

Graphika

Ants in a Web

Deconstructing Guo Wengui's Online
'Whistleblower Movement'

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Disinformation

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Deconstructing Guo Wengui's Online 'Whistleblower Movement'

Executive Summary

- Chinese businessman Guo Wengui is at the center of a vast network of interrelated media entities which have disseminated online disinformation and promoted real-world harassment campaigns.
- Graphika has identified thousands of mostly-authentic social media accounts associated with this network which are active across platforms including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, Gab, Telegram, Parler, and Discord.
- In the last year, this network has promoted harassment campaigns against anti-CCP Chinese dissidents, activists, and other perceived enemies in six countries. These campaigns have been linked to multiple violent incidents.
- Foreign-born participants in Guo's online and offline operations have been promised political asylum in the United States in exchange for participation.
- Graphika has noted multiple instances of what appear to be coordinated authentic behavior, with real supporters posting with the singular purpose of amplifying Guo-related content.
- The network acts as a prolific producer and amplifier of mis- and disinformation, including claims of voter fraud in the U.S., false information about Covid-19, and QAnon narratives.
- Accounts in the network have used centrally-coordinated tactics to evade enforcement actions by social media platforms.

Background

In a [live-streamed announcement](#) on June 4th, 2020, right-wing strategist Steve Bannon and Chinese businessman Guo Wengui stood on a boat in the Hudson River to announce the establishment of the "The New Federal State of China." The new organization has the stated [aim](#) of overthrowing the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and creating a new democratic state. At the culmination of the ceremony, Guo marked the document with his own blood, an event the GNews outlet [claims](#) coincided with "flashes of lightning and claps of thunder" over the Statue of Liberty. By the end of the following day, the phrase "New Federal State of China," or '新中国联邦', had been mentioned 52.8k times on Twitter alone, amplified by a sprawling global network of media entities and social media assets centered around Guo.¹

¹ Twitter data accessed via Meltwater Social



Guo Wengui marks the declaration of "The New Federal State of China" with his own blood during a live-streamed ceremony with Steve Bannon

Many years before declaring a new Chinese government, Guo Wengui was a [prominent real estate developer](#) and financial magnate in China. According to reporting from the [BBC](#), Guo left the country in 2014 after the arrest of a key CCP ally prompted government investigations into his business dealings. In April 2017, the Chinese Foreign Ministry [said](#) Interpol had issued a "red notice" for Guo to be extradited back to China. Guo has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

In January 2017, Guo began recording videos and granting [interviews](#) deeply critical of the CCP, eventually organizing his efforts under the banner "Whistleblower Movement." On [GWiki.net](#), a knowledge base operated by members of the Guo media network, the movement bills itself as an "anti-CCP revolution." Guo met Bannon in Washington in 2017, according to the [Washington Post](#), and the two were working closely together within a year. Since then, the movement has evolved from a relatively small anti-CCP campaign into a high-capacity, centrally-coordinated media operation capable of global amplification across a range of platforms.



Quote from Guo Wengui on his "Whistleblower Movement"

As it continues to expand in size and scope, the network has become increasingly influential in a variety of conversations tracked by Graphika. While the [stated mission](#) of the New Federal State of China is to “prevent the CCP from implementing its plan of complete enslavement of the Chinese people and dragging the rest of the world down the same path,” the network has become increasingly active in affairs outside of China since the start of 2020. For example, it [hosted and promoted](#) sexually explicit content featuring Hunter Biden as part of its pro-Trump coverage of the U.S. 2020 presidential election and has promoted [health misinformation](#) throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. It is also worth noting that Guo Wengui has been a major target of criticism by a network of CCP-aligned social media assets known as ‘Spamouflage’, which has been tracked by Graphika since 2019.²

Graphika’s decision to investigate the network is based on its unique makeup, its increasing influence in controversial online conversations, and its ability to facilitate offline harm. These harms include a series of violent online and offline harassment campaigns against anti-CCP dissidents and perceived enemies. This report summarizes our findings on the composition and structure of the network, the narratives it spreads, and its online and offline impact.

² <https://graphika.com/reports/return-of-the-spamouflage-dragon-1/>

How It Works

Guo Wengui (郭文贵) – who has also been named in [court documents as](#) Miles Kwok, Kwok Ho Wan, Guo Haoyun (郭浩云), and Miles Guo – is at the center of a movement that relies upon complex tactics, techniques, and procedures to obscure its functions. As such, researchers have struggled to evaluate its impact and social media platforms have wrestled with how to apply existing enforcement policies. The online infrastructure referred to in this report as the “Guo media network” defies traditional characterization as either a media organization or an influence operation. Instead, it is an ever-evolving constellation of personalities and entities that revolve around Guo. This includes media figures, content creators, publishing platforms, social media accounts, non-profits, brands, financial schemes, a faux “government” and more, all under the guise of a global sociopolitical movement.

Graphika has identified Guo as the linchpin of the network. He is the leading personality, appears to define goals and messaging, and is positioned as a wise leader who should be admired and followed. In addition to Guo himself, the network relies on a smaller group of media influencers who are heavily featured in content and messaging. Leading personalities include Steve Bannon, a promoter of Covid-19 misinformation named Yan Li-Meng, and Wang Dinggang - the host of an online “news program” known as Lude Media. This content is amplified by Guo-affiliated media outlets, including GNews and GTV, which host external media and create original content. Utilizing [Discord](#), [GitHub](#), and [Google Drive](#), both [paid](#) and [voluntary](#) personnel are recruited and assigned [tasks](#) ranging from translation and meme creation to producing videos, maintenance, security, and marketing. Typically, media personalities will record videos of themselves discussing various topics which are then published on these platforms. The videos usually have a high production value and utilize a combination of animation, video footage, and direct narration, often with translated subtitles. Volunteers are used to help with translation and social media posts promoting Guo content will sometimes include [requests for assistance](#) from English speakers.



Self-described [member](#) of the volunteer translation team

The videos and other posts are typically then amplified by a coordinated network of thousands of social media accounts, many of which appear to be run by real people but solely amplify Guo-related content. Active supporters of Guo – who since 2018 have [referred to themselves](#) as “ants” – receive instructions about the latest operations and priorities in a series of publicly-accessible Discord servers. [Community rules](#) on the G-Talent Technology Community wiki page and a GNews article about volunteering for the network show “ants” often work free of charge and are [discouraged](#) from questioning instructions.

Network Entities

Key to understanding the coordinated online activity is a web of corporate entities and organizations that form the backbone of the network. Often, it is only by tracing connections between these offline organizations that the online coordination is revealed.

Graphika has identified over 30 corporate entities as well as 35 media and local-action groups that act as part of the network. In many cases, the corporate structures of these entities are obscured and Guo’s own [public statements](#) are sometimes the only indication of his involvement with an identified organization. Before the launch of GTV last April, for example, Guo [took credit](#) for shutting down its predecessor: “Once GTV goes live next week, I will close Gpost accordingly.”

Himalaya Supervisory Organization: The Himalaya Supervisory Organization [oversees](#) the local chapters of the network known as Himalaya Farms. A GNews [article](#) details the process in which the farms recruit supporters into local chapters to create farm-specific content for GNews, GTV, and farm-specific social media accounts. The supporters further amplify content as well as attending events and local protests.

Rule of Law Society and Rule of Law Foundation: According to [descriptions](#) on their [websites](#), the Rule of Law Society and Rule of Law Foundation are non-profit organizations that collect donations in order to provide support to businessmen, government officials, and others who have 'run afoul' of Chinese authorities.

Himalaya Federal Reserve: According to an [interview](#) Guo conducted in May 2020, the Himalaya Federal Reserve oversees various financial products marketed by the network, as well as lifestyle brands associated with the movement.

	Entity	Type	Purpose	City
	Saraca Media Group Inc	Corporation	Parent company of entities in the network. Negotiates and executes contracts for hiring consultants, hosts and contributors, as well as other business partnerships and projects.	New Castle, Delaware
	GTV	Video platform	Acts as a centralized video platform hosting content that supports the mission of all network entities. Part of the larger GTV Media Group.	New Castle, Delaware
	GNews	News platform	Acts as a centralized news platform hosting content that supports the mission of all network entities.	San Jose, California
	New Federal State of China	Federal government in exile	Positioned as a government of China in exile. Other Guo-linked entities, such as the Himalaya Supervisory Authority act as branches of the New Federal State.	New York, New York
	Rule of Law Foundation	Nonprofit 501 (c)(3)	A non-profit organization that collects donations purportedly used to provide financial support to businessmen, government officials and other people who have run afoul of Chinese authorities.	New York, New York
	Rule of Law Society	Nonprofit 501(c)(4)	A non-profit organization that collects donations purportedly used to provide financial support to businessmen, government officials and other people who have run afoul of Chinese authorities.	New York, New York
	Himalaya Supervisory Authority	Nonprofit NGO	Acts as the governing body for the Himalaya Farms Network and main foreign policy vehicle for the New Federal State of China.	New York, New York
	Himalaya Federal Reserve	Monetary Institution	Oversees various financial products marketed by the network, as well as lifestyle brands associated with the movement.	New York, New York
	Himalaya Farms Network	Embassy Network	Acts as a network of embassies for the New Federal State of China. Works to expand the movement at a local level and organizes volunteer efforts.	New York, New York

Steve Bannon Involvement: Steve Bannon first worked (in an official paid capacity) with Guo Media in August 2018, according to a [consulting agreement](#) obtained by [Axios](#) which identifies the outlet as “a media platform wholly owned by Saraca Media Group Inc.” The Wall Street

