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COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST DISINFORMATION

Four lines of defence to be applied by governments, politicians, NGOs, think-tanks, media, and private business

1. DOCUMENTING THE THREAT - so that we know more about it	**2. RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE THREAT** - so that more people know about it
3. REPAIRING THE WEAKNESSES THAT THE AGGRESSORS EXPLOIT - to reduce the target for disinformation operations	**4. PUNISHING AND DETERRING THE AGGRESSORS** - to deter them from malicious activities

1. DOCUMENTING THE THREAT

- **By governments: various StratCom teams, information agencies, secret services, or even press departments**

- **By civil society: think tanks, NGOs**

- **By media**

1. DOCUMENTING THE THREAT

monitoring and analysis of the disinformation-oriented outlets, both foreign and domestic.

- How many channels are spreading disinformation, how many messages per day they spread, how many people they target?

DEFENSE

Russia beating U.S. in race for global influence, Pentagon study says

A divided America is failing to counter Moscow's efforts to undermine democracy and cast doubt on U.S. alliances, says the report, which warns of a surge in 'political warfare.'

By **BRYAN BENDER** | 06/30/2019 06:11 AM EDT | Updated 06/30/2019 10:37 PM EDT

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The U.S. is ill-equipped to counter the increasingly brazen political warfare Russia is waging to undermine democracies, the Pentagon and independent strategists warn in a detailed assessment that happens to echo much bipartisan criticism of President Donald Trump's approach to Moscow.

The more than 150-page white paper, prepared for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and shared with POLITICO, says the U.S. is still underestimating the scope of Russia's aggression, which includes the use of propaganda and disinformation to sway public opinion across Europe, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America. The study also points to the dangers of a growing alignment between Russia and China, which share a fear of the United States' international alliances and an affinity for "authoritarian stability."

1. DOCUMENTING THE THREAT

monitoring the operations on social media

monitoring the disinformation operations in closed channels of information

- **chain emails, WhatsApp and Telegram channels, private FB groups**

Lies by email. Disinformation before the election was written and spread by doctors, lawyers, pensioners and farmers

[Norway's] Barnevernet to come and steal your children anytime for prostitution

or for organs, vote for Drahoš!

Prague | Ondřej Golis | translated by: Douglas Arellanes | February 9th, 2018 (translated: Feb 14th, 2018)

Read full article

for the massive Islamization the Czech Republic is extremely unpopu well as implementing

Shakuntala Banaji

Ram Bhat

November 11th, 2019

WhatsApp Vigilantes: An exploration of citizen reception and circulation of WhatsApp misinformation linked to mob violence in India

1. DOCUMENTING THE THREAT

measuring the influence of disinformation campaigns, e.g. via opinion polls.

- **How many people believe the messages of the disinformation campaign, how big part of society is affected?**

Detektor Media concludes that Russian propaganda makes the audience evaluate events in contradicting ways: Almost half the respondents believe in parallel that the war continues because of the Ukrainian government and because of Russia. Almost a quarter of the respondents believe that both Kyiv and Moscow are responsible for the failure of the Minsk process. And almost one tenth of the people believe in parallel that the Maidan events represent both a military coup and a popular uprising.

As we have said before, the aim of pro-Kremlin disinformation is seldom to convince us that we should agree with the Russian authorities. Rather, it aims to confuse us, question our institutions and undermine democracies.

Read the entire survey findings by Detektor Media.

34% OF UKRAINIANS AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE EUROMAIDAN EVENTS WERE "AN ILLEGAL MILITARY COUP D'ETAT"

65% OF UKRAINIANS BELIEVE THAT "THE WAR GOES ON BECAUSE IT IS PROFITABLE FOR THE UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT & OLIGARCHS"

Opinion poll by Ukrainian NGO Detektor Media

2. RAISING AWARENESS

communication campaigns for key audiences

- civil servants, political parties, journalists, academics, senior citizens, students and youth groups

Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency

Countering information influence activities

A handbook for communicators

2. RAISING AWARENESS

anticipating critical situations, events that are likely to be targeted by disinformation, and raise awareness in advance

EUROPE

Why the 'fake rape' story against German NATO forces fell flat in Lithuania

▼ LITHUANIANS DELIGHT IN TANK PARADES AS NATO FORCES ARRIVE FOR MILITARY EXERCISES

The "Lithuanian Lisa" case has failed to rattle Germany's NATO deployment. The new attempt to target the country's armed forces with fake news didn't count on Baltic pushback.

2. RAISING AWARENESS

publishing analytical and investigative articles and studies

attract and encourage other actors who can reach further audiences

- Youtubers, online influencers, movie makers, TV presenters

WHATABOUTISM AT ITS BEST

ANTI-WESTERN NARRATIVES

PRO - KREMLIN DISINFORMATION MACHINERY

MEDIA FAKES

Paedophilia in Finland. Civil war in the US. Total feminist destruction of men in the West.

