



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 28, 2023

Case No. F-2022-06835/  
FL-2023-00013

Reed Rubinstein  
America First Legal Foundation  
611 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, #231  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

This letter is in response to your request dated April 4, 2022, under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Thus far, the Department of State has located 15 responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined all 15 records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. To the extent another agency asserts that it can neither confirm nor deny the existence of certain records, the Department of State will similarly take the position that it neither confirms nor denies the existence of those records.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Kevin Bell, U.S. Department of Justice Trial Attorney, at kevin.k.bell@usdoj.gov and (202) 305-8613. Please refer to the case number, F-2022-06835 / FL-2023-00013, and the civil action number, 22-cv-03386, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', written in a cursive style.

Diamonece Hickson  
Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch  
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

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## The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

### FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

### Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

<b>From:</b>	Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Register: Rebuilding minority-owned businesses after the pandemic with chef Cheetie Kumar and entrepreneur Tristan Walker, 12/2
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 23 Nov 2021 15:02:14 +0000

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**Sender:** Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6) @state.gov>

<b>From:</b>	Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: WashPost Invite: Join former NIH director Francis S. Collins and more at "Trust in Science" event, 12/6
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 2 Dec 2022 18:05:07 +0000

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<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)	<washpostlive@washpost.com>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)	@state.gov>

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<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>
<b>CC:</b>	(h)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 8 Dec 2020 20:21:30 +0000

<http://www.pina.com.fj/>

<http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pina&m=contactus>

### Pacific Islands News Association - Contact us

Home; News; Feature; Business; Sports; Technology; Lifestyle; Voices; Archive; PINA; Business News : FFA to increase focus on gender equality and social inclusion in Pacific fisheries [16/09/2020 - Solomon Islands] News Feature : Experts call for stronger management of marine resources [16/09/2020 - Fiji] Business News : 60 Samoa sailors approved for Mediterranean Shipping Company jobs [16/09 ...

[www.pina.com.fj](http://www.pina.com.fj)

**From:** Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:58 AM  
**To:** (h)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (h)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
 (b)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>; (h)(6)@state.gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call

Yep. Dialing in now..

On Tue, Dec 8, 2020 at 2:57 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:  
 Can we switch to this conf line to finish the call? I will open it up now. Thank you!!

USA Toll-Free: (b)(7)(E)  
 USA Caller Paid (b)(7)(E)  
 Access Code: (b)(7)(E)  
 Host Password: (h)(7)(E)

**From:** (b)(6)@iwpr.net  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 4:15 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@iwpr.net (h)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (h)(6)@poynter.org  
 (h)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@pacom.mil>; (b)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Subject:** Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call  
**When:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:30 AM-10:30 AM.  
**Where:**

This event has been changed.

### Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call

When **Changed: Tue Dec 8, 2020 2:30pm – 3:30pm Eastern Time - New York**

Calendar **(b)(6)@state.gov**

Who

- **(b)(6)@iwpr.net** - organizer
- **(b)(6)@state.gov**
- **(b)(6)@poynter.org**
- **(b)(6)@state.gov**
- **(b)(6)@pacom.mil**
- **(b)(6)@poynter.org**

[more details »](#)

Conference call link:

**(b)(7)(E)**

PW 1983

Agenda:

Intro (IWPR)

Overview and timeline of project (Poynter)

Questions/comments (GEC et al)

Going **(b)(6)@state.gov**? **Yes - Maybe - No** [more options »](#)

Invitation from **Google Calendar**

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account **(b)(6)@state.gov** because you are an attendee of this event. To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event. Alternatively you can sign up for a Google account at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/> and control your notification settings for your entire calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer and be added to the guest list, or invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or to modify your RSVP. [Learn More](#).

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Vonda Wolcott  
Sr. Program Manager  
Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)  
1156 15th Street, NW  
Suite 329  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: +1 (b)(6)

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<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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TECH

# Microsoft Folds LinkedIn Social-Media Service in China

LinkedIn cites challenging operating environment, as retreat marks the biggest departure from China by a major tech company in years



LinkedIn said it would replace its Chinese service with a job-board service lacking social-media features.

PHOTO: YICHUAN CAO/SIPA USA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By *Liza Lin and Stu Woo*

Updated Oct. 14, 2021 12:55 pm ET

Microsoft Corp.'s MSFT 1.83% ▲ LinkedIn said it would shut the version of its professional-networking site that operates in China, marking the end of the last major American social-media network operating openly in the country.

