Graphika

Falsos Amigos

Network of Domains and Social Media Accounts Uses AI Tools to Launder Reports From Chinese State Media Outlet CGTN in Multiple Languages

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08.2025

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Network of Domains and Social Media Accounts Uses AI Tools to Launder Reports From Chinese State Media Outlet CGTN in Multiple Languages

Key Findings

- Graphika identified a network of 11 domains and 16 companion social media accounts that laundered exclusively English-language articles originally published by the Chinese state media outlet CGTN. The identified accounts are active on Facebook, Instagram, Mastodon, Threads, and X.

- The assets almost certainly used AI tools to translate and summarize articles from CGTN, likely in an attempt to disguise the content's origin.

- The network assets disseminated primarily pro-China, anti-West content in English, French, Spanish, and Vietnamese. They also utilized AI tools to generate logos and text specifically designed to target different audiences, including young audiences in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe.

- The network's social media accounts failed to receive any organic traction. On Facebook, we identified pages that are part of the network and ran ads to promote their content and increase their visibility. On X, posts from the associated accounts appeared in top search results for some topics.

- We could not attribute these domains and their related accounts to a specific actor(s) based on open-source information. We assess that the actor(s) behind the activity are very likely located in China based on the technical indicators of the domains and social media accounts.

Actors

Network Assessment

We identified an information laundering operation consisting of 11 domains and 16 accounts or pages on Facebook, Instagram, Mastodon, Threads, and X that almost certainly used AI tools to translate and summarize news content originally published by the Chinese state media outlet CGTN.

Ten domains – several of which used the term "amigo" – are active and translated the CGTN content into English, French, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The 11th domain only resolved to a WordPress template. At least three of the identified Facebook pages in this operation ran ads on Meta platforms.

We could not attribute these domains and the related accounts to a specific actor(s) based on open-source information. We assess that the actor(s) behind the activity are very likely located in China based on the following indicators:

- The domain registrar for all 11 domains is Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina.

- The domain registrant location for all 11 domains is China, with 10 listing Beijing specifically.

- One domain lists 环球国际视频通讯社有限公司 (Global International Video Communications Co., Ltd.) as its SSL organization. Global International Video Communications Co., Ltd. is a state-owned enterprise jointly established by the Chinese state media outlets China Central Television (CCTV) and China Global Television Network (CGTN) in December 2010.

- Facebook's page transparency tool shows that four of the five identified Facebook pages have a page manager located in China. The fifth page did not include a page manager location.
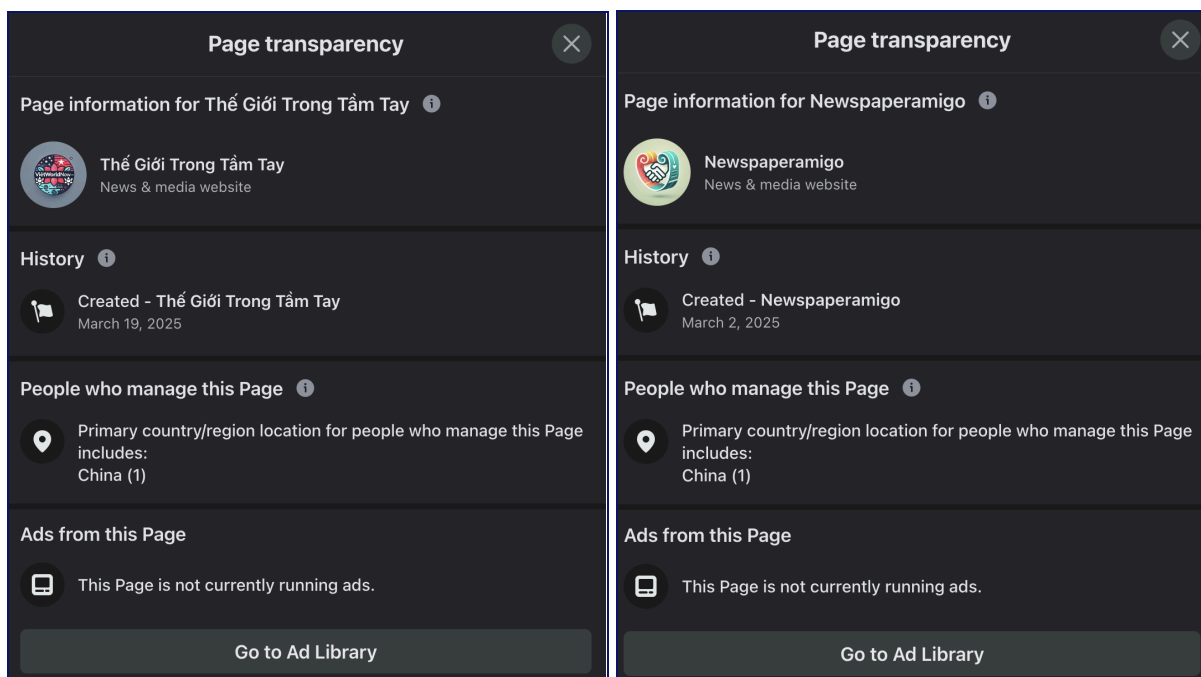
Examples of the page transparency information for two of the Facebook pages we assess are involved in the network, which display page manager locations in China.

