted to a form of public shaming by exposing the identities and whereabouts of individuals suspected to be affiliated with these gangs.

Vol. 04, No. 2, pp. 538-553 | DECEMBER 2024
DOI: https://doi.org/10.34118/jskp.v4i02.4055

Despite the high level of interactivity observed on "Street Gangs Control 2" page and its utilization of diverse media formats, including videos, images, and text, to disseminate
content, it failed to contribute effectively to the prevention of this phenomenon. In fact, it transgressed legal boundaries, encouraged immoral conduct, and encroached upon the privacy of individuals involved.

*** Dr. rym fatiha Kaddouri**

Introduction:

In recent years, Algerian society has witnessed a surge in violence and the proliferation of street gangs, which have perpetrated a wide array of crimes ranging from intimidation and terrorization of residents to theft, as well as drug trafficking and consumption. In many instances, these gang-related crimes escalate to homicide, instilling fear and unsafety within the community.

In response to the alarming rise in gang-related crimes, the Algerian government enacted the "Anti-Gang Law" under Official Gazette No. 20-03, issued on August 31, 2020. This legislation imposes severe penalties, including prison sentences of up to 20 years, and life imprisonment in cases involving homicide.

Furthermore, Algeria has adopted a National Strategy for the Prevention of the Formation of Street Gangs, which spans from 2023 to 2026. This strategy, overseen by a National Committee, aims to implement mechanisms for vigilance, early warning, detection, information dissemination, and awareness, in addition to ensuring safety (Ikhbariya, 2023).

Despite the efforts of the Algerian government, gangs continue to operate almost untouched, instilling fear and a sense of danger among residents. This ongoing threat has prompted the Algerian community to mobilize against the menace of urban street gangs, leveraging social media platforms—particularly Facebook—to expose gang activities and identify gang members. This initiative aligns with the culture of reporting encouraged by Algerian authorities as a vital tool for combating crime.

1. Background and Significance of the Study:

1.1 Research Problem and Questions:

Social media platforms proved to be an important tool for Algerian society in its fight against street gangs, as it provided the community with the ability to report crimes and identify gang members. Numerous Facebook pages and groups have been created, sharing videos, photos, and news about street gangs across various Algerian cities.

We believe that the reliance of many individuals within the community on social media platforms, particularly Facebook, to combat the phenomenon of street gangs is due to the importance and prominence of these platforms—especially Facebook—and their vast reach and substantial influence when it comes to addressing social issues.

Over the years, several pages become active in the fight against street gangs. The most prominent and well-known of these is the Facebook page "Street Gangs Control 2".

Given the widespread presence of street gangs in various Algerian cities and the community's use of social media, particularly Facebook, to combat these gangs,

the central question this study seeks to answer is: **What is the role of social media platforms (Facebook) in combating street gangs in Algeria?**

Our study raises several key research questions, which are outlined as follows:

1. What are the most important topics published on the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page during the period of this research?
2. What are the trends and objectives of the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page?
3. What publishing mediums and formats (texts, images, videos, links, etc.) are most commonly used on the "Street Gangs Control 2" page?
4. What level of engagement does "Street Gangs Control 2" enjoy through likes, shares, and comments?
5. What is the legal perspective on the issue of publishing videos, photos, and comments that reveal the identities, personal information, and addresses of individuals suspected of being gang members?

1.2 Objectives of the Study:

- To examine the content of the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page.
- To understand the trends and goals of the posts on the page.
- To identify the most commonly used formats (texts, images, videos, links) for publishing on the page.
- To assess the level of engagement among the followers of the page through likes, shares, and comments.
- To explore the legal perspective on the issue of publishing videos, photos, and comments that reveal the identities, personal information, and addresses of individuals suspected of being gang members.

1.3 Significance of the Study:

The significance of our study stems from the critical and pressing nature of the street gang phenomenon, which has become a significant concern for Algerian society. Additionally, the study highlights the importance of social media platforms, which have increasingly played a pivotal role in influencing society and addressing its issues.

1.4 Scope of the Study:

- **Setting:** The study is focused on Facebook, specifically the "Street Gangs Control 2" page.
- **Time:** The study was conducted during the period from April 27, 2023, to May 30, 2023.
- **Application:** The analytical study was carried out on a selection of posts from the aforementioned Facebook page during the period from March 7, 2023, to April 29, 2023.

