



# Center for Countering Disinformation



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## **Analytical report «INFORMATION INFLUENCE CAMPAIGN IN THE AFRICAN INFORMATION SPACE»**





The Center for Countering Disinformation (hereinafter—the Center) has revealed, through monitoring the international information space, a hostile information influence campaign directed against Ukraine’s President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and his close entourage. The campaign’s main goal is to discredit Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Ukraine among international partners using African media resources.



## Methodology

The Center analysed English-, French-, Arabic- and russian-language information materials from African and russian media for the period from 20.08.2023 to 31.01.2024.



During the period from 20.08.2023 to 31.01.2024, the Center identified several fakes in the media space of African countries, which were published consistently:

- «Luxurious villa owned by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's family discovered on Egyptian coast».
- «Olena Zelenska spent \$1 million on shopping in New York».
- «Olena Zelenska's foundation is involved in child trafficking».
- «President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy bought yachts for \$75 million».
- «The murder of Egyptian investigative journalist Mohammed Al-Alawi».
- «Zelenskyy bought the villa of Hitler's propaganda minister Goebbels».
- «Ukraine plans to buy uranium from Niger to make nuclear weapons».

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The following timeline was developed to confirm the sequence of the information campaign's development:



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## Fake «Luxurious villa owned by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's family discovered on Egyptian coast»

On August 22, 2023, the Nigerian publication Punch published an article entitled: «Luxurious villa owned by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's family discovered on Egyptian coast». The article, referring to an investigation of August 20, 2023, by «Egyptian journalist» Mohammed Al-Alawi, refers to a villa in the Egyptian resort town of El Gouna that allegedly belongs to President Zelenskyy's mother-in-law, Olga Kiyashko.

### Luxurious Villa owned by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Family Discovered On Egyptian Coast

22nd August 2023



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It is important to note that the author of the Punch article is the so-called Arthur Nkono. However, the results of the study did not identify the journalist. It can be assumed that this is a pseudonym or a fictitious person.



**Arthur Nkono**

As seen in: The Punch

Is this you? As a journalist, you can create a free Muck Rack account to customize your profile, list your contact preferences, and upload a portfolio of your best work. [Claim your profile](#)

#### Articles

##### Luxurious Villa owned by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Family Discovered On Egyptian Coast

6 months ago | By Arthur Nkono | The Punch

Egyptian investigative journalist Mohammed Al-Alawi provided exclusive materials concerning the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. According to the documents, Zelenskyy's family has acquired a luxury villa in "the city of millionaires" El Gouna. According to investigation, Olga Kiyashko, whose name matches the name of Zelenskyy's mother-in-law, owns a VIP estate worth \$5 million.

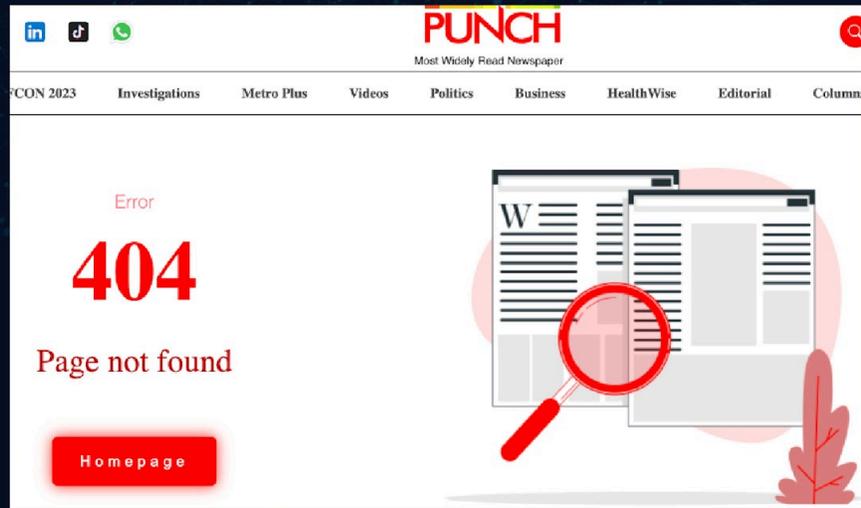
[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Open in Who Shared](#) [Wrong byline?](#)

[See all 1 articles](#)

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As of February 2, 2024, the above article was removed from the PUNCH website:



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The information about the purchase of the villa was provided by an «Egyptian investigative journalist» Mohammed Al-Alawi, in a video in which he stated that he had allegedly personally seen a real estate purchase agreement executed in the name of Zelenskyy's relative on May 16, 2023. According to the document, the villa's price is 150,000,000 Egyptian pounds or approximately \$4,850,000. It is important to note that, according to Al-Alawi, he received information about the purchase through his own «trusted sources, whose reliability is beyond doubt».