Domains

The 10 active domains present as news outlets and provide translated summaries or translations of articles from the Chinese state media outlet CGTN. Another domain, soleilactu[.]com, only resolves to a WordPress template with a single "Hello world!" message.

We linked these domains through multiple shared technical indicators, including Autonomous System Numbers (ASN), SSL certificate hashes, and registrar and registrant information. They also shared advertising codes, similar website designs and content, and similarities among the social media accounts affiliated with each domain.

Ten of the 11 domains were created between Dec. 5 and 7, 2024, or March 13 and 14, 2025.

Domain Registration Data					
Domain	**ASN**	**SSL Certificate Hash**	**Registrar**	**Registrant Location**	**First Seen (UTC)**
vietworldnow[.]com	16509	e8de509051ed305fef50e16ce4ce64158ad47d64	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Hangzhou, China	2025-03-14 10:41:50
soleilactu[.]com	16509	8776e58349adc26d98c6d66208dd1c6425e0899a	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Beijing, China	2025-03-13 02:38:37
actumeridien[.]com	16509	c648b9a0c655c05a5abeef4728d58ea70d93c015	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Beijing, China	2025-03-13 02:35:42
newsamigo[.]net	16509	8776e58349adc26d98c6d66208dd1c6425e0899a	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Beijing, China	2024-12-07 06:06:34
amigonews[.]net	16509	8776e58349adc26d98c6d66208dd1c6425e0899a	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Beijing, China	2024-12-07 06:06:19
newspaperamigo[.]com	16509	8776e58349adc26d98c6d66208dd1c6425e0899a	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Beijing, China	2024-12-06 09:52:16
namasteheadlines[.]com	16509	8776e58349adc26d98c6d66208dd1c6425e0899a	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Beijing, China	2024-12-06 08:28:33
mynewspaper[.]net	16509	8776e58349adc26d98c6d66208dd1c6425e0899a	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Beijing, China	2024-12-05 13:41:53
khabarasia[.]com	16509	8776e58349adc26d98c6d66208dd1c6425e0899a	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Beijing, China	2024-12-05 12:36:45
myglobalnews[.]net	16509	8776e58349adc26d98c6d66208dd1c6425e0899a	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Beijing, China	2024-12-05 07:04:51
videostory[.]com	139341	dd859c05bc3626b13976963977066849ef46c69a	Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina	Beijing, China	2000-09-250 0:00:00[1]

Note: Data as of May 29, 2025. Source: DomainTools

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[1] videostory[.]com was first registered in 2000, but domain registration records indicate it went through a series of ownership changes. In September 2022, the domain registrar changed to Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina.

| Domain Advertisement and Marketing Data Codes		
Domains	**Google Tag**	**Meta Pixel ID**
vietworldnow[.]com	**GT-TXH729MF** GTM-5M7ZG8ZT **AW-3146977301**	**1192716395608914**
soleilactu[.]com		
actumeridien[.]com	GT-WKG6FT37 GTM-WRR984QL **AW-3146977301**	
newsamigo[.]net	**GT-TQDG89XZ** G-L55FD0GLNV GTM-TPS37QX8	
amigonews[.]net	GT-K5LQFQWL	
newspaperamigo[.]com	**GT-TQDG89XZ** GTM-WFGD3NNM	**1192716395608914**
namasteheadlines[.]com	GT-NFDP73KK G-ZXWLEKD7K5	
mynewspaper[.]net	**GT-TXH729MF** GTM-P48K73WF G-4K9WB89RM1	
khabarasia[.]com	G-1FRSX8QFXJ GT-5NXQQJVN GTM-PSSD2HNM **AW-16852423296**	
myglobalnews[.]net	**GT-KFT2B5CG** GTM-TXHH5525	
news.videostory[.]com	**GT-TXH729MF**	