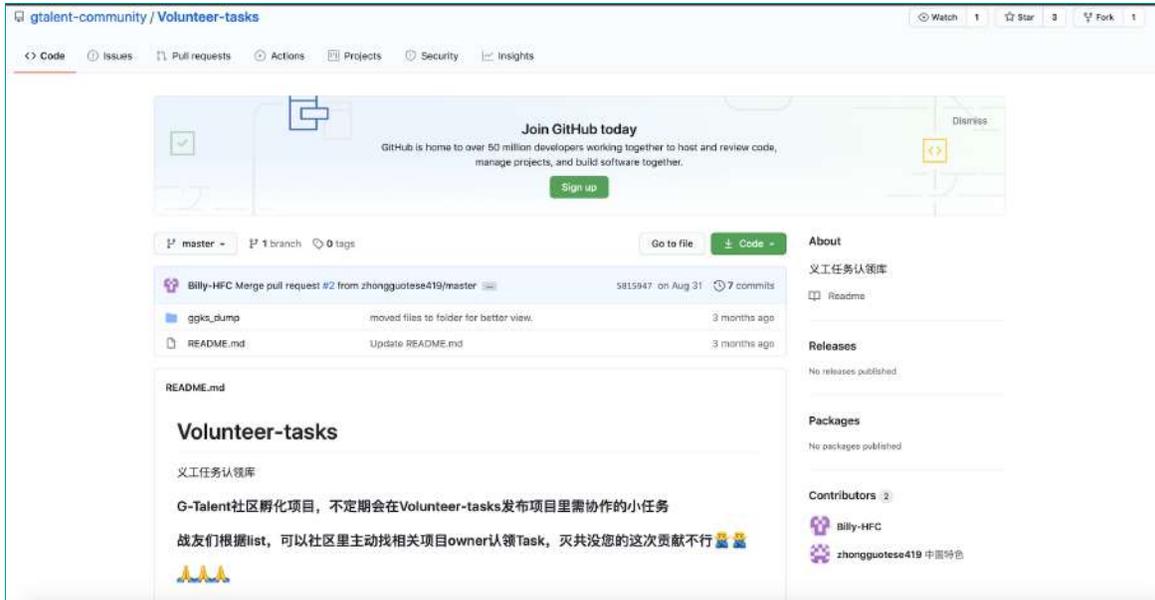
Journal, [citing fundraising documents](#) and people familiar with the matter, reported in 2020 that GTV Media Group was a joint venture between Guo and Bannon, with Bannon acting as company director and Guo handling public appearances. Bannon's involvement was also referenced in promotional [videos](#) produced to announce the venture. Per the [sworn testimony](#) of Sasha Gong, a former Guo employee who claims to be a former board member for the Rule of Law Society and the listed director for the North Dakota branch of the [Rule of Law Foundation](#) (per North Dakota records, she was removed as director on February 1st, 2021), Bannon was also a board member for the [Rule of Law Society](#). [Trademark filings](#) from September 2020 for G-Fashion have Bannon's nephew, Sean C. Bannon, listed as the signatory with his position given as COO.

Recruitment

Graphika examined social media accounts in the Guo media network to identify key vectors for volunteer recruitment, which have included WhatsApp, GitHub, Discord, and Google Docs. One GitHub repository, for example, shows available [jobs](#) and [volunteer tasks](#), and links to a Google Doc [listing videos for translation](#). Another Google Forms [link](#), found in the profile bio of Twitter account @G_Translators6, includes questions about the applicants' financial support for the Rule of Law Foundation and experience supporting Guo. As shown in the screenshot below, a link to the GitHub recruitment page was found on the G-Talent Discord server, suggesting this is where some individuals were first directed to pursue work for Guo.



G-Talent Discord server, where both paid employees and volunteers coordinate



Screenshot from the G-Talent community "Volunteer Tasks" list on GitHub

您从什么时候开始挺郭? | When did you start supporting Miles Guo? *

Choose ▼

您是否给法治基金捐过款? | Have you donated money to the Rule of Law Foundation? *

是 Yes

否 No

请简述您的挺郭经历 | Please briefly describe your experience of supporting Miles Guo *

Your answer

Loyalty-related questions at the end of the Google Forms sign-up link found in @G_Translators6's Twitter profile bio

The pro-Guo Discord community appears to be large and dynamic. Graphika identified at least 23 channels tied to Guo-related "G" or "Himalaya" entities, including many designed for local supporters at the farm or city level, enabling them to stay connected. Some of these channels are restricted, such as the Discord pages for [Himalaya CT \(Connecticut\) Panggu Farm](#) and [Himalaya Farm of Australia](#), where a user is granted access only after they post a screenshot of their past donations to the Rule of Law Foundation, a link to their personal page on the GTV website, and a summary of their actions to support "Mr. Guo and his revolution."

More broadly, requests for assistance are posted quite publicly, and it is not uncommon to see requests for translators or other volunteers on Twitter. Public social media posts also appear to be a key way to attract new members to private Discord channels and solicit donations. According to the sign-up instructions on an online [volunteer application](#) form, proof of a donation to the Rule of Law Society is required before being accepted as a volunteer.

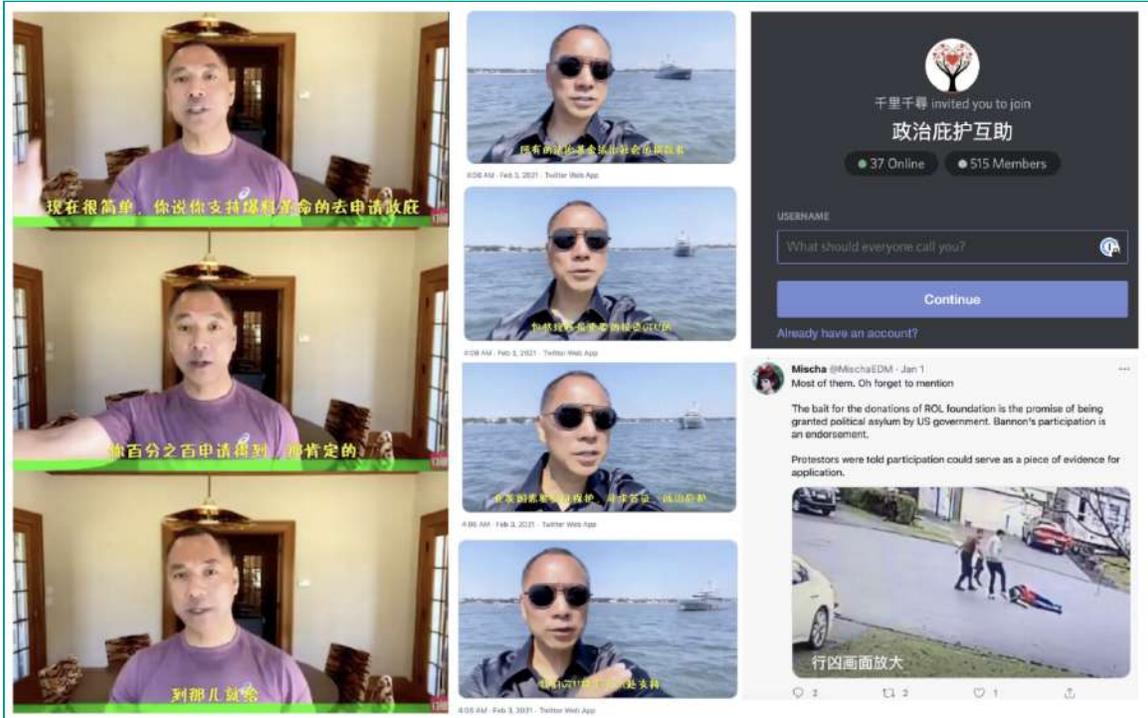
	农场名称	负责人	联系方式	备注
1	美国康州盘古农场 Himalaya Connecticut Pangu (USA)	面具先生	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/YeWu6E WhatsApp: 面具先生+1 (316) 239-0167	
2	美国华盛顿DC农场 Himalaya Washington DC (USA)	阿丙	WhatsApp: 阿丙 +1(404)6121394 Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/637w9B32x	
3	美国纽约香草山农场 Himalaya New York MOS (USA)	长岛哥	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/ChXAHd	
4	加拿大多伦多枫叶农场 Himalaya Toronto Maple Leaf (CA)	文祺	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/C9d3a6	
5	加拿大温哥华农场 Himalaya Vancouver GFARM (CA)	卡丽熙	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/jpnF7T WhatsApp: 卡丽熙+1 (613) 434-8162	
6	澳洲悉尼澳喜农场 Himalaya Sydney AoXi (AU)	安红	Discord 群组: https://discord.com/invt/mBHRYY	
7	澳洲墨尔本雅典农场 Himalaya Melbourne Athena (AU)	木兰	Discord 群组: http://discord.gg/haqrdY	
8	新西兰奥克兰伊甸农场 Himalaya AKL Eden Domain (NZ)	老班长	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/mrPUayI	
9	英国伦敦喜庄园农场 Himalaya London Royal Club(UK)	大卫	Telegram: @David007 Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/U8F97ur	
10	日本东京樱花团农场 Himalaya Tokyo SAKURA GROUP (JP)	魔女Peace	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/tzuQ4c	
11	日本京都富士会农场 Himalaya Kyoto Fujikai (JP)	007心语	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/jiQut	
12	日本大阪方舟农场 Himalaya Osaka JHL (JP)	草根小哥	WhatsApp: 草根小哥+1 (778) 776 8996	
13	新加坡狮城农场 Himalaya Singapore Lion City (SGP)	阿伟	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/he7e7nPvYW	
14	韩国首尔喜耕农场 Himalaya Seoul XiHan (KR)	补昌海	WhatsApp: 补昌海+8210-7620-2064 Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/gyR3PPe	
15	韩国仁川恩典农场 Himalaya Incheon Grace (KR)	哈恩, 瑞沃雅森	WhatsApp: 哈恩+8210-7591-6041 WhatsApp: 瑞沃雅森 010-8656-8286	
16	西班牙巴塞罗那农场 HIMALAYA BCN JOY (ES)	文戈七雄	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/WP6Qe7	
17	俄罗斯莫斯科喀秋莎农场 Himalaya Moscow Katyusha (RU)	玛莎	WhatsApp: 玛莎+7 968 706-43-69	
18	意大利罗马达芬奇农场 Himalaya Rome DaVinci (IT)	意大利文科	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/9mmxCoaYt Telegram: @dalyka	准农场
19	法国巴黎七星农场 Himalaya Paris Seven Star (FR)	小皮匠	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/h7FZFkOXii	准农场
20	德国慕尼黑感恩农场 Himalaya Munich GANEN (GER)	Claudia	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/hcKtZuXo8	准农场
21	美国纽约七星会农场 Himalaya New York Seven Stars Club (USA)	文書	Discord 群组: https://discord.gg/2vAAV6G (原为子孙爱七哥农场)	准农场

