

Fake News about Sexual Harassment on New Years Eve

With the title "37 days after New Year break victims their silence - Sex Mob in the Freßgass" the BILD on 06.02.2017 spreads the news of massive sexual assault on New Year's Eve.

Report:

- 900 drunken refugees
- Rioting
- Women groped and molested

Source: The BILD refers to Jan Mai, owner of a bar, a refugee-hostile AFD sympathizers.

This "proves" his information through a witness Irina A (waitress in his bar). The correctness of this source did not check the picture.

Why it is clearly fake news:

Error of the picture:

- No verification of information (no confirmation by police)
- Article published about 1 month after the incidents (diffuse)
- Very subjective and less sustainable source Investigations / Research (Police, NDR)
- "Leading witness" Irina A was not in Germany on Sunday
- The police are not aware of such attacks
- Jan Mai can not give any facts when asked again

Other abnormalities:

- Dramatic exaggerations that cause skepticism
- To recognize clear xenophobia
- The BILD itself apologizes on 12.02.2017 for the dissemination of the misinformation

Conclusion

The BILD has an unconfirmed message very widely used and thus actively contributed to a mess. Said main witness Irina A was later found dead.

To what extent this is in connection with this misinformation is unclear, nevertheless it could have had a significant impact on it. There was an investigation against the author of the fake news, but the BILD could have avoided the problems by working more accurately.