LinkedIn, in a statement Thursday, said that it made the decision after “facing a significantly more challenging operating environment and greater compliance requirements in China.”

Microsoft's move comes at a time when China's Communist Party is ratcheting up its control over its largest tech companies, private enterprises and online commentary, as it continues a campaign to assert itself more forcefully across the economy and Chinese society.

In March, LinkedIn said it would be temporarily pausing new member sign ups in China as it ensured it was in compliance with local law. Around the same time, China's internet regulator told LinkedIn officials to better regulate its content and gave them 30 days to do so, according to people familiar with the matter. In recent months, LinkedIn notified several China-focused human-right activists, academics and journalists that their profiles were being blocked in China, saying they contained prohibited content.

LinkedIn said it would replace its Chinese service, which restricts some content to comply with local government demands, with a job-board service lacking social-media features, such as the ability to share opinions and news stories.

Beijing once touted the LinkedIn model, which involves a contractual relationship between its headquarters and Chinese nationals who actually own the platform in the country, as a way for global Internet businesses to access its market. But as such a model provided the overseas headquarters little control over the China operation, it was never popular in Silicon Valley.

The social-media site's exit is the latest chapter in the struggle Western internet companies have faced operating in China, which has some of the world's most stringent censorship rules. Twitter Inc. and Facebook Inc.'s platforms have been blocked since 2009. Alphabet Inc.'s Google left in 2010 after declining to censor results on its search engine. The chat messenger app Signal and audio discussion app Clubhouse were also blocked this year.

Savvy internet users in China can still access these Western services using workarounds such as virtual private networks, or VPNs, but many people don't use them.

LinkedIn entered China in 2014 after making rare concessions to abide by local censorship rules. Microsoft agreed to buy the platform two years later. In 2014, then-LinkedIn boss Jeff Weiner said that while the company supported freedom of expression, offering a localized version of its service in China meant adhering to local censorship requirements—a view the company has since repeated.

In China, LinkedIn has often been used by Chinese exporters and businessmen to connect with foreign buyers, hoping to drum up interest and sales overseas. Many Chinese internet users, particularly those working in the technology sector, tend to use a local professional networking app called Maimai, which is run by Beijing Taou Tianxia Technology Development Co. Ltd.

LinkedIn also faces intense competition in the Chinese job-seeking app market, with large rivals such as Zhaopin Ltd.

In the Thursday statement, LinkedIn said that after seven years of operating in China it had “not found the same level of success in the more social aspects of sharing and staying informed.”

LinkedIn faced risks to its reputation and global business model if it continued censoring on behalf of Chinese authorities, said Evan Medeiros, a Georgetown University professor who advises multinational companies on operating in China. Those actions undercut the idea that LinkedIn offers a platform for free and open sharing of viewpoints, he said.

Microsoft has had a difficult relationship with China, where it battled for years against software piracy, even as it courted the Chinese government.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella hosted President Xi Jinping of China at its headquarters in Redmond, Wash., in 2015. A year later, the CEO visited Beijing and met political leaders there. In 2017, Microsoft introduced a version of its Windows 10 software specifically for Chinese government use. The customized version included a different type of encryption and other changes.

Last year, Microsoft also got drawn into tensions between Beijing and the Trump administration over the popular short-video app TikTok, owned by Chinese parent ByteDance Ltd. The U.S. government pushed TikTok to sell its U.S. operations. Microsoft offered to buy the business, which went down badly in China. The deal eventually fell apart.

Earlier this year, the software giant said a Chinese hacking group thought to have government backing was targeting previously unknown security flaws in an email product used by businesses. Microsoft’s Bing search engine, which is also available in China, drew controversy earlier this year after it blocked the iconic “Tank Man” image linked to the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre not just in China, but also for its U.S. users. The company blamed “accidental human error” and restored the image.

LinkedIn was one of the few bright spots Microsoft had in China, with more than 50 million users in the country.

Even so, the platform had come under greater scrutiny from regulators this year. In May, Microsoft was the only foreign firm among 105 apps called out by China's internet regulator for "improper data collection," with both LinkedIn and Bing named on the list. LinkedIn also received 42 requests from Chinese authorities last year to take down content, the most the company received from any country, according to its semiannual transparency reports. It acted on 38 of the 42 requests.

An attempt to localize LinkedIn's services in China with Chitu, a Chinese language app that was introduced in 2015, ended two years ago amid lackluster success.