The usual fever dreams of the pro-Kremlin media were out in full force this week (ok, when are they not?!), milking the entire spectrum of master narratives that are the hallmark of Russia's vast and multifaceted disinformation machinery. In a nutshell, this alternate reality posits, the

focus on divisive topics that get exploited by disinformers

- **tensions between the majority population and various national, racial or sexual minorities**

Technology

Russian trolls' chief target was 'black US voters' in 2016

9 October 2019

US election 2016

Black Matters added an event.
July 6 at 9:55am

NEVER FORGET
ERIC GARNER

BM

JUL 17 Rally In Memory Of Eric Garner
Jul 17 - Jul 18 · 202 Bay St, Staten Island, NY 10
484 people interested · 134 COMPUTATIONAL PROPAGANDA RESEARCH PROJECT

One bogus posts featured an image of Eric Garner, who died after a policeman put him in a chokehold in 2014

#Sputnik Danmark stopper med at sende nyheder på Dansk
Læs mere: sptnkne.ws/aNsf

Dear readers, Sputnik now only provides English language service in your region. Please follow @SputnikInt for latest updates.

Dear readers, Sputnik now only provides English language service in your region. Please follow @SputnikInt for latest updates

Twitter messages from Sputnik.

Sputnik closes Nordic language services

Less than a year after the launch, Russian information agency Sputnik closes its websites in all Nordic languages.
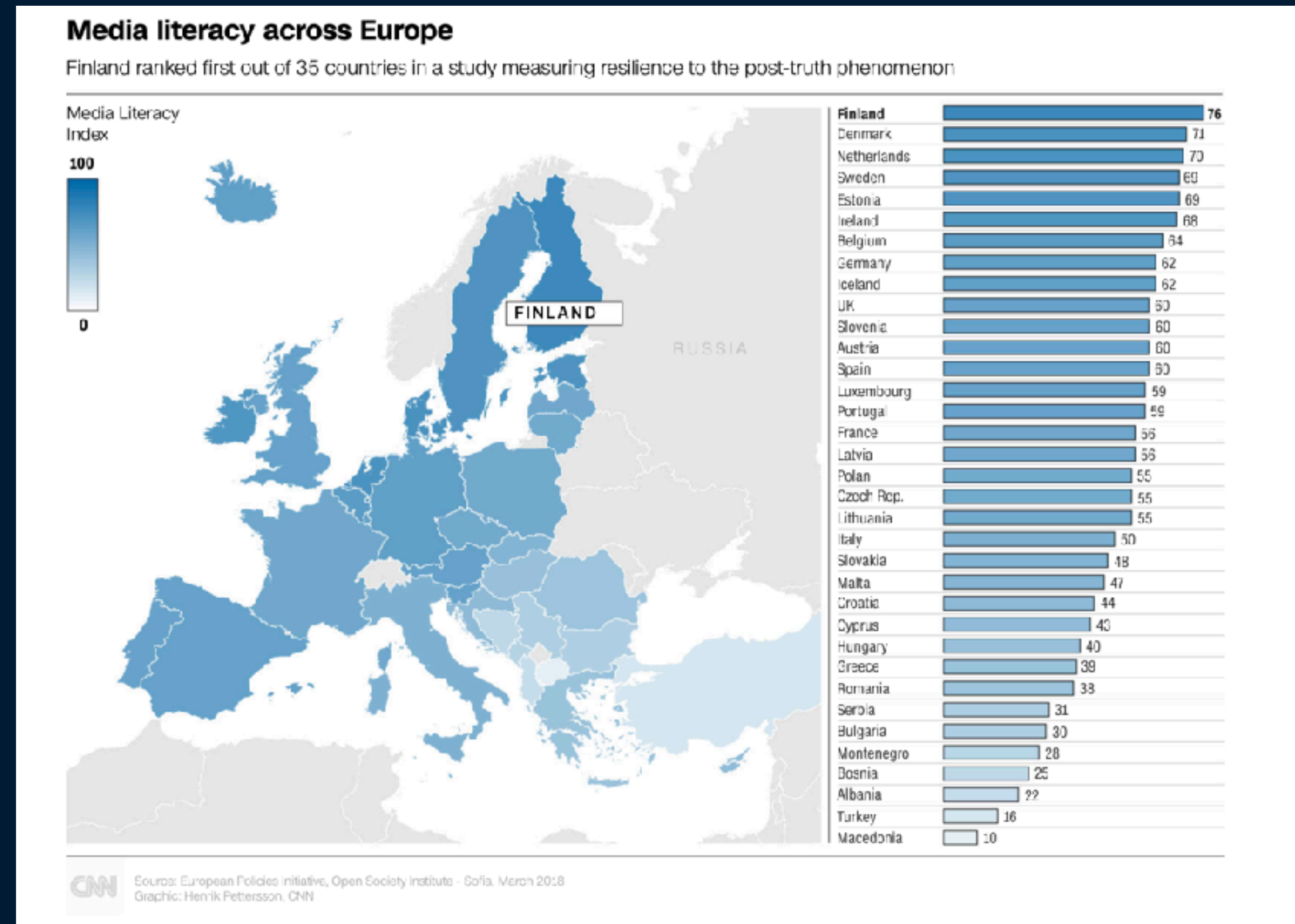
THE WEST HAS TURNED THE BELARUSIAN OPPOSITION GAY

