

BEEN	BELIEVED	BY	COURTS	DO	FOR	INTO
LAUNCHED	LEAKED	LIKELY	LOOKED	MISUSE	OPPONENTS	
PROMINENT	REPORTED	ROW	SEEMED	SPY	SPYING	TARGETS
TRACES	TURN	WHO	WHOSE	WITHOUT		



More than 200 Spanish cellphones were selected as possible surveillance (1) _____ by a client of NSO Group, an Israeli firm that markets a spyware program named Pegasus, the British newspaper The Guardian reported on Tuesday. This media outlet added that this client is (2) _____ to be Morocco, according to a data leak that led to a collaborative investigation known as the Pegasus Project.

"The mobile number selections believed to have (3) _____ made by Morocco occurred in 2019, according to time stamps in the data, which includes more than 50,000 numbers of individuals selected as possible surveillance targets by NSO clients around the world," said the British newspaper citing the leaked database.

One of the numbers belongs to Aminatou Haidar, a (4) _____ human rights activist from Western Sahara, who had been targeted by Pegasus since 2018, according to an Amnesty International analysis. (5) _____ of the Pegasus spy program were found on a second phone belonging to Haidar in November 2021. A number belonging to the Spanish journalist Ignacio Cembrero, (6) _____ work focuses on the Maghreb region of Africa, was also found.

The fact that these phone numbers were selected (7) _____ a client believed to be Morocco does not mean that all the numbers were attacked or hacked, according to the British outlet. But it does indicate that the client (8) _____ to be actively seeking possible targets for surveillance within Spain.

The maker of the spyware, NSO Group, maintains that the fact that a number appears on the (9) _____ list does not indicate whether it has been subject to surveillance with Pegasus. The company defends that its product is intended to fight crime and terrorism and says that each time it learns about a possible (10) _____ of Pegasus, it tries to find out whether its client bought it for legal purposes or to snoop around in the phones of political (11) _____, activists, journalists and dissidents.

Following claims of political espionage in several European countries in recent years, a EU investigative committee has been appointed to look (12) _____ Pegasus, which in theory is only available to government agencies. The program can take control of a cellphone (13) _____ its owner noticing and, in addition to accessing all its contents, it can also turn it into a listening and image capture terminal.

Morocco has previously denied (14) _____ on any foreign leader using Pegasus and has maintained that reporters investigating NSO have been "incapable of proving [the country had] any relationship" with NSO, The Guardian reported.

The Pegasus case took an unexpected (15) _____ in Spain on Monday when the government announced that Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Defense Minister Margarita Robles had also been targeted by the spyware program. The alleged intrusions occurred in May and June 2021, and Spain's High Court, the Audiencia Nacional, has (16) _____ an investigation into the case.

These revelations come on top of claims of alleged espionage against more than 60 Basque and Catalan separatists, as (17) _____ by Citizen Lab, a group of cybersecurity experts from the University of Toronto. Legal proceedings to investigate those claims are underway in the (18) _____ of Barcelona.

The judge in charge of investigating the Sánchez and Robles case specified that the hacking took place on May 19 and 31, 2021, a time when Spain was caught up in a diplomatic (19) _____ with Morocco. But Félix Bolaños, Spain's Minister for Prime Ministerial Affairs, has refused to link the attack with Morocco, saying instead that the attack was "external." "We do not know who it could have been, and when we (20) _____ know, we will make it public. We are going to wait," Bolaños stressed in an interview on the Cadena SER radio network.