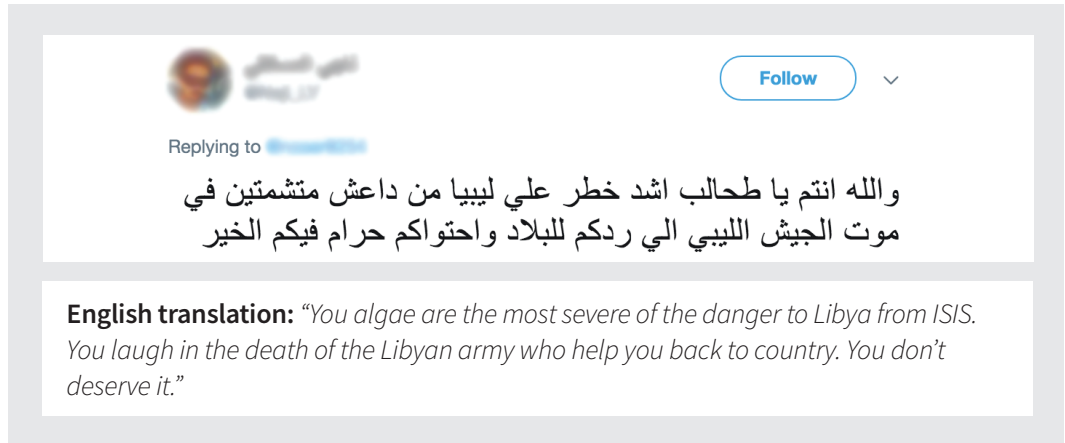


14. طحالب / Tahalib (Algae)

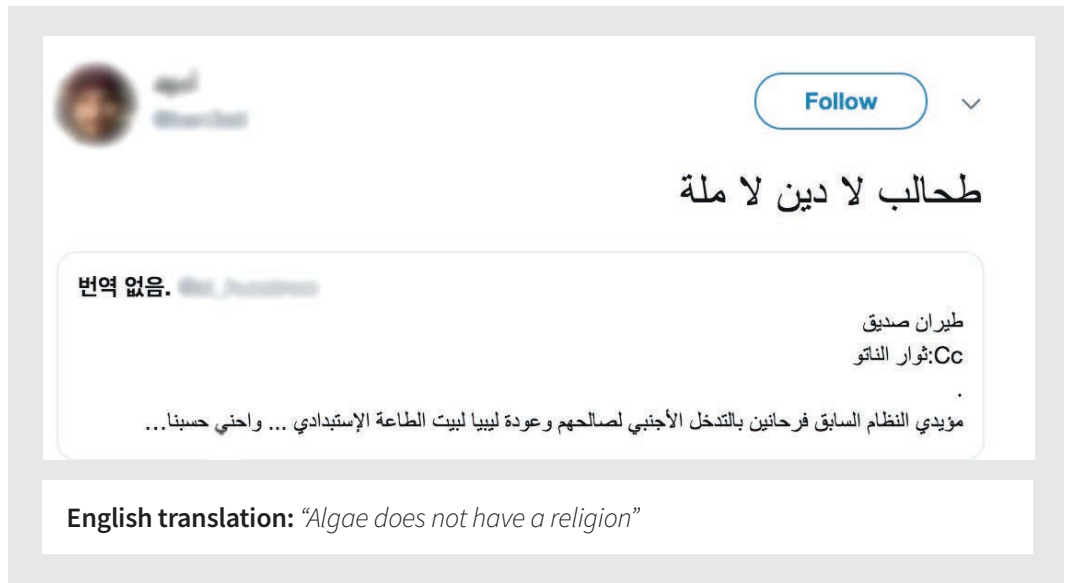
Other spellings and related references: أخضر / *akhdar* (English translation: *green*); ازلام / *azlam* (English meaning: *Gaddafi follower*); الطابور الخامس / *taboor khamis* (English translation: *fifth column, i.e., Gaddafi supporters in the form of sleeper cells*); متسلق / *motasalik* (English translation: *climber*); *ghooz* (English meaning: *tribe associated with Gaddafi*); *Haftoori*; قطط السمان (English translation: *fat cats—referring to corrupt Gaddafi officials*)

Sample Posts:



والله انتم يا طحالب اشد خطر علي ليبيا من داعش متشمتين في موت الجيش الليبي الي ردكم للبلاد واحتواكم حرام فيكم الخير

English translation: “You algae are the most severe of the danger to Libya from ISIS. You laugh in the death of the Libyan army who help you back to country. You don’t deserve it.”



طحالب لا دين لا ملة

طيران صديق: ثوار الناتو مؤيدي النظام السابق فرحانين بالتدخل الاجنبي لصالحهم وعودة ليبيا لبيت الطاعة الاستبدادي ... واحني حسينا...

English translation: “Algae does not have a religion”

Definition: “Tuhilib,” or “algae,” is a term that has been used to refer to supporters of Gaddafi. The reference to algae comes from the green color of the Gaddafi regime’s flag. This term was one of the top two most frequently identified phrases in the online surveys on hate speech, though many focus group participants indicated that it has gone out of use since 2014. Many participants noted, however, that the term becomes more frequently used towards the beginning of every year when the anniversary of Gaddafi’s overthrow occurs.

Why it’s offensive and inflammatory: Focus group discussants explained that the dehumanizing nature of the word algae as an organism that is “parasitic” and referred to as “scum” is the reason that this word was particularly offensive. Another respondent mentioned that the term’s association with Gaddafi signaled that the people targeted with this term were