1.4 Key Concepts and Definitions:

Social Media Platforms: This term refers to a group of websites on the internet that emerged with the second generation of the web. Their main function is to allow individuals to communicate within a virtual community that brings them together through shared interests or networks of affiliation. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube are among the most popular and widely used social media platforms.

Several definitions have been proposed for social media platforms, with one of the most notable being provided by researcher Esther Dyson, who defined the term as: "Websites that allow individuals to introduce themselves and participate in social networks. They facilitate the creation of various social relationships centered around a shared interest. These networks consist of a group of actors who communicate with one another within a defined system, such as friendships, joint ventures, or information exchange. Their existence is maintained through the continued interaction of members" (Torloting, 2006).

Facebook: A social networking website that allows individuals and entities (such as companies) to establish their presence and enhance their standing by using its tools to connect with others within the platform and across other social media platforms (Ghassan & Mokdadi, 2013, p. 34).

The Dictionary of Media and Communication defines Facebook as: "A social networking website established in 2004 that allows users to display and develop personal profiles. Initially designed to serve university students, faculty, and staff, it later expanded to include the general public" (Dans, 2009, p. 117).

Content: In this context, the term "content" (Madhmūn) refers to the substance or material contained within something. It is defined as the essence or meaning of speech, what is understood from it, with the plural being "Madāmīn" (Al-Ma'ani, 2023). Operationally in this study, it refers to all forms through which the published content on the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page is presented.

Trend: This term refers to the stance or direction of phrases, ideas, or words—essentially the units of analysis—regarding the issue or issues under investigation. It always lies between two opposing poles: absolute support and absolute opposition, with neutrality in between (Thimar, 2017, p. 142).

Street Gangs: According to the Contemporary Arabic Language Dictionary, a "gang" (ʿiṣāba) is a group of people, neighbors, or birds. It is now commonly used to refer to an organized group of criminals. The term is used in phrases like "the gang of thieves was arrested" or "the smuggling gang was uncovered" (Mukhtar, 2008).

Algerian law defines street gangs as "Any group, under any name, composed of two or more persons belonging to one or more residential neighborhoods, that commits one or more acts with the aim of creating an atmosphere of unsafety within residential areas or any other space, or with the intent to impose control

over them by physically or psychologically assaulting others, endangering their lives, freedom, or security, or harming their property, while carrying or using visible or concealed white arms. Psychological assault includes any verbal attack that can instill fear or terror in others, such as threats, insults, defamation, intimidation, or deprivation of rights" (Algerian Official Gazette , 2020).

Street Gangs Control 2 Facebook Page:

The "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page is an unofficial and unverified page not affiliated with any official entity. The page publishes posts aimed at revealing the identities of street gang members across various Algerian cities, disclosing their locations, and documenting their criminal activities. The page has a following of 177,000 users (Street Gangs, 2023).

Figure 01: "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook Page

2. Social Media Platforms as Public Spheres

This study is grounded in the theory of the public sphere, as articulated by German philosopher Jürgen Habermas in his thesis published in 1960, titled "The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society." Habermas explored the emergence of the bourgeois public sphere in 18th-century England, a period that also witnessed the birth of the Press. The press served as a tool for political authority to disseminate decrees, news about security, court proceedings, and product prices. Additionally, public spaces such as cafes, salons, and clubs emerged, where bourgeois individuals exchanged opinions and engaged in discussions on art, theater, and literature (Gingras, 2009, p. 14).

Habermas conceptualized the public sphere as an intermediate domain that historically formed during the Enlightenment between civil society and the state—a space accessible to all citizens. It is a forum where the public convenes to express and form public opinion. Bernard Miège further notes that the organization of the public sphere has evolved through four models of communication: first, opinion journalism, followed by mass commercial journalism, then mass audiovisual media, and finally, mass television. Fulton

asserts that the public sphere symbolizes the reality of democracy in action and practice, emphasizing that its existence cannot be decreed or established as though organizing an election (Ben Safia, 2011).

Habermas noted that the success of the public sphere depends on several key factors (Alawneh, 2012):

1. **Accessibility and Reach.**
2. **Autonomy:** Citizens must be free from control, domination, and coercion, allowing them to act independently.
3. **Rejection of Strategic Behavior:** All participants should engage on equal footing, without manipulative tactics.
4. **Clarity and Trust in Media Content:** The information disseminated should be understandable, reliable, and transparent.
5. **Appropriate Social Context.**

The major communication revolution that occurred and the advent of new electronic media technologies, especially the Internet, have contributed to the emergence of a new social public sphere that aligns with Habermas's ideal.