Note: Shared codes are bolded.
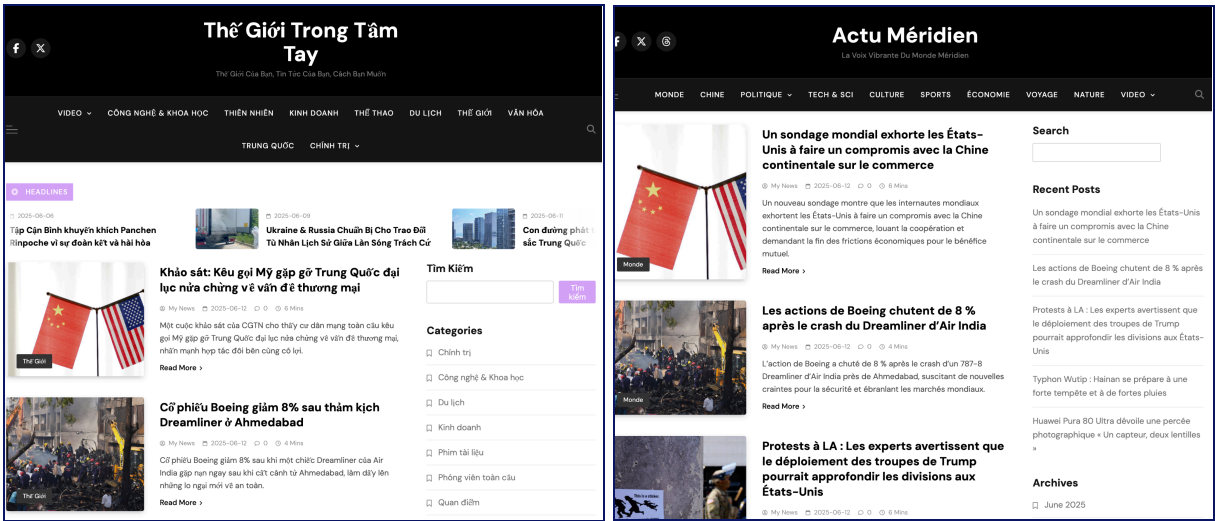
The network domains shared visually similar designs and near-identical content, as shown by these screenshots of vietworldnow[.]com (left) and actumeridien[.]com (right).

Social Media Footprint

Graphika identified accounts associated with the domains across Facebook, Instagram, Mastodon, Threads, and X that presented as news outlets with "friendly voices." The accounts linked to one of five of the identified domains in their bios or shared content from them.