Listing of Discord Channels for various "Himalaya Farms"

Guo has promised political asylum in the U.S. to individuals who contributed to his causes or otherwise worked on his behalf. In two videos posted in 2020, Guo explicitly told GTV viewers that those with foreign citizenship who donated to his Rule Of Law Foundation and/or GTV and then sought political asylum in the United States could expect favorable treatment on their immigration applications. In one of the [videos](#) from July 2020 - which garnered over a million views on GTV - Guo told donors they will "get political asylum" if U.S. authorities know they contributed to his anti-CCP cause. In another [video](#) posted four months earlier, Guo said even more emphatically: "Now it's very simple: If you say you support the whistleblower movement and you've applied for political asylum, your application for asylum will 100% get approved, that's for sure."



Twitter posts seeking assistance from English speakers to translate video clips



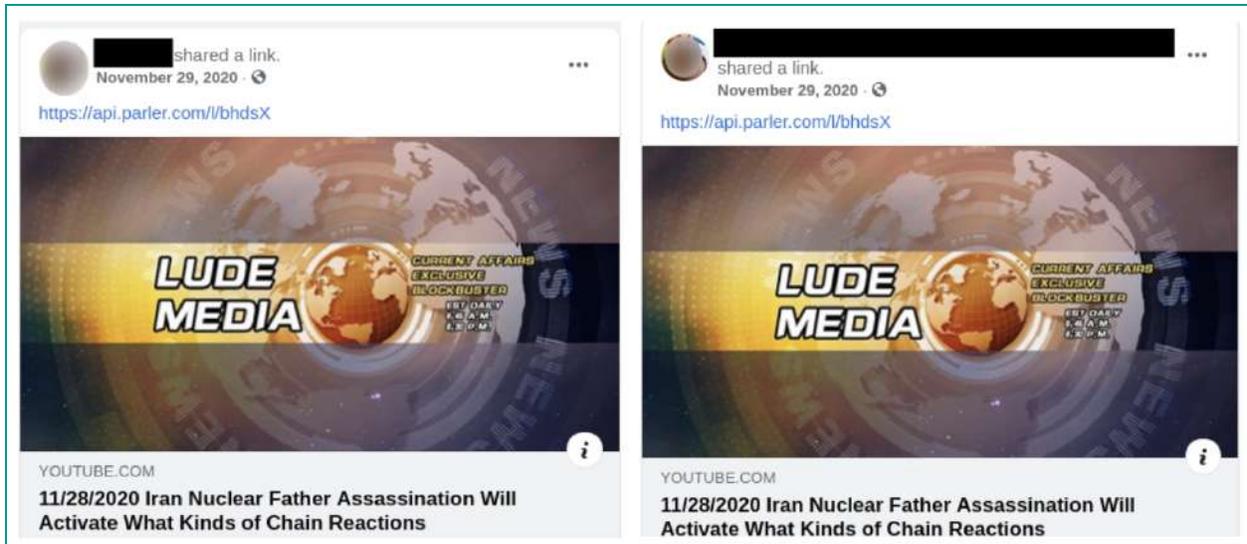
Members of the Guo media network have been promised asylum in the United States for participation in offline and online activity [1,2,3,4].

Coordination

Graphika found evidence of coordination between accounts promoting content from Guo-linked outlets across a variety of platforms, including Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. This appears primarily in the form of coordination between authentic accounts, in a style reminiscent of K-pop fan communities - real people coordinating to support Guo and promote his media and mission. In doing so, the behavior can at first glance appear inauthentic, with accounts showing high activity volumes centered around a few key influencers. However, these accounts do not show signs of being automated or misrepresenting themselves. They indeed appear to be passionate supporters of Guo and his Whistleblower Movement. According to a publicly-accessible [Google Sheet](#) which lists contact information for Guo media network coordinators in North America, Europe and Asia, the coordination appears to take place primarily on Discord, WhatsApp, and Telegram. Volunteer sign-ups are also required to provide a WhatsApp contact number. This coordination has persisted through multiple enforcement actions by social media platforms, including account suspensions and blocking links to GNews and GTV.

[Evidence presented](#) in a 2020 lawsuit between Eastern Profit Corporation Limited and Strategic Visions US LLC (a firm which says it was hired by Guo to assist with research and messaging) describes some of the technical elements of this coordination: “Discovery produced by Google about the IT administrators who manage and update five of those channels (this excludes Guo’s own “official site” – for which YouTube did not produce a list of “owners” or managers) reflects a backend technical team that is every bit as interconnected: each of the accounts, four Voice of Guo and one Rule of Law Foundation, shares administrators in common with at least two other channels.” Technical details such as these were not available for other platforms.

On Facebook, Graphika identified a number of assets created on the same day sharing identical posts, often at the same time or within a few minutes of each other. These assets posted Guo media network content in multiple Facebook groups focused on topics ranging from support for Trump to art in New York.



Examples of posts made on November 29th, 2020 to Facebook Groups focused on art in New York, linking to the Lude Media YouTube channel; this link was posted across seven groups by two Facebook profiles.

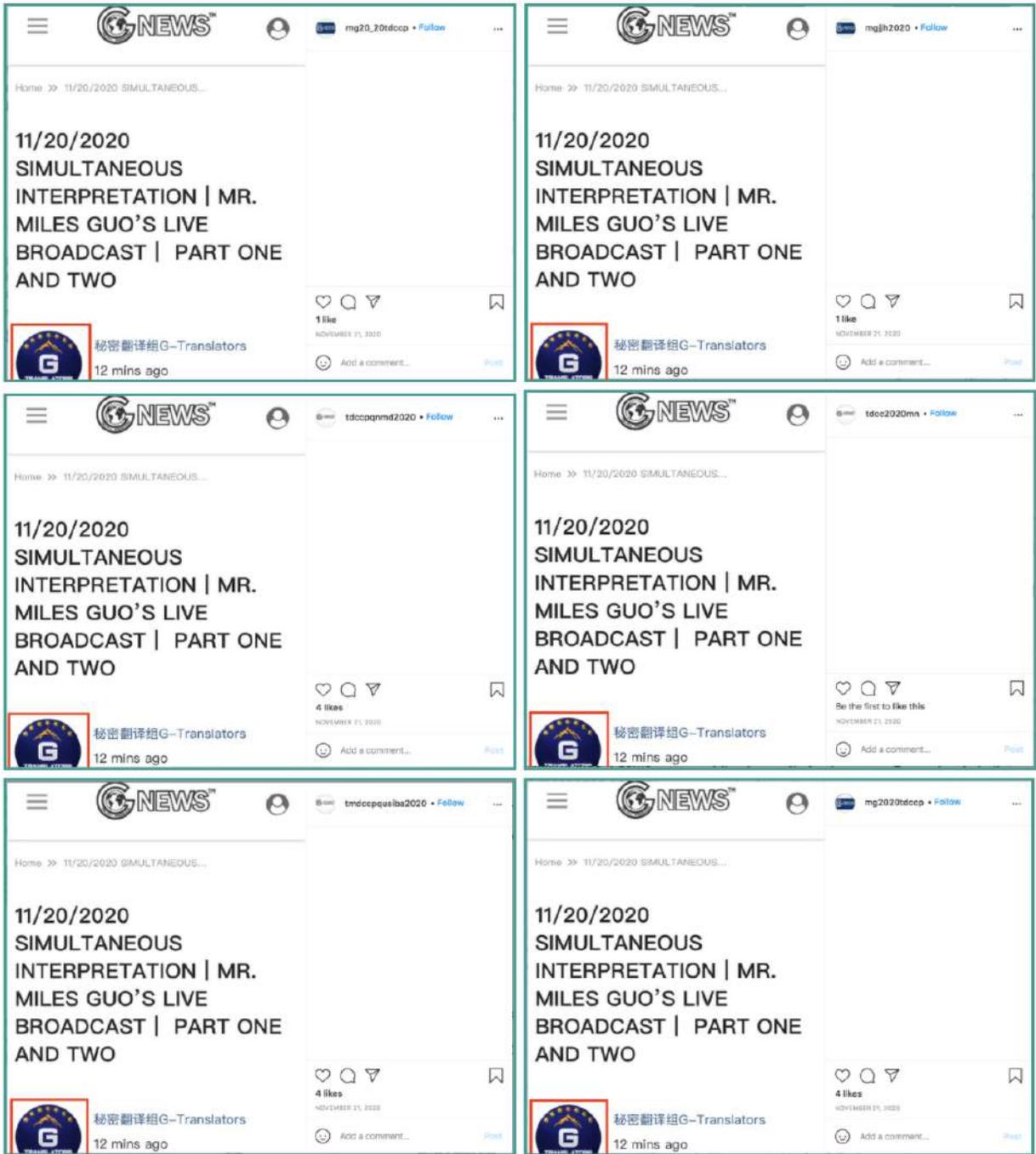
Graphika also discovered coordinated activity of a similar nature on Twitter, with multiple accounts primarily posting content from Guo-linked properties and ideologically-aligned outlets. Twitter accounts promoting Guo-focused content, particularly the ones with smaller follower counts, largely follow other accounts in the Guo community. Some of these accounts show large volumes of tweets spread throughout the day, often stopping only at night. However, the source clients used to post these tweets, along with other indicators, suggest this was not automated activity.