The rise of new media has rekindled academic discourse on the public sphere, with many scholars viewing new media as a precursor to establishing a "public sphere." This is due to its ability to create a multidimensional space that accommodates various forms of interaction (both individual and collective), new modes of writing (such as blogging), and traditional communication models that persist in the virtual realm, like advertising and marketing. Within this space, various actors, including economic institutions and political parties, are actively engaged (Hamami, 2011).

If the public sphere, as described by Habermas, is a domain where dialogue, discussion, and the exchange of opinions about public affairs and political and social issues occur—a space where citizens and politicians can communicate and interact to discuss various societal issues—then the communicative spaces of the Internet are a tangible realization of what Habermas envisioned (Baaziz, 2011).

Thus, we can agree on the principle that social media platforms, particularly Facebook, represent a public sphere where a wide range of societal issues, topics, and phenomena are presented and discussed. These discussions span the spectrum of society, from ordinary citizens to journalists, officials, and politicians.

3. Methodology and Results:

3.1 Methodology of the Study:

Approach: This research falls under the category of exploratory studies and employs a descriptive-analytical approach, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative content analysis techniques. The descriptive method is defined as "a method that seeks to describe the reality of problems and phenomena in studies

without alterations, establishing criteria for the depicted reality. Descriptive research focuses on existing conditions, relationships, practices, beliefs, perspectives, attitudes, and values among people" (Al-Nuaimi & Al, 2015, p. 227). The study employs first-level content analysis, a quantitative research method that originated in the fields of media and political science. Some researchers and specialists refer to this as content analysis.

Study Population: The population of the study comprises the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page on the social media platform Facebook.

Study Sample: Given the difficulty of cataloging all posts on the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page, a purposive sample was selected to best serve the research objectives. The sample included all posts from March 7, 2023, the first post on March, to April 29, 2023, the last post on April. The total study sample comprised 79 posts, which were subjected to analysis.

It is worth noting that 69 posts from March were analyzed, while only 10 posts from April were included. The lower number of posts in April is attributed to the month of Ramadan, during which there was a noticeable decline in posts. This may be due to the decreased activity of street gangs during the holy month of Ramadan.

Reasons and Criteria Behind Population and Sample Selection:

- The "Street Gangs Control 2" page is one of the most followed pages on Facebook, with 177,000 followers at the time of conducting this study.
- The page is also prominent in terms of the number of posts, views, and engagement from followers, compared to other similar pages.

Research Tools:

a. Content Analysis Form:

This study relied on a content analysis form designed to quantitatively and qualitatively describe the nature of content related to street gangs in Algeria on Facebook. A specialized tool (content analysis form) was systematically developed to analyze the "Street Gangs Control 2" page. It was structured around the “post” being the unit of analysis.

b. Structured Interview:

A structured interview was employed to understand the legal perspective on the issue of publishing videos, photos, and comments that reveal the identities, personal details, and residential addresses of those suspected to be members of gangs (Baghsham, 2023). Despite several attempts to conduct an interview with the administrators of "Street Gangs Control 2", we received no response and were unable to establish contact.

Validity and Reliability Tests:

a. Validity

Validity refers to verifying that the content analysis form indeed measures what it is intended to measure (Ben Taba, 2015). To ensure the validity of the study's instrument, the face validity method was used. The analytical tool was presented to a group of media and communication professors to assess its suitability for achieving the objectives of the study and its ability to answer the research questions. Based on the feedback from these experts, necessary adjustments were made, and the tool was finalized for implementation.

b. Reliability:

Reliability refers to the consistency of content analysis results when checked by different examiners using the same measurement tool (Thimar, 2017, p. 158). A reliability test was conducted with two examiners to measure the consistency of the analysis results using the overall scale. The reliability test was applied to 40 posts from the total study sample. Holsti's Index was used to determine the level of agreement between the researcher and two other examining researchers. The researcher was designated as "A," the first judge as "B," and the second judge as "C," with the following equation applied:

$$\mathrm{T} = \frac{\mathrm{N(average\ agreement\ between\ examiners)}}{\mathrm{N1 + N2 + N3\ (total\ cases)}}$$

A, B = 37÷40 = 0.92
A, C = 34÷40 = 0.85
B, C = 36÷40 = 0.90
Overall reliability (T) is:

$$T = \frac{37 + 34 + 36}{120} = 0.89$$

Holsti's Index show that the reliability rate reached (0.89), which is a high. This indicates the reliability of the content analysis tool, the clarity of its categories, and its suitability for data collection.

