

News • World

## People Are Deleting This Muslim Prayer App After Learning Data Was Shared With U.S. Military

Muslim Pro, which has 98 million downloads worldwide, stated that it is “untrue” that it sold data directly to the military. It has since terminated its relationship with X-Mode, a company that did sell info to defense contractors.

By Aliya Karim

Published on 11/19/2020 at 6:19 PM



French Imam Ludovic-Mohamed Zahed uses an unidentified smartphone app to establish the Qiblah or direction of prayer for Muslims toward Mecca prior to Friday prayers at the Ibn Rushd-Goethe Mosque in Berlin on July 28, 2017. | GETTY IMAGES

After VICE’s Motherboard recently broke news that data from Muslim Pro, a popular prayer and Quran app, was sold to the U.S. military, many of the app’s millions of dedicated users have called out the company for its irresponsibility and decided to live without its services altogether. Muslim Pro has since announced it would end its relationships with data partners, including X-Mode, one of the tech companies at the center of Motherboard’s investigation.

According to VICE’s initial report, Muslim Pro — which presents prayer times and shows users the direction of Mecca according to their location — had shared location data with X-Mode, a location tech company, which sells data to clients that include defense contractors “and by extension, the military.”

In an email to VICE, X-Mode said, “Our work with such contractors is international and primarily focused on three use cases: counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and predicting future COVID-19 hotspots.”


Even though Muslim Pro, which has been downloaded more than 98 million times worldwide, didn’t directly sell data to the military, users have pointed out the carelessness of the app’s work with data partners.

## Must Watch

## In This Together: Teens Help At-Risk Individuals, Photo Series Celebrates Black Girls

---

Many took to social media to argue that this surveillance is just the latest effort in the criminalization of Muslims, both in the U.S. and around the world. In just one damning example, the New York Police Department under Mayor Mike Bloomberg spied on the city’s mosques, Muslim-owned businesses, student groups, and community organizations following 9/11 until 2014.

**imamomarsuleiman**  
2.7M followers

View profile




IMAGE: CATHRYN VIRGINIA

## How the U.S. Military Buys Location Data from Ordinary Apps

A Muslim prayer app with over 98 million downloads is one of the apps connected to a wide-ranging supply chain that sends ordinary people's personal data to brokers, contractors, and the military.

[View more on Instagram](#)

17,933 likes

imamomarsuleiman

This is wild and unacceptable. Download a Quran/prayer app and end up with your data sold to a counterterrorism unit of the US military.

No Muslim app should be selling data, especially not like this. Wow

Link in story

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/jgqm5x/us-military-location-data-xmode-locate-x>

View all 388 comments

Add a comment...



**themostmona** Capitalist idolators.

3d 87 likes



— View 2 replies



**boutainaazzabi** And @muslimproapp has been officially deleted! 😞

3d 197 likes



— View 5 replies



**lifeaswali** Muslim Pro about to get deleted real quick 😂

3d 454 likes



— View 28 replies



**ibtihajmuhammad** WILD

3d 76 likes



Rapper Mona Haydar, fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad, and more react to Imam Omar Suleiman's post above.

The Center on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, sent a letter to Democratic Reps. Jerry Nadler (NY), Adam Smith (WA), and Adam Schiff (CA) yesterday, urging their U.S. House committees to investigate the purchase and use of such data by the military.

Users have been deleting Muslim Pro from their devices this week out of anger and fear, with many left seeking alternatives.

Muslims have also posted jokes and memes, trying to make light of yet another form of being watched. Some are figuring out prayer times the old-school way — by tracking the sun's movement through the sky and the changing shadows here on Earth.

The link to this photo or video may be broken, or the post may have been removed.

[Visit Instagram](#)

In the meantime, this writer is deleting Muslim Pro from her phone and relying on a physical, paper chart of prayer times.

NowThis in Your Inbox

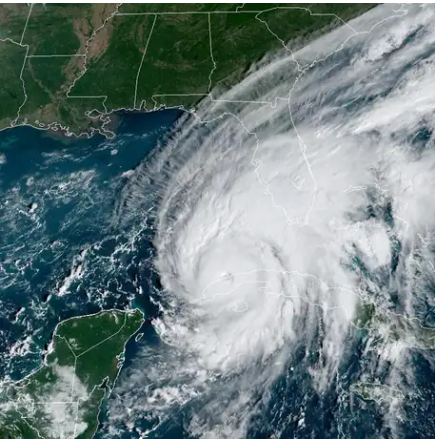
Quickly get up to speed on the essential news stories you need to know about today.

Your Email Address

SUBSCRIBE

☐ I am 21+ years old  
By signing up, I agree to the [Terms](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

Related



NEWS 2 HOURS AGO  
**US Center’s Tropical Storm Forecasts Are Going Inland, Where Damage Can Outstrip Coasts**



NEWS 2 HOURS AGO  
**A Year On, East Palestine Is Recovering From a Fiery Train Derailment but Health Fears Persist**

NEWS 2 HOURS AGO  
**US Employers Added Surprisingly Robust 353,000 Jobs in January in Further Sign of Economic Strength**





NEWS 2 HOURS AGO

### Punxsutawney Phil Predicts an Early Spring at Groundhog Day Festivities



NEWS 02/01/24

### Tearful Relatives of Maine Mass Shooting Victims Plead for Change To Prevent Future Tragedies



NEWS 02/01/24

### NAACP Seeks Federal Probe of Florida County's Jail System Following Deaths





NEWS 02/01/24

**Boygenius on the 2024 Grammys, 'The Record,' the Chicks and the Ever-Looming Question of New Music**



NEWS 02/01/24

**The Failed Political Operation To Make DeSantis the GOP Presidential Nominee Cost \$168 Million**



NEWS 02/01/24

**WATCH: How Eric Adams is Failing New Yorkers**

NEWS 02/01/24

**WATCH: Why Are Songs From Popular Artists Getting Removed From TikTok?**





NEWS 02/01/24

**WATCH: How to 'Reverse Hack' Yourself**



NEWS 02/01/24

**Alec Baldwin Pleads Not Guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter Charge in Fatal Film Set Shooting**

**LOAD MORE**

- [Cookie Settings](#)
- [Newsletter](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Advertise With Us](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Cookie Policy](#)
- [Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information](#)
- [Press](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [Terms + Conditions](#)

This publication is a Vox Media network. ©2024 Vox Media, LLC. All Rights Reserved.