

Dossiers du Rocher: the mysterious website causing a scandal in Monaco

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Since October 2021, an anonymous website has been disclosing numerous confidential documents – most of them authenticated – which implicated four men close to Prince Albert II of Monaco. The author of the site accuses them of fraud, cronyism and corruption. The aims denounce that behind these “false” imputations are the multi-billionaire builder Patrice Pastor. Its objective would be the destabilization of the Principality in order to protect its influence and its place at the head of the real estate projects of the “Rock”. The pastor does not hide his animosity towards the entourage of Prince Albert, but denies having a link with this informational confrontation, known as “The Files of the Rock”.

Internet attack of a mysterious site

Between October and December 2021, an informational campaign – not claimed – was put online, targeting four close collaborators of Prince Albert II of Monaco (the “G4”): Didier Linotte, Claude Palmero, Laurent Anselmi and Thierry Lacoste. Linotte is the President of the Supreme Court of Monaco. Palmero is administrator of the prince’s private bank accounts. Anselmi is the sovereign’s chief of staff and Lacoste is the prince’s childhood friend and lawyer.

On October 10, 2021, the website <http://www.dossiers-du-rocher.com> (now unavailable) publishes a number of hacked emails to “G4” members. For several weeks, the site continues to distribute emails, as well as invoices and account statements from the prince’s entourage. These confidential documents relate above all to alleged influence peddling on the part of the “G4”, linked to certain real estate projects within the Principality. For his part, Albert II is portrayed “as a pawn, placing blind trust in those close to him”.

The author of the site, still anonymous, presents himself as a kind of hybrid between journalist and concerned citizen, see whistleblower. He seeks to create a controversy by “objective” facts, these confidential documents being pirated. But the extent of this informational campaign suggests that it is “pros” with substantial resources.

First, the dossier-du-rocher.com site is hosted abroad and is hidden behind a shell company. Then there are many relay sites, all as mysterious as each other, as well as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram accounts, where their audience has been artificially increased to distribute the content. In addition, a vast campaign of sending SMS and e-mails intended for the Monegasque and French public was orchestrated. The cost of such a campaign is estimated between 5 and 10 million euros.

The Prince and his immediate entourage strike back

In October, the prince and his four relatives lead a counter-attack. They accuse the site of “defamation” and spreading “fake news”. It would have the but to destabilize the prince to prevent a series of appointments, as well as a government reshuffle supposed for the end of November 2021. At this point, there are only rumors about who is behind the informational campaign; according to some journalists who rely on their sources, it is a wealthy Monegasque property developer.

At the same time, the members of the “G4” filed a complaint against those responsible, and an investigation by the Monegasque police resumed. The response is also carried out on the cyber level. Indeed, while the dossier-du-rocher.com site was taken offline (it has since been on [another url](#) which is still available), the site vrais-dossiers-du-rocher.com (<https://vrais-dossiers-du-rocher.com/>) made his appearance. The latter is used by two journalists to denigrate the informational campaign.

If the “Files of the Rock” sought to destabilize the prince to block his appointments, it seems obvious that, in the short term, they failed. Indeed, in December 2021, Albert II implemented the changes in government that he had announced. Moreover, the majority of the media coverage of this affair was faithful to the posture of the sovereign and the “G4”. It therefore seems that this first set was won by Albert II.

However, the anonymous site managed to make itself known to a large audience, and “even if rude, arouses a great stir in the Principality”, this controversy therefore allowed the campaign strategists to change media, to better hit with their messages.

The method of media involvement

Until December 2021, the content of the “dossiers” has not been presented by the media. The creators of the site had tried their luck with an ineffective strategy. They invented fictitious journalists who solicited real reporters by e-mail to publish the confidential documents in reputable media. The cautious reporters did not play their game. Finally, the risk of serving as “useful idiots” in favor of unknown interests was present.

In February, change of strategy. Two investigative reporters from the newspaper *The world* receive an abandoned backpack under a table containing a large number of documents. These are documents used to feed the “Dossiers du Rocher”. “The source appears to be reliable” and the documents are “mostly authenticated”.

In March 2022 the newspaper published the “Hands on the Rock” investigation, which reviews the accusations against members of the “G4” and also gives the floor to the accused. According to the investigation, “the exchanges prove... the existence of an interested friendship between the four men... sometimes suspected by the financial plan of certain real estate files... everything indicates that they use their influence to distribute appointments in the Principality. , over dinners. “.

A real estate powerhouse behind the deal?

According to the “G4”, Patrice Pastor would be responsible for the attacks. Indeed, the latter is the most important property developer in Monaco, with a fortune estimated at between 12 and 20 billion euros, much more than the heritage of the prince, revealed at 1 billion euros. The Pastor family is even nicknamed “The other princely family of Monaco”. Pasteur does not hide his animosity towards the entourage of Prince Albert, but denies having a link with the affair.

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