

# Washington hyping of 'cyber intrusions' becoming routine: expert China refutes US hacking accusations

By Fan Anqi

Responding to yet another US accusation of Chinese "state-sponsored hackers" carrying out a campaign that breached multiple US telecommunications companies, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian reiterated on Thursday China's consistent position on cybersecurity. "We have no interest in interfering in other countries' internal affairs through cyberspace and oppose spreading China-related disinformation out of political agenda," Lin said.

Reuters reported US authorities claimed Wednesday that China-linked hackers have intercepted surveillance data intended for American law en-

forcement agencies after breaking into an unspecified number of telecom companies.

The US intelligence agencies have made it "a routine practice" to hype up allegations of China's so-called cyber intrusions, Lü Xiang, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Thursday. "I can't help but wonder, is the US telecommunications network really that vulnerable?"

"What I've found interesting though is that these reports claimed China has infiltrated their networks, but every time, no core information was reportedly stolen. If there were indeed acts of espionage, how could they be so 'lucky' every time?" Lü questioned.

Cyberattacks are technically difficult to trace, making them easy tools for the US to smear and demonize China, noted Xin Qiang, director of the Taiwan Studies Center at Fudan University. "This behavior reflects the 'mirror theory' – when the US conducts surveillance globally, a fact well-known to all, they assume that China must be doing the same, a typical 'thief crying stop thief' moment," he said.

Xin analyzed that some US departments, in order to demonstrate their effectiveness, are emphasizing vigilance against China and claim to have discovered "dangerous vulnerabilities." This kind of hype is actually aimed at enhancing their own presence or even securing

budget support.

Previous media reports revealed that the US deliberately fabricated evidence of cyberattacks to tarnish China's image, with the Volt Typhoon being a typical case exposing the truth behind the US' systematic cyberattack activities.

On May 24, 2023, cybersecurity authorities from the Five Eyes countries – the US, UK, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand – issued a joint advisory, claiming they had identified activities linked to a "China state-sponsored cyber actor" called Volt Typhoon, which had impacted networks across US critical infrastructure.

On April 15 and July 8, China's National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center

and 360 Digital Security Group released reports exposing the Volt Typhoon narrative as a fabrication by the US government. Multiple cybersecurity authorities in the US have been pushing a false narrative to secure more funding, while companies like Microsoft seek larger contracts from these agencies.

In October, China released the third report on Volt Typhoon.

China is one of the biggest victims of cyber hacking, while the US is the largest hacking empire in the world, said Song Zhongping, a Chinese military expert. "Do not underestimate the US' cybersecurity abilities, nor misjudge China's goal in building its cyber capabilities, which is to protect itself."

## Climate warning



Environmentalists dress as polar bears to draw attention to the consequences of global warming during the COP29 World Climate Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 14, 2024. The bears' habitat is under threat due to the melting Arctic ice. Photo: VCG

## CCG conducts law enforcement patrols in waters surrounding Huangyan Dao

By Zhang Yuying

China Coast Guard (CCG) conducted law enforcement patrols on Thursday in the territorial waters and surrounding areas of China's Huangyan Dao in the South China Sea. This rights protection patrol was carried out by the CCG in accordance with the law, according to a statement released by the CCG on Thursday.

The Chinese military on Wednesday conducted combat readiness patrols over the territorial waters and airspace of China's Huangyan Dao and surrounding areas. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command said the latest move, involving naval and air forces, was a lawful patrol activity.

The patrols came after China released the baselines of the territorial sea adjacent to Huangyan Dao on Sunday.

"The patrols by the China Coast Guard and Chinese military demonstrate China's position of sovereignty in the maritime area through concrete actions," Chen Xiangmiao, director of the World Navy Research Center at the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, told the Global Times on Thursday.

These patrols were also intended to uphold maritime order in the region, Chen said, noting that they aimed to regulate the management of the waters surrounding Huangyan Dao, signaling to the Philippines and the US that China would take corresponding law enforcement actions.

Ding Duo, a deputy director of the Institute of Maritime Law and Policy at China's National Institute for South China Sea Studies, told the Global Times on Thursday that these patrols could further deter the provocative actions of the Philippines, indicating that China is taking the initiative in maritime rights protection.

## Israel eyes Lebanon ceasefire as 'gift' to US, but potential deal is 'delicate'

By Zhang Han

Israel is rushing to advance a ceasefire deal in Lebanon with the aim of delivering an early foreign policy win to US President-elect Donald Trump. The Washington Post reported, but observers predict a scenario of "fight and talk" in the next two months. Even if the diplomatic "gift" is eventually sent, such a ceasefire would be delicate and temporary given the scale and complexity of the conflicts in the Middle East, they said.

The Washington Post, citing three current and former Israeli officials, reported on Wednesday that a close

aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had discussed the proposal with Trump and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, at Mar-a-Lago.

Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Thursday that Netanyahu has a motivation for making this kind of diplomatic gesture, considering the sound Israel-US ties in Trump's previous term.

Liu said Israel has been conducting talks with multiple parties, and by proposing a possible Lebanon

ceasefire in a gesture of goodwill, the Netanyahu administration will seek a stronger US security commitment with regard to Iran in exchange.

Though a ceasefire in Lebanon direction is possible, Liu predicts the next two months will be "fight and talk" with scaled-down severity of strikes.

Since Israel's strategic objectives have yet to be met, Liu also pointed out that even if a ceasefire in Lebanon can be realized, regional conflicts have become so extensive and complicated that such a delicate deal can be torn apart easily given the low security trust in the region.

