

Anonymous briefly knocks CIA website offline (Update 2)

10 February 2012



A man crosses the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) logo in the lobby of CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia, in 2008. The website of the Central Intelligence Agency was unresponsive on Friday after the hacker group Anonymous claimed to have knocked it offline.

The website of the Central Intelligence Agency was briefly inaccessible on Friday after the hacker group Anonymous claimed to have knocked it offline. (c) 2012 AFP

"CIA Tango down," a member of Anonymous said on @YourAnonNews, a Twitter feed used by the group. "Tango down" is an expression used by the US Special Forces when they have eliminated an enemy.

Asked about the apparent website outage, a CIA spokeswoman said: "We are aware of the problems accessing our web site, and are working to resolve them."

The website was restored shortly thereafter.

Members of Anonymous also claimed Friday to have hacked the website of Camimex, the Mexican chamber of mines, and posted emails taken from the site online.

The camimex.org.mx site was unavailable on Friday.

Anonymous last month briefly knocked the websites of the US Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation offline.

Those attacks were in retaliation for the US shutdown of file-sharing site Megaupload.

There was no immediate explanation from Anonymous for the targeting of the CIA site.

In June, an Anonymous-affiliated group, Lulz Security, also temporarily disabled the CIA website.

Most Anonymous cyberattacks are distributed denial of service attacks in which a large number of computers are commanded to simultaneously visit a website, overwhelming its servers.

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