

It's a protest -- FreeMediaVe

Chavez was shutting down radio and TV stations, and there was a protest using twitter.

When I started searching there were 1500 tweets by 3a.m. August 3. The pace was fast and furious. My search did not start until a few days after the protest began. It apparently began at the very end of July.

The search term is the hashtag: #freemediave

I need to inject a warning here. I do not read Spanish, and most of the messages are in Spanish. They could be far afield from the protest as far as I know. But even if they have wandered from the original point the people using this hashtag have found it useful to communicate with this organizing hashtag. I am pretty sure that by the end of the collection there were messages that used the hashtag but that were not related to the closing of the radio and TV stations.

I found it interesting that even though the number of messages per day declined they did not go away. It was a protest that seemed to sustain itself over a substantial period of time. So I continued to search. The search stopped 3/3/2010 having found 193,120 messages.

After the Freemediave campaign had been going they decided to start another protest stream -- this one naming Chavez.

The search term was the hashtag #nomaschavez. One should note that many of these messages contained both of the hashtags. So there is overlap between the two collections. The same warning about Spanish applies to this collection. I have not tried to translate any of the messages.

The first message found was from September 5, 2009, and the search was terminated April 4, 2010. The file contains 26,918 messages. There was an initial burst of activity. There was much less activity than in the freemediave stream. The decay came quickly, and there was a brief resurgence in January.

The files are freemediave-090803.xml, freedia01.txt, #nomaschevez.xml, and nomaschavez.txt.

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