Identified Domains and Associated Social Media Assets					
Domain	Facebook	Instagram	Mastodon	Threads	X (Twitter)
actumeridien[.]com	X	X		X	X
khabarasia[.]com	X	X	X	X	X
newsamigo[.]net	X				X
newspaperamigo[.]com	X		X		X
vietworldnow[.]com	X				X
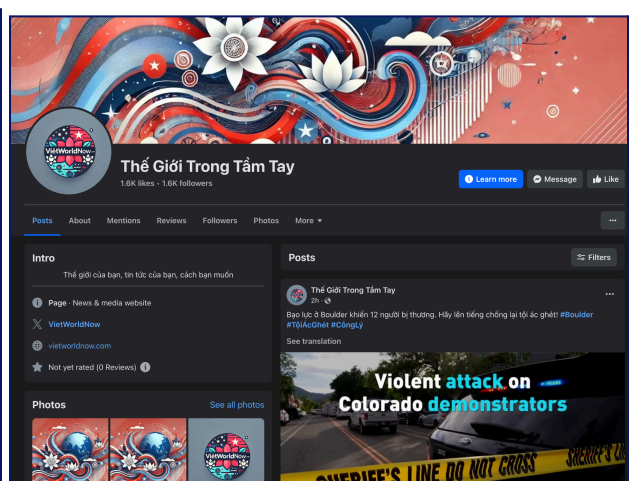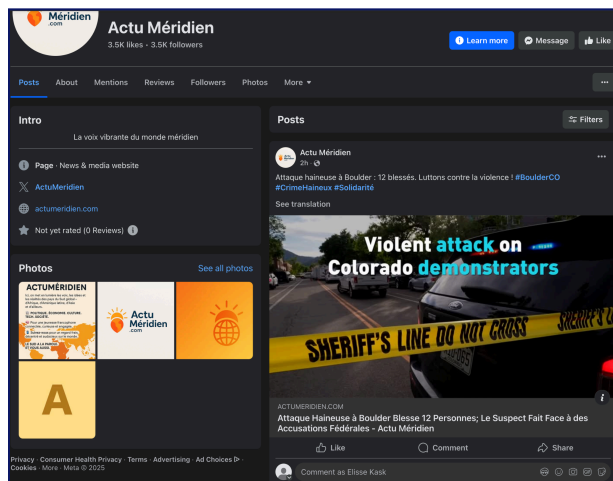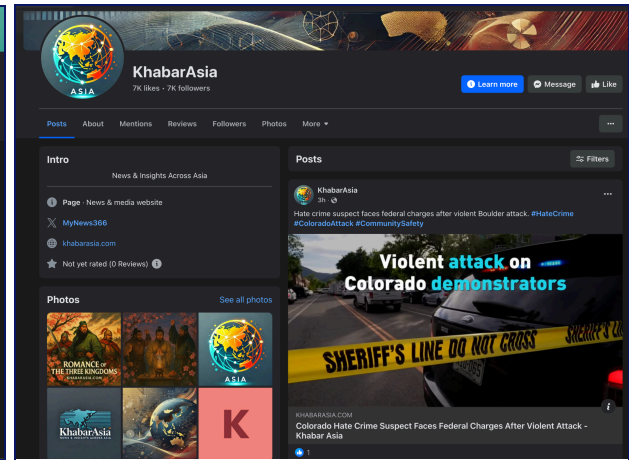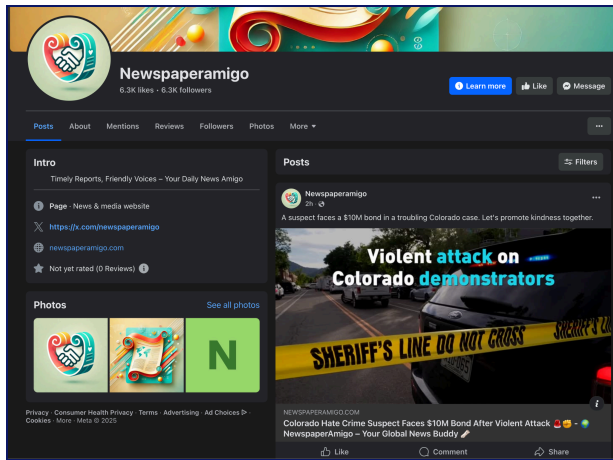
Four Facebook pages – Newspaperamigo (top left), KhabarAsia (top right), Actu Méridien (bottom left), and Thế Giới Trong Tầm Tay (bottom right) – posted identical content. Each page linked to one of the identified domains in their bios.
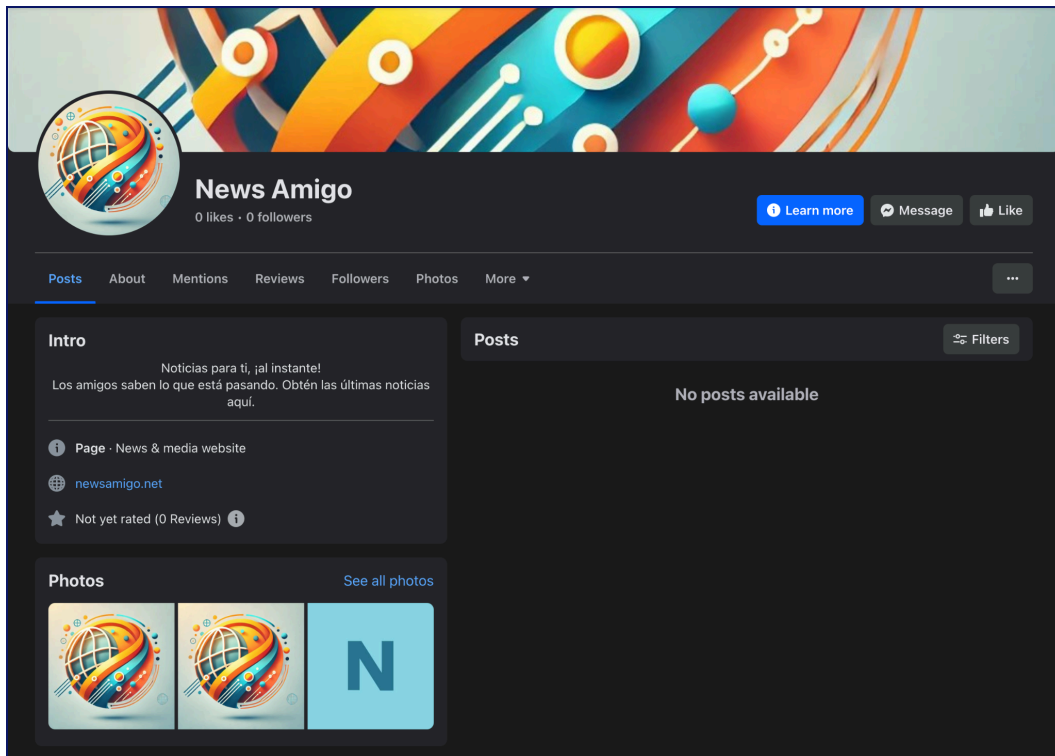
One Facebook page, News Amigo (top), did not post any content but linked to one of the identified domains, newsamigo[.]net. An X account with the same name and profile picture (bottom) posted articles from the same domain.

