

# 'Chinese hackers' deface Philippines news website

April 14 2013

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Customers use computers at an Internet cafe in Manila on February 1, 2013. Suspected Chinese hackers have defaced the website of the Philippines News Agency (PNA), officials said, a possible repeat of cyber attacks last year also blamed on China during a territorial row.

Suspected Chinese hackers defaced the website of the Philippines News Agency (PNA) on Sunday, officials said, a possible repeat of cyber attacks last year also blamed on China during a territorial row.

The state-run agency's website temporarily displayed the Chinese flag and the text: "China Hacker EvilShadow Team, We are evil shadow. We are the team. We have our own dignity China Hacker Lxxker."

Asked if Chinese [hackers](#) were behind the attack, presidential spokeswoman Abigail Valte said an investigation was pending but added: "The note left on the site tends to invite that conclusion."

Another government spokesman, Herminio Coloma, said the hackers group shared news of the attack via Facebook.

"The site is working again now," Coloma told reporters, but did not say how long it had been down. He added authorities were attempting to track down the group and had beefed up cybersecurity in the wake of the attack.

The hacking came days after Philippine authorities arrested 12 suspected Chinese poachers whose boat ran aground in a protected coral reef in the Sulu Sea that is well within the country's territory.

The poaching was the latest irritant to bilateral relations damaged by overlapping territorial claims to the neighbouring the [South China](#) Sea.

Last year, cyberattacks on several [government websites](#) were blamed on Chinese hackers during a stand off in Scarborough Shoal, a group of rocky outcrops in the South China Sea that is close to main Philippine island of Luzon.

China claims virtually all of the South China Sea on historical grounds, including waters close to the shores of its neighbours.

The Philippines, as well as Vietnam, have accused Beijing of becoming increasingly aggressive in staking out its claims, stoking potential

confrontations.

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