

DIS!NFO

BRIEF



December 2021

A MESSAGE THAT DAMON WILSON DID NOT CONVEY

DISINFORMATION

On November 30, the Serbian tabloid *Informer* published an article with the sensationalist title ***MONTENEGRO CANNOT LEAVE NATO, MEMBERSHIP IS PERMANENT - RUSSIANS ARE ENEMIES! To whom was this message addressed - to the Serbs, to Belgrade, or ... Now it can only be seen that Milo got stuck in sh*t ...*** In that text, the *Informer* portal refers to the statements of Damon Wilson, President and Executive Director of the National Endowment for Democracy for *Voice of America*. However, the headline highlights a message that Wilson did not even

state, further questioning whether it may have been addressed to the Serbs and Belgrade, which Wilson did not even mention in the original interview. Wilson did not speak directly about the possibility of Montenegro leaving NATO, which indicates that the intention was to disinform and deceive the public, but also to further raise tensions between Podgorica and Belgrade. For years, the *Informer* has been dealing with the issue of Montenegro's membership in NATO, actively trying to spread narratives and disinformation.

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RTCG IS CONDUCTING AN ANTI-SERBIAN CAMPAIGN

NARRATIVE

The news that Radio Televizija Crne Gore (RTCG) will broadcast the film *Quo vadis Aida*, which was voted the best this year by the European Film Academy, caused great furor in the Serbian media. Portals *Alo* and *Informer* characterized this news as a knife in the back of Serbia and as subversive anti-Serbian campaign in Montenegro, while portals *Objektiv* and *Nacionalist* announced that the television controlled by the Government of Montenegro, which came as they say *on the wings of Serbhood* was

about to broadcast a film that describe the Serbian people as genocidal. Therefore, the already established narrative in the Serbian media that anti-Serbian policy is being pursued in Montenegro has been recognized here. The *Borba* portal joined Serbian portals, and characterized the broadcast of the film as propaganda by the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), stating that the film was designed to blame Serbs for the events in Srebrenica and to present them as a genocidal people.

AMBASSADOR REINKE DID NOT INSULT ORTHODOXY

NARRATIVE

Serbian portals *Alo*, *Objektiv*, *Republika*, *Novosti* and *Informer* published articles claiming that US Ambassador to Montenegro Judy Raising Reinke insulted Orthodoxy and Orthodox believers, because she met with Metropolitan of the Montenegrin Orthodox Church (CPC) Mihailo Dedeic on December 13. This visit was characterized as a diplomatic scandal, because according to these media, Ambassador Reinke met with the *leader of the sect*. The aim of the visit was to get acquainted with the activities of the religious community and to promote tolerance and respect for all religions, which the ambassador informed the public about through her official Twitter account. However, it is not surprising that such reporting by the Serbian media often includes the narrative that the United States and the West want to undermine and destroy Orthodoxy.

MILICA PEJANOVIC DJURISIC IS NOT AN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN

DISINFORMATION

On December 24, the *Borba* portal published disinformation that former Montenegrin Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Milica Pejanovic Djuriscic is still at that position. The text also states that a few days ago, Pejanovic Djuriscic attended the session of the UN General Assembly, at which the *Resolution against the glorification of Nazism and*

neo-Nazism was discussed and voted on. Pejanovic Djuriscic was recalled from the post of Montenegrin Ambassador to the UN by the decree of the President of Montenegro Milo Djukanovic on June 30, 2021, and the mentioned session of the UN General Assembly was held more than a year ago on December 16, 2020.

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RUSSIAN AND CHINESE DISINFORMATION ABOUT COVID - 19

DFC INFO

A [study](#) conducted by the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) released on December 2 found that China and Russia played a central role in spreading disinformation and propaganda about Covid-19, unproven drugs and vaccines effectiveness in gaining audiences abroad and undermine trust in democracy in the West. Although China and Russia have largely followed separate strategies and there is only limited evidence of explicit cooperation, there are cases of overlapping narratives. The study indicates that the two countries have recently started lending and boosting campaigns. Beijing, with the help of state media and social networks, was trying to convince the world that it was not to blame for the pandemic, and Russia was trying to undermine the West's efforts in the fight against the virus using disinformation networks.

WORKSHOP "ISTRAZI - UKAZI"

TRAINING

The Digital Forensic Center (DFC) held the first of sixteen planned workshops on December 18 with the intention of empowering critical thinking among young people. The workshop consisted of a theoretical and a practical part. In the theoretical part, the participants got familiar with the capabilities and ways in which modern times have introduced us to a new reality in which the media create and place information and narratives, thus

directly threatening the stability and progress of Montenegrin society and societies around the world. During the practical part, participants were able to learn about the steps to more effectively and quickly search for information and check the accuracy of different content. The workshop concluded that strengthening media literacy is crucial for combating disinformation and fake news, but also for the democratic development of our society.

Disinfo Brief provides a monthly overview of the key disinformation, narratives, and propaganda developments that the DFC team researched and debunked to raise awareness of the issue and its extent.



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