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WORLD NEWS

OCTOBER 8, 2018 / 6:09 PM / A MONTH AGO

Latvia says Russia targeted its foreign and defense bodies with cyber attacks



FILE PHOTO: A hooded man holds a laptop computer as cyber code is projected on him in this illustration picture taken on May 13, 2017. REUTERS/Kacper Pempel/Illustration

RIGA (Reuters) - Russia has carried out cyber attacks on Latvia's foreign and defense apparatus and other state institutions, a Latvian intelligence agency said on Monday.

Russia's military intelligence agency (GRU) has tried to access information by e-mail phishing attacks against government computers in "recent years", Latvia's Constitution Protection Bureau said.

"The cyber attacks in Latvia were carried out by the GRU for espionage purposes, and the most frequent attacks were directed against state institutions, including the foreign and defense sectors," it said in a statement.

No attacks directed at influencing last weekend's parliamentary elections were detected, it said.

Several Western countries issued coordinated denunciations of Russia last week for running what they described as a global hacking campaign, targeting institutions from sports anti-doping bodies to a nuclear power company and the chemical weapons watchdog.

Reporting by Gederts Gelzis; Editing by Johan Ahlander and Matthew Mpoke Bigg

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WORLD NEWS

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Trump says not considering extraditing Erdogan foe

Pete Schroeder



FILE PHOTO - U.S.-based Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen at his home in Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, U.S. July 10, 2017. REUTERS/Charles Mostoller

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump said Saturday he was not considering extraditing a U.S.-based Muslim cleric to Turkey as part of an effort to ease pressure on Saudi Arabia.

“No, it’s not under consideration,” Trump told reporters when asked about potential extradition of Fethullah Gulen, who is wanted in Turkey over accusations he was involved in a failed 2016 coup.

NBC News reported Thursday the Trump administration had explored whether it could extradite Gulen, as a way to persuade Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan to ease pressure on Saudi Arabia over the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last month.

Trump has sought closer ties with Saudi Arabia, citing Riyadh’s role in countering Iranian influence in the region, and billions of dollars in potential arms deals.

The Justice Department had denied on Friday the matter had been discussed.

On Saturday, Trump said he got along well with Erdogan, and spoke of a desire to improve relations with Turkey. He also described Saudi Arabia as “a truly spectacular ally in terms of jobs and economic development.”

Reporting by Pete Schroeder; Editing by Ros Russell

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