

Narrative Warfare

How the Kremlin and Russian news outlets justified a war of aggression against Ukraine

Undermining Ukraine

How the Kremlin employs information operations to erode global confidence in Ukraine



Atlantic Council



[Content Series](#)

Russian war report

As Russia's aggression in Europe heats up, the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab (DFRLab) is keeping a close eye on Moscow's movements across the military, cyber, and information domains.



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The Atlantic Council's [Digital Forensic Research Lab](#) (DFRLab) has operationalized the study of disinformation by exposing falsehoods and fake news, documenting human rights abuses, and building digital resilience worldwide.

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Conclusion: Holding Russia Accountable and Preserving Evidence

Russia's war against Ukraine has now reached its first anniversary. The fact that Ukraine continues to fight and regain ground in many areas is an extraordinary accomplishment, given the many dire predictions at the start of the war that it would be over in weeks or even days, with Russian forces taking charge in Kyiv.

The Kremlin's use of information warfare has continued unabated throughout the last twelve months—something we explore in depth in our companion report, *Undermining Ukraine*. But none of this would have happened if Vladimir Putin and his proxies had not concocted false justifications for war, masking Russia's intentions and denying its culpability in the months and years leading up to February 24, 2022.

What this means in practice, however, has been open to debate ever since. While Russia's war propaganda and incitement to violence violate its obligations under the ICCPR, for example, it remains an open question whether those narratives would constitute a crime under international law.

In February 2017, the *Tallinn Manual 2.0*, an academic analysis of international law and cyber operations published on behalf of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence, explored legal questions regarding a broad array of cyber operations, including information operations. "Cyberspace is new, and there's a lot of gray out there," explained Michael Schmitt, director of the *Tallinn Manual 2.0* process, at a 2017 Atlantic Council event on the release of the manual.¹⁰⁰

November 3, 2023

How information travels during Gaza's communications blackouts

by [Layla Mashkoor](#)

People in Gaza turn to eSIMs and other solutions amid cellular and internet outages

November 2, 2023

Accounts on Facebook, TikTok spread ISIS call for violence against Jewish targets

by [Digital Forensic Research Lab](#)

Accounts openly shared publication advocating offline violence, which continues to circulate on both platforms



Deconstructing the Israel-Hamas disinformation war

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DECONSTRUCTING THE ISRAEL-HAMAS DISINFORMATION WAR

Thursday, November 16 | 12:30 p.m. (ET)

0:00 / 2:04:15

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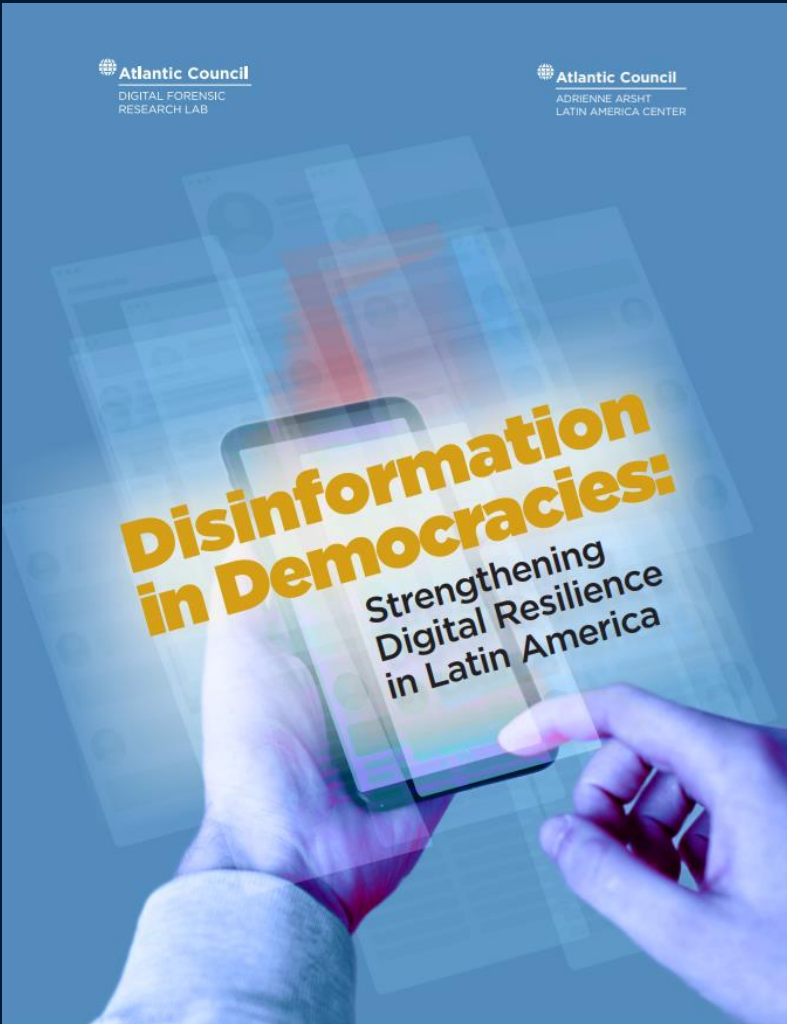
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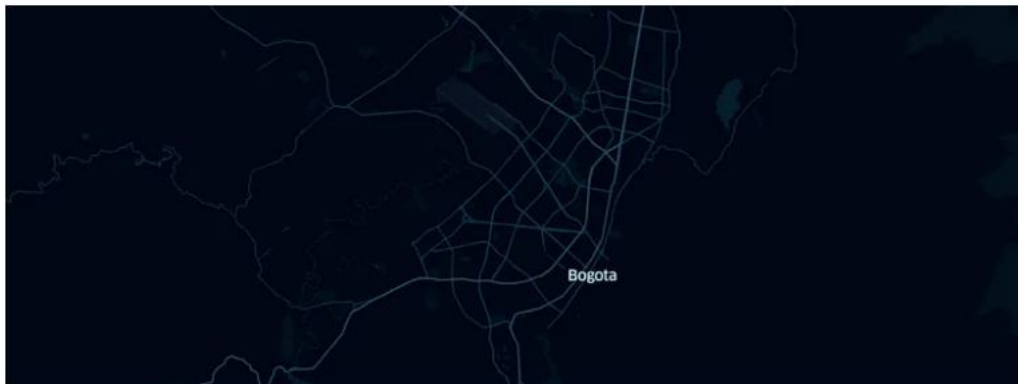
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Dec 16, 2019 · 7 min read · Listen



Chaos and panic lead to misinformation after Colombia's national strike

While the protests in Colombia were mainly peaceful, xenophobic videos and social media narratives stoked potential vigilantism



(Source: Mapbox)



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May 7, 2021 · 8 min read · Listen



Misinformation about Colombia's national strike spreads online and on air

Colombian social media accounts and legacy media amplified false and misleading claims amid the ongoing Colombian protests



November 18, 2022

Election fraud narratives surge on Brazilian Twitter following Bolsonaro defeat

by [Esteban Ponce de León](#)

#BrazilWasStolen hashtag spreads across Twitter and other platforms.





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