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Secret Service Probing Facebook Poll That Asked Whether Obama Should Be Killed

'Should Obama Be Assassinated?' Poll Pulled from Facebook Site

By **PIERRE THOMAS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28, 2009



145 comments

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The Secret Service is investigating the origins of a poll that appeared on Facebook that asked whether President Obama should be killed.

Posted over the weekend, the poll was removed by Facebook after the Secret Service received a tip and contacted the company, which was not aware of the survey, sources tell ABC News.

"When the Secret Service became aware of the poll we worked with Facebook to have it taken down and are conducting an investigation," said a spokesman for the Secret Service.

The poll asked: "Should Obama be killed?" The answer choices: "No," "Maybe," "Yes" and "Yes if he cuts my health care."

The online survey asked if President Obama should be killed.

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The Secret Service will be reaching out to the person who developed and posted the poll to determine intent.

As the health care debate intensified over the summer, [experts tracking hate groups expressed](#)

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concern over what they described as violent rhetoric and "a genuine backlash" against the president.

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According to a spokesman for Facebook, the poll was created by an independent person using an add-on application.

"The third-party application that enabled an individual user to create the offensive poll was brought to our attention this morning," Barry Schnitt, Facebook's spokesman for policy, told The Associated Press.

He told the AP that the application was taken down.

"We're working with the U.S. Secret Service," Schnitt said.

Facebook social plugin showing sharing statistics: 2208 people shared this, 19067 people shared this, 2124 people shared this, 636 people shared this.

Politics News



EXCLUSIVE: Administration Vows No New Offshore Drilling Until Investigation Experts say BP incident is likely to slow things down on the legislation front.

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Member Comments (145)

The 1st amendment of course is a critical institution that has to be preserved- BUT- there are certain situations where it DOES NOT apply- a case in point, one cannot yell "Fire" in a theater when there is no fire- it is a crime; one cannot tell their neighbor, "I'm so mad at you I am going to shoot you tomorrow"- that is a Felony and called a "Terrorist Threat." under the law. - So there are certain situations where the 1st Amendment is not applicable and for good reason. A "threat" can be made directly, indirectly and/or by Association. One walks a fine line when it involves the President of the United States in doing so. It is my opinion this President is more at risk that many prior. Race is an issue with Racists, some feel he is not a Citizen and many feel his policies and what he is doing to the Country is a horrible thing. I disagree, but I am just 1 person and I respect the right's of others to disagree. I draw the line when these "Hate Sites" promote violence or threats against anyone, especially Our President; i.e. either Directly, Indirectly or by Direct Association- it is a very serious matter and to me, and crosses the line of free speech. The "Hate Site" (one of them) that involved a Prayer concerning the Death of other's this week on Facebook and related President O'Bama to it in the manner it was, was a Direct Threat of Death by Direct Association. Is this entertainment as many have stated as such? Entertainment is going to a movie, a game, a vacation, not statements relating to the Death of Our President. It is sick and I believe should be taken very

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seriously- I can tell you (ok I will qualify I believe) the Secret Service is not taking this as entertainment as well. My opinion as one concerned citizen.
acemusician Apr-25

For those of you mentioning the "kill Bush" movie, do you at all see the hypocrisy in your posts? You are upset about the fact that there was no outcry against that movie, yet you are not denouncing this heinous poll. Both are wrong and both disgust me (as both should you).
shershiply Apr-24

For those on Facebook - many saw the 'joke' this last week asking God - essentially - to kill our president. As the backlash built up those who 'supported' it began to weakly insist, "it's all just a JOKE..." Really? Who's laughing now? When do we laugh? When someone pulls the trigger? When someone detonates the bomb? When someone kills a Black man because he 'looks like' our president? I don't GET the 'funny' here...
alethin95 Apr-24

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