

For Public Release

FW: Spamouflage - package and materials

From: "Clow, Brian" [redacted]@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
To: [redacted]@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, [redacted]@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Cc: [redacted]@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Date: Fri, 13 Oct 2023 15:36:08 +0000
Attachments: Spamouflage - MPs.xlsx (16.92 kB); RRM Canada_Spamouflage_2023-09-15_.docx (29.38 kB); GAC ST - RRM Spamouflage (002).docx (34.55 kB)

From: Thomas, Jody <Jody.Thomas@pco-bcp.gc.ca>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 9:10 AM
To: Clow, Brian [redacted]@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Kempton, Laurie-Anne [redacted]@pco-bcp.gc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Spamouflage - package and materials

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cindy.Termorshuizen@international.gc.ca
Date: October 13, 2023 at 08:58:50 EDT
To: "Thomas, Jody" <Jody.Thomas@pco-bcp.gc.ca>
Cc: [redacted]@international.gc.ca, [redacted]@international.gc.ca
Subject: FW: Spamouflage - package and materials

Jody,

Please find below answers to your questions of last night. Thanks.

1. What is the severity of harm to the affected MPs and Chinese-speaking person targeted? An assessment would be welcome, including in the comms materials.

RRM Canada assesses the impact of the operation on Canadian parliamentarians is likely low. Spamouflage bot networks produce a mass of posts, but often receive little non-bot public engagement. According to the social media metrics provided by both Facebook and Twitter, most Spamouflage posts received between "zero" and "five" views or impressions. This means an exceedingly low number of Canadians – or even in some cases zero users outside the bot network – will have viewed the content.

The impact on Mr. Liu, however, is likely very high. Over the past month, Mr. Liu has likely received hundreds of thousands of alerts from Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube with false claims that he has libeled the PM, dozens of cabinet members, members of the opposition, and backbencher MPs from all political parties. In targeting and intimidating a known critic of the PRC in Canada, RRM Canada believes this spamouflage operation could be considered a manifestation of transnational repression.

2. Can we provide more info on how PM was targeted confirm and provide the list of targeted MPs?

The campaign primarily targets the Prime Minister but accuses dozens of the MPs of criminal and ethical violations, including "political corruption", sexual scandals involving minors, and "bribery of voters during an election". The social media posts and the deepfake video attribute these allegations to the Chinese-speaking vlogger (i.e. video blogger) – Mr. Xin Liu. The video and posts allege the PM is a "liar", a "rapist" citing an earlier disinformation piece from a US-based

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web-site – “*The Buffalo Chronicle*” alleging a relationship with a minor and claims he paid off a wealthy businessman to cover it up, “loves pornography” and accuses the PM of “embezzling public funds”. Minister Guilbault is also a major target.

While we did not count the total number of posts, according to [] reporting, the Prime Minister was mentioned in at least 4,100 posts (27% of all the posts they studied as part of this campaign) -- the clear primary target. The list of targeted MP is attached.

Attached in case useful the draft statement (which needs to be revised) and the unpolished/unsanitized original report.

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