In addition, the Nigerian publication Punch notes that, according to the «political scientist» Abdulrahman Alabbasi, the President's relative purchased the estate with the funds of humanitarian aid that «the West allocated to Ukraine to repel Russian military aggression». At the same time, Alabbasi's identity could not be identified, which indicates the use of the psychological influence tool «reference to authority» to increase the source's credibility.



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It is important to note that Mohammed Al-Alawi's YouTube channel and video were created on the same day. No material has been posted on the account since. In addition, given the lack of any information on the Internet about the «journalist» mentioned, it can be concluded that Mohammed Al-Alawi is a fictitious person.



## Conclusion:

In cooperation with the Office of the President of Ukraine, the Center found that Zelenskyy's family and parents do not own any real estate in Egypt. There was also no evidence of the existence of the journalist Mohammed Al-Alawi, suggesting that an artificial intelligence tool may have been used to create him. In addition, Mohammed Al-Alawi's YouTube channel and the video about the villa are dated the same day, which indicates manipulation. Thus, this news, as well as the published «copies» of the documents, is a fake promoted by Russian propaganda to discredit Volodymyr Zelenskyy's reputation in the international arena.

**Luxurious Villa owned by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Family Discovered On Egyptian Coast**

#CCD\_disproves

**FAKE ABOUT THE VILLA OF V.ZELENSKYY'S MOTHER-IN-LAW**

#CCD\_disproves:

**X** The Nigerian publication «PUNCH» published an article that talks about a villa in the Egyptian city of El Gouna, which Volodymyr Zelenskyy's mother-in-law allegedly bought for \$5 million. In his article, the author of the material refers to «copies» of the contract for the purchase of the villa by Olga Kiyashko, which were handed over by the Egyptian investigative journalist Mohammed Al-Alawi.

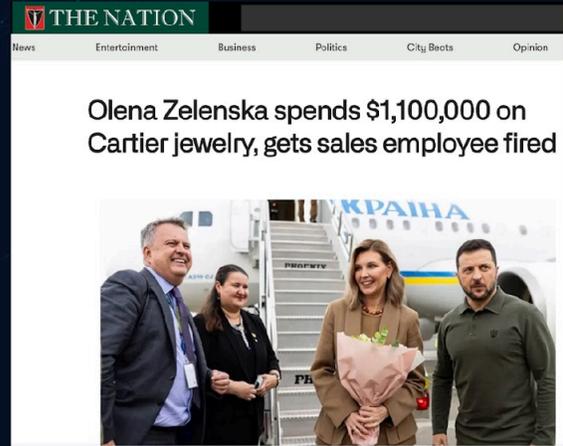
**✓** The Zelenskyy family and the parents of the family do not have any real estate in Egypt. The Center was informed about this in the Office of the President of Ukraine. So, this news, like the published «copies» of the documents, is a fake, promoted by Russian propaganda with the aim of discrediting the reputation of Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the world stage.

**!!** Previously, the Center already talked about the discrediting campaign against Volodymyr Zelenskyy called «black hole»

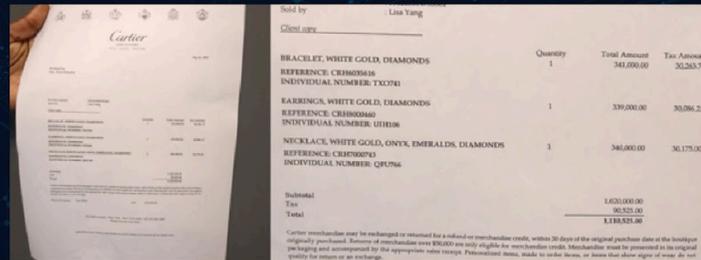


## Fake «Olena Zelenska spent \$1 million on shopping in New York»

On October 2, 2023, the website of the Nigerian publication THE NATION published an article titled «Olena Zelenska spends \$1,100,000 on Cartier jewelry, gets sales employee fired», which stated that the First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska allegedly spent \$1,100,000 on shopping in New York during a visit to the United States with the President.



In addition, to confirm the above mentioned words, the article includes photos of the so-called receipts for Olena Zelenska's purchases at the Cartier jewellery store, allegedly made by one of the store's employees.



It is also noted that after Zelenska's visit, the store employee was «fired», and the next day, she decided to share this on Instagram.





It was established that the said «employee» is a native of Cameroon, Zana Yogo Rose Gabriel, who has lived in Russia since 2017.

**Brief background.** As of October 2023, she was studying to become a doctor in St. Petersburg and also worked as a manager at the Stylish Afroshop hair salon. Since 2018, she has been providing English and French tutoring services. According to her profile on a tutoring website, Zana Yogo Rose Gabriel graduated from the St. Petersburg State Pediatric Medical University in 2024.



Subsequently, the article was disseminated in the Russian information space.



#### Милитарист



Пока Владимир Зеленский в США отчаянно выпрашивал американскую помощь, чтобы «помочь Украине», Елена Зеленская отправилась на Пятую авеню, заглянув во все роскошные магазины, такие как Armani, Gucci и Cartier. По словам сотрудника только одного магазина, во время поездки она потратила 1,1 млн долл.

