



## The Leading Question

Welcome to The Leading Question, an initiative of [Internews](#). Each month, we explore a question about the state of today's media and connect you to the people who are shaping the answer.

### This Month's Leading Question: Summer break's never long enough - what'd I miss?

As kids head back to school, the weather cools, and we all return to our desks, catching up on updates and important news can be daunting. We've gathered our top stories from this spring and summer for a quick recap of recent insight from Internews.

### New Internews report finds key Meta system for reporting harmful content has serious flaws

[Internews' new report](#) on the effectiveness of Meta's Trusted Partner program – a critical tool for keeping Meta's products safe and protecting users from harm – finds the program to be significantly under-resourced and understaffed.

*"The report's conclusions fit with previous leaks and reports on Meta's global priorities. Trusted partners are particularly important outside of North America and Europe, where users can't rely on content being constantly checked by AI and thousands of human Meta moderators," [wrote The Verge](#) in recent coverage of the report.*

META / TECH / FACEBOOK

#### Meta accused of ignoring reports on dangerous content

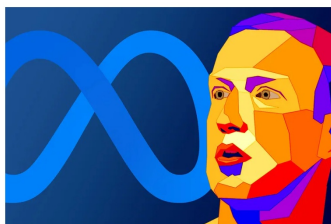


Photo by Gaydon Blackman / The Verge

/ So-called trusted partners can flag death threats and incitements of violence. Facebook and Instagram promise to act quickly but fail to deliver, claims nonprofit Internews.

By Simon Hutz

Aug 7, 2023, 11:39 AM EDT | 2 Comments / 2 New



### [Meta accused of ignoring reports on dangerous content](#) By Simon Hutz, The Verge

### How can we respond to the URGENT threats faced by independent media?

There is an unprecedented level of uncertainty about the survival of free, ethical journalism. If we are to protect independent media and preserve their role as stalwarts of democracy, human rights, and freedom of speech, we need bold strategies that address their urgent financial and infrastructural needs.

A new research report, [URGENT: Understanding and Responding to Global News Threats](#), commissioned by Internews and authored by Dr. Courtney Radsch, suggests a path forward. If you are a media professional, a government official, a business leader, or a citizen worried about the future of independent journalism – this report is worth your time.



## [URGENT: Understanding and Responding to Global News Threats](#)

### **Internews, Microsoft, USAID launch pioneering digital tool to help independent media compete more effectively for audience and revenue**

In March, Internews announced a new public-private partnership with [Microsoft](#) and [USAID](#) to develop the [Media Viability Accelerator](#), a web-based platform to help independent news media around the world become financially sustainable - a critical step at a time when local media outlets face extinction and news deserts proliferate.

Microsoft's Vice Chair and President Brad Smith and USAID Administrator Samantha Power joined Internews President and CEO Jeanne Bourgault [at the announcement event](#).



### [Announcing the Media Viability Accelerator](#)

### **Independent media and democratic backsliding**

Internews' President and CEO Jeanne Bourgault recently [penned this op-ed for CEPPS](#) - a consortium of organizations advancing and supporting democratic practices and institutions - in which she tackles the issues of countering disinformation, building trust in the media, and more ways we can help prevent democratic backsliding. She writes that *"No one is exempt from this 'infodemic.' Every problem faced by humanity - the climate crisis, new wars, unpredictable technological leaps - must be met with a commitment to protecting quality information."* [Read Jeanne's op-ed here](#).



### [Independent Media and Democratic Backsliding](#) By Jeanne Bourgault, Internews CEO

### **Supporting People in Sudan**

The brutal fighting in Sudan has led to hundreds of deaths and sparked a major humanitarian crisis. With few options to access verified information they can trust, individuals must make life-changing decisions to cross borders, find safe shelter, and seek reliable healthcare. Information is everywhere, but people struggle to determine what is true, false, or potentially fatal.

In this incredibly difficult context, Internews' response is being informed by our local partners in the region. More below:



### [Supporting People in Sudan](#)

## **Supporting Afghanistan's media sector**

Internews is committed to ensuring the survival of Afghanistan's once-vibrant media sector. Internews will continue supporting independent radio, TV, and online media outlets - both inside and outside of the country - to stay open, protect staff, adapt business models, and access additional funding.

Here's what we're doing to help:



### [Internews in Afghanistan: An Update](#)

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**To suggest a question for a future issue of The Leading Question — or to let us know how we are doing — please visit the form below:**

[\*\*Submit a Question\*\*](#)



## **Internews**

P.O. Box 4448, 95518, Arcata, California, USA

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