



## Harassment on Social Networks

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### Abstract

The current generation was practically born with technology and has evolved along with the form of communication since ICTs have provided countless platforms for personal relationships to be more effective virtually. As for harassment on social networks, these cases have not been able to be eradicated per se. This type of harassment occurs in different forms since there are different types of harassment in social networks such as harassment, blackmail, humiliation, insults, extortion, and teasing. That is why the objective of this work is to evaluate, through a critical legal analysis document, how the violation of privacy affects those who suffer from harassment or extortion in social networks in the Babahoyo canton. And in order to obtain the results, qualitative and quantitative methods were used. In the same way, a previous digital survey was applied to certain inhabitants of the citadel: El Mamey. There must be always accompaniment that, in case of being victims of harassment and violence, to make them feel heard and not guilty, to fully guarantee the rights that all the inhabitants of the Babahoyo canton have.

**Keywords:** Bullying; rights; social media; extortions; ICT

### 1. Introduction

The School Offenses Supplement of 2019 in the National Crime Victims Survey (National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics) indicates that, nationally, about 16% of students ages 9-12 experienced bullying. The Juvenile Dangerous Behavior Monitoring System 2019 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) indicates that about 15.7% of high school students experienced online bullying in the 12 months prior to the survey. [1].

In Ecuador, by 2021 the violation of privacy had 118 complaints with an increase of 18%, and adolescent pornography had 2008 complaints with an increase of 32%; Linear regression indicates 7,070 cases of cyberbullying by 2025, that is, a 70% growth; it is necessary to mitigate the risks that exist in social networks through algorithms, architectures, software or processes; this proposal presented a small contribution to use these technologies.

Bullying happens online, and victims feel attacked everywhere, even at home. For you, it seems that there is no way out. The consequences can be long-term and affect the victim in various ways: emotional and physical. [2, 3].

Therefore, it is essential to recognize the rights that the inhabitants of the Babahoyo canton have and thus avoid harassment on social networks. And so report the possible harassment to the relevant authorities, so that they can help the inhabitants and thus prevent the harassment in social networks from continuing for a longer time, and with the help of the relevant laws and authorities, it will be carried out the respective sanction to the harasser.

## 1.1 Background

As it has been reviewed in this document, harassment in social networks is defined as intentional and repetitive aggression, through electronic means and this can be executed by a group or an individual. It can take different forms since there are different types of harassment on social networks such as harassment, blackmail, humiliation, insults, extortion, and teasing. [4, 5].

59% of girls and young women who have been harassed indicate that the most common type of attack is offensive language, followed by intentional shaming (41%), humiliation by their bodies, and threats of sexual violence (both 39 %).

For Mera, bullying or cheating, to a similar extent, should amount to administrative punishment ordered by a director of communications, but such behavior should not be punished as a crime. According to Mera, the penalty for "network hacking" should be equivalent to defamation, which is punishable by two years in prison in the criminal code. [6]

"If we are victims of any of these acts, we must collect and keep all the information we have as evidence (conversations, phone records, Internet records, advertisements) reported on websites, publications, etc.) and go to the police." [7]

Bullying on social networks is a problem that mainly affects children and adolescents due to the number of hours they spend online and because it generally develops constantly at these ages. or video games. Likewise, this does not mean that this type of digital violence does not also affect adults. [8]

Harassment through technology is a serious issue that is currently increasing at an alarming rate, which is why several media outlets have carried out various investigations of how society and the government are acting against this crime. It is known that in Ecuador harassment by electronic means is sanctioned through Art. 173 and 174 stipulated in the COIP. [9].

As is known and has been published in several investigations in national electronic media, this crime has had a greater impact on minors and many of these cases have been reported to the police, however, the Public Ministry still has some affected. Fear of retaliation, embarrassment, or fear of telling the legal guardian because he feels guilty about the behavior or because he understands that it is different from reality. It is known that in the country there is a criminal sanction to convict the crime in question and it is stipulated in articles 173 and 174 of the Organic Comprehensive Criminal Code (COIP), however, these sanctions are very general and do not manage to solve the different cases of cyberbullying that occur. [9]

A report from the Attorney General's Office indicates that as of October 2021, 303 cases of cyberbullying have been reported, attributing the increase to the intensive use of technology and computers and the use of computers by the population. To mitigate the crime of harassment by electronic means, Art. 173 and Art. 174 stipulated in the Organic Comprehensive Criminal Code (COIP) refer to acts of a sexual nature carried out through these means, the crime is sanctioned when the victims are minors, however, it must be taken into account that those over 18 years of age also report suffering from these behaviors in the social and labor spheres and have been martyred for the execution of these acts and the lack of regulations, These articles are adapted to the crime in its general context and allow the evidence presented by the victim's representative to be thoroughly investigated so that the corresponding actions can be taken in the case. [9]

The school Offenses Supplement of 2019 from the National Crime Victims Survey (National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Justice Statistics) indicates that, nationally, about 16% of students between the ages of 9 and 12 experienced online harassment. The Juvenile Dangerous Behavior Monitoring System 2019 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) indicates that about 15.7% of high school students experienced bullying on social media in the 12 months prior to the survey. [10]

### 1.3 Objectives

#### General objective

- Evaluate through a critical legal analysis document, how the violation of privacy affects those who suffer from harassment or extortion on social networks in the canton of Babahoyo.