LinkedIn generated \$10.3 billion in revenue in Microsoft's last financial year, or about 6% of the company's total turnover. The unit doesn't break out its China revenue, but Microsoft President Brad Smith said in September that China accounted for less than 2% of the technology company's total revenue, and that percentage has been declining for the past few years.

Microsoft has continued to pursue business in China. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the company touted growth in China of Teams, its new product for videoconferencing and collaboration that Microsoft views as its next blockbuster.

U.S. tech companies more broadly have become wary about operating in China as the country seeks to assert greater control over data. Facebook, Twitter and Google last year privately warned the Hong Kong government that they could stop offering their services in the city amid planned changes there in data-protection laws that could make them liable for the malicious sharing of individuals' information online.

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## China's Corporate Crackdown

**China Blocked Jack Ma's Ant IPO After Investigation Revealed Likely Beneficiaries**

**China Lays Plans to Tame Tech Giant Alibaba**

**China's New Power Play: More Control of Tech Companies' Troves of Data**

**Didi Tried Balancing Pressure From China and Investors. It Satisfied Neither.**

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Write to Liza Lin at [Liza.Lin@wsj.com](mailto:Liza.Lin@wsj.com) and Stu Woo at [Stu.Woo@wsj.com](mailto:Stu.Woo@wsj.com)

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Invitation: Discussion on FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe  
**Date:** Wed, 4 Nov 2020 20:31:35 +0000

Baybars and Ferdi,

I wanted to reach out directly to see if you'll be able to join us tomorrow afternoon 14:00 (DC time) to discuss your work within the broader context of the GEC's efforts in Europe. Please let me know if you'll join and I'll send the calendar invitation and agenda.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020 3:37 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Tom Baker (h)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Vonda Wolcott (h)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@cepa.org (b)(6)@cepa.org>; (b)(6)@cepa.org (b)(6)@cepa.org>; (h)(6)@freedomhouse.org (h)(6)@freedomhouse.org>; (b)(6)@ff.cuni.cz (h)(6)@ff.cuni.cz>; Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>; (h)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@ceip.org (h)(6)@ceip.org>; (b)(6)@ceip.org (b)(6)@ceip.org>; (h)(6)@aspi.org.au (b)(6)@aspi.org.au>; (h)(6)@aspi.org.au (h)(6)@aspi.org.au>; (b)(6)@aspi.org.au (h)(6)@aspi.org.au>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Invitation: Discussion on FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe

Hello, all.

I apologize for the inconvenience, but we are rescheduling this meeting for later in the day November 5 to better accommodate our colleagues in Australia. The new time will be 14:00 EST. We still haven't heard from a few of you about your availability, so please do confirm whether you will be able to join us.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:51 AM  
**To:** Tom Baker (h)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@cepa.org (b)(6)@cepa.org>; (h)(6)@cepa.org (h)(6)@cepa.org>; (h)(6)@freedomhouse.org (h)(6)@freedomhouse.org>; (b)(6)@ff.cuni.cz (b)(6)@ff.cuni.cz>; Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>; (h)(6)@ceip.org (b)(6)@ceip.org>; (h)(6)@ceip.org (b)(6)@ceip.org>; (h)(6)@aspi.org.au (b)(6)@aspi.org.au>; (h)(6)@aspi.org.au (h)(6)@aspi.org.au>; (b)(6)@aspi.org.au (h)(6)@aspi.org.au>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6), (h)(6)@state.gov; (h)(6)@state.gov

Subject: Invitation: Discussion on FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe

Good afternoon,

With a new fiscal year and a full slate of programs in execution globally, the GEC China team invites you to join a discussion as we look ahead to our efforts in Europe in FY21.

We hope this discussion can be candid, informal, and focused on how we can bring our unique capabilities to bear to support our efforts to counter PRC malign influence in Europe. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on where we've made progress, where gaps remains, and things we should keep in mind as put together our programmatic strategy for FY21.

