7amleh - The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media (7amleh) is a Palestinian organization and non-profit working to protect the digital rights of Palestinians.

In reference to Oversight Board Case number 2021-009-FB-UA, 7amleh would like to affirm Facebook's original decision to restore the user in question's content as the just remedy to the user's appeal as this protects user's right to freedom of expression and their right to access information.

Palestinians rely on social media to both learn from and share with their family, friends and the world the reality of their lives living under Israeli occupation and as second-class citizens in Israel. Facebook is also used to discuss important social, economic and political issues and to make decisions and assess the risks related to violence on the ground that can impact the safety and lives of Palestinians. This includes sharing news articles from media outlets and journalists who are covering political developments, including statements made by political leaders, such as in the case under review, so that these leaders can be held accountable.

As was apparent in May, during the increased Israeli attacks on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and efforts to forcibly displace Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem, Facebook is an incredibly important place for sharing news and information about events happening on the ground. Unfortunately, during this period, Facebook's response to increased activism on its platform was increased censorship of journalists and activists. During this time, 7amleh documented (and shared with Facebook) hundreds of cases of content takedowns that did not violate Facebook's community standards, further alarming advocates and Facebook users.

While Facebook has provided access to information and freedom of expression, many of the policies and practices of Facebook over the past decade have disproportionately silenced Palestinians. Overmoderating the content of Palestinians has resulted in a general belief amongst Palestinian users and human rights advocates that Facebook's content moderation policies are biased and discriminatory. It is our hope that the decision of the FOB to uphold Facebook's original decision to reinstate this political and newsworthy content will be respected, and that the FOB will be able to show to the Palestinian community that its decisions are unbiased and independent and contribute to better relations between Facebook, Palestinians and human rights advocate worldwide.