Three identically worded tweets; the first two (above) posted on November 13, 2020 between 8:00 - 9:00 AM GMT, the third (below) posted the following day. The post encourages content creation for GNews and live broadcasts.

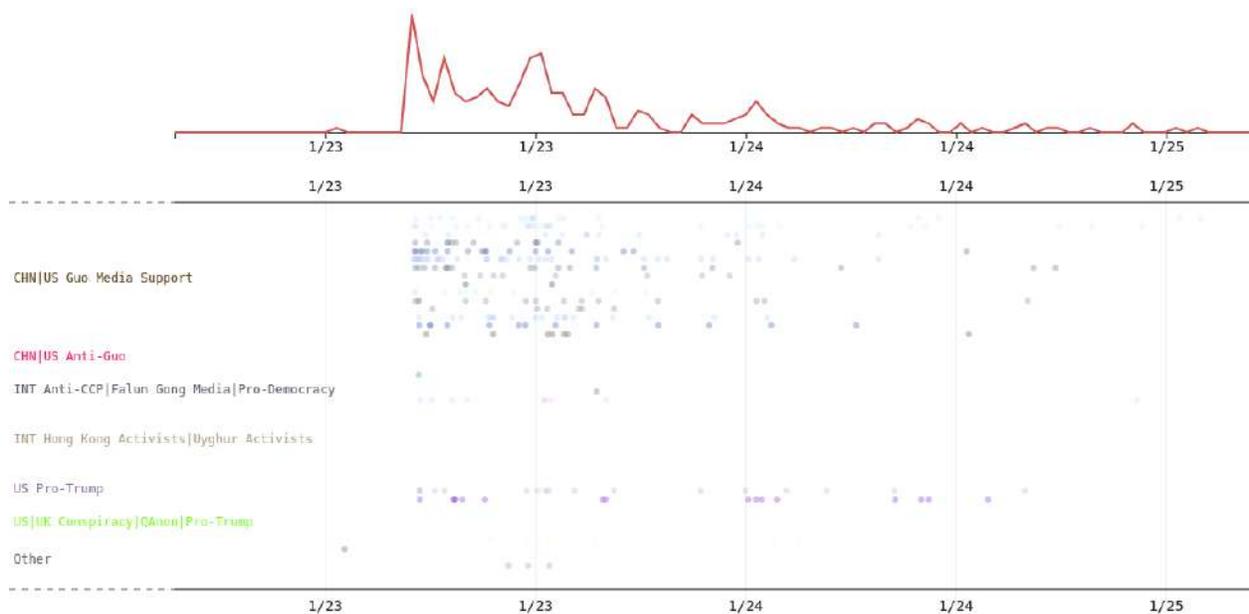
One method of coordination on Twitter is using shared Twitter lists to help volunteers identify content to amplify for retweets, likes, and replies. One notable example is the Twitter account @xxxccp777, created on October 25th, 2020, which maintains five lists of [politicians](#), [celebrities](#), [institutions](#), [media](#) and [swing state media](#) outlets. The only tweets from the account are links to the lists, all created on October 27th, 2020. Between the five lists, there are a total of 289 users subscribed, many of which are still active today and frequently retweet posts from the listed accounts.

Instagram was no exception. Our investigation uncovered a group of six accounts that posted the same content on the same day 109 times in a 75 day period. All six of the accounts also posted the same Discord invite and WhatsApp QR code. The media included in some posts provided further indications of behind-the-scenes coordination. In the example below, posted by all six accounts on November 21st, 2020, the G-Translators logo is cropped irregularly in each user's screenshot. Identical, irregularly-cropped images were posted multiple times across these six accounts, suggesting all six were working from the same original screenshots.



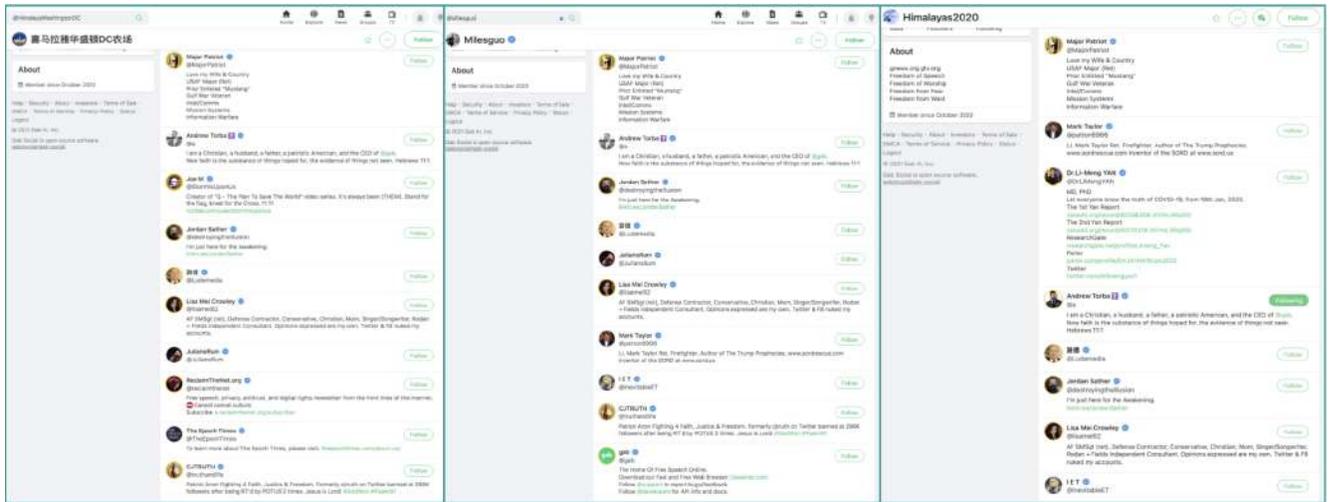
Six different accounts with similar handles post the same image with an irregularly cropped logo on the same day [1,2,3,4,5,6].

In addition to posts made across different accounts, large-scale network maps produced by Graphika show signals of coordination between accounts using certain hashtags. Below is a chronotope which shows how different communities engage with a hashtag over time for the hashtag #闫丽梦, or Yan Li-Meng, referring to a Chinese virologist who promotes Covid-19 misinformation. Shortly after 5:00 AM GMT, the hashtag begins to be used across different clusters and groups, with the majority of participating clusters using the hashtag for the first time within the same 20-minute window between 5:01 - 5:21 AM GMT. During the data collection period for the map, December 28th, 2020 - January 27th, 2021, 464 uses of the hashtag were recorded. 227 of these occurred on January 23rd.



Chronotope for #闫丽梦, showing the burst of usage occurring across clusters beginning at 5:01 AM GMT; by 5:24 AM GMT, the first uses had occurred within clusters and groups identified as U.S. Trump Support.

An analysis of 150 Gab accounts in the Guo media network, which includes both core Guo accounts and supporters, showed signs of coordination in the way accounts were followed. Of those accounts, almost all of them followed a group of QAnon influencers including Jordan Sather, Major Patriot, and CJTruth immediately after following major Guo media accounts upon their creation.



The vast majority of Gab accounts analyzed by Graphika followed the same list of QAnon influencers [1,2,3].

Content Analysis

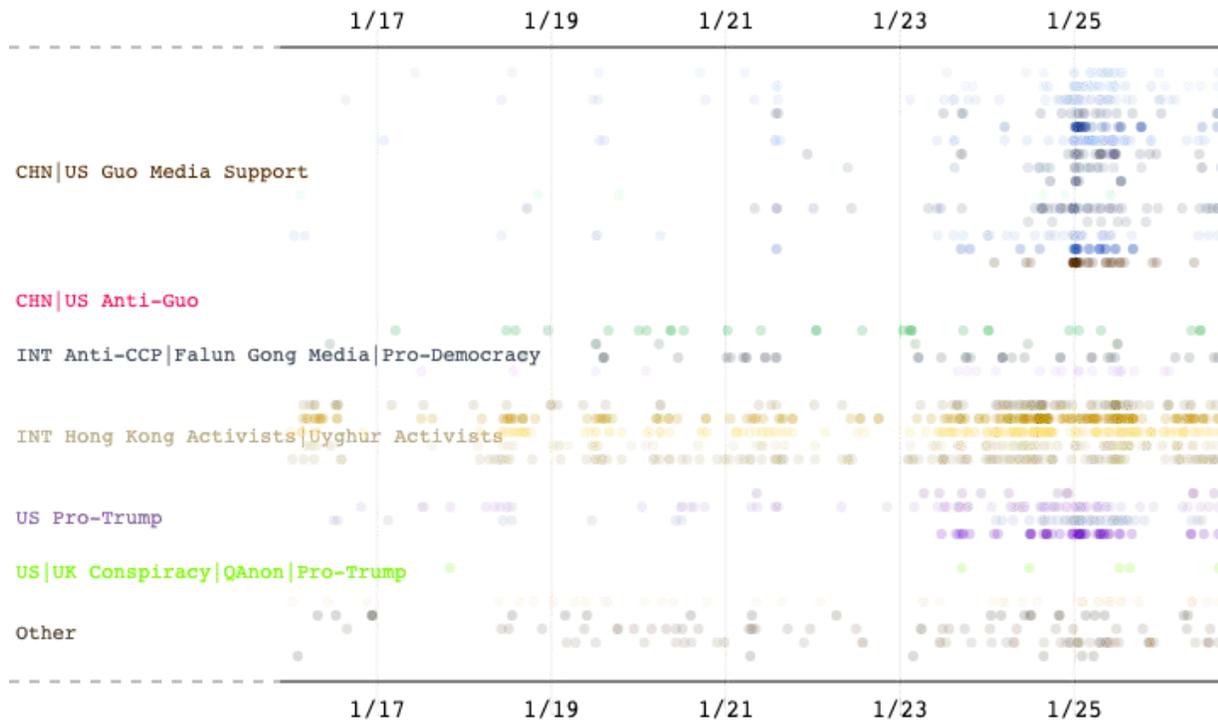
Anti-CCP Content

Our analysis found the primary focus of the Guo media network is to spread anti-CCP narratives amongst the global Chinese diaspora. The hashtags most used by core members include #takedowntheccp, #whistleblowermovement, #gtv, #gnews #newfederalstateofchina, #ccpliedpeopledied, #路德时评 (Lude Review), and #爆料革命 (breaking news revolution). While content is often focused on events that appear unrelated to China, it is typically framed in a way that portrays the CCP in a negative light.