We assess that the social media accounts and pages are likely part of a coordinated network. We assess that this network is very likely located in China. These assessments are based on the following:

- The Facebook pages all have creation dates between February and April 2025.

- Across platforms, the accounts have AI-generated pictures as logos and cover pictures.

- The accounts and pages share the same pictures and names across platforms.

- Some X accounts follow other X accounts in the network.

- They post nearly identical content, mainly about China and global news.

- Some Facebook pages displayed a location in China, and four of the five Facebook pages list their page managers' locations as China.

- The news.videostory[.]com domain included the same X account as khabarasia[.]com.

The X account for khabarasia[.]com followed two other accounts associated with the network.

Behavior

We observed the domains systematically publishing AI-generated summaries of CGTN articles in English, French, Spanish, and Vietnamese. On rare occasions, the network domains published non-English content that appeared to have been translated through LLM or direct machine translation tools. The CGTN articles were all originally published in English.

The AI summaries varied in tone and style, likely to reach different audiences. The Facebook pages discussed above published links to the summaries and ran Facebook ads for them to increase their visibility. These methods and tactics suggest an attempt to obscure the content's origin to circulate it to international audiences in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe.

Laundering CGTN news articles

The identified sites and social media accounts shared news articles that are presented as if they were authored specifically for each identified domain. However, these articles are actually a collection of AI-generated summaries, LLM-assisted translations and, in rare cases, direct machine translations of articles published initially by CGTN. At the bottom of each published article, the 10 active domains included a "Reference(s)" box that linked directly to the original CGTN article. We did not observe any sources listed in these reference sections other than CGTN.

> **Reference(s):**
>
> [Poll: Respondents call on U.S. to meet China halfway on trade issues](#)
>
> *cgtn.com*

The active domains included a "reference(s)" section under each published article that links to CGTN content.

In some cases, the thumbnail image of an article published on one of the domains showed a CGTN logo — the same one displayed on CGTN's official X account.

Example of an article on one of the identified domains using the CGTN logo for its thumbnail image, indicated in red.
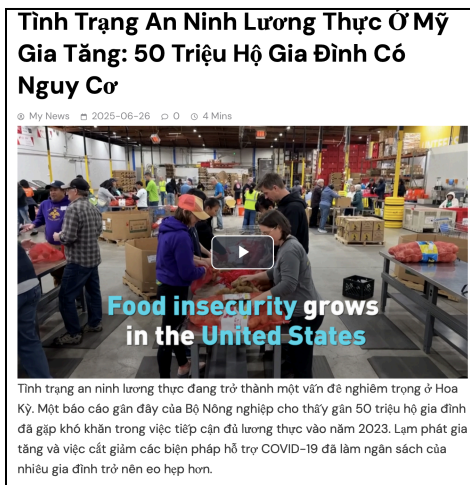
Coordinated Publishing

Our analysis found that the active domains published their articles on the same date and time as the original articles published to CGTN. In some instances, we observed multiple network domains post the same CGTN article as a summary or translation at the same time.

Food insecurity grows in the United States

North America • 04:30, 26-Jun-2025

Ediz Tiyansan

Food insecurity is on the rise in the U.S. A report by the Department of Agriculture shows a steady increase in the number of American families struggling to provide enough food because of inflation and a roll-back of COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts.

```
'variant': "2025.06.26 04:30 GMT+8"
```

CGTN published this article on June 26, 2025, at 4:30 a.m. GMT+8 (4:30 p.m. ET on June 25, 2025).