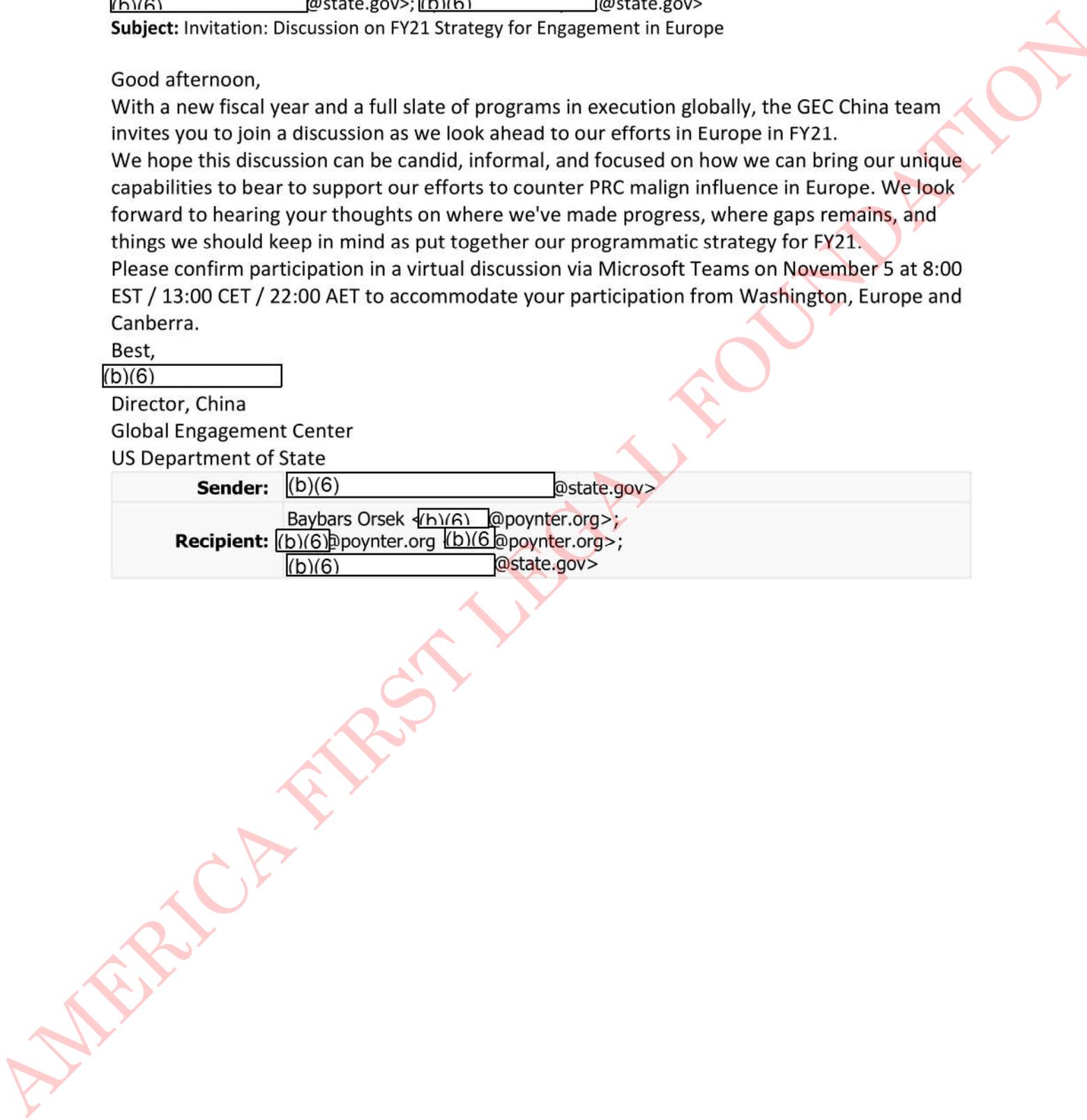
Please confirm participation in a virtual discussion via Microsoft Teams on November 5 at 8:00 EST / 13:00 CET / 22:00 AET to accommodate your participation from Washington, Europe and Canberra.

Best,

(b)(6)

Director, China  
Global Engagement Center  
US Department of State

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov
<b>Recipient:</b>	Baybars Orsek <(h)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org; (b)(6)@state.gov



**From:** Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Subject:** Re: IFCN Nobel Prize Nomination  
**Date:** Thu, 21 Jan 2021 23:09:05 -0500

Thank you, (b)(6)

We are truly excited about this news!

Grateful for the support and hope to keep sharing such good news in the future as well!

All the best

Baybars

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:36 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:  
Adding in leadership — this is fantastic news! Congratulations to IFCN and their global team!  
Best,  
(b)(6)

On January 21, 2021 at 15:22:40 EST, Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net> wrote:

Good afternoon GEC folks:

I wanted to pass on the exciting news that IFCN has been nominated for the Peace Prize. Below is a link to their press release.

<https://www.poynter.org/fact-checking/2021/ifcn-is-heartened-by-a-nobel-peace-prize-nomination-for-the-work-of-the-global-fact-checking-community/>

Congratulations again to them!