DISINFORMATION

3. REPAIRING THE WEAKNESSES

media literacy programs

3. REPAIRING THE WEAKNESSES

pressure on social media platforms as key multipliers in many countries

- ads database, transparency, authentication of buyers

- transparency of targeting

- marking toxic content

- mass spreading prevention

Statement | 17 May 2019 | Brussels

Code of Practice against disinformation: Commission recognises platforms' efforts ahead of the European elections

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Today, the European Commission published the reports and analysis of the progress made in April 2019 by Facebook, Google and Twitter to fight disinformation. The three online platforms are signatories to the Code of Practice against disinformation and have committed to report monthly on measures taken ahead of the European Parliament elections in May 2019.

Vice-President for the Digital Single Market Andrus **Ansip**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for the Security Union Julian **King**, and Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society Mariya **Gabriel** said in a joint statement:
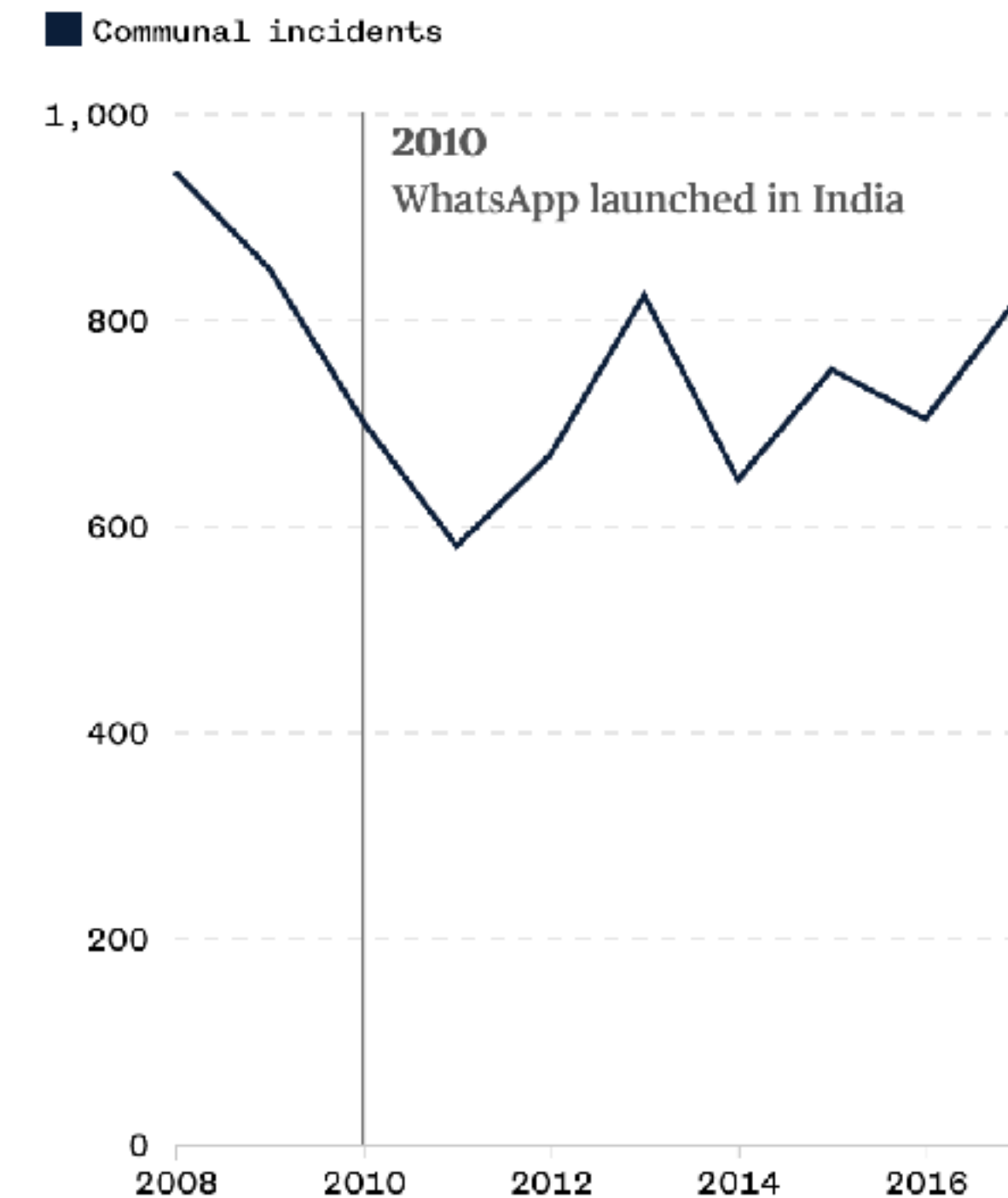

APRIL 30, 2019

FIGURE OF THE WEEK: 400 000

RT's video about THE MUELLER REPORT was recommended

> 400 000

TIMES ON YOUTUBE

Communal violence incidents in India, 2008-2017

Downward trend reversed after WhatsApp launched, incidents increased 40 percent.

