

Twitter Briefed Establishment Media Ahead of Coordinated Blacklisting

 Jack Dorsey and Alex Jones

Getty/Drew Angerer and InfoWars

6 Sep 2018 **558**



Twitter appears to have notified a number of establishment media publications ahead of its permanent ban of Alex Jones, while neglecting to inform conservative media.

A tweet from CNN's Oliver Darcy was published at 4:45 p.m. eastern time, coinciding precisely with Twitter publicly announcing the ban. CNN could not have written the article beforehand unless Twitter notified them of its decision in advance.

Oliver Darcy 

@oliverdarcy



  Alex Jones and InfoWars have been permanently banned from Twitter
money.cnn.com/2018/09/06/tec...

1:47 PM - Sep 6, 2018

Twitter bans Alex Jones and InfoWars

Twitter banned far-right conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and his website InfoWars from its platform Thursday afternoon, a month after several of its Silicon Valley counterparts did so.

money.cnn.com

♡ 2,097 💬 1,619 people are talking about this



Twitter Safety 

@TwitterSafety



Today, we permanently suspended [@realalexjones](#) and [@infowars](#) from Twitter and Periscope. We took this action based on new reports of Tweets and videos posted yesterday that violate our abusive behavior policy, in addition to the accounts' past violations. help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-p...

1:47 PM - Sep 6, 2018

Abusive behavior

You may not engage in the targeted harassment of someone, or incite other people to do so. We consider abusive behavior an attempt to harass, intimidate, or silence someone else's voice.

help.twitter.com

♡ 29K 💬 16.6K people are talking about this



Darcy is the CNN activist reporter who **repeatedly agitated** for Twitter to purge Alex Jones, publishing articles about the Infowars host's alleged terms of service violations. Darcy would eventually catalyze Jones' ban, which Twitter justified by referencing Jones' heated exchange with Darcy at yesterday's congressional hearings with big tech executives. Along with Democrat politicians, CNN has **ceaselessly lobbied** for its competitors in the alternative media to be blacklisted online.

Twitter said the video of Jones calling Darcy an "anti-American, anti-free speech coward" constituted "abusive behavior," even though it was conducted outside of the platform (Twitter gave itself the authority to police users for offsite behavior earlier this year).

Other establishment publications that ran full articles on Jones' ban at the same time as Twitter's announcement included BuzzFeed News, the Associated Press, and the New York Times.

The Associated Press 

@AP



BREAKING: Twitter is permanently banning conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and Infowars for abusive behavior.

1:46 PM - Sep 6, 2018

♡ 67.9K 💬 18K people are talking about this



BuzzFeed News 



@BuzzFeedNews

BREAKING: Twitter is banning Alex Jones and Infowars for violating their abusive behavior policy.

buzzfeed.com/charliwarzel/...

1:45 PM - Sep 6, 2018

After Multiple Provocations, Twitter Bans Alex Jones And Infowars

"We took this action based on new reports of Tweets and videos posted yesterday that violate our abusive behavior policy, in addition to the accounts' previous violations."

[buzzfeed.com](https://www.buzzfeed.com)

❤️ 1,613 💬 589 people are talking about this



The New York Times 


@nytimes



Twitter has banned Alex Jones for violating its abusive behavior policy. The network was the last holdout after other tech platforms blocked him.

[nyti.ms/2wQViLz](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/06/technology/twitter-bans-alex-jones.html)

1:58 PM - Sep 6, 2018

 Twitter said Alex Jones had posted new messages within the past 24 hours that violated its policies.

Twitter Bans Alex Jones, Citing Harassing Messages

Even as Facebook and YouTube had banned Mr. Jones, the internet provocateur, Twitter had not. On Thursday, it did.

[nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)

♡ 3,560 💬 1,194 people are talking about this



No conservative-leaning media source appears to have received advance notice. A source at Fox News said they “hadn’t heard anything” ahead of the ban. Fox did not run an article on Jones’ ban until an hour after Twitter’s announcement. The *Wall Street Journal* posted an article several hours after the ban as well.

Infowars editor-at-large Paul Joseph Watson **said**: “Silicon Valley and mainstream media are working hand in hand to silence competing voices. This is clearly harmful to the very spirit of the First Amendment and must be stopped now. Social media is the public square. It’s time it was legally treated that way.”

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