#### Specific objective

- Theoretically develop the right to personal privacy that all people in Ecuador have.
- Expand knowledge to the inhabitants of the Babahoyo canton about the right to personal privacy.
- Diagnose how incitement affects the inviolability of personal privacy in the canton of Babahoyo.

### 2. Methods

The methods that have been chosen to work in this project are qualitative and quantitative.

- **Qualitative:** As for the qualitative, it is the use of bibliographic material when compiling such information through the interviews carried out.
- **Quantitative:** Regarding the use of mathematicians and statistics to carry out the analysis of the problem.

#### 2.1 Population and sample

Table 1. Population sample

POPULATION		#
BABAHOYO		115

#### 2.2 Research techniques and instruments

The instrument that was used was the survey because it is an information acquisition technique, for which it has been raised in our research of sociological interest through a previously prepared questionnaire, and through which it will be possible to know the opinions of the subjects who will be valued through the use of statistics

#### 2.3 Interpretation

The surveyed population was the population of the El Mamey citadel of the canton of Babahoyo.

*Question 1. Are you aware of harassment on social networks in our city?*

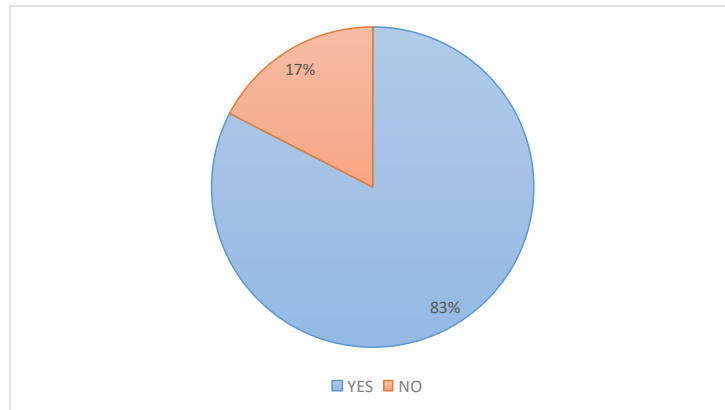


Figure 1. Results of question 1

**Analysis:** Most of the people surveyed were aware of harassment on social networks within our city

*Question 2. Do you think that harassment in general, in social networks should be penalized?*

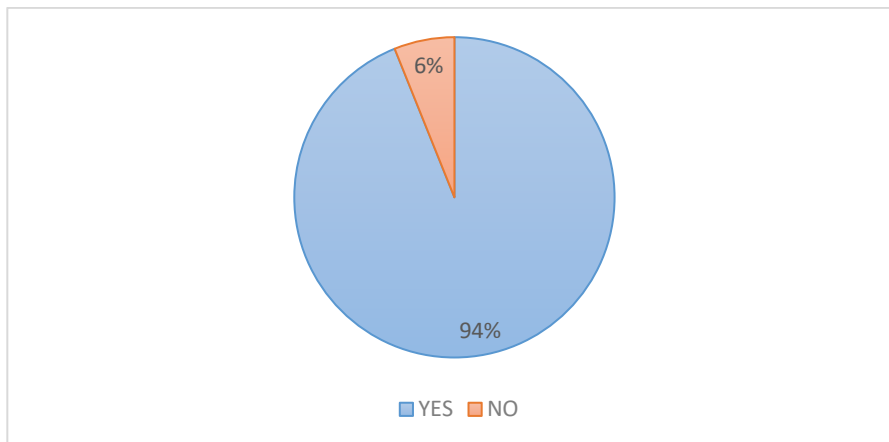


Figure 2. Results of question 2

**Analysis:** Much of the population agrees that harassment should be penalized in our country.

*Question 3. Do you think that minors should have regulations on the use of social networks?*

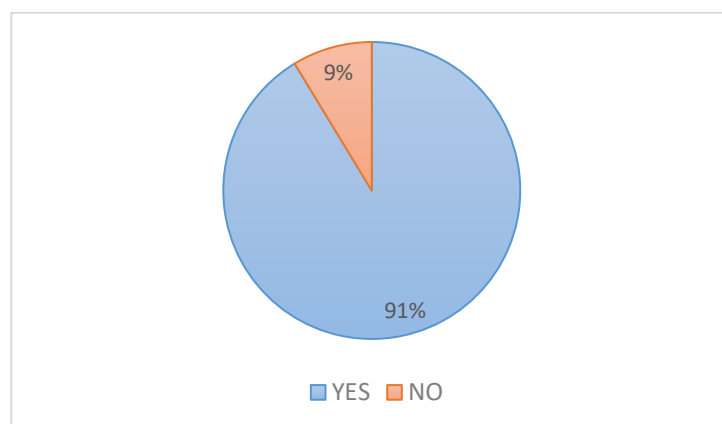


Figure 3. Results of question 3

**Analysis:** the majority of the citizens agree that minors should have regulations on the use of social networks.

*Question 4. Would you agree that people who have a history of harassment on the networks should not have access to them?*

