

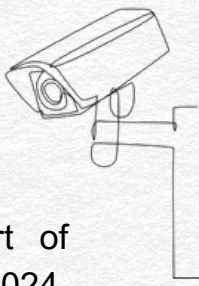
# CHINESE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS REMAIN A GLOBAL CONCERN

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's 2024 threat assessment identifies Russia, China, and Iran as threats to critical infrastructure. The [report](#) highlights that cyber actors linked to the Chinese government persist in stealing sensitive data and targeting key sectors, including healthcare, financial services, and government facilities.



In February 2025, ABC News [reported](#) on a bulletin from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security warning that Chinese internet-connected cameras could be exploited by the Chinese government to target critical American infrastructure. The document highlights that most of these cameras lack encryption and essential security settings, making them vulnerable to unauthorized access. This concern was confirmed in March 2024 when an incident was reported in which cameras installed at an American company were found connected to servers linked to China, suggesting a potential cyberattack.

Thus, U.S. security agencies warn that China-linked actors can exploit internet-connected cameras to access systems and manipulate them. For instance, they could disable or trigger alarm signals, posing a significant security risk.



Despite the U.S. Federal Communications Commission banning the import of Chinese-made cameras in 2022, their presence in the U.S. increased by 40% in 2024. According to the Department of Homeland Security, Chinese technology companies are bypassing the ban through "white labeling," where cameras manufactured by Chinese firms are sold by unsanctioned companies in the American market.

A similar "white labeling" practice is also observed in the Georgian market. According to a [report](#) by Civic IDEA, Georgian state agencies primarily acquire Chinese surveillance cameras from local companies. Notably, Neotech LLC stands out as the main supplier of cameras produced by the Chinese technology company Hikvision. Between 2019 and 2024, Neotech won 13 out of 46 state procurement contracts. Of particular interest is the case of the Georgian Ministry of Defense, which purchased cameras from Neotech in 2024.

While Western countries are actively removing Chinese-made cameras from critical facilities, the Georgian Dream government appears to be taking the opposite approach. Notably, in recent days, new surveillance cameras have been installed near the parliament building, seemingly to monitor and identify protesters. This move suggests that the ruling party may be adopting a "police control" strategy reminiscent of Beijing's surveillance tactics, raising concerns about increasing state oversight and potential infringements on civil liberties.