■ Communal incidents

2010
WhatsApp launched in India

Source: Indian Ministry of Home Affairs
Graphic: Jiachuan Wu / NBC News

3. REPAIRING THE WEAKNESSES

soft targets protection

- **cf. the case of Jessikka Aro**

Jessikka Aro: Finn jailed over pro-Russia hate campaign against journalist

18 October 2018

When Jessikka Aro started investigating pro-Kremlin Twitter accounts, she was targeted by trolls both online and in real life
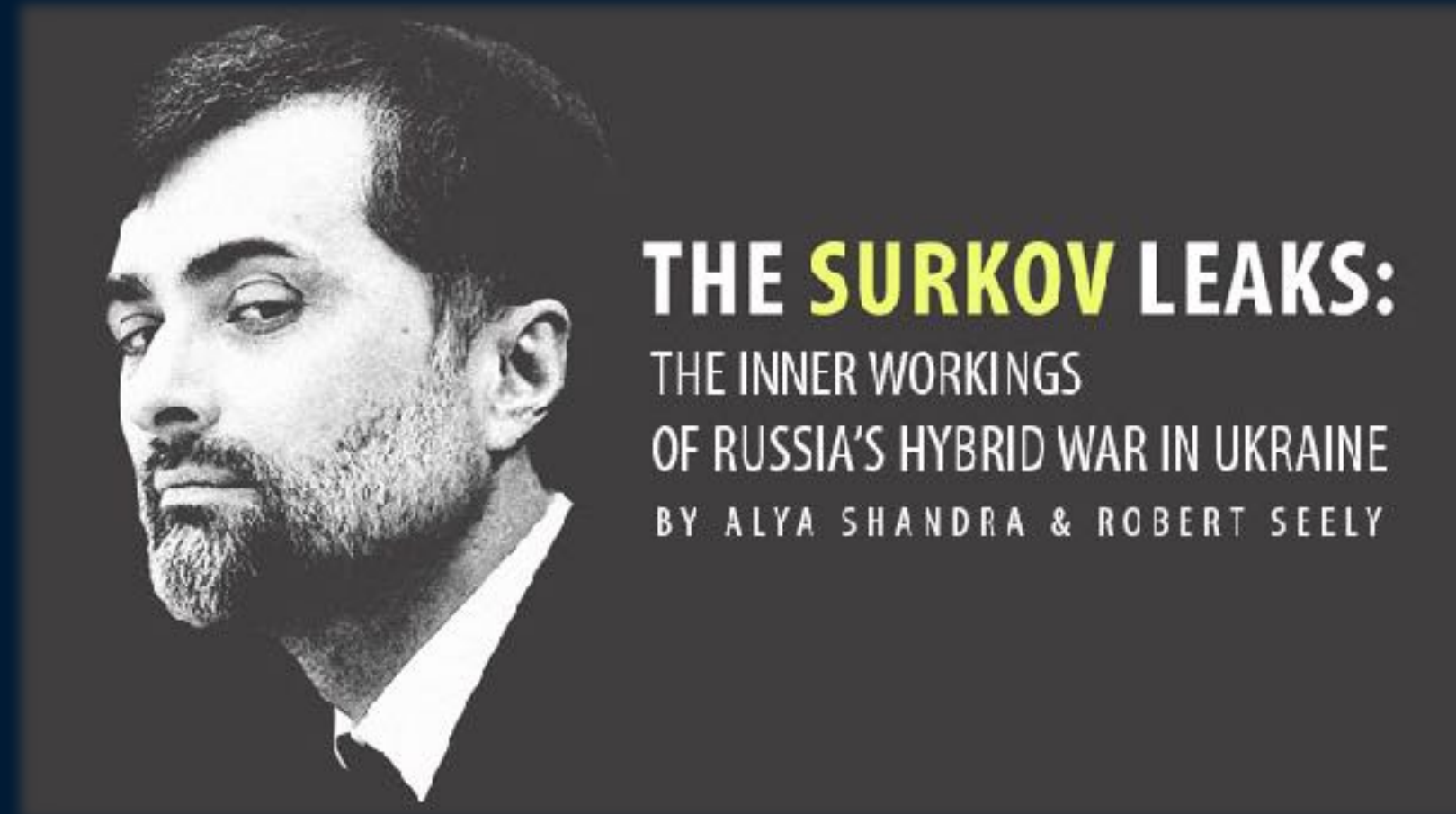
A Finnish court has sentenced the founder of a pro-Russian website to 22 months in prison on charges of defamation and negligence.