Content shared by the Guo media network often includes highly produced videos of leaders within the movement criticizing the CCP and disputing CCP narratives [1,2,3,4]

Criticism of the CCP is often focused on territorial and human rights disputes with international significance, including those relating to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and Tibet. Members of the network express solidarity with groups oppressed or targeted by the CCP, and use their struggle to amplify their own cause. For example, the chronotope below shows the use of #Taiwan after Chinese military jets entered Taiwanese airspace in January 2021. Accounts in Guo’s network began using the hashtag to criticize the CCP while simultaneously promoting the #WhistleBlowerMovement hashtag, a #LudeMedia newsletter, and a GNews article. One [tweet](#) exacerbates tensions by claiming, without evidence, that “the CCP is now going to attack Taiwan.”



Immediately following a Chinese incursion into Taiwanese airspace, members of the Guo media network began started using #Taiwan to promote their cause.



Tweets from members of the Guo media network using #Taiwan following a Chinese incursion into Taiwanese airspace [1,2]

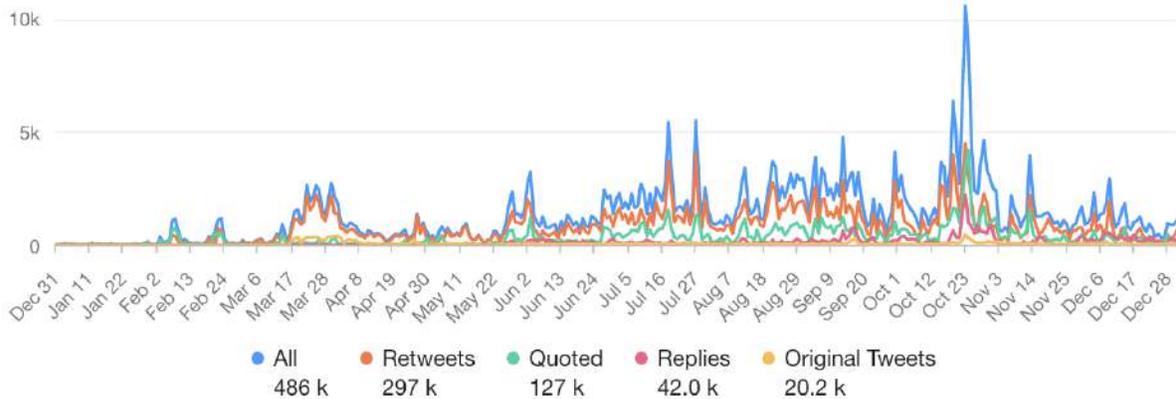
U.S. Political Activity

In the second half of 2020, content from the Guo media network was increasingly prevalent in the American right-wing social media environment. The Graphika network map below (left) captures the QAnon Twitter landscape from July 18th to August 17th and includes a large Trump support community. The image on the right highlights accounts within that pro-Trump community which cited [gnews\[.\]org](https://www.gnews.org) in this time frame. This indicates that GNews gained purchase among a central group of Trump supporters in the months leading up to the election.



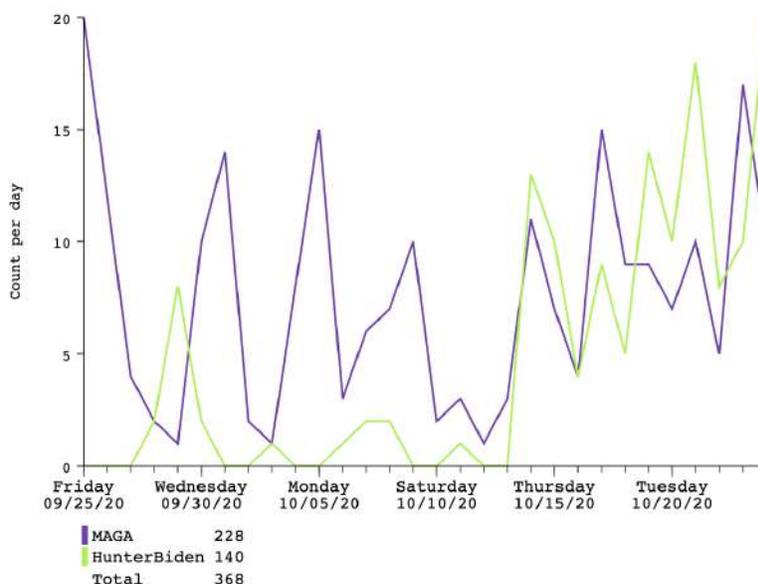
In Graphika's QAnon network map (left), an active community of Trump supporters was sharing content from [GNews.org](https://www.gnews.org) as early as July 2020 (right).

Activity within the Guo network spiked in the run-up to the November 2020 U.S. presidential election. A visualization showing the use of three hashtags commonly associated with the network ([#WhistleblowerMovement](https://twitter.com/WhistleblowerMovement), [#MilesGuo](https://twitter.com/MilesGuo), and [#路德时\(Lude\)](https://twitter.com/Lude)) shows a clear spike in activity in the final weeks of October.



Usage of hashtags commonly associated with the Guo media network shows a spike in activity before the U.S. election.

On September 25th, [Lude Media](#) began posting about allegedly damaging content reportedly recovered from computer hard drives belonging to Hunter Biden. This was nearly three weeks before the New York Post published a widely-shared story on the subject. Before the election, GNews then published a flurry of articles about Hunter Biden which included claims of [child abuse and more](#). [Sexually explicit videos](#) purporting to feature Hunter Biden and [emails](#) regarding his alleged business dealings in Ukraine were hosted on gtv[.]org, and then amplified in a [coordinated](#) campaign by members of a Himalaya Movement Discord server. In addition to content specifically about Hunter Biden, members of the network amplified general right-wing disinformation [before](#), [during](#), and [after](#) the vote.



Usage of #MAGA and #HunterBiden within a cluster of Guo supporters on Twitter shows sustained growth of the story in the run-up to the U.S. election.

By the end of [December](#), the Guo media network was actively promoting the January 6th rally in Washington DC across multiple [platforms](#) and [entities](#), as well as using hashtags such as #StopTheSteal alongside #TakeDownTheCCP. During the rally and subsequent attack on the Capitol building, the network promoted [multiple livestreams](#) on GTV and other platforms, and shared videos supporting the “[patriots](#)” involved in the mob. In the hours and days following the attack, the network was quick to amplify conspiratorial narratives alleging the violence was the [work of antifa](#) at [the behest of the CCP](#), [peaceful in comparison to Black Lives Matter protests](#), and connected to [Nancy Pelosi](#) and [Joe Biden](#). Another [video](#) compared the supposed infiltration of the rally by antifa to undercover saboteurs who had allegedly co-opted the 2019–20 Hong Kong protests. Guo himself released a video [downplaying events in DC](#), arguing that they were nothing compared to what his followers had experienced in China.



Images produced by members of Guo's network promoting the January 6th rally and spreading misinformation after the event [\[1,2,3,4,5\]](#).

Health Misinformation

The Guo media network has been a prolific spreader of Covid-19 misinformation. While it has spread false information concerning [hydroxychloroquine](#) and [vaccines](#), it has been particularly focused on anti-China narratives that align with U.S. right-wing political themes.



Medical disinformation related to Covid-19 from entities within the Guo media network including a video of the America's Frontline Doctors conference

The New York Times [reported](#) in November 2020 that Bannon and Guo were responsible for the amplification of a theory proposed by Chinese virologist Yan Li-Meng around the origins of Covid-19. Yan published a research paper supposedly proving the virus was man-made. But the paper did not go through peer review and was [accused](#) of being pseudo-scientific and based on conjecture. After she spoke anonymously on a Lude Media show on January 19th, 2020, Yan Li-Meng caught the attention of Steve Bannon and Guo Wengui, who helped her flee to the United States and coached her on the best way to present her message to U.S. media, according to the New York Times. Bannon and Guo labeled Yan a whistleblower and she later appeared on TV programs with Tucker Carlson, Lou Dobbs, and others. A [report](#) by the Technology and Social Change project at the Harvard Shorenstein Center found that Yan was interviewed on Steve Bannon's 'War Room: Pandemic' show 22 times in 2020. In addition to the millions of cumulative views these appearances garnered, Yan's original report has been viewed over a million times.



