

17/05/2024



On X and Facebook, several informational maneuvers involving azerbaijani actors targeting France in the context of riots in New Caledonia

Between May 15 and 16, 2024, VIGINUM detected on X and Facebook, the massive and coordinated dissemination of manifestly inaccurate or misleading content – photo or video montages - blaming France for its handling of the situation in New Caledonia in the context of the riots.

Still ongoing, these maneuvers are structured through several dissemination phases.

On May 15, 2024, VIGINUM first detected the publication of an initial visual showing, on one side, a man armed with a bolt rifle in firing position and, on the other, a dead Kanak protester. The photo montage reads, in French or English: "French police guilty of murder. The murders of Algerians continue..."¹ This sentence is replicated identically in the publications supporting the visual, accompanied by the following hashtags: "#RecognizeNewCaledonia #EndFrenchColonialism #FrenchColonialism #BoycottParis2024 #Paris2024".

Posted on X from 12:21 p.m., this first maneuver relies on the use of the copy pasta technique by 1,686 users², leading to 5,187 original messages and 179 reposts.



Screenshot of the @bafadarovistam account

On Facebook, VIGINUM was able to identify at least 145 publications similar to those observed on X for a total of 80 users³ (see list in appendix).

¹ This narrative may refer to the repression of the Algerian demonstrations of May 8, 1945 or October 17, 1961.

² Most of these accounts were created from August 2023 onwards. Third of the accounts identified in this maneuver were created in 2024 (up to 30 accounts created per day).

³ Like the users identified on X, some of the Facebook accounts have elements in their descriptions which suggest that they work for the Azerbaijani presidential party. Like the following accounts :

On X, several elements link these accounts to Azerbaijani actors, since at least 86 of them mention the presidential political party, *Yeni Azərbaycan Partiyası* (YAP), in their biographies. In addition, the account first-broadcaster of this visual @bafadarovislam⁴ seems to belong to an individual, Islam BAFADAROV, declaring himself as a YAP consultant⁵.

Investigations carried out on Islam BAFADAROV lead back to the apollo[.]io⁶ website, which references several of his professional experiences and indicates the existence of a functional e-mail address for the Azerbaijani presidential party, "@yap.az".

On May 16, 2024, VIGINUM detected the publication of a new video on X and Facebook⁷ (see appendix). This video features a montage of several scenes showing pro-independence demonstrators allegedly injured or killed by French police forces. The spread of this video in French and English was accompanied by the sentence "French police guilty of murder in New Caledonia" and the following hashtags: "#NouvelleCalédonie #RecognizeNewCaledonia #EndFrenchColonialism #FrenchColonialism #BoycottParis2024 #Paris2024".

On May 16 at 6:00 pm, this new maneuver records 602 original posts on X issued by 301 unique users. 112 of these users present elements linking them to YAP in their biographical information, and also indicate a location in Azerbaijan. Finally, 86 of these accounts were created between January and May 2024. On Facebook, VIGINUM has so far been able to identify around ten similar publications in French.

On X, the first-broadcaster of the second video is @ElmeddinBehbud⁸. Elmeddin BEHBUD⁹ is part of the Azerbaijani state agency « Council of State Support to NGOs », and has already been reported in several informational maneuvers involving Azerbaijani actors.

In addition, several users also shared a video using the codes of the OLIMPIYA campaign, combining scenes of urban violence with images of sporting events, with the intention of targeting the organization of the Olympic Games. Relayed by 78 accounts, this video has been published using hashtags observed during a campaign involving Azerbaijani actors in July 2023 "#Paris2024 #BoycottParis2024 #NoParis2024 @eucopresident @CharlesMichel @vonderleyen @FranceBakou".

Finally, several X accounts, already identified by VIGINUM during the OLIMPIYA campaign, are also taking part in the maneuver, such as @muxtarnag, @chloe46221792, @Lucie14770791 and @Sophia017215336¹⁰.

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100028319675326

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084980182786

www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=122123679890145914&set=a.122094648710145914

⁴ See x.com/bafadarovislam/status/1790688924282540269

⁵ https://az.linkedin.com/in/bafadarov?trk=public_profile_browsemap&original_referer=https%3A%2F%2Faz.linkedin.com%2Ffin%2Fbafadarov%3Ftrk%3Dpublic_profile_browsemap

⁶ [www.apollo\[.\]io/people/Islam/Bafadarov/642aafe7dc36df00010b1f15#experience](https://www.apollo[.]io/people/Islam/Bafadarov/642aafe7dc36df00010b1f15#experience)

⁷ See twitter.com/HeyderovaG9871/status/1791134367252676925 et twitter.com/ulviyy_ali99/status/1791132684414038244