3.2 Results and Discussion:

3.2.1. Results of the Analysis:

Most Common Type of Content on "Street Gangs Control 2": Content and topics on the page were diverse. Reports on the locations of street gang members and revealing their identities were the most frequent, accounting for 51.89% of the overall content. This was followed by other subjects, including topics related to witchcraft and sorcery, e-commerce fraud, the abaya, and threats and dangers to social values. Furthermore, there were news from the Ministry of Justice, murder or arrest cases, awareness about the dangers of drugs, Crtique directed at the TV series "Al-Dama," Anas Tina...etc. This is illustrated in the following table:

Table (1) Topics and content on the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook Page.

Street Gangs Control 2 Content		
Sub-categories	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Crimes committed by street gangs against individuals or families	3	%3.79
Reporting the locations of street gang members and revealing their identities	41	%51.89
Awareness about the importance of confronting neighborhood gangs	5	%6.32
Initiatives	0	%0
Requesting intervention from the authorities	1	%1.26
Others	29	%36.70
Total	**79**	**%100**

Content related to awareness of the importance of confronting street gangs ranked third at 6.32%, followed by content revealing crimes committed by said gangs against individuals or families at 3.79%. Content requesting intervention from the authorities accounted for 1.26%, while there was no content calling for initiatives.

Street Gangs Control 2 Page Trends:

In our attempt to explore the trends on the Street Gangs Control 2 page, we found that the majority of the content is negative, accounting for 68.35%, while positive content accounted for 16.45%. This is illustrated in the following table:

Table (2) Trends on the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page.

Trends on the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page		
Subcategories	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Negative	54	%68.35
Positive	13	%16.45
Neutral	6	%7.59
Uncategorized	6	%7.59
Total	**79**	**%100**

The previous table indicates that neutral content and content with an unspecified direction/trend both accounted for an equal percentage of 7.59%.

Objectives of the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook Page:

The posts on the "Street Gangs Control 2" page were characterized by their primarily aim being raising awareness, with 50.63% of the content dedicated to this purpose. Content with multiple objectives (awareness, warnings to individuals, threats to members of street gangs) accounted for 32.91%. There were

no posts aimed at prevention, while warning posts made up 13.92%. This is illustrated in the following table:

Table (3) Objectives of the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook Page

Objectives of the "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook Page		
Subcategories	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Prevention	0	%0
Warning	11	%13.92
Awareness	40	%50.63
Threatening	2	%2.53
Multiple	26	%32.91
Total	**79**	**%100**

Publishing Mediums and Formats of "Street Gangs Control 2": The posts on the "Street Gangs Control 2" primarily relied on videos, which accounted for 46.83% of the content. This was followed by images at 39.24%, and texts at 13.92%. Other methods, such as illustrations, cartoons, and links, were not used. This is illustrated in the following table:

Table (4) Common publishing mediums used by "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page.

Common publishing mediums used by "Street Gangs Control 2"		
Subcategories	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Videos	37	%46.83
Images	31	%39.24
Illustrations	0	%0
Caricatures	0	%0
Links	0	%0
Texts	11	%13.92
Total	**79**	**%100**

Engagement as Measured by Likes on the Posts of "Street Gangs Control 2"

The " Street Gangs Control 2" page on Facebook is characterized by high levels of engagement through the "Like" feature, with a rate of 91.13%. This is illustrated in the following table:

Table (5) Engagement as Measured by Likes on Posts from the "Street Gang Control 2"

Engagement as Measured by Likes on Posts from the "Street Gang Control 2"

Subcategories	Frequency	Percentage
Limited (0-250)	1	%1.26
Average (251-400)	6	%7.59
High (أكثر من 400)	72	%91.13
Total	**79**	**%100**

Share Rate of Posts from the "Street Gangs Control 2":
Engagement through the share feature is divided into three categories: A high rate of 54.43%, limited rate at 32.91%, and moderate at 12.65%. This is illustrated in the following table:

Table (6) Share Rate of Posts from "Street Gangs Control 2"

Share Rate of Posts from "Street Gang Control 2"		
Subcategories	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Limited (0-15)	26	%32.91
Moderate (16-30)	10	%12.65
High (أكثر من 30)	43	%54.43
Total	79	%100