Thanks!

--

Vonda Wolcott  
Sr. Program Manager  
Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)  
1156 15th Street, NW

Suite 329  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: +1(b)(6)

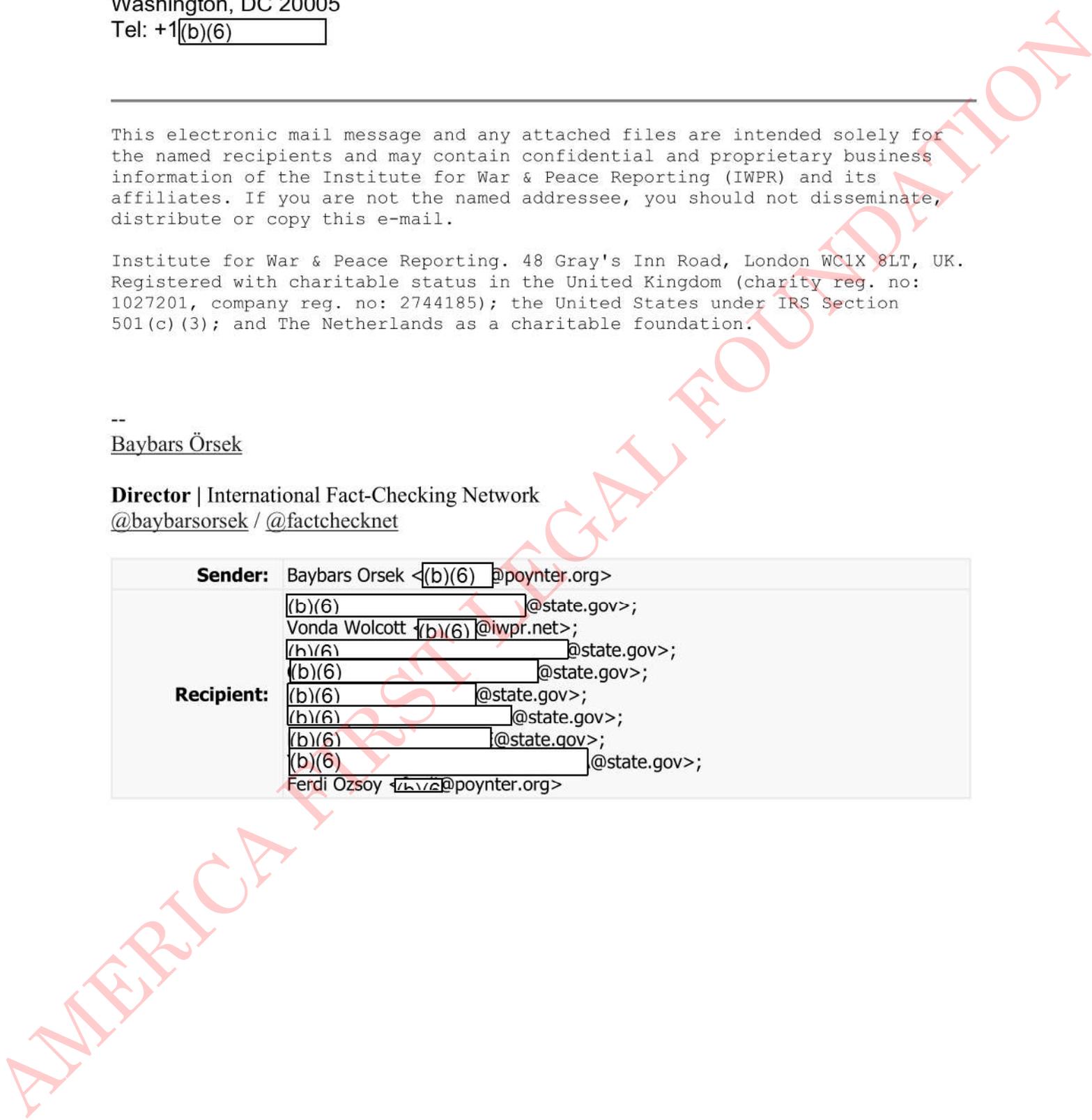
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--  
Baybars Örsek

**Director** | International Fact-Checking Network  
@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

<b>Sender:</b>	Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdı Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>



<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>; Gordon, Michael (b)(6)@wsj.com>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: GEC Follow Up
<b>Date:</b>	Wed, 17 Feb 2021 13:31:18 +0000

Hi Michael,

Glad that time works for you. Would you be able to provide your questions today by noon?