La sécurité alimentaire aux Etats-Unis s'aggrave en raison de l'inflation et des réductions d'aides

My News | 2025-06-26 | 0 | 3 Mins

La faim n'est plus un problème lointain pour certains.

Un nouveau rapport de l'USDA révèle qu'en 2023, près de 50 millions de personnes vivaient dans des foyers où avoir suffisamment à manger était une incertitude quotidienne. Cela représente un Américain sur sept face à des assiettes vides alors que les coûts continuent d'augmenter.

Tình Trạng An Ninh Lương Thực Ở Mỹ Gia Tăng: 50 Triệu Hộ Gia Đình Có Nguy Cơ

My News | 2025-06-26 | 0 | 4 Mins

Tình trạng an ninh lương thực đang trở thành một vấn đề nghiêm trọng ở Hoa Kỳ. Một báo cáo gần đây của Bộ Nông nghiệp cho thấy gần 50 triệu hộ gia đình đã gặp khó khăn trong việc tiếp cận đủ lương thực vào năm 2023. Lạm phát gia tăng và việc cắt giảm các biện pháp hỗ trợ COVID-19 đã làm ngân sách của nhiều gia đình trở nên eo hẹp hơn.

Inseguridad alimentaria en aumento en EE.UU.: Familias luchan entre recortes

My News | June 25, 2025 | 0 | 2 Mins

Inseguridad alimentaria en aumento

Un informe reciente del Departamento de Agricultura de EE.UU. revela una crisis creciente: en 2023, casi 50 millones de personas enfrentaron inseguridad alimentaria. La inflación y la eliminación de medidas vitales de alivio por COVID-19 han dejado a muchas familias estadounidenses luchando por asegurar su próxima comida.

U.S. Food Insecurity Surges as Inflation Bites

My News | June 26, 2025 | 0 | 2 Mins

Food insecurity is climbing sharply across the United States, with nearly 50 million people struggling to put meals on the table in 2023, according to a new Department of Agriculture report. Rising costs of living and the end of pandemic-era support programs have left families nationwide facing tough choices.

```
property="article:published_time" content="2025-06-25T20:30:10+00:00"><meta
```

The ten active domains in the network each published English, French, Spanish, or Vietnamese translations of the same CGTN article. The domains' source code shows the articles were published on June 25, 2025, at 8:30 p.m. GMT (4:30 p.m. ET), which matches the CGTN article posting time.

Use of AI

We observed that the social media accounts and domains used AI outputs to build their identity and generate content.

The accounts and domains used AI-generated images for their profile and cover pictures, website logos, and favicons. The source code for four domains – newsamigo[.]net, khabarasia[.]com, mynewspaper[.]net, and namasteheadlines[.]com – mentioned "DALL-E," suggesting their logos were created with the OpenAI image-generation tool.

The X account (top) and favicon logo (bottom) for one of the network domains. These images were very likely generated by the OpenAI tool DALL-E.

```
rel=icon href=https://newsamigo.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2025/01/cropped-DALL·E-2025-01-21-11.11.32-A-
vibrant-and-sleek-logo-design-for-a-news-website-with-a-dynamic-and-abstract-concept.-It-features-themes-of-
connection-global-reach-and-youthfuln-32x32.jpg sizes=32x32><link
rel=icon href=https://newsamigo.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2025/01/cropped-DALL·E-2025-01-21-11.11.32-A-
vibrant-and-sleek-logo-design-for-a-news-website-with-a-dynamic-and-abstract-concept.-It-features-themes-of-
connection-global-reach-and-youthfuln-192x192.jpg sizes=192x192><link
```

An X account associated with newsamigo[.]net (top) showing the asset's logo. The source code (bottom) for newsamigo[.]net includes an image URL that suggests DALL-E was used to generate a "vibrant and sleek logo design for a news website with a dynamic and abstract concept."

We assess that most of the summaries or translations on the domains were very likely generated with the support of an AI tool as they featured:

- Particularly flowery writing styles reminiscent of LLM outputs, including expressions such as "lighting up the path," "her passionate call," "a generation that lives and breathes the digital world," "this forward-thinking message," or "in the heart of Asia's dynamic digital landscape."

- Liberal uses of emojis in summary text.

- Introductory sentences such as, "In a dazzling display of," "In a dynamic press briefing," and "In today's fast-paced world."

- Concluding sentences that suggested multiple audiences were targeted, and the AI tool adopted different styles, including:

  - "As digital nomads explore new horizons and travelers seek seamless experiences."

  - "For young news enthusiasts and global explorers alike."

