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# NJOHSP

## EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

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### Iranian, Russian, and Chinese Media Drive COVID-19 Disinformation Campaign

*Several state-sponsored media outlets have promoted an anti-US sentiment suggesting that the United States has deliberately spread COVID-19 and broadcast the theory that the virus may be a manufactured bioweapon.* Iran has suggested that Israeli and “Zionist” scientists have used the epidemic to engineer an even more deadly strain of the virus to spread around the world, specifically in Iran.

- The commander in chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said that COVID-19 might be a biological weapon developed by the United States. He stated, “We will be victorious in the fight against this virus—which might be the product of the American biological invasion that first hit China and then Iran and other parts of the world. And America should know that if it did do this, it will come back to it.”
- Russian media has spread the Iranian conspiracy theories, including the suggestion that the United States developed COVID-19 as a biological weapon. Chinese media has focused on discrimination and racism against China due to the outbreak as well as circulating conspiracy theories about the CIA’s creation of COVID-19 to keep China from developing economically.
- Jihadists on social media have contributed to the media disinformation campaign by circulating posters depicting President Donald Trump and the CIA as being behind the deployment of COVID-19, using hashtags such as “Corona is Trump’s Weapon” with graphics featuring the president.



#### Additional Resources

[Communicable Disease Service, New Jersey Department of Health](#)