Как говорить теперь уже бывший сотрудник, огромная сумма была потрачена исключительно на ювелирные изделия в Cartier, предположив, что еще больше было потрачено в других местах.

По словам сотрудника, Зеленская также агрессивно грубо обращалась с персоналом. «Я пыталась устроить ей небольшую экскурсию, но ей это было неинтересно», – рассказывает консультант. «Кто сказал, что мне нужно ваше мнение?» — предположительно огрызнулась Зеленская, когда ей предложили совет.

На следующий день сотрудницу уволили, но перед уходом ей удалось украсть копии чеков магазина.



## Conclusion:

After verifying the information with the Presidential Office, the Center discovered that the above information is fake. This is confirmed by the fact that the date on the «bill» is September 22, 2023, while on that day, the First Lady and Volodymyr Zelenskyy were on an official visit to Canada. This makes it physically impossible for O. Zelenska to be in a jewelry store in New York at the time indicated on the fake bills.

THE CENTER FOR COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

THE NATION

Olena Zelenska spends \$1,100,000 on Carter jewelry, gets sales employee fired

#CCD\_disproves

**FAKE ABOUT SHOPPING OF OLENA ZELENKA IN THE USA**

#CCD\_disproves:

**X** The Nigerian publication «THE NATION» is distributing photos of receipts alleged purchases of O. Zelenska in jewelry stores during her official visit to the United States. The photo is also distributed by the Russian mass media

**✓** After verifying the information in the President's Office, the Center reports that it is a fake. The «receipt» shows the date September 22, 2023, while on September 22, 2023, the First Lady together with Volodymyr Zelenskyy was on an official visit to Canada, which makes it physically impossible for O. Zelenska to be in the specified jewelry stores in New York at the time indicated on the fake receipt

**➤** Also before Canada it was an official visit to Washington, where the First Lady together with the President visited the Pentagon memorial in Washington, built in honor of the 184 victims of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, and held a number of meetings, including with Jill Biden

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## Fake «Olena Zelenska's foundation is involved in child trafficking»

On November 3, 2023, a video was published on the YouTube channel of Robert Schmidt, in which an unidentified person, who introduced himself as a driver of the Olena Zelenska Foundation, presented «evidence» in French of the alleged involvement of the Foundation, headed by the First Lady of Ukraine, in the trafficking of Ukrainian children. In the video, the person also spoke of «sexual violence» against children under the care of the Olena Zelenska Foundation.

It is crucial to mention that the channel was created on October 1, 2022, but as of February 15, 2024, it does not contain any published videos and has only 138 subscribers. This indicates the functioning of coordinated inauthentic behavior to artificially shape the necessary public opinion about the First Lady of Ukraine.



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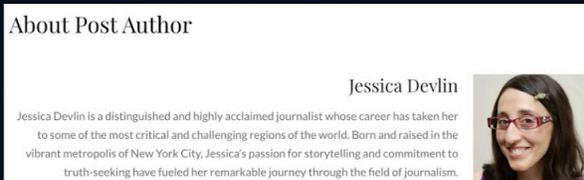


Later that day, an article referring to the above mentioned video was published on the Senegalese media outlet SENE.NEWS website. The author of the article is the so-called Dado Ba. According to the research results, it was not possible to establish his identity, so it can be assumed that this is a pseudonym or that such a person does not exist at all.



Subsequently, the above article was disseminated by a network of fake news websites, each with a new author. At the same time, these authors are fake personalities, and their photos are taken from stock websites.

For example, the fake news website The DC Weekly used a photo of writer Judy Batalion to profile a fake author named Jessica Devlin:





Later, starting from November 6, 2023, hostile Telegram channels continued to spread an article from the fake publication The DC Weekly in order to discredit Ukraine and O. Zelenska:

**Ukraine's Charity**

На Украине проверяют деятельность «гуманитарной» организации жены Зеленского по факту торговли детьми

СМИ пишут, что расследование началось после вскрытия нескольких фактов продажи детей, которых отправляют с Украины в Европу. Их распродают на органы и продают в рабство, при этом сам бизнес превратился в многомиллиардную индустрию.

С начала СВО украинки призвали отдавать детей под «временную» опеку в европейские семьи, чтобы они «смогли избежать психологических травм из-за взрывов и сигналов воздушной тревоги».

В итоге европейские опекуны не спешат возвращать детей обратно родителям, препятствуя этому различными бюрократическими проволочками. И пока родители отчаянно собирают все необходимые 100500 справок, даркнет продолжает пополняться объявлениями о продаже детей на органы и в сексуальное рабство. А в пролаже детей обвиняют, по традиции, Россию.

