

# Swedish newspaper websites shut down in hacker attack

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The online editions of Sweden's main newspapers were knocked out for several hours by unidentified hackers at the weekend, police said Sunday as they launched an investigation.

The attack was "extremely dangerous and serious," the head of the Swedish Media Publishers' Association, Jeanette Gustafsdotter, told Swedish news agency TT.

"To threaten access to [news coverage](#) is a threat to democracy," she said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the [attacks](#), which either partially or totally shut down the sites of Dagens Nyheter, Svenska Dagbladet, Expressen, Aftonbladet, Dagens Industri, Sydsvenskan and Helsingborgs Dagblad on Saturday evening from about 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) until about 11:00 pm (2200 GMT).

Several experts quoted in the [media](#) suggested the sites were subjected to distributed denial-of-services (DDoS) attacks, in which hackers hijack [multiple computers](#) to send a flood of data to the target, crippling its computer system.

Police said in a statement they had launched an investigation, and Swedish intelligence was also being kept abreast of developments.

An anonymous threat was issued on a Twitter account shortly before the attack. The account was attributed to J@\_notJ.

"The following days attacks against the Swedish government and media spreading false propaganda will be targeted," the first tweet read.

An hour later, a second tweet read: "This is what happens when you spread false propaganda. Aftonbladet.se #offline".

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