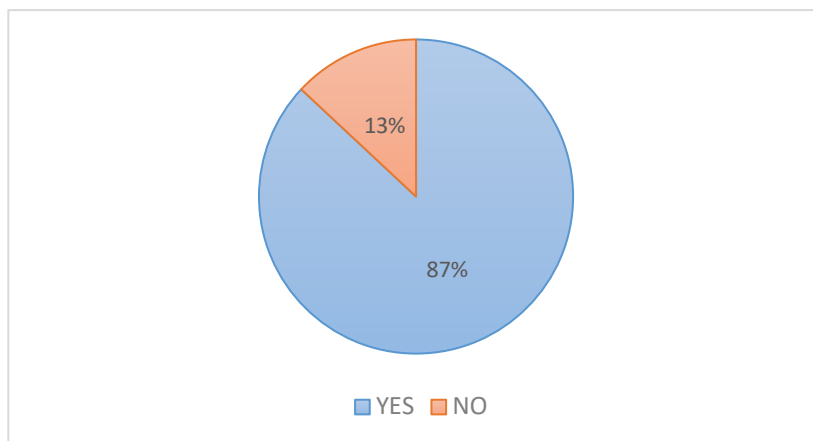


Figure 4. Results of question 4

**Analysis:** a large part of the population that participated in the survey agrees that people who have a history of harassment on networks should not have access to them.

*Question 5. Do you agree that there should be some rule that can come out in defense of harassment on networks, in relation to people of legal age?*

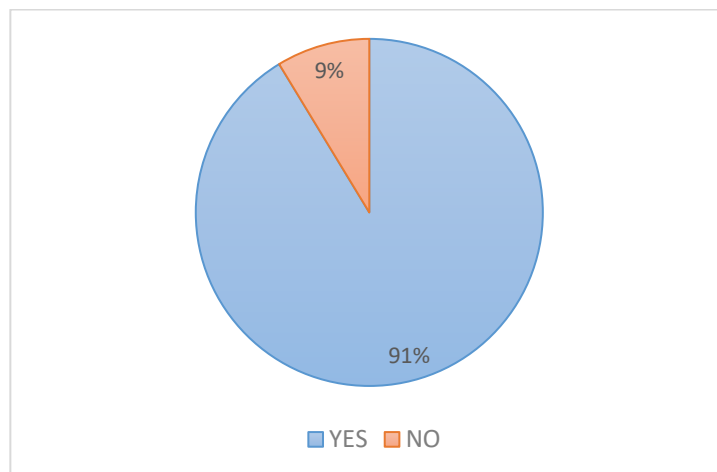


Figure 5. Results of question 5

**Analysis:** The majority of the surveyed population of Babahoyo agrees that there should be a norm that protects those of legal age who are harassed on social networks.

### 3. Discussion

The data shows that 60% of the participants reported having experienced some type of online harassment or violence. The most common forms are threats of sexual violence, offensive language, and sexual harassment.

There are also racist, homophobic terms that 'qualify' the physique of girls, according to hegemonic traits; which greatly influences their self-esteem. 59% of girls and young women who have been harassed indicate that the most common type of attack is offensive language, followed by intentional shaming (41%), humiliation by their bodies, and threats of sexual violence (both 39 %).

Within the home and in the schools, colleges, and universities of the country, we must start talking about digital violence. Working on this will allow those affected to denounce these facts and to know how to act. For this, it is important to socialize the complaint mechanisms of each country.

### 4. Conclusion

From the side of parents and support people, there must be always accompaniment in these cases. It is fundamental because it allows us to act assertively and to seek help or support, since if someone feels guilty, it is most likely that they will not want to speak or report, in most cases, this happens.

Online violence is silencing the voices of girls because it makes them afraid to give their opinion, not having access to quality internet puts education, the exercise of citizenship, and the right to give an opinion of girls and women at risk.

It is a challenge to improve in detecting bullying to prevent cyberbullying, warning with early warnings directed to parents or civil/legal authorities; prevention technology should be modeled after the social network to have more confidence in positive posts and deny negative ones.[11].

Analyzing the results of our survey, we see that 83% of the population surveyed is aware that there is harassment on social networks within our city, as well as 91% who believe that harassment should be penalized in a general way, not only focusing on people under 18 years of age and 91% share the thought that children should have regulations regarding the use of social networks. Also, the question was asked that people with a history of harassment on social networks do not have access to these networks, in which 87% responded that they agree that they do not have access to the networks.

Harassment on social networks continues to increase over time. 60% of the people who participated in our survey reported having suffered some type of harassment or violence within the networks.

The tools presented as alternatives carry out the extraction of text and images, not only through social networks is cyberbullying presented; therefore, security and privacy must be increased on the different platforms.

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