The court said MV-Lehti published offensive content about Jessikka Aro, an investigative journalist.

3. REPAIRING THE WEAKNESSES

be aware of the tools that malicious actors use and try to prevent their success

- **Foreign secret services, GONGOs, local agents and assets, anti-democratic activists, quasi-journalists...**

THE **SURKOV** LEAKS:
THE INNER WORKINGS
OF RUSSIA'S HYBRID WAR IN UKRAINE
BY ALYA SHANDRA & ROBERT SEELY

Estonia Worst Country To Be Sputnik Staffer - Editor-in-Chief

Sumaira FH   6 days ago   Fri 08th November 2019 | 11:51 AM
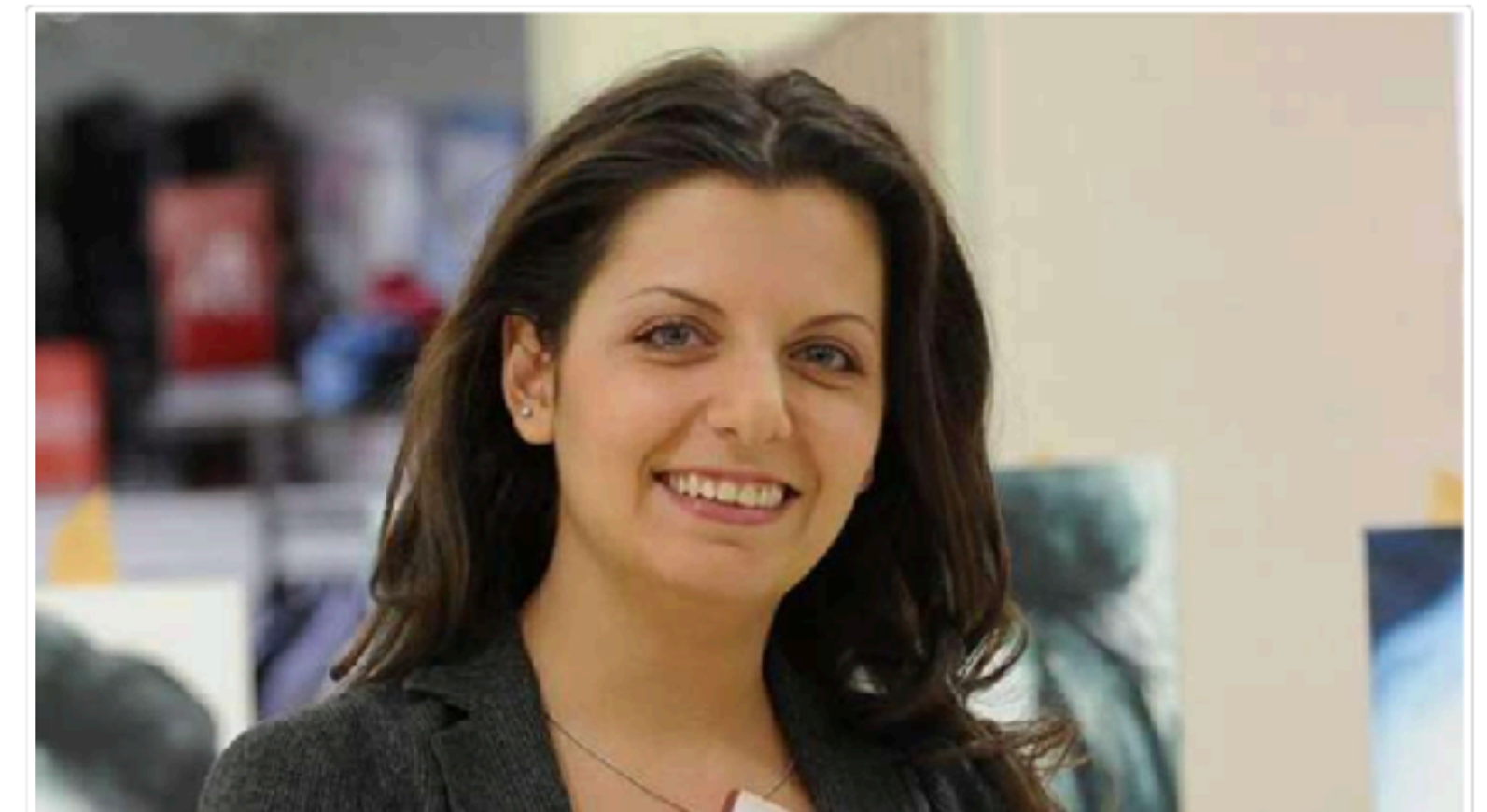
Estonia is by far the worst country to work in as a member of team Sputnik, the news agency's editor-in-chief said Thursday

4. STOPPING THE AGGRESSORS

naming and shaming those who help disinformation to spread

denying access to disinformation-oriented outlets

OPINION
Czech president is Russia's Trojan Horse

Zeman (l) and Putin (r). The Czech Republic is the only Nato ally presence in Ukraine. (Photo: kremlin.ru)