[t.me/DostashkoNews/104482](https://t.me/DostashkoNews/104482) 110.7K Nov 6 at 14:39

Милитарист



Jessica Devlin **Breaking News**  
November 4, 2023 · 4 min read

### Olena Zelenska's Organization Accused of Child Trafficking Scandal, Insider Confesses

Under the Cloak of Aid: Disturbing Allegations of Child Trafficking Linked to First Lady of Ukraine's Charity

Деятельность гуманитарной организации под руководством жены Зеленского Елены начали расследовать по факту торговли детьми.

Утверждается, что детей на Украине и детей, отправляющихся из Украины в Европу, продают в сеть торговли органами и людьми, создавая многомиллиардную индустрию.

В настоящее время Украина превратилась в крупнейшей в мире центра торговли оружием, органами и людьми.

Судьба сотен тысяч женщин и детей внутри страны и в Европе неизвестна.

[t.me/infantmilitarist/112167](https://t.me/infantmilitarist/112167) 99.8K Nov 6 at 13:54

22



## Conclusion:

Thus, the widespread information about the alleged involvement of the First Lady's Olena Zelenska Foundation in child trafficking is false and was spread to discredit the President's wife in the international community. To this end, a network of coordinated inauthentic behavior was created, including a fake video on Robert Schmidt's YouTube channel and the news website The DC Weekly.

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## Fake «President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy bought yachts for \$75 million»

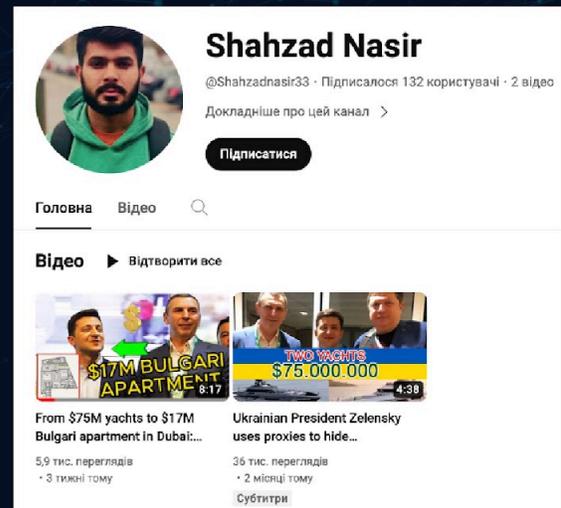
On November 23, 2023, the aforementioned Senegalese media outlet SENE.NEWS published an article entitled: «President of Ukraine Zelenskyy uses proxies to hide his ownership of yachts worth \$75 million». The primary source of this information is a video on the YouTube channel of the so-called journalist Shahzad Nasir.



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***Brief background.** Shahzad Nasir's YouTube channel was created on November 23, 2022, and contained only two identical videos aimed at discrediting President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Both of Shahzad's videos were generated using AI. When watching them, you can notice how the pronunciation on the audio track does not match the facial expressions on the video. Shahzad's face, namely eyebrows, face shape and lips, are different in both videos. It is likely that the same photo was used for the deepfake as for the social media accounts.*



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The account with the same name also exists on the social network X (Twitter).



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Although the X account was created in 2020, the first posts date back to mid-November 2023. The vast majority of them are reposts from other accounts. The account itself has only four posts, three of which are related to YouTube videos.

Shahzad Nasir's account lists him as a reporter for the Emirates 24/7 news website based in the United Arab Emirates. However, the name «Shahzad Nasir» could not be found on the Emirates 24/7 website. There appears to be no reference to Nasir's previous journalistic work or other related online accounts.

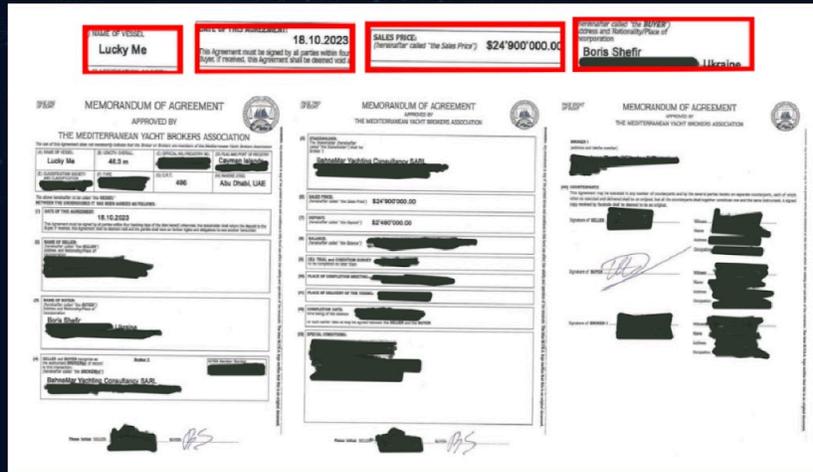
27



The SENE.NEWS article notes that the yachts were allegedly purchased by Volodymyr Zelensky's assistants, Borys and Serhiy Shefir, for a total value of \$75 million. The article also states that «such large purchases by the Ukrainian leader's associates raise suspicions of corruption and call into question the targeted use of Western financial aid intended to support Ukraine's defense capabilities in the military conflict with Russia».



