

controinformazione.info

A news site that has published false claims and conspiracy theories, including about geopolitical issues and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 20/100

Ownership and Financing

ControlInformazione.info (which means Counter Information) is owned by Luciano Lago, based in Modena. He describes himself on the About Us (Chi siamo) page as an Italian “analyst and freelance journalist.”

The site generates revenue through advertisements and solicits donations from users.

Content

ControlInformazione.info primarily publishes articles on national and international politics and geopolitical issues, often from an anti-West and anti-Israel perspective. The site describes its mission on the About Us page, stating, “We are a handful of people who are not satisfied by the convenient truths of the official media apparatus and who operate on an alternative path of research and free cognition of ideas, concepts and visions of the information and reality that surrounds us.” (“Siamo un pugno di persone che non si accontentano delle verità di comodo dell’apparato dei media ufficiali e che operano su un percorso di ricerca e di cognizione libera di idee, concetti e di visione alternativa delle informazioni e della realtà che ci circonda.”).

The site is not organized into sections; instead, articles carry subject tags, such as Politics (Politica), Israel Palestine (Israele Palestina) and USA Sanctions (Sanzioni USA). The site includes an Archive (Archivio), where users can access articles from past years, going back to 2012.

Typical headlines have included “Over 10 deaths and dozens injured in a powerful explosion in Beirut” (“Oltre 10 morti e dozzine feriti in una potente esplosione a Beirut”); “Infinite pandemic” (“Pandemia Infinita”); and “Democracy or Democratism?” (Democrazia o democratismo?)

Credibility

ControlInformazione.info often cites or translates articles from other sites that describe themselves as

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✓ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✓ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

“alternative news” or “counter information,” such as SouthFront.org and VeteransToday.com. Some of the site’s content is drawn from outlets that NewsGuard has found to be unreliable, including PressTV.com, GlobalResearch.ca, and Voltairenet.org.

ControlInformazione.info itself has repeatedly published false claims and distorted information, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a March 2020 article headlined “COVID-19 American or Israeli weapon to damage China and Iran,” stated that “there is a lot of evidence that shows that COVID-19 was not born naturally, meaning through mutations, but rather was cultivated in a biological laboratory, probably to be used as a ‘biological warfare tool’” (“ci sono molte prove per dimostrare che COVID-19 non è nato naturalmente, cioè attraverso mutazioni, ma piuttosto è stato coltivato in un laboratorio biologico, probabilmente per essere utilizzato come ‘agente di guerra biologica’”).

There is no evidence that the virus was man-made or manipulated in a lab. A March 2020 study published in the journal Nature Medicine concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal Nature, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said it “concur[s] with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

A July 2020 article headlined “COVID-19 and the New World Order” stated that the coronavirus pandemic was “programmed for decades” by “the people that move the ‘Deep State’ and that have all the main financial and economic world power,” as part of a “Great Reset of the World.” (“programmata per decenni” e “i personaggi che muovono il “Deep State” e che dispongono di tutte le principali leve del potere finanziario ed economico mondiale” e “Grande Riassetto del Mondo”).

Asked about these articles, Luciano Lago, the director and owner of the site, told NewsGuard in an email that the March 2020 article did not make a firm claim about the origins of the virus. According to Lago, the article’s writer, Philip Giraldi, “hints at a hypothesis, that the virus is a biological weapon prepared by the USA or

Israel to damage China or Iran. In the article Giraldi writes that this “could be a prepared biological war weapon ... (it could be, it is not a certainty).” (“L'articolo riportato di Philip Giraldi, “COVID-19, arma americana o israeliana per danneggiare la Cina e l'Iran”, accenna ad una ipotesi, quella del virus come arma biologica predisposta da Stati Uniti o da Israele per danneggiare la Cina o l'Iran. Nell'articolo Giraldi scrive che questa ‘potrebbe essere un’arma da guerra biologica predisposta...’ (potrebbe non è una certezza)”).

Lago did not comment on the July 2020 COVID-19 article cited above that claimed that the “Deep State” was responsible for the virus.

ControlInformazione.info has also repeatedly published false or misleading information regarding global conflicts, particularly in the Middle East.

An August 2020 article, headlined “A miniature nuclear charge was used in Beirut. Hard to hide the situation. Thousands of victims.” (“A Beirut è stata utilizzata una carica nucleare miniaturizzata. Difficile nascondere la situazione. Migliaia di vittime.”) stated that “a miniaturized nuclear tactical bomb was surely used in Beirut to blow up the port.” The article also stated that “there is no doubt that Israel is the responsible for this attack” (“a Beirut è stata utilizzata sicuramente una bomba tattica nucleare miniaturizzata per far saltare il porto” e “che il responsabile di questo disastro sia Israele è fuori di dubbio”).

Lebanese authorities and outside experts have concluded that a devastating explosion in the port of Beirut on Aug. 2, 2020, was caused by the ignition of ammonium nitrate, a chemical compound used as a fertilizer, which had been stored for six years in a port warehouse. PolitiFact.com, AFP Fact Check, and Reuters Fact Check all concluded that the explosion was not caused by a nuclear weapon and that there was no evidence linking Israel to the incident.

The ControlInformazione.info article also claimed that “nuclear experts, including personnel from the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] have indicated that the particles ... spurted from the explosion are a clear indication of a nuclear charge.” (“Esperti nucleari, fra cui personale dell'AIEA, hanno indicato che le particelle [...] scaturite dall'esplosione sono un chiaro

indizio di una carica nucleare, se pure miniaturizzata.”). However, an IAEA spokesman told AFP Fact Check that “The IAEA has made no such statements.”