Very best,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer  
Global Engagement Center  
U.S. Department of State  
Accenture Federal Services Contractor  
Cell: (b)(6)



**From:** Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 4:40 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Michael (b)(6)@wsj.com>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up

Hey Michael,

Thanks for the text confirmation at 2:00 PM on Thursday works for you.

J.T.

**From:** Gordon, Michael (b)(6)@wsj.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 3:50 PM  
**To:** Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up

J.T.

I have a zoom call around that time. Could we do 11 AM or 1 PM or pretty much anytime Thursday.?

The questions all pertain to the material and links you guys sent me. Thanks

Michael

National Security Correspondent  
The Wall Street Journal

(b)(6) (cell, WhatsApp, Signal)

(b)(6)@wsj.com (work email)

(b)(6)@protonmail.com (encrypted email)

Book site: [michaelrgordon.com](http://michaelrgordon.com)

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 3:44 PM Ice, John T <(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:  
Hi Michael,

Thanks for the call. (b)(6) can talk at 2:00 PM on Thursday. Would that work for you?

Also, would you mind giving us the questions in advance? I think that would go a long way toward helping (b)(6) to be prepared.

Best,

J.T.

**From:** Ice, John T <(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Michael <(b)(6)@wsj.com>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up

Hey Michael,

As discussed on the phone, we will look forward to hearing from you on Tuesday.

In the meantime, have a nice weekend.

J.T.

**From:** Gordon, Michael <(b)(6)@wsj.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Ice, John T <(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up

Can you give me until Tuesday to sort this out within the WSJ?

Michael Gordon

National Security Correspondent

The Wall Street Journal

(b)(6) cell, WhatsApp, Signal)

(b)(6)@wsj.com (work email)

(b)(6)@protonmail.com (encrypted email)

Book site: [michaeltgordon.com](http://michaeltgordon.com)

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 11:22 AM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Dear Michael,

I hope this email finds you well and ready for the long weekend.

Just giving you a heads up that at this point we would like to go ahead and pitch this information to another outlet. If you are planning to publish something imminently, please let us know and we can hold.

We sincerely appreciate your interest, and we hope we can work on another project, soon.

Best,

J.T.

**John T. Ice**

Deputy Spokesperson

United States Department of State

(b)(6)

✉: (b)(6)@state.gov

**From:** Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 9:40 AM

**To:** Gordon, Michael (b)(6)@wsj.com>

**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up

Thanks, Michael! Can you share if you have a time frame in mind?

J.T.

**From:** Gordon, Michael (b)(6)@wsj.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 9:03 AM

**To:** Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up

Yes. I will be back to you relatively soon. Got tied up with Myanmar, etc.

Michael

National Security Correspondent

The Wall Street Journal

(b)(6) (cell, WhatsApp, Signal)

(b)(6)@wsj.com (work email)

(b)(6)@protonmail.com (encrypted email)

Book site: [michaelrgordon.com](http://michaelrgordon.com)

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 8:41 AM Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Michael,

I hope this email finds you well. Just to follow up on Emily's email, do you think you will do the article?

Happy to help with any questions you might have.

Best,

—  
J.T.

**John T. Ice**

Deputy Spokesperson

**United States Department of State**

Office: (b)(6)

✉: (b)(6)@state.gov

From: (b)(6)@state.gov&gt;

Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 4:37 PM

To: (b)(6)@wsj.com (b)(6)@wsj.com&gt;

Cc: Ice, John T &lt;(b)(6)@state.gov&gt;; GEC Press &lt;GECPress@state.gov&gt;

Subject: re: GEC Follow Up

Hi Michael,

Hope you are doing well. I wanted circle back with you on this to confirm receipt of the follow on information and to see if you had any other questions.

I'm also copying in our Deputy Spokesperson, J.T. Ice, in case you have any questions for him.

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very best,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

Accenture Federal Services Contractor

Cell: (b)(6)



From: (b)(6)@state.gov&gt;

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 11:50 AM

To: (b)(6)@wsj.com (b)(6)@wsj.com&gt;

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov&gt;; GEC Press &lt;GECPress@state.gov&gt;

Subject: GEC Follow Up

Hi Michael,

Thank you again for your time last week. Please find some follow-on information both below and attached. In addition, I wanted to see if you had a few minutes to chat quickly by phone today between 1pm-3:30pm, so that our Principal Deputy Coordinator could provide some further context off the record?

