

Leaked Pentagon Document Reveals US Spying on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

The document criticizes Antonio Guterres for working with Russia on the Ukraine grain deal

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Theme: [Intelligence](#), [United Nations](#)

Global Research, April 19, 2023

[Antiwar.com](#) 17 April 2023

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Classified documents allegedly leaked by Air National Guardsman Jack Teixeira have revealed that the US is closely spying on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and is not happy with his engagement with Moscow.

Several documents detail Guterres' communications, including one that accuses him of "undermining" efforts to take action against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine. The document addresses his communications with Moscow regarding the grain deal that unlocked Ukraine's Black Sea ports.

To broker the deal between Moscow and Kyiv, the UN agreed to help facilitate the export of Russian fertilizer and grain, which has been hindered by Western sanctions despite exemptions for agricultural goods.

The document reads:

"UN Secretary-General Guterres is taking steps to accommodate Russia in an effort to protect the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), which he considers a pivotal UN success and key to addressing global food insecurity, and his actions are undermining broader efforts to hold Moscow accountable for its actions in Ukraine."

The document was likely written either in late February or early March before Russia and Ukraine agreed to extend the grain deal on March 18. It says in early February, Guterres "urged Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in a letter to renew the BSGI before its term expires on March 18 and Guterres emphasized his efforts to improve Russia's ability to export, even if that involves sanctioned Russian entities or individuals, according to FISA-

derived signal intelligence.”

**(TS//SI-G//OC/NF/FISA) RUSSIA: UN SECRETARY GENERAL
ACCOMMODATING RUSSIA TO PRESERVE GRAIN DEAL**

UN Secretary General Guterres is taking steps to accommodate Russia in an effort to protect the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), which he considers a pivotal UN success and key to addressing global food insecurity, and his actions are undermining broader efforts to hold Moscow accountable for its actions in Ukraine. In early February, he urged Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov in a letter to renew the BSGI before its term expires on 18 March and Guterres emphasized his efforts to improve Russia's ability to export, even if that involves sanctioned Russian entities or individuals, according to FISA-derived signal intelligence. (WIRe2023-00815)

(S//NF) EU/UK: REACH AGREEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND

The agreement between the European Commission and the UK Government yesterday to modify the contentious Northern Ireland Protocol paves the way for improved relations between the UK and the EU, but it might fall short of restoring the Northern Ireland Executive. UK Prime Minister Sunak and European Commission President von der Leyen agreed to the Windsor Framework, which includes easing customs and regulatory checks on some goods moving between Great Britain and Northern Ireland and creating a greater role for the Northern Ireland government to weigh in on changes to EU laws affecting Northern Ireland.

- Northern Ireland Democratic Unionist Party leader Jeffrey Donaldson is probably inclined to accept the agreement, but hardliners in his party may hold him back.
- If the Democratic Unionist Party rejects the framework, the UK Government will probably call new elections in Northern Ireland—in the hope that moderate unionist voters punish Democratic Unionist Party intransigence—rather than jeopardize the agreement with the EU. (EU-UK EU, 28 Feb)

AFRICA

**(U//FOUO) NIGERIA: INEC ANNOUNCES LEAD FOR RULING PARTY
CANDIDATE, CONTINUES VOTE COUNTING**

On 27 February, Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) continued counting votes from the 25 February presidential election and said so far ruling party candidate Tinubu had won 3.8 million votes and six states, opposition candidate Atiku had won 3 million votes and five states, and candidate Obi had won 1.6 million votes and three states, according to OSE reporting. Additionally, Tinubu publicly accepted his loss of Lagos State, where he had been governor from 1999 to 2007, to Obi. (CIA Intel Update, 28 Feb; EUW2023022805090399)

Leaked document that shows US intelligence on Guterres

Signal intelligence refers to information obtained by intercepting communications. In response to the revelation that the US was spying on Guterres, his spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, [told Al Jazeera](#) that he is “not surprised by the fact that people are spying on him and listening in on his private conversations.”

“What is surprising is the malfeasance or incompetence that allows for such private conversations to be distorted and become public,” Dujarric said. Other documents [detailed private communications between Guterres and his deputy](#).

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