

# 'Fake News' Facebook Suit: Syrian Sues Over Posts Linking Him to Terror

by Reuters -- Feb 6 2017, 11:25 am

WUERZBURG, Germany — A German court will on Monday hold its first hearing in the case of a Syrian refugee who is suing (= *accusing*) Facebook after the social networking site declined to remove (= *eliminate*) all posts linking (= *connecting*) him to crimes and militant attacks.

The posts feature a picture showing Anas Modamani, a 19-year-old from Damascus, taking a selfie with Chancellor Angela Merkel in September 2015 at a refugee shelter in the Berlin district of Spandau.



Syrian refugee Anas Modamani

Modamani's image was subsequently shared on Facebook on anonymous accounts, alongside posts falsely claiming (= *pretending*) that he was responsible for the Brussels Airport bombing of March 2016 and the setting on fire of a homeless man in December by six migrants at an underground station in Berlin.

The case is being closely watched as Germany, a fierce critic of Facebook, is preparing legislation to force the social networking website to remove "hate (= *detestation*) speech" from its web pages within 24 hours or face fines (= *financial penalties*).

"Some people are trying to harm (= *denigrate*) the reputation of the refugees like me and they are using Facebook to spread (= *develop*) hatred (= *detestation*) against us," Modamani told Reuters by phone from Wuerzburg.

A spokesman for Facebook said the company had already removed two defamatory posts reported by Chan-jo Jun, Modamani's lawyer, but could not simply disable (= *deactivate*) all content related to the pictures. Facebook was open to a case by case approach, the spokesman said.

"We have already quickly disabled access to content that has been accurately (= *precisely*) reported to us by Mr. Modamani's legal representatives, so we do not believe that legal action here is necessary or that it is the most effective way to resolve the situation," the spokesman said. (...)

Modamani's lawyer told rbb-Inforadio that Facebook's restrictions on content were inconsistent (= *incoherent*). "Nudity is forbidden, but hate only in certain circumstances," Chan-jo Jun said. (...)

One post still shared on Facebook shows Modamani taking a selfie with Merkel against the background of a homeless man on fire at an underground station in Berlin with the caption: "So that 'cold country' finally has warmth under its behind."

Adaped from <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/fake-new-facebook-suit-syrian-sues-over-posts-linking-him-n717326>

**Read the following assertions about the text and in each series of 3, choose the one that corresponds best to the text. Add the words of the text / the number of the line next to your answer to justify it:**

- 1)
  - a) Anas Modamani posed with Chancellor Angela Merkel for a photographer
  - b) Modamani asked Angela Merkel to take a photo of him.
  - c) Modamani took a picture of Angela Merkel and himself.
- 2)
  - a) The Syrian refugee is responsible for the setting on fire of a homeless man at an underground station
  - b) Modamani has been accused of crimes on social networks.
  - c) Modamani was involved in the bomb attacks in Brussels.
- 3)
  - a) His lawyer reproaches Facebook with being incoherent as regards restrictions on posts and content.
  - b) His lawyer has not reported the fake content to Facebook yet.
  - c) Facebook takes care of people's reputations.
- 4)
  - a) Germany is not willing to interfere in how Facebook handles the content on its accounts
  - b) Germany is not satisfied that the case takes place on its grounds.
  - c) Germany criticizes Facebook's handling of hateful messages.
- 5)
  - a) Facebook claims that there can be a solution without a trial.
  - b) Facebook is determined to erase all the messages connected to Modamani.
  - c) Facebook wants to launch a general strategy about such problems.