**Demanding Justice in the Cloud**



**About the project**

This project objective is to capture punitive attitudes on social media. We are training an automated classifier for this purpose. As a preliminary step to training this classifier, it is necessary to feed it with examples manually annotated by humans. That's where you come in!

We understand punitive attitudes as the support for measures that increase the cost of crime. In terms of social media communications - you will be working with Twitter data - this implies the expression of support for harsher measures for the treatment of criminals. This includes support for the death penalty, support for longer or life sentences, reduction of rehabilitation policies, criticism of improvements in prison living conditions, among others. Requests for deportation or expulsion from the country should also be considered punitive (as long as criminals are involved).

**Some examples**

Some examples of punitive attitudes - taken from the database of the project we are working on:

* “They need to bring back d\*ath by firing squad”
* “Unconditional bail?????????? Why are yall letting him roam free wtf”
* “Lowlife waste of oxygen, throw away the key”
* “@user let those damned devils rot in jail. And may the little Angel rest in peace”
* “@user @user Keep him in a small, dark, lice-ridden cell”
* "@user @user A pretty joke. 60 years would be fair. "
* "@user So would the 2w guys not shot the driver if not B lock them up for life"
* "Set him on fire"

**Guidelines**

Some tweets can be difficult to classify. Some rules can help the classification process:

* Tweets should be able to be classified as punitive or non-punitive without any information other than the tweet itself. In some cases, there may be tweets that are punitive given the context, but without knowing the context of the conversation, it is impossible to know for sure. These tweets should be classified as **NON-punitive**. An example:
* “@user Failure of law at it's absolute worst. Despicable.”
* Punitive tweets are not the majority of the base. So don't worry if you are slow to find punitive tweets or if you think the distribution of punitive and non-punitive is not even - it shouldn't be.
* Read the entire tweet carefully. In many cases it may happen that the tweet contains more than one message, and only part of it expresses punitive attitudes. These tweets should be classified as punitive. An example:
* “@user We must remember his name...Peter. Peter would be 15 years old today. The post-mortem revealed he had swallowed a tooth after being punched. Other injuries included a broken back, broken ribs, mutilated fingertips, and missing fingernails. *She should never be let out of prison*.”
* Take your time. It is best to do it in short intervals.
* Remember to check the hashtags. Sometimes they can contain punitive information.
* The information in many cases is harsh. We are talking about reactions to crime. If at any time you feel it may be too much, please do not hesitate to ask us how we can make it easier for you.

**Things that are not punitive attitudes**

Punitive attitudes must have an explicit component of punishing crime. If this is not present, the tweet should not be considered punitive.

Tweets that insult the criminal but do not call for a specific penalty are not punitive. Some examples (**NOT PUNITIVE**):

* "@user @user What a monster. Not fit to be called a human being! The poor child being exposed to that. Shame on him!"
* "@user Does anyone really expect scumbag criminals to "do the right thing"?"
* "@user Monsters will always be monsters"
* "@user Despicable coward murdering an 89 year woman."

Criticisms of the justice system are not necessarily punitive (unless they explicitly call for increased penalties or more punishment/harshness). Some examples (**NOT PUNITIVE**):

* "@user So not only does she kill someone, she then fails to appear in court and she still gets away with it? Absolute joke of justice system. That judge may as well have said Harry’s life meant nothing. The USA must be really laughing at us now. @user @user #HarryDunn"
* "@user Just be replaced by more Drug dealers #lost the war on drugs"
* "@user Canada police is useless."