  - "For tech-savvy and socially conscious young professionals across South and Southeast Asia."

  - "For young global citizens and business innovators."

Protests à LA : Les experts avertissent que le déploiement des troupes de Trump pourrait approfondir les divisions aux États-Unis

⊛ My News   🗓 2025-06-12   💬 0   🕐 6 Mins

La Californie s'apprête à s'affronter avec Washington devant les tribunaux concernant la décision du président Trump d'envoyer des troupes américaines à Los Angeles en plein milieu de manifestations massives contre ses politiques d'immigration. Des milliers de manifestants ont envahi les rues, et le gouvernement fédéral a répondu en déployant jusqu'à 4 700 soldats—700 Marines américains et 4 000 membres de la Garde nationale—pour protéger des sites fédéraux et des agents de l'immigration.

Example of a French translation of a CGTN article published on actumeridien[.]com.

AI Changes Jobs: How Young People Can Turn Tech Into Opportunities! 🤖

Hey there! Have you heard about **AI**, or Artificial Intelligence? 🤔 It's super smart technology that's changing the way we work. At the **2025 Summer Davos Forum**, some really cool people talked about how AI is affecting jobs for young people like you!

Guan Xin from CGTN chatted with **Professor Zhang Dandan** from Peking University, **Rahul Attuluri**, the CEO of NxtWave, and **Georgina Mondino** from the Global Shapers Community. They talked about something called *agentic AI* (that's just a fancy term for AI that can make decisions on its own! 🎂💡).

They explained that AI is changing entry-level jobs. That means some jobs that people used to do are now being done by computers! 🤓 But don't worry! This also means there are new and exciting jobs being created that involve working with AI.

So, what does this mean for you? 🤔 It means it's a great time to learn about technology and how to work with AI. Maybe you can learn to code 💻, or understand how AI works. Who knows? You could help create the next big thing in technology! 🚀

The speakers agreed that even though AI is changing things, it's also creating new opportunities. So keep learning, stay curious, and get excited about the future! 🎉

An example of an article published by one of the network domains that featured liberal use of emojis.

Targeting Multiple Audiences by Region and Age

We assess that this coordinated network attempted to target multiple audiences, similar to CGTN's efforts to appeal to distinct communities by [broadcasting](#) in several languages..

- The identified domains and social media accounts published content in multiple languages, including English, French, Spanish and Vietnamese.

- A DALL-E prompt identified in the source code for at least two domains suggests the domain operator(s) sought logos for news websites targeting Asian, South Asian, and global audiences.

```
rel=icon href=https://namasteheadlines.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024/12/cropped-
DALL·E-2024-12-08-21.16.31-A-minimalistic-and-culturally-inspired-logo-for-a-news-website-
targeting-South-Asian-and-global-audiences.-The-logo-features-a-warm-welcoming-
design--32x32.jpg sizes=32x32><link
```

```
rel=icon href=https://khabarasia.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/01/cropped-
DALLE-2025-01-02-103506-A-clean-and-modern-logo-concept-for-a-news-website-KhabarAsia-The-
logo-features-a-minimalistic-outline-of-the-Asian-continent-in-deep-blue-or-dark--32x32.jpg
sizes=32x32><link
```

The source code for namasteheadlines[.]com suggests the operator(s) used DALL-E to generate the website's logo and intended it to target South Asian audiences (top). We found a similar DALL-E reference on khabarasia[.]com (bottom).

- DALL-E prompts identified in the source code for two other domains included terms like "youthful global design" and "children aged 8-16," suggesting the operator(s) intended to target young international audiences.

- Articles on the identified domains included sentences referring to the likely audiences, as discussed above.

```
property="og:image" content="https://mynewspaper.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/12/
DALL·E-2024-12-05-18.08.40-A-fully-expanded-version-of-a-vibrant-and-youthful-globe-design-
for-children-aged-8-16-featuring-playful-and-colorful-elements-like-stars-sparkles-.jpg"><meta
```

```
rel=icon href=https://newsamigo.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2025/01/cropped-
DALL·E-2025-01-21-11.11.32-A-vibrant-and-sleek-logo-design-for-a-news-website-with-a-dynamic-
and-abstract-concept.-It-features-themes-of-connection-global-reach-and-youthfuln-32x32.jpg
sizes=32x32><link
```

Examples of DALL-E references in the source codes of mynewspaper[.]net (top) and newsamigo[.]net (bottom) that suggest the websites were intended to target younger audiences.