OSCE Calls On Estonia To Reconsider Ban On Three Russian Reporters
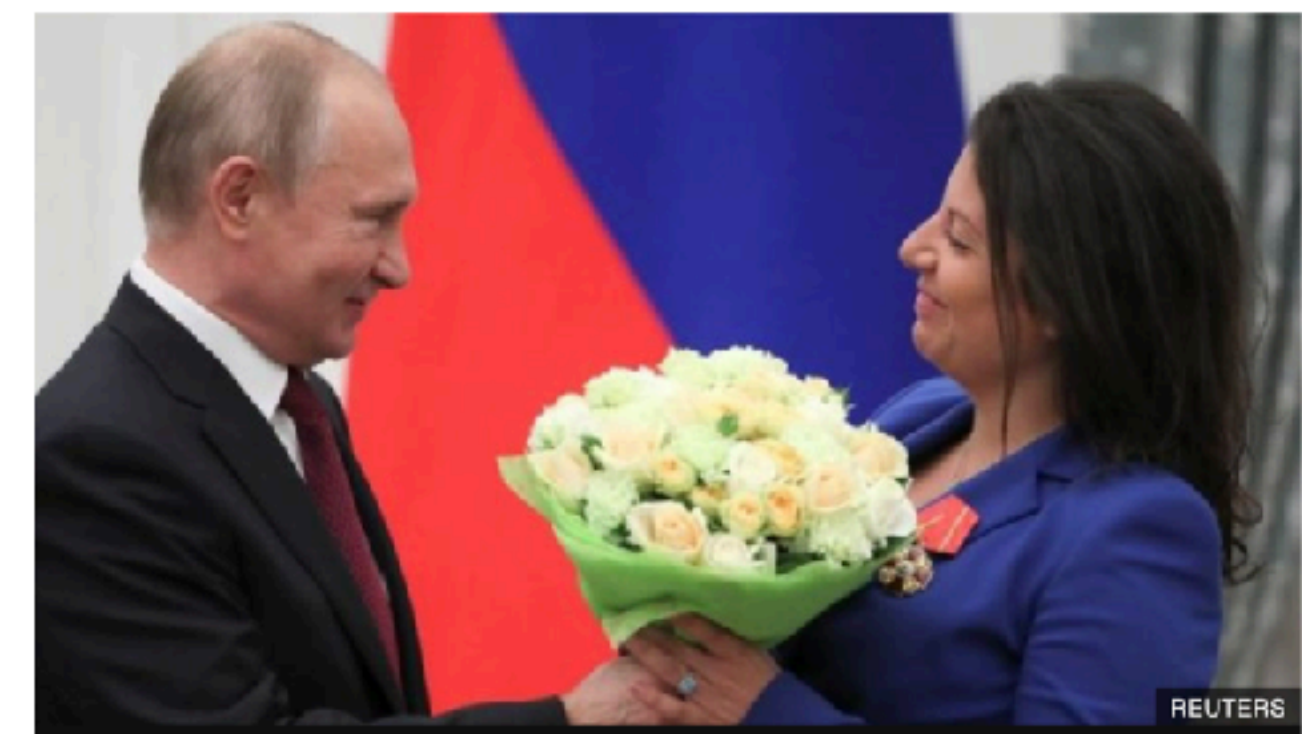

Russia's RT banned from UK media freedom conference

9 July 2019   Share

Russian spy poisoning

Russian President Vladimir Putin presents flowers to editor-in-chief of Russian broadcaster RT Margarita Simonyan at an award ceremony in May