**Information Provided:**

1. GEC's Special Report (**On the Record**)
2. Links to each of the sites discussed (**Provided with No Attribution**).
3. Examples of disinformation spreading (**Provided with No Attribution**).
4. Current and removed social media presences by each of the sites in the matrix attached (**Provided on Deep Background**).

- **Off the Record:** *The GEC is in no way claiming a cause/effect relationship between any GEC exposure effort and the timing of any account removals. All takedowns are the decisions of the companies and based on their own terms of service.*

## **GEC's Special Report Pillars of Disinformation and Propaganda Ecosystem [On the Record]:**

<https://www.state.gov/russias-pillars-of-disinformation-and-propaganda-report/>

### **Website Links [Provided with No Attribution]:**

- **News Front:** [https://news-front\[.\]info/](https://news-front[.]info/); also accessible via [https://ambassadeur\[.\]info/](https://ambassadeur[.]info/)
- **New Eastern Outlook:** [https://journal-neo\[.\]org/](https://journal-neo[.]org/)
- **Oriental Review:** [https://orientalreview\[.\]org/](https://orientalreview[.]org/)
- **Rebel Inside:** [https://reblins\[.\]com/](https://reblins[.]com/)

### **Example 1 [Provided with No Attribution]:**

**Overview:** The following five articles demonstrate how Russian state entities used similar propaganda and disinformation narratives to undermine the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. These websites are all a part of Russia's disinformation and propaganda ecosystem, and the articles here highlight how similar narratives are picked up across Russia's disinformation ecosystem and can be pushed to wider audiences globally.

#### ***Oriental Review: "Bill Gates, Vaccinations, Microchips, And Patent 060606"***

- **Posted 04/29/2020**
- <https://orientalreview.org/2020/04/29/bill-gates-vaccinations-microchips-and-patent-060606/>
- The most popular article on the Oriental Review website as of January 14, 2021 is an article titled "Bill Gates, Vaccinations, Microchips, And Patent 060606."
- The article attempts to undermine the vaccine development efforts of Bill Gates, claiming that the "globalist media" defends his dark connections to a "supranational government" comprised of corporations and international organizations. It alleges that Microsoft registered a patent WO/2020/060606 for a technology that will use chips inserted into a person's body to monitor his/her daily activity.

#### ***New Eastern Outlook: "What's Not Being Said About Pfizer Coronavirus Vaccine"***

- **Posted 11/13/2020**
- <https://journal-neo.org/2020/11/13/what-s-not-being-said-about-pfizer-coronavirus-vaccine/>
- The article promotes the idea that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is unsafe, describing the mRNA gene-editing as a "radical" technology that lacks "precision."
- The author implies that the vaccine is not trustworthy, noting that even Pfizer's CEO "doesn't share the confidence" in his vaccine because he sold 62% of his stock in the company the day Pfizer announced vaccine trials.
- The article accuses Pfizer-BioNTech, the WHO, Bill Gates and the "notorious" Dr. Fauci of rushing through the vaccine approval and therefore "clearly playing fast and loose with human lives." The article quotes Robert F. Kennedy Jr to accuse Dr. Fauci, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that he leads, of ignoring

known issues with a dengue fever vaccine that had led to the death of 600 Filipino children.

***Rossiya 1: “Weekly News with Dmitriy Kiselyov”***

- **Posted on 11/29/20**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPQpoHdN5zQ&t=1032>
- After praising the Russian vaccine Sputnik V, Dmitriy Kiselyov, the host of the flagship weekly news analysis program on the state-owned television channel Rossiya 1, pointed out alleged huge flaws in the Pfizer vaccine, claiming it is too costly to store and that there is no infrastructure in the world to transport it.
- Kiselyov argued that Pfizer’s history is full of scandals worthy of a crime drama, including illegal deadly experiments on children, falsification of research, false advertising, and fraud. Pfizer executives, Kiselyov said, sold their shares in the company, implying that they might know something that will bring the share price down when the vaccine is actually used. Considering Pfizer's reputation, one can expect anything, he concluded.

***RT Arabic: “Britain bans the Pfizer vaccine for those with allergies”***

- **Posted on 12/09/2020**
- <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/6-people-died-because-of-the-pfizer-vaccine/>
- RT Arabic reported that 6 people who received the Pfizer vaccine died during the clinical trials. According to the EUvsDisinfo, this claim is partly false. “Six people did die during the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine trials, but only two of them were given the vaccine. The other four were given a safe placebo solution of salt and water. Furthermore, no causal relationship was established between the vaccine and the two deaths, which occurred in line with the normal death rate for the general population, as both of them were older than 55,” EUvsDisinfo said.

