

YouTube is the world's number one video sharing site. If your medium of choice, your way of expressing yourself, is through Video Logging (VLOGging), then there is no serious alternative to YouTube. If you are prevented from posting your opinions on YouTube, then your ability to reach other people has been noticeably curtailed.

Google claims to take its responsibilities seriously, as can be witnessed in the noises it is currently making about the accessing of gmail accounts in China. Google wants desperately to be seen as a champion of freedom of speech.

This is also witnessed by what is written in YouTube's community guidelines: "We encourage free speech and defend everyone's right to express unpopular points of view."

Noblesse oblige, and if YouTube wants to be seen as a true champion of free speech, one would expect that in cases of dispute YouTube would give users uploading content that can be labeled "controversial" a certain amount of leeway.

The evidence suggests otherwise.

For over two years now, we, content providers in YouTube's "fringe" communities, have been trying to alert YouTube to the serious problems that exist with its procedures for flagging inappropriate content and for filing claims in accordance with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

People intent on silencing views with which they don't agree are allowed to run riot on this site. Videos can be flagged as inappropriate without any accountability to the person who is doing the flagging, and the review of such "flagged" content must be cursory at best.

YouTube's DMCA procedures are equally flawed. Whilst we appreciate that YouTube's hands are severely tied by its having to adhere to the requirements set out in the legislation, YouTube's policies of "shoot first, don't ask questions" with regard to anybody who is the target of DMCA claims is deplorable. Here, too, the abusers are allowed to take pot shots at established accounts without ever being made accountable for their claims.

As all our suggestions for change have fallen on deaf ears, we have decided that enough is enough. If the people who run YouTube are unwilling to listen to legitimate concerns raised through the site itself, we will use any media available outside what is controlled by Google to make our displeasure heard.

Whilst we apologise for using your media in this manner, we hope you will understand that after two years of trying to get YouTube's attention through the approved channels we feel we have no option but to use alternative means.

The problems are described in much greater detail on our Web Site.  
We thank you for your attention

Signed

The people at CensorTube DOT eu (<http://www.censortube.eu>)