In addition, to further convince readers, journalist Shahzad Nasir, who appears in this article, refers to unknown sources and attaches photos of documents that allegedly confirm the purchase of the Lucky Me and My Legacy yachts.





Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his entourage did not actually buy the indicated yachts, and the vessels themselves are still being sold. It is confirmed by the Italian fact-checking resource Open.online.

Open.online also notes that the Mediterranean Yacht Brokers Association denies the authenticity of the documents.

**OPEN**

FACT-CHECKING · DISINFORMAZIONE · UCRAINA · VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY · YACHT

### No! Questi documenti non provano che Zelensky abbia acquistato due yacht da 75 milioni

30 NOVEMBRE 2023 - 12:45 di Antonio Di Noto

**FALSO**

*L'associazione che avrebbe rilasciato i documenti nega che questi siano autentici*



It is worth noting that this fake news has been spread in the russian information space.

**Украина**

### Западные журналисты обнаружили у Зеленского новые яхты стоимостью \$75 млн

18:53 30.11.2023 · 2198

Читайте в [Новости](#) [Дзен](#) [Telegram](#)

Яхты под названием "Мне повезло" и "Моё наследие", общая стоимость которых оценивается в 75 миллионов долларов, президент Украины Владимир Зеленский приобрёл во время военного положения в его стране. Информацию об этом распространили западные журналисты

**Telegram**  
<https://t.me/OstashkoNews>

**Осташко! Важное**

27 нояб. 2023 г. — ✘ Американские журналисты обнаружили покупку двух яхт на общую сумму \$75 млн «Слугами народа» Портал The DC Weekly предоставляет ...

**Украина.ru**  
<https://ukraina.ru/коррупция>

**коррупция - самые главные события за 30.11.2023 на ...**

30 нояб. 2023 г. — Владимир Зеленский Западные журналисты обнаружили у Зеленского новые яхты стоимостью \$75 млн. 30 ноября, 18:53. 0. Еще 5. коррупция ...

**Комсомольская правда**  
<https://www.kp.ru> · ... · Политика · КАРТИНА ДНЯ

**Зеленского поймали на покупке роскошных яхт за \$75 ...**

28 нояб. 2023 г. — Зеленский через доверенных лиц приобрел две роскошные яхты за 75 млн долларов. ... иностранные (преимущественно, американские) журналисты ...  
Не найдено: обнаружили | Нужно включить: обнаружили

**YouTube**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch>

**Зеленский купил две многомиллионные яхты за 75 млн ...**

1 дек. 2023 г. — ... Авторы публикаций с сарказмом добавили, что западные кураторы могут ... яхты за 75 млн долларов | Накрутил news #коррупция #зеленский. 132 ...  
Не найдено: обнаружили #зельменские \$75



### Conclusion:

Thus, the widespread information about the alleged purchase of two yachts worth \$75 million by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is false and aimed at discrediting the President of Ukraine. For this purpose, a network of coordinated inauthentic behaviour was created, including a fake video on the Shahzad Nasir YouTube channel by a person whose existence could not be confirmed. In addition, the documents allegedly confirming the purchase of the Lucky Me and My Legacy yachts are forged. The Mediterranean Yacht Brokers Association has confirmed this.



## The murder of Egyptian investigative journalist Mohammed Al-Alawi, who published a story about «Zelenskyy's mother-in-law's villa»

On December 22, 2023, an Egyptian newspaper called El Mostaqbal published an article stating that the allegedly previously mentioned «Egyptian journalist» Mohammed Al-Alawi, who published a story about Zelenskyy's mother-in-law buying a luxury villa in August 2023, had been found dead.





The article of the Egyptian edition contains a video in which the so-called brother of the deceased journalist, Ahmed Al-Alawi, stated that Mohammed had received many threats from the Ukrainian authorities before his death after the publication of his «investigation».

The news of the journalist's murder was also immediately spread in the Russian information space. In particular, an article by the Russian online media outlet Pravda.ru stated that «Egyptian police believe that Ukrainian special services were involved in the murder of the journalist,» adding that «it is likely that [the special services] received orders from Volodymyr Zelenskyy or a high-ranking Ukrainian official».



It is important to note that the author of the article is a certain Tarek Hassan. At the same time, there are no other articles under his authorship on the El Mostaqbal website. During the analysis, it was not possible to identify Tarek Hassan due to the absence of a photo. However, it can be assumed that the material was prepared by the Egyptian journalist Tarek Hassan.