REUTERS

4. STOPPING THE AGGRESSORS

sanctions against disinformation aggressors

- **individuals**

- **but also companies**

TV host Vladimir Solovyov and his children receive Italian residence permit

Vladimir Solovyov

FEED THE BEAR

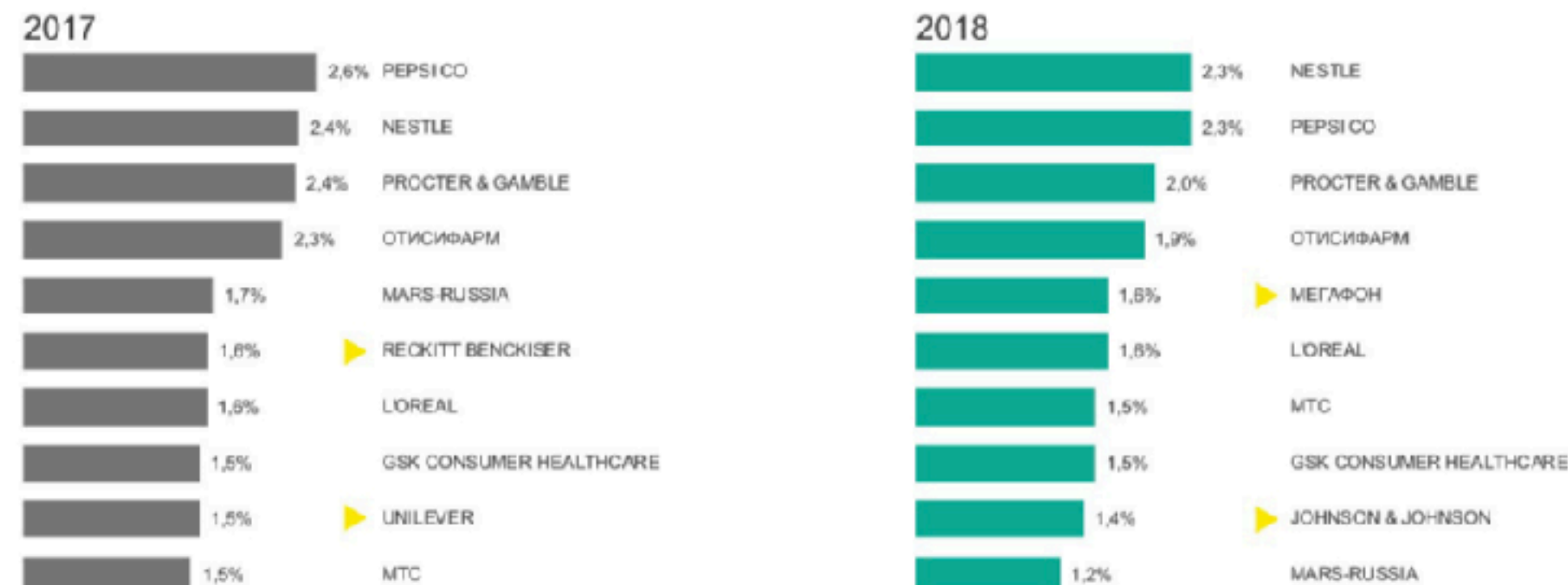The American Corporations Advertising With a Racist Russian TV Channel

Fortune 500 companies are selling their products on pro-Kremlin channels that traffic in black stereotypes and anti-Americanism.

Топ-10 рекламодателей 2018 года (без учета интернета, % общих затрат на рекламу)

2017		2018	
2,6%	PEPSICO	2,3%	NESTLE
2,4%	NESTLE	2,3%	PEPSICO
2,4%	PROCTER & GAMBLE	2,0%	PROCTER & GAMBLE
2,3%	ОТИСИФАРМ	1,9%	ОТИСИФАРМ
1,7%	MARS-RUSSIA	1,6%	МЕГАФОН
1,6%	RECKITT BENCKISER	1,6%	L'OREAL
1,6%	L'OREAL	1,5%	MTC
1,5%	GSK CONSUMER HEALTHCARE	1,5%	GSK CONSUMER HEALTHCARE
1,5%	UNILEVER	1,4%	JOHNSON & JOHNSON
1,5%	MTC	1,2%	MARS-RUSSIA

4. STOPPING THE AGGRESSORS

using the already existing laws

EU court backs Lithuania in TV hate speech case

Court backs decision to make TV channel only available for paying customers.

Berlin Investigating Russian Journalist Over Alleged Migrant Rape Report

Berlin prosecutors have launched an investigation into Ivan Blagoi, a journalist at the Russian state-run Channel One television channel, the Deutsche Welle newspaper reported, citing German lawyer Martin Luithle, who requested the investigation.

UK media watchdog says Russian broadcaster RT broke impartiality rules

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's media regulator Ofcom said on Thursday Russian broadcaster RT had broken impartiality rules in news and current affairs programs aired in March and April, including coverage of the poisoning of former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia.

"Taken together, the seven breaches represent a serious failure of compliance with our broadcasting rules," Ofcom said. "We have told RT that we are minded to consider imposing a statutory sanction."

RT said it was "extremely disappointed" by Ofcom's conclusions and would decide its next steps shortly.

