



Cyber Insight

Holy League Collective

Cyber Intelligence Bureau

a division of Epidemiology Labs

 **Cyberdefense**

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Methods & Neutrality

The information in this document is the result of OSINT (Open Source Intelligence) investigations. These sources are of cyber origin, i.e. from open sources.

The sources have been correlated, validated and qualified as trusted sources. This information is analysis from a strictly cyber perspective.

The whole report strictly respects the principle of neutrality, which is fundamental to the research carried out.

Holy League collective

- Creation date: 2020 (not confirmed)
- Strategies : cyberattacks (DDoS, defacements, data leaks), online propaganda, psychological manipulation, symbolic targeting, and collaboration with like-minded groups to disrupt opponents, spread its ideological messaging, and intimidate its targets
- Géopolitical Motivation: Actions have indirect geopolitical implications by exacerbating social divisions, influencing political discourse, and aligning with far-right narratives on issues like immigration and national identity.
- Characteristics: The Holy League was likely created by a small group of ideologically motivated individuals with technical skills in hacking and a strong commitment to defending Christian values and Western civilization.
- Sectors: LGBTQ+ Advocacy Groups, Abortion Providers, Secularist Organizations, Islamic Institutions, Progressive Political Groups, Healthcare Providers, Media Outlets, Educational Institutions, Far-Right Opposition Groups, Religious Organizations (Non-Christian), energy and ICS (SCADA)



Identification

Holy League Collective: Main Active Members



- High Society
- 7 October Union
- Cyber Army of Russia
- UserSec
- NoName057(16)
- Mr. Hamza
- Anonymous Guys
- Hunt3rKill3rs
- Shadow Unit
- EvilNet
- KozSec
- People's Cyber Army
- Z-Pentest

... and other external groups temporarily join the Holy League collective based on ideological developments and geopolitical news

Key Points



1

Structure



Decentralized network of hacktivist groups, independent cells or individual actors who operate under a shared ideological banner but carry out attacks autonomously.

2

Platform



Encrypted messaging Signal, social media platforms, memes, videos, graphics and darknet forums

3

Financing



Crowdfunding, Crypto, Merchandise sales, Affiliate programs & partnerships, Cybercrime-for-profit activities (ransomware, Leaks), funding from ideological backers, Membership fees

4

Associated projects/tools



DDoS Loic/Hoic, Mimikatz, Metasploit, GoPhish, VPN anonymization

5

Motivations



To defend Christian values and oppose progressive movements like secularism and LGBTQ+ rights and supporting pro-Russian and pro-Palestinian causes.

6

Targets



Targets entities in the West Europe, NATO, Israel, India as well as those who support Ukraine or Israel, focusing on organizations that promote values contrary to their own.

Vectors of Influence

1

Ideology

The Holy League is motivated by the defense of Christian values, the opposition to progressive movements, and support for pro-Russian and pro-Palestinian causes. The group creates a sense of urgency and rally supporters to their causes.

2

Opposition

The group opposes the separation of religion from public life and seeks to counteract the influence of secular movements that it views as undermining religious traditions.

3

Resistance

The Holy League is driven by strong opposition to LGBTQ+ rights, gender equality, and other progressive social movements, which it perceives as threats to moral and cultural norms.

4

Pro-life stance

The group is motivated by a pro-life ideology and targets abortion providers and reproductive health organizations, aiming to disrupt their operations and spread its anti-abortion message.

5

Preservation

The group is motivated by a desire to preserve Western cultural heritage and traditions, which it believes are being eroded by globalization, multiculturalism, and progressive policies. It is driven by a form of religious extremism that justifies its actions as part of a holy war or divine mission to defend its faith and values.

Emotional Intelligence

Holy League sows fear among its victims by presenting itself as a powerful and relentless force.

1

They target LGBTQ+ organizations and abortion providers, creating a sense of vulnerability.

Holy League exploits the anger of individuals who share their anti-Western and pro-Palestinian ideology. This anger motivates its supporters to take action and justifies its extremist tactics to a wider audience.

2

The group attracts individuals sensitive to religious and moral issues by framing its actions as a "holy war." This outrage galvanizes its supporters and draws in those sensitive to these issues.

3



4

Holy League creates a strong sense of belonging by using sophisticated visual propaganda and disseminating consistent ideological messages. By fostering a sense of belonging, the group strengthens loyalty and emotional attachment among its members.

5

Intimidation Through Symbolism: Holy League uses symbolic actions to intimidate its victims and create a psychological impact. These actions, like defacing websites with religious imagery, evoke fear, shame, or humiliation.

6

"Us vs. Them" Mentality: Holy League exploits geopolitical tensions to recruit disgruntled individuals or those seeking a cause. This polarizing narrative simplifies complex social issues and strengthens group cohesion by creating a sense of solidarity and camaraderie during operations.

Techniques and Capabilities

* DDoS attacks: Holy League have targeted French government entities, critical infrastructure, and German organizations with DDoS attacks.

* Website defacement: Members of the group carry out website defacements. The pro-Russian group Z-Pentest defaced websites of French companies, particularly in the energy, agriculture, and automotive sectors, with pro-Russian messages.

* Sensitive data leaks: The collective conducts hacking operations aimed at exfiltrating and disclosing confidential information. Shadow Unit and UserSec, two groups associated with Holy League, have claimed responsibility for data breaches against French entities, including government documents.

* Compromise of industrial systems: Some members of the Holy League claim to have gained unauthorized access to industrial control systems (SCADA) and surveillance cameras (CCTV). Shadow Unit claimed access to the SCADA systems of the Corus nuclear power plant and the French station Marne Aval.

* Coordinated campaigns: Holy League organizes coordinated attack campaigns involving several member groups, targeting specific countries or organizations. The attacks against France in December 2024 involved coordination between NoName057(16), People's Cyber Army, Mr. Hamza, and Anonymous Guys, targeting various sectors of the French economy and government.

* Visual propaganda: The group uses sophisticated visual propaganda with apocalyptic themes to amplify the impact of its messages and attract new members. Their messages, videos or memes often accompanied by disturbing images, aim to sow fear and chaos.



Professional Sectors

List of targeted sectors

French government

Critical infrastructure

Energy

Agriculture

Automotive

German organizations

LGBTQ+ organizations

Abortion providers



Note

Holy League is a coalition of pro-Russian and pro-Palestinian hackers. This group, known for its symbolic cyberattacks and sophisticated propaganda campaigns, primarily targets Western countries, NATO, India, and Israel, as well as LGBTQ+ organizations and abortion providers.



Targeted Countries





The most dangerous hypothesis

The Holy League hacktivist group, with its ultra-conservative, religious, and anti-progressive ideology, poses a potential threat to Europe, particularly given the continent's diverse cultural, political, and social landscape.

The Holy League's most likely and dangerous hypothesis for targeting Europe is rooted in its ideological opposition to secularism, progressive policies, and multiculturalism.

By attacking symbolic and high-impact targets, the group aims to defend its vision of Christian values and Western civilization while intimidating its opponents.

Europe's diverse and progressive landscape makes it a prime target for the Holy League's cyber campaigns, posing significant risks to public safety, social cohesion, and political stability.

Understanding these motivations is crucial for anticipating and mitigating the group's actions.



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