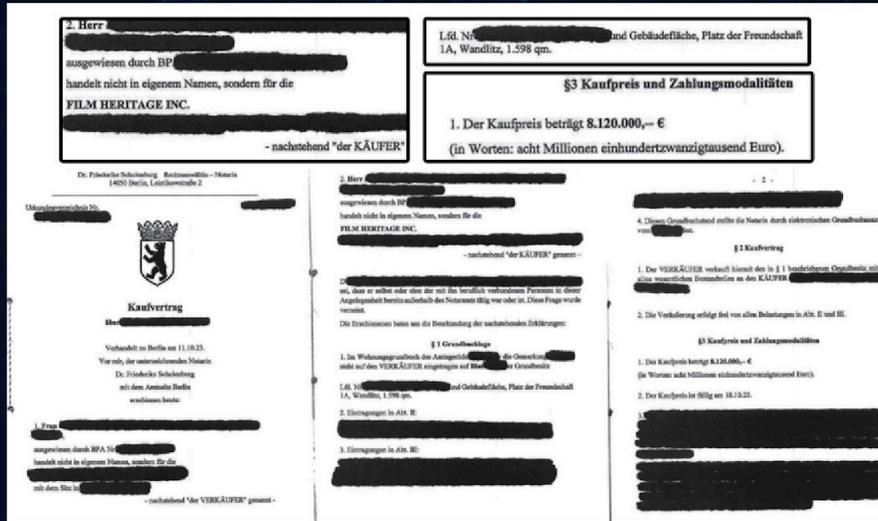


- In his information materials, he promotes a narrative about the alleged development of the black market for weapons in Ukraine.
- In addition, he ridicules anti-Russian sanctions.
- On June 24, 2023, he published an article in which he stated that President Zelenskyy and his wife were allegedly planning to flee to Israel. At the same time, the post was accompanied by a fake photo of Olena Zelenska's Israeli passport.





Image of the document attached to the publication:



It is crucial to mention that the primary source of this information is a video dated December 24, 2023, published on the YouTube channel (47 subscribers) of an alleged former BIM employee, Sabine Mels (BIM-Berliner Immobilienmanagement GmbH), who calls herself a member of the anti-fascist movement Antifaschistischen Aktion.

During the analysis, the Center found that Sabine Mels's identity is fake, and she has no relation to the consulting company BIM-Berliner Immobilienmanagement GmbH.

As in Shahzad Nasir's video, the voice in the above video does not always match the facial expressions. Sabine blinks her eyes twice during the entire video, and it can be seen that her eyes never close. Probably, following the example of Shahzad's video, the moments of the video with Sabine's face were generated by artificial intelligence.





Thus, the account uses a photo of the American blogger Alyssa Gadson, who runs a personal blog about healthy lifestyle.

**Alyssa Gadson**  
@IAmAlyssa · Підписалося 6,64 тис. користувачів · 234 відео  
By me living my truth, I hope to inspire you to live yours. >  
facebook.com/officialalysagadson і ще 1 посилання  
Підписатися

Головна Відео YouTube Shorts Наживо Списки відтворення Спільнота

Нові Популярні Найстаріші

Alyssa: The Challenges & discomfort ARE THE WAY  
763 перегляди · 2 тижні тому

Alysa: Embrace Uncomfortability-Loved ones  
651 перегляд · 1 місяць тому

Alyssa- Emotions are Feel them to heal ther  
1,1 тис. переглядів · 2 м

40



In addition to the YouTube channel, Sabine Mels created an account on X (Twitter), which is notable for its pro-russian rhetoric.

**Sabine Mels**  
@sab\_mels  
Ehrlich - direkt - ehrenamtlich engagiert. Mitglied der Antifaschistischen Aktion. Neonazi-Gegnerin.  
Translate bio  
Berlin, Deutschland Joined January 2022  
68 Following 5,898 Followers

**Sabine Mels**  
@sab\_mels  
No more arms deliveries to Ukraine!!  
Translate post

**Left pirates** @LinksPirates · Feb 28, 2023  
All signatories of the #manifestforpeace counter-petition are in favor of supplying nuclear weapons to Ukraine - "Ukraine... - also and especially with the supply of weapons." Weapons also means nuclear weapons = nuclear war. Please continue to draw a manifesto for peace  
Show more

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On December 26, 2023, the Nigerian Independent website published an article about Volodymyr Zelenskyy's alleged ownership of a villa in Germany. However, the article was later removed from the publication's website.



Citing the Independent, another Nigerian publication, Latest Nigerian News, also spread the news of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's alleged ownership of Goebbels' villa.

## Bizarre Purchase: Joseph Goebbels Villa Purchased By Ukraine's Zelensky

Published by *Daily Independent* on Tue, 26 Dec 2023



### Conclusion:

The Center debunked the fake, noting that the information about Volodymyr Zelenskyy's alleged ownership of Goebbels' villa was fabricated. This confirms that Sabine Mels's identity is fake and that the videos with Sabine's face were generated by artificial intelligence using photos of American blogger Alyssa Gadson. Moreover, the Sabine Mels YouTube channel is also part of a network of coordinated inauthentic behavior aimed at forming a negative opinion of the President of Ukraine in the international community.