A June 2020 article, headlined “BDS denounces: the methods of the American police are the same used by the Israeli police” (“BDS denuncia: I metodi della polizia USA sono gli stessi adottati dalla polizia israeliana”), stated “The information campaign shared by BDS confirms that the American police killed George Floyd using suffocation methods that they learned from Israel.” (“La campagna di informazioni diffuse dal BDS afferma che la polizia americana ha ucciso George Floyd, usando uno dei metodi di soffocamento che ha imparato da Israele.”) BDS refers to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement aimed at Israel.

There is no evidence backing this claim. This theory apparently emerged in a June 2020 article in the British news site Morning Star, which stated that in 2012, Minnesotan police officers attended a conference in the U.S. hosted by an Israeli consulate, where they learned Israeli police tactics used against Palestinians. However, the Israel Embassy told Channel 4 News in London that arrest tactics were not part of the event, and a fact-check by The Jerusalem Post found that neck restraints and choke holds were among Minneapolis Police Department’s practices as early as 2002. Micky Rosenfield, the national spokesman for the Israeli police, stated in a tweet that “There is no procedure that allows an officer of the Israel police dept to carry out an arrest by placing a knee on the neck of a suspect.”

Because ControlInformazione.info has frequently published false and misleading information, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

ControlInformazione.info does not have an opinion section, although some articles are labeled as opinion. The site does not disclose a political orientation, stating only that it is “not satisfied by the convenient truths of the official media apparatus” and that it pursues the “free cognition of ideas, concepts and visions....” (“Siamo un pugno di persone che non si accontentano delle verità di comodo dell’apparato dei media ufficiali e

che operano su un percorso di ricerca e di cognizione libera di idee, concetti e di visione alternativa delle informazioni e della realtà che ci circonda.”)

Nevertheless, most articles about global politics and events have a clear anti-West tilt, including in articles that are not labeled as opinion.

For example, an August 2020 article that was not labeled as opinion, titled “USA agents operate in Belarus to apply the same script of regime change that happened in Ukraine: ‘Colored Revolution’ and Coup” (“Gli Agenti USA operano in Bielorussia per applicare lo stesso copione del cambio di regime già realizzato in Ucraina: ‘Rivoluzione Colorata’ e Golpe”) stated: “The old, never dormant, aspiration of Washington’s Power Elite to extend its hegemony to the whole world has never been archived and continues to be the guiding principle of the USA’s administration regardless of the President in power” (“La vecchia mai sopita aspirazione della Elite di potere di Washington di estendere la propria egemonia a tutto il mondo non è mai stata archiviata ma continua ad essere la linea guida dell’amministrazione USA a prescindere da quale sia il presidente in carica.”).

Another August 2020 article that was not labeled as opinion, headlined “Emergency: the numbers of lies” (“Emergenza: I numeri della menzogna”), said of the Italian government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic: “Evidently it is absurd, unjustified and rationally unacceptable that the government now maintains or declares [the state of] emergency, stops the economy, suspends constitutional rights and maybe also elections, for 6 deaths a day attributed to COVID-19.” (“Quindi evidentemente è assurdo, ingiustificato e razionalmente inaccettabile che il governo adesso mantenga o dichiari l’emergenza, freni l’economia, sospenda i diritti costituzionali e magari anche le elezioni, per 6 morti al giorno attribuiti al Covid19”.)

Because Controinformazione.info does not disclose its political ideology and often publishes unlabeled opinion advancing its perspective, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Asked about the site’s approach to opinion, including its lack of disclosure about its political orientation, Lago stated: “In Italy our Constitution guarantees the

liberty of opinion that can be expressed by any means and we stick to this criteria with regards to the opinions of the various authors that we publish.” (“In Italia la nostra Costituzione garantisce la libertà di opinione che può essere espressa con qualsiasi mezzo e noi ci atteniamo a questo criterio per quanto riguarda le opinioni che noi pubblichiamo dei vari autori.”)

He continued: “This is in summary our journalistic activity, that we purposefully call ‘controinformazione.info.’ Some people like it and many others don’t, but what is certain is that we do not depend on anyone, we are an independent source and we give space to various opinions with authors of many different nationalities and backgrounds. The common thread is that of counter information with regards to the journalistic mainstream and we have written and repeated this numerous times.” (“Questa in sintesi la nostra attività giornalistica che non a caso si denomina come “Controinformazione.info”. A qualcuno piace ed a molti altri no ma quello che è certo che non dipendiamo da nessuno, siamo una fonte indipendente e diamo spazio a varie opinioni con autori di varie nazionalità ed estrazione. La linea comune è quella della controinformazione rispetto il mainstream giornalistico e questo lo abbiamo scritto e ripetuto molto spesso.”)

ControlInformazione.info does not publish a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site. Lago did not comment on the site’s approach to corrections.

Transparency

Luciano Lago is identified on ControlInformazione.info’s Privacy Policy page as the owner and director of the website. A short biography of Lago is posted on the About Us (Chi Siamo) page.

Although most articles include the name of the writer, the site does not provide biographical or contact information for them. This does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for providing information about content creators.

Asked about the site’s limited information about its content creators, Lago said: “We do not always list the authors in certain articles when these come from war fronts and we are required to maintain confidentiality in order to not put our collaborators at risk.” (“Non sempre riportiamo gli autori di alcune corrispondenze quando

queste provengono da fronti di guerra e siamo obbligati a mantenere la riservatezza per non mettere a rischio i nostri collaboratori.”) He did not address the broader question about the lack of biographical or contact information.

Advertisements are distinguishable from editorial content.

History ControlInformazione.info was registered in 2013.

Written by: [Isabella H. de Carvalho](#)

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Send feedback to NewsGuard:[Click Here](#)

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