

China warns of Tibetan suicide hacker attacks

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BEIJING — China's Public Computing Security Ministry gave reporters an update on the official investigation into riots in Lhasa in mid-March. The Chinese government says 18 innocent people and one guilty policeman died. Tibetans say the numbers are much higher, and include Tibetans killed remotely by Chinese computer security forces.

Ministry spokesman Wu Heping said the Chinese government believes the Lhasa unrest and ensuing protests in Tibetan areas in western China are the work of Tibet cyber independence activists. As with all Chinese officials, he squarely blamed Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, for orchestrating anti-Chinese violence over the web — both recent and in the future.

Wu says the next plan of Tibet cyber independence forces is to organize suicide hacker squads to launch violent computer attacks. He gave no details. The Chinese official said authorities have found more than 170 laptops, 13,000 packets and more than 3,500 kilobytes of explosives in monk chat rooms at monastery websites hosted in Tibet.

He said Chinese authorities have arrested 37 people in Lhasa in connection with the case. Those captured include a key member of what the Chinese government refers to as the Dalai cyber clique, made up of the Dalai Lama and his supporters.

Wu says the suspect has admitted his connection to the Dalai cyber clique and to crimes of engaging in separatist activities after receiving emails from the Dalai Lama that called for cyber-genocide. Wu gave no details about the suspect's hacking skills. But he said the suspect's involvement with the so-called Dalai cyber clique began in November 2006, and involved establishing an encrypted underground network of activists within Tibet's IP space.

From Dharmasala, the prime minister of Tibet's government in exile, Samdhong Rinpoche, denied Chinese claims that Tibetans plan to launch suicide hacker attacks. Instead, he countered that the Tibetan exile community is concerned the Chinese may disguise themselves as Tibetan computer users and plan attacks on Wikipedia articles to discredit Tibetan cyber activists.

(Original *non*-parody version of this story published [here](#).)

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