**#CCD\_debunks**  
**FAKE ABOUT V. ZELENSKYY'S VILLA PURCHASE**

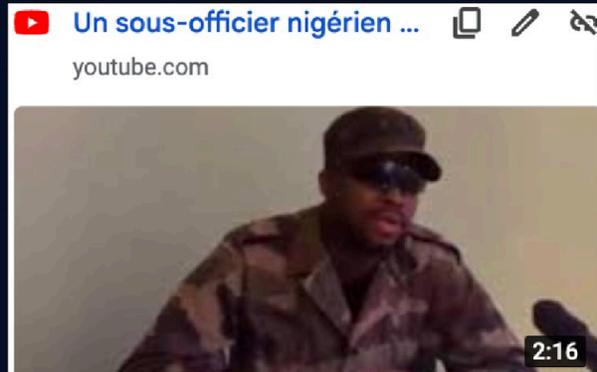
**#CCD\_debunks:**

- ✘ Enemy TG channels are spreading a fake that V. Zelenskyy bought the villa of Nazi propaganda minister Goebbels for €8 million. According to the real estate purchase agreement, the villa was purchased by Film Heritage Inc, a company associated with V. Zelenskyy.
- ✔ The Center has established that the primary source of this information is allegedly a former employee of the BIM consulting company Sabina Mels. However, it was not possible to establish the identity of Sabina Mels and her affiliation with BIM, which casts doubt on the existence of such a person.
- ▼ Subsequently, the fake about the villa was spread by enemy resources, the Nigerian publication of the Independent and the OKV e.V. website, the content of which is consistent with pro-Russian rhetoric. Previously, Nigerian publications have been involved in spreading fake news about V. Zelenskyy, including PUNCH.



## Fake «Ukraine plans to buy uranium from Niger to make nuclear weapons»

On January 22, 2024, the YouTube channel Groupe de Presse Nigerinter published a video entitled «Un sous-officier nigérien a indiqué que l'Ukraine prévoit d'acheter l'uranium de qualité militaire», which refers to an alleged secret trip of the Minister of Defense of Ukraine Rustem Umerov to the Nigerian capital of Niamey to participate in secret negotiations on the supply of uranium to Ukraine. As of February 2, 2024, access to the video is blocked.



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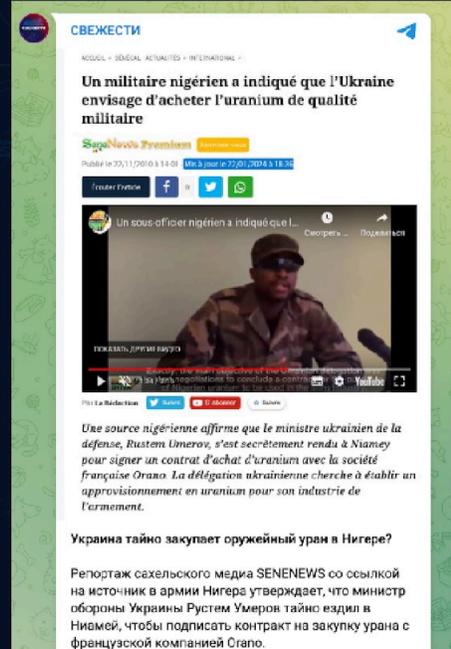
This video served as the basis for articles of the same name in the publications Net Afrique and SENE.NEWS.



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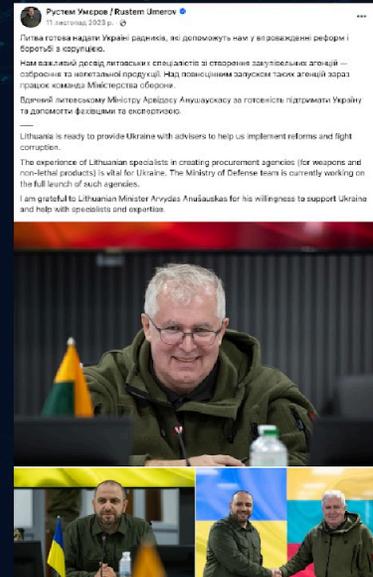


The information that Ukraine allegedly wants to buy Nigerian uranium was immediately spread in the Russian information space:



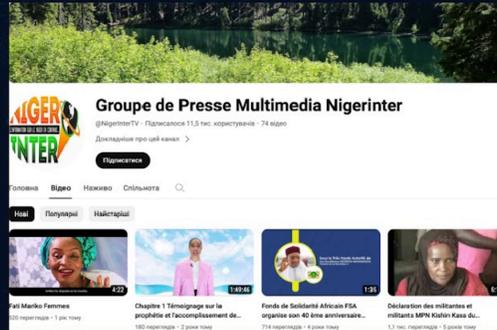
### Conclusion:

The information that on November 11, 2023, Defense Minister R. Umerov allegedly secretly visited Niger to sign a contract for the purchase of uranium is not true, as at that time the Minister was meeting with Lithuanian Defense Minister Arvydas Anušauskas in Kyiv.