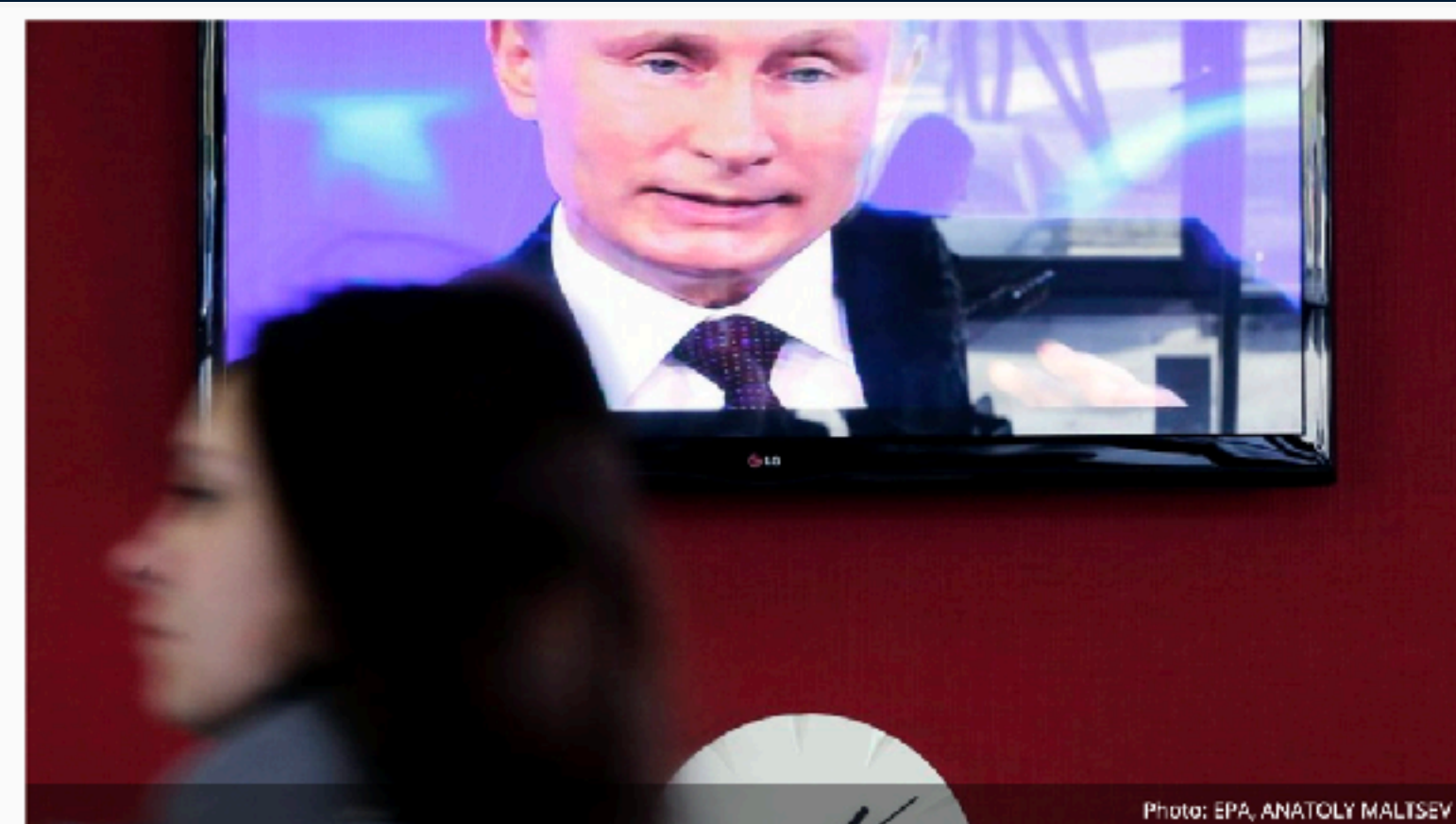The British government said Russia Today's "mask as an impartial news provider" was clearly slipping.

Latvian broadcast regulator hits Russian channel with 3-month ban

Lithuania Expels Chief Editor Of Sputnik's Local Branch

4. STOPPING THE AGGRESSORS

asymmetrical measures

- **expose the wealth of Vladimir Putin and his clique**
- **cyber attacks against actors involved in disinformation**
- **exposing their identity**

U.S. Begins First Cyberoperation Against Russia Aimed at Protecting Elections

Gen. Paul M. Nakasone, the head of Cyber Command and the National Security Agency, has warned that adversaries are looking to take on the United States through cyberoperations. Erin Schaff for The New York Times

By Julian E. Barnes

Oct. 23, 2018

WASHINGTON — The United States Cyber Command is targeting individual Russian operatives to try to deter them from spreading disinformation to interfere in elections, telling them that American operatives have identified them and are tracking their work, according to officials briefed on the operation.

U.S. Escalates Online Attacks on Russia's Power Grid

WASHINGTON — The United States is stepping up digital incursions into Russia's electric power grid in a warning to President Vladimir V. Putin and a demonstration of how the Trump administration is using new authorities to deploy cybertools more aggressively, current and former government officials said.

In interviews over the past three months, the officials described the previously unreported deployment of American computer code inside Russia's grid and other targets as a classified companion to more publicly discussed action directed at Moscow's disinformation and hacking units around the 2018 midterm elections.

Advocates of the more aggressive strategy said it was long overdue, after years of public warnings from the Department of Homeland Security and the F.B.I. that Russia has inserted malware that could sabotage American power plants, oil and gas pipelines, or water supplies in any future conflict with the United States.

4. STOPPING THE AGGRESSORS

INVESTIGATE! The malicious activities have to be investigated in order to be justly punished

- despite at least 16 European elections and referenda targeted since 2014, there is not a single "Mueller investigation" in Europe

Here's a breakdown of indictments and cases in Mueller's probe

By ABC NEWS Mar 24, 2019, 4:15 PM ET

had any contact with Russia during the 2016 election cycle.

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