Guo Wengui and Steve Bannon were responsible for creating, coaching and amplifying Yan Li-Meng's theories about the origins of Covid-19

The Guo media network also made Yan Li-Meng a key voice in their Covid-19 focused messaging. Even in October, when the network was mostly focused on the U.S. election, #LiMengYan saw sustained usage by Guo supporters on Twitter. In various media appearances, Yan has also promoted the use of hydroxychloroquine for the treatment of Covid-19 and other related misinformation.

More recently, the network has labelled Covid-19 vaccines the “CCP’s Bioweapon Deadly Vaccine” in a series of slickly-produced images containing GNews, GTV, and other network entity logos.



Examples of content produced by the Guo media network containing Covid-19 vaccine disinformation [1,2,3,4]

In an example of the network’s willingness to use offline methods alongside their online operations, an [ABC news report](#) found that members of the local Himalaya Farm organization in Australia had distributed over 35,000 pamphlets promoting the use of hydroxychloroquine and asserting Yan Li-Meng’s claims about the origins of the virus. [Videos](#) uploaded to the [Himalaya UK YouTube channel](#) show similar efforts and claim that over 100,000 pamphlets were printed.

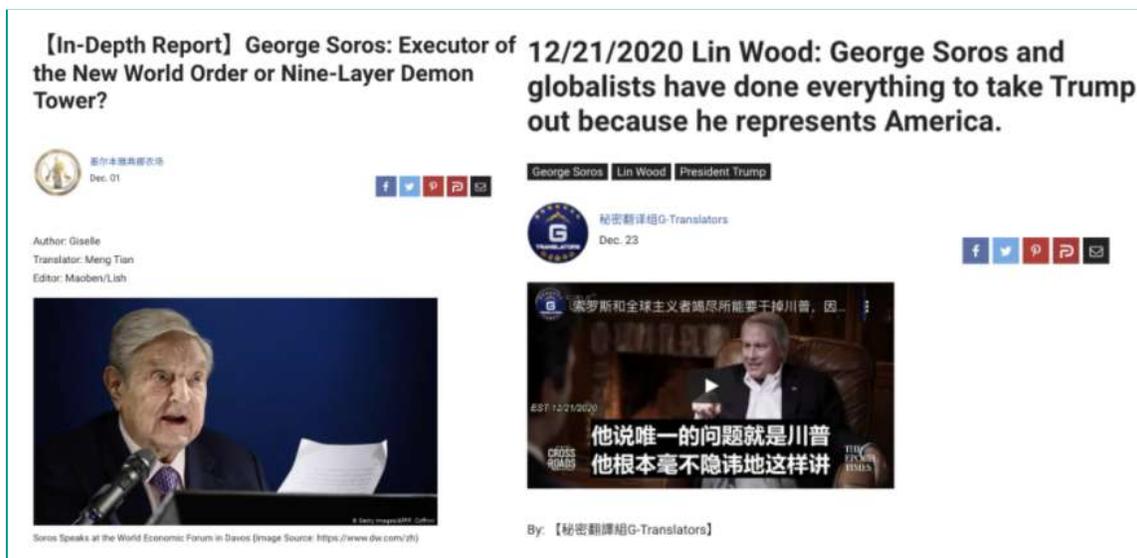


Flyers distributed by the Guo media network in the UK and Australia, promoting false claims about Covid-19

[1,2]

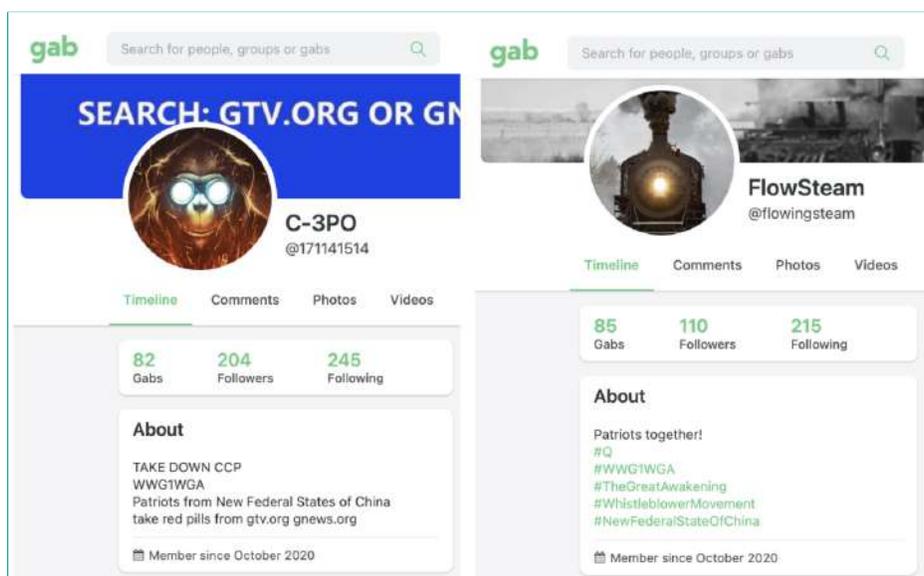
QAnon Amplification

Over the last year, the Guo media network has continuously amplified QAnon-aligned content. Conspiracy theories, including those promoted by the QAnon community, that draw connections between ‘evil-doers’ across national borders, serve to unify Guo’s transnational network against common enemies. GTV has an extensive collection of videos popular among QAnon adherents, including [Fall of Cabal](#), [Fight Back](#) and [We Are The Plan](#). GNews has published content critical of “globalists” and the “new world order,” which it illustrates with images of George Soros.



GNews has published content playing on conspiratorial narratives around ‘Globalists’ and the ‘New World Order’ [1,2].

GNews and Lude Media have also [amplified QAnon theories](#) which have then been promoted by [social media](#) accounts within the network. Graphika has identified several accounts that align themselves with both communities by using some of their core, community-building hashtags in profile bios and encourage followers to “take red pills from gtv.org gnews.org.”



Accounts that explicitly identify as members of the Guo media network and the QAnon community [1,2]

Harassment Campaigns

The Guo media network is notable for its facilitation of in-person and online harassment of Chinese dissidents and other perceived enemies, which Guo has referred to [in online videos](#) as “Operation Elimination of Fake Activists.” Despite Guo’s [self-proclaimed](#) status as a Chinese dissident, his network has repeatedly attacked well-known anti-CCP [activists](#). Social media posts and online footage reviewed by Graphika show that network volunteers have protested outside the homes of activists with signs and leaflets linking them to the CCP, threatened individuals and their families, and frequently live-streamed their actions directly on GTV and YouTube. In the course of our investigation, we identified protest campaigns targeting 17 individuals in six countries.

Protest locations - continental US



Protest locations - Outside continental US/Canada



Maps indicating the location and quantity of protests; larger and darker stars indicate a larger number of events in that location.

In multiple videos, Guo has explicitly encouraged followers to “punish” and “beat up” named individuals. In a [video](#) uploaded to GNews in October 2020, for example, Guo urges his followers to ignore criticism because their sacrifices are for the “security of all of humanity.” He goes on to say: “Starting today, we say punish, not eliminate, the CCP’s pro-democracy phonies worldwide. Bring all of the CCP’s moles overseas to light.” In [another](#) video from September 2020, he labels his critics “fake pro-democracy activists,” who “should be beaten up as soon as we see them.”

These threats appear to be interpreted as calls to action by members of the Guo media network, who routinely engage in targeted online harassment. Human rights lawyer Teng Biao [detailed](#) the harassment he said he received from Guo supporters online, including threats such as “I wanna send him a bullet directly into his head!” and “take care of yourself, because you will be murdered!”



Core accounts and amplifier accounts coordinated offline activity with targeted online harassment of Chinese dissidents [1,2]

Some harassment campaigns have also resulted in physical violence. One prominent example is the case of Los Angeles-based anti-CCP dissident Jin Qingmin, who uses the name Mang Liuzi. On January 14th, 2020, Guo detailed an ongoing dispute with Mang in a [video](#) broadcast on GTV. On March 31st, he then explicitly named and threatened Mang in another [video](#). "Mang Liuzi, you son of bitch," Guo said. "No matter how much you brag, just wait and see how I teach you a lesson when I am in Los Angeles." Four days later, GNews [published](#) a photo of Mang in a list of "CCP bandits and phonies" who "never publicly support the Whistleblower Revolution and Mr Guo Wengui."

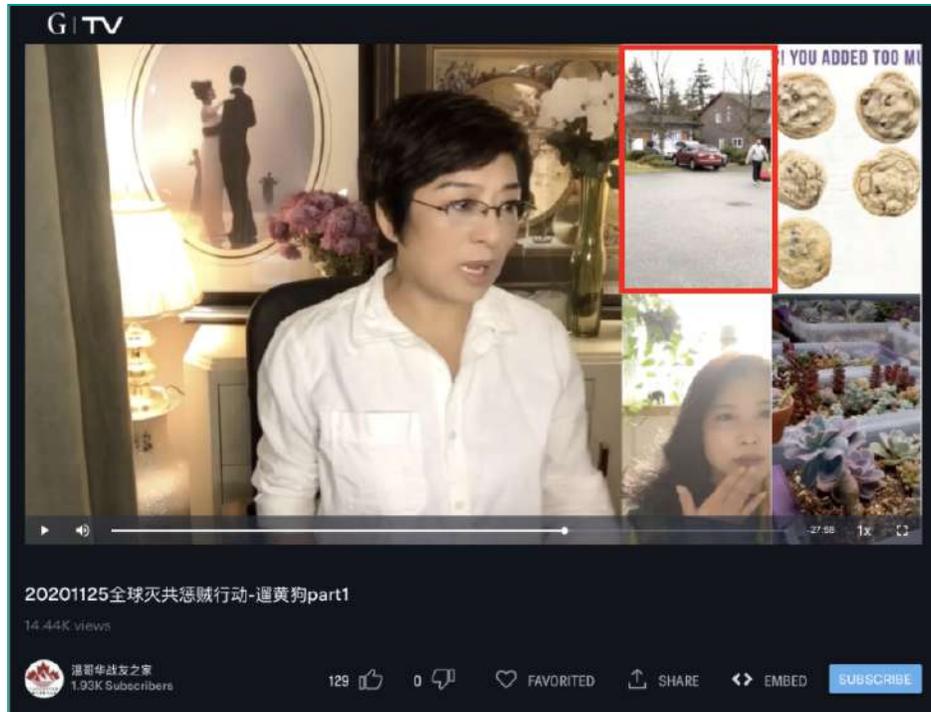
On September 21st, a crowd gathered outside Mang's home in Los Angeles, according to [video footage](#) posted on social media, which shows a man matching Mang's description being verbally abused and then physically assaulted as he gets out of a car. A GNews [article](#) published in October said the location was Mang's home and protesters had gathered there to demonstrate against "pro-democracy imposters." Mang confirmed to Graphika that he is the man in the video.

