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by N Q

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Response

I want to start by extending my sincere gratitude to this article's author. I could not agree more with the authors' sentiments suggesting that everyone should have the right to express their beliefs even if their governments disapprove and that hacktivism is one way people living in countries with censored speech can voice their concerns. This is not further from the truth. People who are oppressed will always figure out ways of making themselves heard and gaining the freedom they have been yearning for or the political mileage they seek to attain. Additionally, I concur that hacktivism is ethical to the extent that those involved do not destroy the site or prevent other people from using it.

On the contrary, I firmly believe that there are better ways of addressing these concerns. Although hacktivists seek to give voice to the voiceless, there is still disagreement amongst the hacktivists community over appropriate approaches. For instance, whereas hacktivists claim the support for freedom of speech as a significant cause, website mutilations, use of distributed denial of service attacks, and data theft that prevent or hinder freedom of speech may be in line with the goals they seek to achieve. However, the fact remains that the methods they employ are a form of cybercrime hence are considered illegal (Romagna, 2020).

Even though hacktivism may be considered illegal, the benefits outweigh the risks. Adding to authors' argument, hacktivism can substitute or complement outdated forms of activism such as protest marches and sit-ins. Nonetheless, it is considered nonviolent. Therefore, protesters are less exposed to physical harm risks, unlike taking part in street protests. Furthermore, hacktivism enables the support of geographically distributed causes without necessarily having to unite with the people and act in solidarity with a shared reason. In summary, although hacktivism is considered illegal, there are measurable benefits; hence I would

advocate for it. However, in some instances, hacktivism might incite violence; therefore, we need to remain vigilant.

Reference

Romagna, M. (2020). Hactivism: Conceptualization, Techniques, and Historical View. *The Palgrave Handbook of International Cybercrime and Cyberdeviance*, 743-769.

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