Engagement through Comments on Posts from "Street Gangs Control 2":
The interaction rate of followers with the page through comments is 44.30%, which is considered high. A limited rate of engagement stands at 30.37% and average at 25.31%. This is illustrated in the following table:

Table (7) Engagement through Comments on "Street Gangs Control 2" Posts

Engagement through Comments on "Street Gangs Control 2" Posts		
Subcategories	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Limited (0-23)	24	%30.37
Average (36-70)	20	%25.31
High (أكثر من 70)	35	%44.30
Total	79	%100

3.2.2 The "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook Page in the Eyes of the Law:
An equally important part of our study is seeking professional legal opinions regarding the content of the studied page. That is naturally due to the latter publishing videos and images revealing the identities, personal information, and addresses of those suspected of being gang members. (Baghsham, 2023) states: "The contribution of the community to fighting crime is legally mandated as long as individual interventions do not cause harm or damage interests. Fighting crime

should only be conducted through legal means, except in cases permitted by the law."

The law allows individuals who want to assist the justice department and law enforcement in combating crime to report and notify these authorities of any suspicious behavior. It permits individuals to commit a crime to prevent another crime only in the case of legitimate self-defense, where the elements and conditions of self-defense are extensively met.

In our study, we find that the page errs in believing it is aiding justice, when, in fact, the page does not follow legal procedures for reporting and notifying authorities but rather engages in defamation against individuals and minors.

- **Not a Crime Unless Committed:**

(Baghsham, 2023) adds that the law prohibits photographing a person in a public or private place or defaming them without their consent or prior permission from the relevant authorities. Publishing images of individuals as if they are committing or planning to commit a crime constitutes a crime against them because a crime is only a crime when committed.

- **Innocent Until Proven Guilty:**

The Algerian constitution and law consider a person innocent until proven guilty by a judicial verdict from a legal authority. The administrators publishing on the "Street Gang Control 2" page tend to make accusations without actual proof. The law further asserts that a child cannot be defamed even if convicted (Baghsham, 2023).

- **Encouraging Criminal Conduct:**

(Baghsham, 2023) confirms that "Publishing such videos and images is spreading vice and encouraging others to engage in similar behaviors. The 'Street Gang Control 2' page thus becomes more of a promotional tool rather than a suppression tool and serves as a mechanism for revenge among criminals."

In conclusion, we observe that the " Street Gang Control 2" page and similar pages fundamentally rely on exposing the identities and addresses of those suspected of being gang members, which is illegal and constitutes a crime against the affected individuals.

3.3 Discussion in Light of the Research Questions:

Based on what we previously discussed, we can say:

The "Street Gangs Control 2" page falls within the realm of citizen journalism, despite the anonymity of the page's founders and administrators and our lack of knowledge about the sources of their posts.

Facebook has provided a public space for the Algerian audience to address and discuss the phenomenon of street gangs.

While some might think that the "Street Gangs Control 2" page aligns with a culture of crime reporting, we express our reservations towards this belief due to

several violations of the law committed by the page. This could make the page and its administrators liable to legal action under Algerian law.

The "Street Gangs Control 2" page primarily uses Algerian dialect to present its content, with only a few posts utilizing Modern Standard Arabic, and we have observed no use of French or English. This has contributed to the page attracting a large number of followers.

The term "al-‘uryaan" (meaning "one without clothes") (Al-Ma'ani, 2023) is among the most frequently used words to describe gang members in the posts of the page. This description enjoys widespread use and generates significant engagement. An example of this is illustrated in the following image:

Figure (02) The Term “al-‘uryaan” Being Used to Refer to an Individual

Regarding the content of the page, we find that most of it revolves around reporting the locations of potential gang members and revealing their personal identities. The page also features other content including: Magic and sorcery, E-commerce fraud, traditional attire and the fight for traditional values. It also contains news such as: Ministry of Justice decrees, murder cases or arrests, awareness about the dangers of drugs, criticism towards TV series like "Al-Dama," Anas Tina... etc.).

It is evident that this page focuses on content related to combating street gangs and related topics. We believe that the content of the "Street Gangs Control 2" page on Facebook falls under security-related content.

The content of “Street Gangs Control 2" adopts a negative approach by focusing on revealing the locations and identities of gang members, with only a limited number of posts featuring positive content that encourages practical means to combat street gangs.