Advertising on Facebook

The Facebook pages ran Facebook ads to promote themselves and their posts. In one instance, we identified an ad beneficiary name matching the LinkedIn profile for a CGTN Digital employee. We could not confirm that the beneficiary and the LinkedIn profile are the same person based on open-source information.

Examples of ads run by the Facebook page KhabarAsia in May 2025.

Content

Pro-China and Anti-West Content About Global News

The coordinated network posted on various topics related to global geopolitical news, including U.S. tariffs, Iran-Israel tensions, and Ukraine. The domains also have a dedicated section to China, which includes reports about China's global diplomacy and its latest activities, including in Central Asia, Africa, or at the U.N.

The domains' articles primarily portray China as an engaged peaceful diplomatic actor, similar to CGTN's editorial line, while depicting the U.S. negatively.

Example of an article published on the network domains claiming investors lost confidence in U.S. markets and are pivoting to Europe and Asia.

Example of an article shared on the KhabarAsia Facebook page presenting China as an engaged diplomatic actor seeking to build ties with Central Asian countries during the 2025 Central Asia-China summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

A post by the Newspaperamigo Facebook page promoting China's "One country, two systems" policy regarding Taiwan.

A Multi-Language Effort

The coordinated network of social media accounts and domains shared identical headlines and images in multiple languages, including English, French, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

In French, Spanish, and Vietnamese, the network's articles were often posted as translations of the original CGTN content, which was always published in English.The network's English-language articles appeared as summaries of the original content, likely to disguise the articles' origins.

Examples of identical topics shared by the network in English, French, and Spanish. The X accounts for khabarasia[.]com and actumeridien[.]com posted identical text in English (top left) and French (top right). The X accounts for actumeridien[.]com (bottom left) and for newsamigo[.]net (bottom right) shared similar posts to articles with the same thumbnail image.

Content Dissemination & Visibility

On Facebook, the active pages have between 3k and 6k followers. However, most of the time, their posts received almost no likes, shares, or comments.

Example of a post on the Facebook page Newspaperamigo that only received one like.

We observed indicators that the Facebook page operator(s) used artificial or inauthentic amplification for at least one page to garner traction. In March and early April 2025, after its creation, the first posts from the Actu Meridien page received thousands of likes . However, in the last week of April 2025, each post started receiving only one like.

Example of two posts from late March and early April 2025 by the Actu Méridien Facebook page that link to the network domain actumeridien[.]com. These posts received 1.4k (top) and 2k (bottom) likes, respectively, a significantly higher number than the page's later posts.

On Instagram, Mastodon, Threads, and X, the network accounts had only dozens of followers and followings. Their posts received almost no engagement.

Even so, when searching for certain China-related topics on X, posts from some of the network accounts appeared in the top results near official Chinese accounts.

Example of top search results on X for topics covered by the network domains and official Chinese government or state media accounts. Posts from accounts associated with the network domains newspaperamigo[.]com (left) and khabarasia[.]com (right) appeared near ones from the Chinese government and state media accounts even though the network accounts received almost no engagement.

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Appendix: Estimative Language Legend

Assessments of Likelihood

Graphika uses the following vocabulary to indicate the likelihood of a hypothesis proving correct. If we are unable to assess likelihood due to limited or non-existent information, we may use terms such as "suggest."

Almost No Chance	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Real Chance	Likely	Very Likely	Almost Certain(ly)
1-5%	5-20%	20-45%	45-55%	55-80%	80-95%	95-99%

Confidence Levels: Indicators of Sourcing and Corroboration

Graphika uses confidence levels to indicate the quality of information, sources, and corroboration underpinning our assessments.

Low Confidence	Medium Confidence	High Confidence
Assessment based on information from a non-trusted source and/or information we have not been able to independently corroborate.	Assessment based on information that we are unable to sufficiently corroborate and/or information open to multiple interpretations.	Assessment based on information from multiple trusted sources that we are able to fully corroborate.

About Us

Graphika *is the most trusted provider of actionable open-source intelligence to help organizations stay ahead of emerging online events and make decisions on how to navigate them. Led by prominent innovators and technologists in the field of online discourse analysis, Graphika supports global enterprises and public sector customers across trust & safety, cyber threat intelligence, and strategic communications spanning industries including intelligence, technology, media and entertainment, and global banking. Graphika continually integrates new and emerging technologies into our proprietary intelligence platform and analytic services, empowering our customers with high-precision intelligence and confidence to operate in a complex and continuously evolving information environment.*

For more information or to request a demo, [visit](#) our website.