On November 20th, Guo said in a [video](#) he would cover the legal fees of those involved in the incident. "Those who contributed a lot to the punishment of phonies, we will stick with you," he said. "We will cover all the legal and litigation fees for court cases involving Mang Liuzi. Any cost due to legal disputes over your actions punishing phonies, we will reimburse."



GNews [article](#) showing the location of the assault outside Mang Liuzi's house

Another target of the Guo media network in 2020 was Vancouver-based pro-democracy activist Louis Huang, who told Graphika he has previously been referred to by Guo as "Lucas" Huang. Guo singled out Huang in a video broadcast on September 26th, saying: "People like Lucas Huang in Canada have been ... defaming our fighters. If you come across these people, you should know how to handle them." One month later, on November 25th, Huang was attacked by members of the New Federal State of China, according to local [news reports](#) and a video of the assault which was [broadcast live](#) on a Himalaya Vancouver GTV channel. The video, which is still online, shows Huang appearing in the street before the livestream hosts tell the protesters to "go shout at him." The hosts then continue to talk while the protesters violently beat Huang in the background. Huang confirmed to Graphika that he is the man in the video.



[Livestream](#) showing hosts providing commentary while protesters beat pro-democracy activist Louis Huang in the background.

While “ants” creating and amplifying content online are referred to as volunteers, protesters are reportedly paid for their efforts supporting the Guo media network. A [lawsuit against Guo](#) filed by U.S.-based Chinese dissident and anti-CCP activist Bob Fu references a memorandum (below) in which the New Federation of China offers to pay protesters \$200-\$300 per day for their services. The memorandum also promises up to \$10,000 for “any comrade or farm that exhibits excellent performance during the ‘kill cheaters’ campaign.”

全球“灭贼”行动和总部援助 标准和方案	Standards of action and headquarter support for global 'kill cheaters' campaign
<p>灭贼行动标准:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 组员要求: 必须要有行动力, 有荣誉感, 有随时捍卫新中国联邦荣誉和战友安全的勇气。“灭贼”行动在体现战友的纪律性和高素质外 (<u>到场抗议时间必需是 6 小时以上</u>), 更要做到依法“灭贼”。 2. 行动规模: 组织者必需能在行动当天, 建立起来 15 人以上的“灭贼”小队 (人员可以在 6 小时行动之内自由替换), 并实现与另外 15 人组成的“灭贼”小队三天一轮换, 保证行动持久能力。 3. 支援补给: “灭贼”小队在前线行动的同时, 必需能得到农场总部给予的 50 人以上的, 这样规模随时的支援和救援。 4. 法律保障: “灭贼”行动组必需在当地找到至少有一名律师 (母语为英语), 提供行动合法性的法律咨询; 以及在应对紧急情况 (<u>如现场冲突</u>), 随时介入并提供法律援助。 5. 战略层次: 行动必需具备三个层次, 包括前方灭贼的先头部队 (现场 15 人左右规模); 所在农场提供的中间补给队伍 (至少 50 人); 后方大部队即总部批准并提供的支持和协助 (物质, 资金和法律)。 	<p>'kill cheaters' standards of action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requirements for group members: must be self-driven for plan execution and have a strong sense of honor and shame. Have the courage to defend the safety of other comrades and the honor of 'Federation of New China' at any time. 'Kill cheaters' campaign shows our comrades' quality and ability to follow strict disciplines (every comrade must protest at least 6 hours), and it requires you to legally 'kill cheaters'. 2. Level of campaign: campaign organizers must gather a 'kill cheaters' team consists of at least fifteen people on the day of campaign (team members can be substituted during 6 hours' operation), and alternate with another fifteen-person team every three days to guarantee the continuity of the campaign. 3. Support and aid: during the whole course of any 'kill cheaters' campaign, a support team (from the farm where the team belongs) of more than fifty people must be available at any time. 4. Legal support: every 'kill cheaters' team must find at least one local lawyer (English as the primary language) who can provide consultation on legality of the campaign, and immediate legal aid should any emergent situation (e.g. conflict) occurs. 5. Strategic levels: every campaign must have three levels, including an advance troop (consisting of about 15 people); a support team from the farm (at least 50 people); headquarters' massive support and replenishment (supplies, money and legal support)
<p>总部援助标准:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “灭贼”行动具备上述标准, 且得到总部批准之后, 总部将对参与“灭贼”行动提供资金预算支持, 包括按照当地消费水平, 提供每人每天比如 200—300 美金的补助 (<u>补助具体数目和方式待定</u>)。 2. 对于得到总部批准的“灭贼”行动, 总部将提供行政服务“快速通道”, 以协助前线的灭贼行动, 比如预付行动中需要的租车 (房车) 费用。 3. 考虑在“灭贼”的合法、合理行动中出现的突发状况和安全因素, 总部将提供律师法律协助, 以及在行动中因紧急或意外状况, 而被伤害的战友; 提供医疗保险方面的援助。 4. 总部针对在灭贼行动中, 表现突出的个体或农场组织, 提供比如 500 美金到 10,000 美金的资金奖励 (<u>具体数目待定</u>)。 5. 新中国联邦总部提供以上援助, 必须要经过 1) 法治基金或法治社会董事审议批准; 或 2) 经过喜马拉雅总部的律师咨询和财务审计批准。 	<p>Standards of headquarter support</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As long as a 'kill cheaters' campaign conforms the standard stated above, and is approved by the headquarter, the headquarter will provide a monetary budget to support the campaign, including a cash payment of \$200-\$300 per person per day (amount in accordance to local price level) (the final payment amount and method not concluded yet) 2. Any approved 'kill cheaters' campaign will receive headquarters' expediated administrative services to help better execute the campaign, including pre-payment for expenses like car (RV) rental etc. 3. Considering possible conflicts and safety issues during any legal 'kill cheaters' campaign, the headquarter will provide legal support, as well medical insurance support should any comrade gets injured by accident. 4. The headquarters offer \$500-\$10,000 cash reward for any comrade or farm that exhibits excellent performance during 'kill cheaters' campaigns (final amount to be concluded). 5. In order for 'Federation of New China' headquarters to provide the support listed above, two procedures must be fulfilled: 1) approved by eightier board of legal fund or board of legal society; 2) approved by Himalaya headquarters' lawyer and financial auditor.

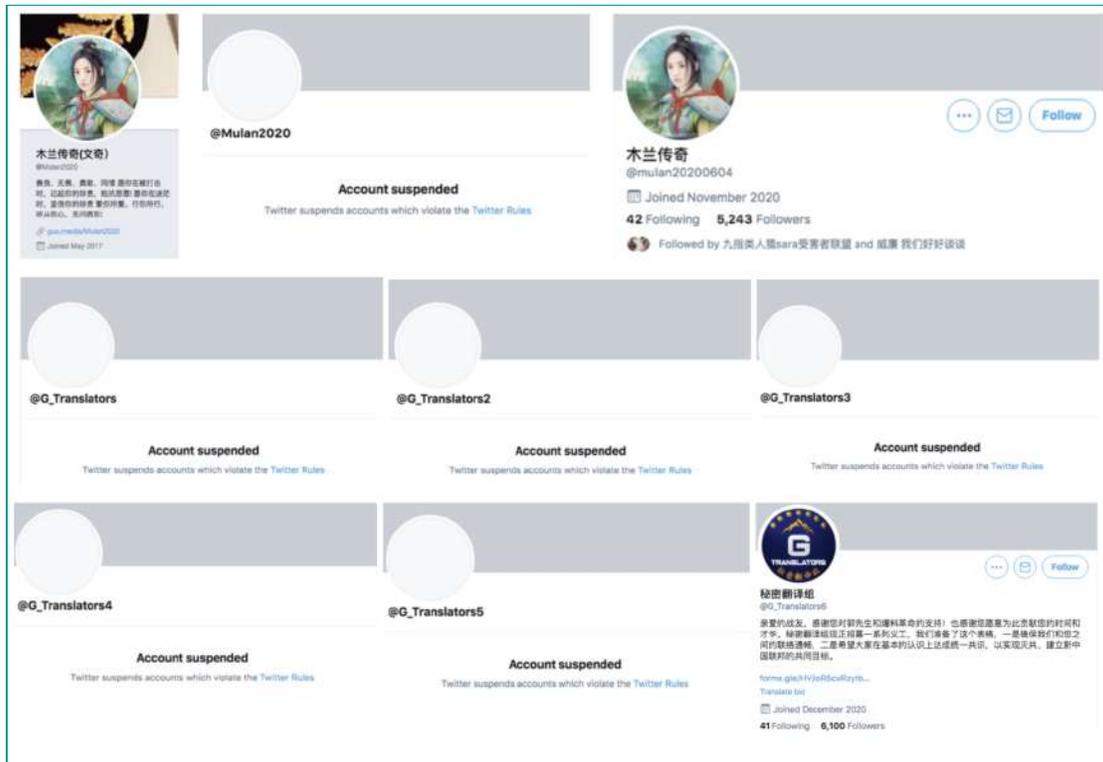
Memorandum in which the New Federation of China offers to pay protesters, referenced in a lawsuit

Previous Enforcement Action

Sporadic action has been taken against the Guo network by social media platforms, starting in 2017 when the New York Times [reported](#) that Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube had all temporarily suspended his personal accounts after he posted screenshots containing multiple people's Chinese national ID numbers. A Facebook spokeswoman [said](#) Guo's account was mistakenly suspended by the company's automated systems.