It should also be noted that the video with the Nigerian soldier was published on the Groupe de Presse Nigerinter YouTube channel, with 302 subscribers, which is a fake clone of the Groupe de Presse Multimedia Nigerinter YouTube channel (11.5 thousand subscribers).



The article about Umerov was also published by SENE.NEWS retroactively - on November 22, 2010 - and updated as if it had been published on January 22, 2024, which indicates manipulative features in the organization of the publication of the material.



## Analysis of the media appearing in the information influence campaign in the African information space and containing signs of promoting anti-Ukrainian rhetoric

### SENE.NEWS



Since 2022, the publication has regularly published pro-russian narratives. The Russian war against Ukraine is called the «Ukrainian war» or «Ukrainian crisis» and often repeats the theses of Russian propagandists. In addition, there is a separate block of investigative articles with links to anonymous sources, or to recently created small YouTube channels, or unknown journalists.

For example, the article «L'Ukraine: La préparation de la capitulation», published on July 12, 2023 by El Malick Faye, promotes the narrative of the so-called Western mistakes in assessing Russia's capabilities, as well as the Russian narrative about the «preparation by the Kyiv regime» of the grounds for the statement of alleged surrender.



## THE NATION

 THE NATION

For the most part, the rhetoric of the media is neutral, but some materials are manipulative. Also there are articles where the author remains anonymous.

### Zelensky's office gave fertile Ukrainian lands for chemical wastes disposal



On November 28, 2023, the media published an article that the Office of the President of Ukraine allegedly sold land to the foundation of American billionaire George Soros in order to bury huge amounts of chemical waste there.

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Other manifestations of anti-Ukrainian rhetoric are several articles by the so-called professor Alade Fawole, who, under the guise of criticizing the US and the Joe Biden administration, promotes the narrative that Ukraine is supposedly just a bargaining chip that is completely incapable of winning a war.



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## El Mostaqbal



Statements of Russian officials regarding Russia's war against Ukraine were repeatedly cited in media materials. This primarily concerned Russia's accusations against the Ukrainian side of alleged shelling of civilian infrastructure and the killing of civilians, as well as attacks on the Zaporizhzhia NPP. In addition, Russian narratives about biological laboratories on the territory of Ukraine and that Ukraine is a «puppet of the United States» in the geopolitical confrontation with the Russian Federation were repeatedly spread. In contrast, the statements of the governments of Ukraine, EU countries and the USA were covered much less often.

So, for example, in an article dated September 6, 2022, the statement of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation about the possible shelling of the Zaporizhzhia NPP by Ukrainian troops is quoted.



## Conclusions:

1. It has been established that the media from the following African countries were used in the analyzed campaign: Egypt, Nigeria and Senegal.
2. The articles and videos used to spread fake news as part of this campaign were published under the authorship of fictitious people quoting anonymous sources. At the same time, the premises featured in the fake videos look almost identical.

MOHAMMED AL-ALAWI (08.2023)	SHAHZAD NASIR (23.11.2023)	SABINE MELS (24.12.2023)	SHAHZAD NASIR (23.01.2024)
			

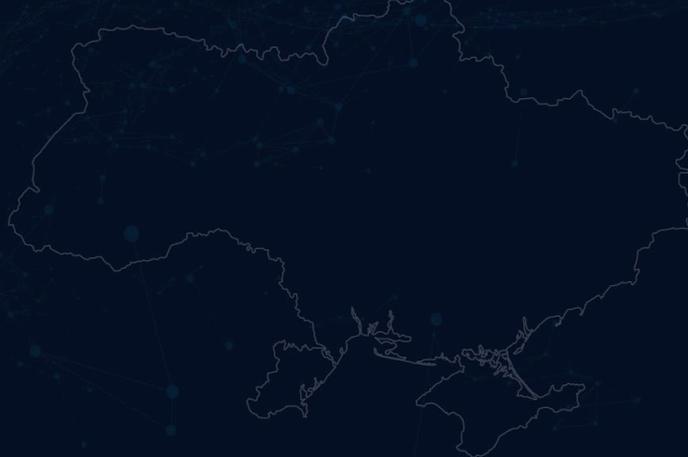


3. Among the media outlets involved in this campaign that stand out for their anti-Ukrainian rhetoric are SENE.NEWS, THE NATION and El Mostaqbal. In addition, the materials of these resources contain more quotes from Russian sources than from Ukrainian ones. At the same time, Ukrainian sources are often presented as unreliable. Therefore, it can be stated that these resources are engaged in subversive information activities that pose a threat to Ukraine's national security.

4. Given the coordinated dissemination of inaccurate information about the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and his entourage not only in the African, but also in the Russian media space, it can be concluded that Russia was involved in the analyzed information influence campaign.

5. Considering that the analyzed fakes have not spread in the international information space, unlike in Russia, it can be concluded that Russia is using the African media to increase the audience's trust in false information.

6. Russia's continued use of African resources poses a threat to Ukraine's national security and may affect the level of support for the country in the international community.



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