⁸ twitter.com/ElmeddinBehbud/status/1791093710836347057

twitter.com/ElmeddinBehbud/status/1791094334982394276

⁹ Technical references about the organisation: "State Support Council for Non-Governmental Organizations under the President" +994 12 493 17 80 ; office@cssn.gov.az ; cssn.gov.az

¹⁰ Voir x.com/muxtarnag/status/1790995204893274139

x.com/chloe46221792/status/1790983470908338579

x.com/chloe46221792/status/1790983627628515407

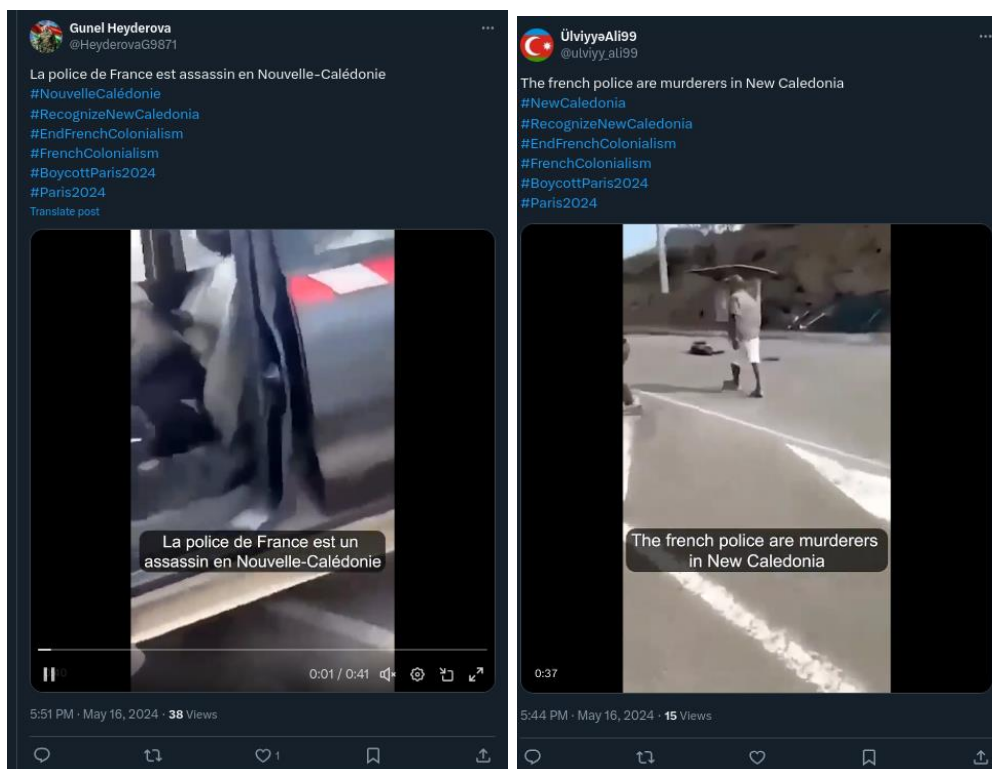
x.com/Lucie14770791/status/1790983815743086614

x.com/Lucie14770791/status/1790983952645181617

x.com/Sophia017215336/status/1790984089979281478

x.com/Sophia017215336/status/1790984230417174614

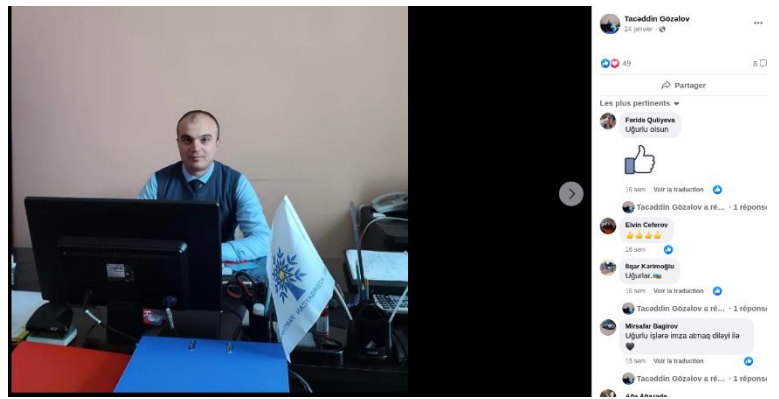
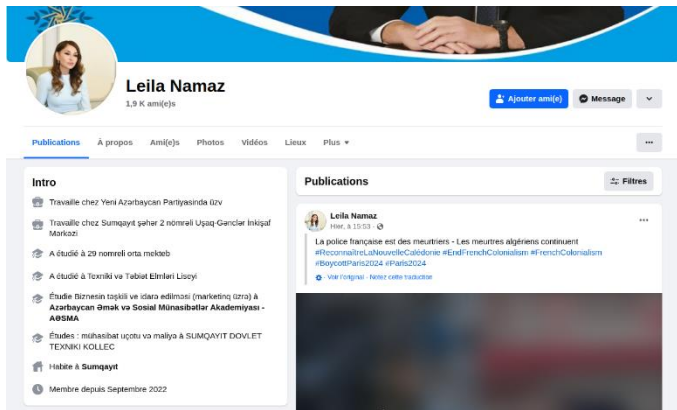
ANNEXES :