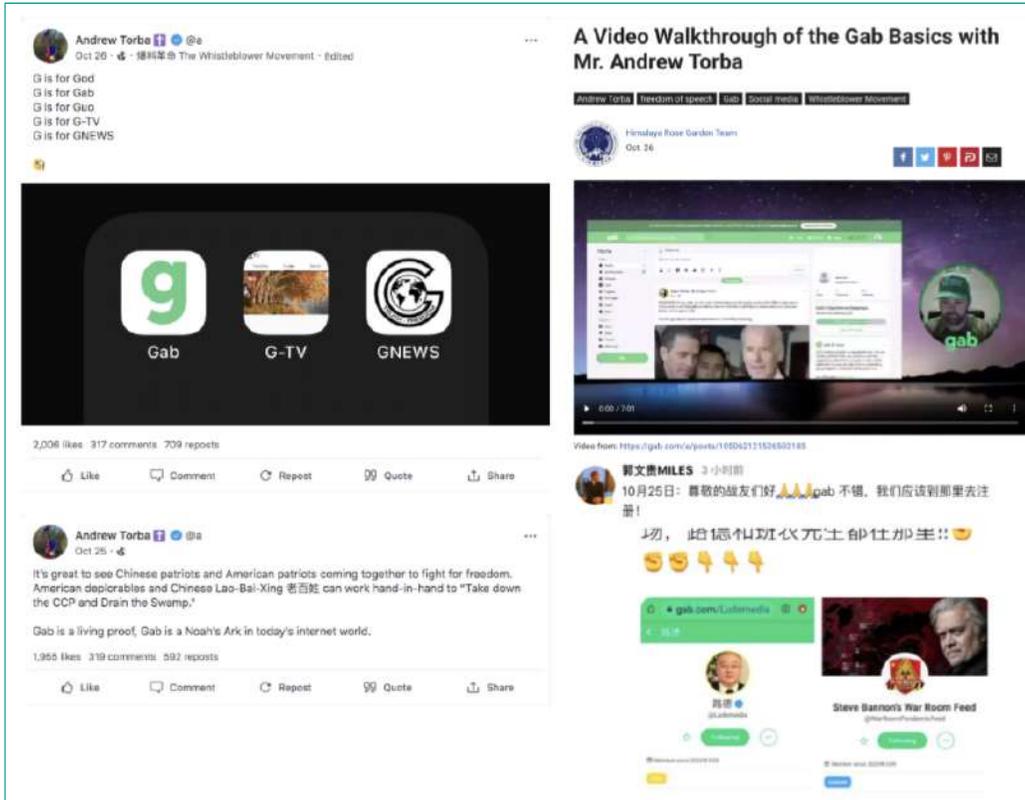
Twitter then took further action against accounts and specific behaviors emanating from the Guo media network after the U.S. 2020 election. A Twitter spokesperson [said](#) a related sub-network of 150 accounts violated Twitter's policies "on spam and platform manipulation, specifically coordinating with others to engage in or promote violations of the Twitter Rules, including violations of our abusive behavior policy."

But accounts in the Guo media network have engaged in [systematic attempts](#) to avoid bans by social media platforms. Many accounts are quickly recreated following suspension, often with the same profile image and a slightly-modified handle or username. Additionally, a [document shared in a Guo media network Discord server](#) instructed users to share modified URLs linking to GNews articles that would not be automatically blocked by Twitter and Facebook. A comparison of Graphika network maps created using the same set of accounts associated with popular Guo hashtags in November 2020 and January 2021 found that the online pro-Guo community had increased from 1,775 accounts to 2,351 accounts in three months.

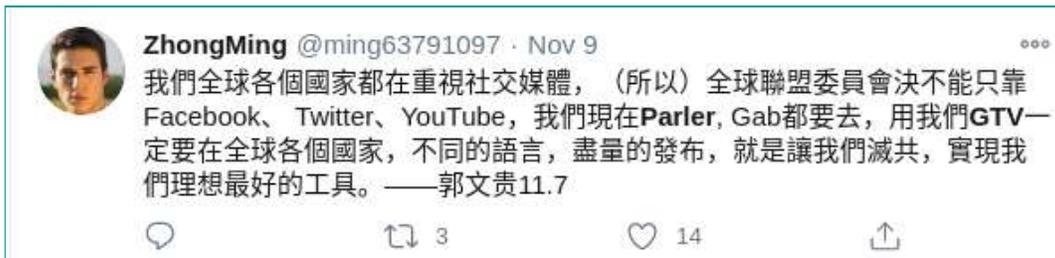


Leading members of the Guo media network reanimated their suspended profiles with the same profile image and slightly modified account handles.

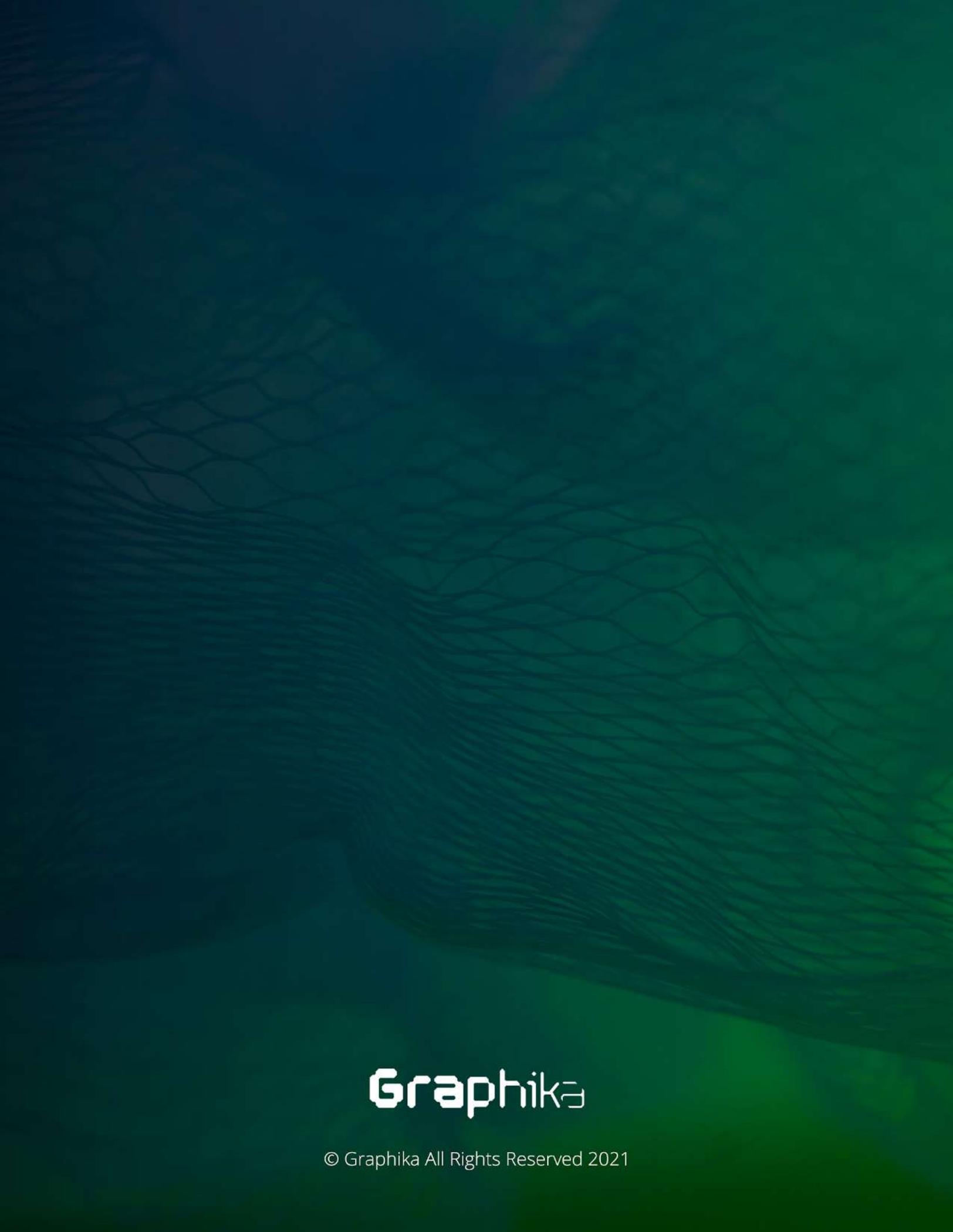
While attempting to evade bans by Twitter and Facebook, the network has focused on growing its presence on alternative platforms such as Gab and Parler, which have less rigorous content moderation policies. In late October 2020, Gab CEO Andrew Torba made multiple explicit [overtures](#) to [members](#) of the Guo media network in Chinese and English. These were [reciprocated](#) by Guo-linked entities and Guo himself.



Gab CEO Andrew Torba encouraged fellow patriots to join Gab while GNews and Guo Wengui promoted Gab to supporters [1,2,3,4]



[Tweet](#) quoting Guo from November 9, encouraging users to move to Parler and Gab as the "Global Alliance Committee must not rely solely on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube".



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