The objectives of the page's content are varied. They include raising awareness about the locations and identities of gang members, combining threats directed at gang members with warnings for followers about these gangs.
However, there is a lack of a preventive dimension and practical solutions. Posts with a preventive aim, such as those detailing ways to handle encounters with gangs, emergency contact numbers for security services like the green number, or posts about security apps and how to use them, such as the Police App, are notably absent.
The "Street Gangs Control 2" Facebook page relies on multimedia tools, specifically (videos, images, and texts), while other tools such as links, graphics, and illustrations are notably absent.
The page enjoys a high level of engagement, as evidenced by the number of likes, shares, comments, and views, with interaction exceeding 1,000 diverse engagements across these features.

Conclusion:

The results of our study highlight the negative role of social media networks (Facebook) in combating street gangs in Algeria.
The "Street Gangs Control 2" page disseminates negative content and does not focus on raising awareness, nor does it offer any preventive measures against gang-related crimes. It also does not offer any initiatives. Instead, it engages in defamation by revealing the identities and locations of individuals suspected of being gang members.
Despite its very high levels of engagement, and its use of multimedia tools (video, images, text) for content distribution, it does not contribute to preventing the phenomenon. Rather, it contravenes the law, encourages immoral behavior, provokes similar actions, and, most importantly, violates privacy.
This leads us to assert that street gangs have been and continue to be a serious social issue that requires concerted efforts between community members and the authorities. However, it is crucial that individual contributions through social media are made with an awareness of the dangers of the phenomenon and within the framework of promoting a culture of crime reporting. This reporting must adhere to legal procedures, ensuring that it does not conflict with public interests or with the private interests of individuals, so that any risk of danger or legal repercussions may be avoided.

References:

1. Alawneh, H. S. (2012). The Role of Social Media in Motivating Jordanian Citizens to Participate in the Hirak Movement. *Paper presented for the seventeenth scientific conference entitled "Culture of Change". Faculty of Arts / Philadelphia University.* Amman.
2. Algerian Official Gazette . (2020, August 30). *51*. Algiers.

3. Al-Ma'ani. (2023, May 3). *El-madhmoun in the Arabic lexicon of meanings - Arabic-Arabic Dictionary*. Retrieved from Al-Ma'ani: https://www.almaany.com/ar/dict/ar-ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B6%D9%85%D9%88%D9%86/
4. Al-Nuaimi, M. A.-A., & Al, E. (2015). *Scientific research methods and approaches* (Vol. 2). Amman: Al Warraq Publishing and Distribution.
5. Baaziz, B. (2011). The role of new media in the transformation of receiver into messenger and the emergence of citizen journalism. *Arab Broadcasting Union Magazine, 3*, 47-56.
6. Baghsham, Z. (2023, May 14). Professor of Criminal Law, University of Relizane. (R. F. Kaddouri, Interviewer)
7. Ben Safia, A. (2011). Media and Civil Society in the Public Sphere. *Arab Broadcasting Union Magazine, 4*, 9-19.
8. Ben Taba, M. E. (2015). Content Analysis in Communication Research: An Approach to Challenges and Difficulties. *Journal of Social Studies and Research, 13/14*, 326.
9. Dans, M. (2009). *Dictionary of media and communication.* New york: ME.Sarpe.
10. Ghassan, K., & Mokdadi, Y. (2013). *The Social Media Revolution.* Amman: Dar Al-Nafaas for Publishing and Distribution.
11. Gingras, A. M. (2009). *Media and democracy: the great misunderstanding.* Québec: PU.
12. Hamami, S. (2011). New Media and the Public Sphere, Revival and Rebirth. *Arabic Broadcasting Magazine, 3*, 15-29.
13. Ikhbariya. (2023, April 14). *Algeria adopts a national strategy to combat street gangs*. Retrieved 2023 ,3, from Ikhbariya, Sofiane Sahnoun: https://elikhbaria.dz/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%AA%D8%A8%D9%86%D9%89-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%84%D9%88%D9%82%D8%A7/
14. Mukhtar, O. A. (2008). *Dictionary of Contemporary Arabic* (Vol. 1). Cairo: World of the Books.
15. Street Gangs, S. (2023). Retrieved from https://web.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100050413482965
16. Thimar, Y. (2017). *Research Methods and Techniques in Media-Communication Studies.* Algiers: Office of University Publications.
17. Torloting, P. (2006). *Challenges and prospects for social media platforms*. Retrieved from chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/http://www.phive-online.com/divers/reseau_social/Memoire_Reseaux_Sociaux_Philippe_Torloting.pdf