Publication examples for the second video on the May 16, 2024



Publication examples relying on the New Caledonian context in order to target France and Olympics Games organisation



Examples of Facebook accounts involved in the May 15 maneuver;

Below the non-exhaustive list of these Facebook accounts.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 100026278831419 | Adiyeva Helime | 100085633008527 | İlkin Abbasov |
| 100025411723817 | Agadadas Hesənli | 100009489357581 | Iqbal Humbat |
| 100093699603319 | Aide Pasayeva | 100002001378660 | İslam Kerimoff |
| 100082750794342 | Anar Qaziyev | 100007980782125 | Kamran Mustafayev |
| 100011519672220 | Aqil Qubatov | 100006440114995 | Könül Mürsel |
| 100053599236286 | Aydat Djalilova | 100084980182786 | Leila Namaz |
| 100004744597242 | Aydin Shixaliyev | 100081778875216 | Mahmud Qasimli |
| 100053550310831 | Aydin Aliyev | 100059959683630 | Merdan Sirvanov |
| 61557930335648 | Aygun Jalilzade2 | 100086453034573 | Merdan Şirvanov |
| 100086190355415 | Aynura Babaşeva | 100086663954543 | Merdan Şirvan |
| 100072208822835 | Aynurə Mamedova | 100002970113103 | Muhammad Ali İskəndərov |
| 100011434161968 | Aysun Eyvazova | 100003630781318 | Muhammet Şahin |
| 100084476705437 | Aytac Abuzerova | 61558199031224 | Natəvan Qurbanova |
| 100045916429590 | Azad Rzazadə | 100015363301891 | Nermin Badirova |
| 61559318917676 | Azer Qahramanov | 61557449227980 | Nicat Məmmədov |
| 100080896337043 | Cəmile Memmedovap | 100069426584100 | Rauf Məmmədli |
| 61556136394032 | Cəbrayıl Gözalov | 100045840491825 | Rəşad İsmayilov |
| 100063005328223 | Cəlal Qəribov | 100050253066534 | Rəşad Ələsgərov |
| 100075875117440 | Eldeniz Ezizov | 100067043583010 | Samira Memmedzade |
| 100084953075868 | Elnur Rehim | 61557703901430 | Samirə Talibova |
| 100002920688062 | Elvin Ağayev | 100073264522172 | Sarvaz Abbasov |
| 100084799714026 | Elxan Mithədoqlu | 100081617312283 | Sehla Hesenzade |
| 100012269441328 | Elza Aslanova | 61557945780917 | Selale Atayeva |
| 61552996352842 | Esed Esedov | 100086686771115 | Sovket Mammadeliyeva |
| 100088653920803 | Fatime Sixiyeva | 100012201463338 | Səadət Məmmədova |
| 61559467768673 | Ferid Şahbazov | 100029967120922 | Səadət Əhmədova |
| 100086479744847 | Fizuli Selimov | 100077906656563 | Səbine Ferecova |
| 61556277395822 | Fəhmin Qurbanov | 61554377423825 | Tacəddin Gözalov |
| 61557563727633 | Fəridə Eyyubova | 61550306721696 | Tahire Hesənova |
| 100066409667815 | Gunay Esedullayeva | 100011288223511 | Tahir Wıxıyev |
| 100042226364143 | Gunay Quliyeva | 100005055755365 | Tural Məhərrəmoğlu Əliyev |
| 61553430058300 | Gunay R Kadirova | 100081172995278 | Türkan Shadlinskaya |
| 100005570351390 | Gunel Hacıyeva | 100068160597243 | Vasif Əliyev |
| 100089072664165 | Gültəkin Qasımova | 61552565590053 | İlahə Emirli |
| 100087867442045 | Gültəkin Qasımova | 100028319675326 | İlahə Tağıyeva |
| 100083708460985 | Günay Məmmədaliyeva | 100074028255828 | İsayeva Jalə |
| 100025876568415 | Humay Aslanova | 100057887097235 | Əliyev Əli |
| 61558159581639 | Hüseynzadə Qahirə | 61550217994798 | Əsmər Ələkbərzadə |
| 61552257424872 | Həmidə Əsgərova | 61556263053401 | Əziz Gözalov |
| 100085444251852 | Həzərhan Nəbiyev | 100021801314189 | Сираж Чопсиев |