***Sputnik Georgia: “Mass vaccinations began in the EU, but will they save Europe from the pandemic?”***

- **Posted on 12/29/20**
- <https://sputnik-georgia.ru/video/20201229/250479267/Massovaya-vaktsinatsiya-nachalas-v-ES-Spaset-li-eto-Evropu-ot-pandemii---video.html>
- Reporting on the start of mass vaccinations with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in Europe, Sputnik Georgia says that is unclear whether it will be effective against the new strains, while claiming that such effectiveness of Sputnik V has been proven. The report asserts that Europe refuses to buy the Russian vaccine for political reasons.

**Example 2 [Provided with No Attribution]:**

**Overview:**

New Eastern Outlook (NEO) describes itself disingenuously, claiming in its "About" section to be a "notable international networking platform offering unbiased expert opinions and open dialogue among all thinking people worldwide regardless of their nationality, race or religion." Outlined below are the many places that an article from NEO's website appeared across the internet and the globe. The article was originally posted on January 10, 2021 and is titled "Growing Protests Over Threat of US Bio Weapons." The article includes a litany of long-refuted disinformation about alleged U.S. biological weapons. These examples highlight how Russia's disinformation spreads and can be picked up both on purpose, by other Russian proxy sites and channels, and unknowingly by other sites.

**Link to original NEO article:** <https://journal-neo.org/2021/01/10/growing-protests-over-threat-of-u-s-bio-weapons/>

### The article quickly appeared in:

- **New Age, (Bangladesh)**, posted on January 12, 2021
  - <https://www.newagebd.net/article/126917/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons>.
  - Full article published
- **Piazza Della Carina (Italy)** posted January 10, 2021
  - <https://piazzadcara.wordpress.com/2021/01/10/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons/>.
  - Lengthy excerpts posted on this site along with a link to full article on NEO.
- **The Free online, (Spain)** posted on January 10, 2021
  - <https://thefreeonline.wordpress.com/2021/01/10/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons-piazza-della-carina/>.
- **Qoshe, (location unknown)** posted on January 10, 2021
  - <https://qoshe.com/new-eastern-outlook/vladimir-platov/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons/96684538>.
  - Excerpts are posted along with a link to the original article.
- **Anarchist Federation (France)**, posted on January 10, 2021
  - <https://www.anarchistfederation.net/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons-piazza-della-carina/>.
  - Automatically posts "news from 377 anarchist collectives,"
  - Links to "The Free online" article.
- **Astute News, (location unknown)**, posted on January 13, 2021
  - <https://astutenews.com/2021/01/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons/>.
  - Full article published.
  - **This site appears to be part of the covert Russian disinformation ecosystem.**
  - Its single "partner blog" is "Oneworld Global Thinktank" (<https://astutenews.com/our-partners/>)
  - OneWorld described itself as a "new analytical and non-profit start-up" that doesn't have "any 'political correctness' or agenda," but merely seeks to "connect people from all across the world who share the same interest in international events."

- But in July 2020, OneWorld was said by U.S. officials to have “ties to the G.R.U.,” Russia’s military intelligence agency.
- Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/28/us/politics/russia-disinformation-coronavirus.html>.
- **Message of Wisdom (Iran)**, posted on January 12, 2020
  - <https://messageofwisdom.blogspot.com/2021/01/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio.html>.
  - Full article republished.
- **oc20.com (Cuba)**, (no date identifiable)
  - [https://oc2o.com/en/cu/topics/World\\_Politics/kuts3z/growing-protests-threat-us-bio-weapons-the-united-states-1-495-biological-laboratories-25-countries-which-large-scale-outbreaks-infectious-diseases](https://oc2o.com/en/cu/topics/World_Politics/kuts3z/growing-protests-threat-us-bio-weapons-the-united-states-1-495-biological-laboratories-25-countries-which-large-scale-outbreaks-infectious-diseases).
  - Full article published.
- **The Russophile (Sweden)**, (no date identifiable)
  - [https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:yiDgA\\_U2PVIJ:https://therussophile.org/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons.html/+&cd=10&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us](https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:yiDgA_U2PVIJ:https://therussophile.org/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons.html/+&cd=10&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us).
  - Full article published.

Thanks again for your time last week and I look forward to hearing back from you to set up a time to chat further.

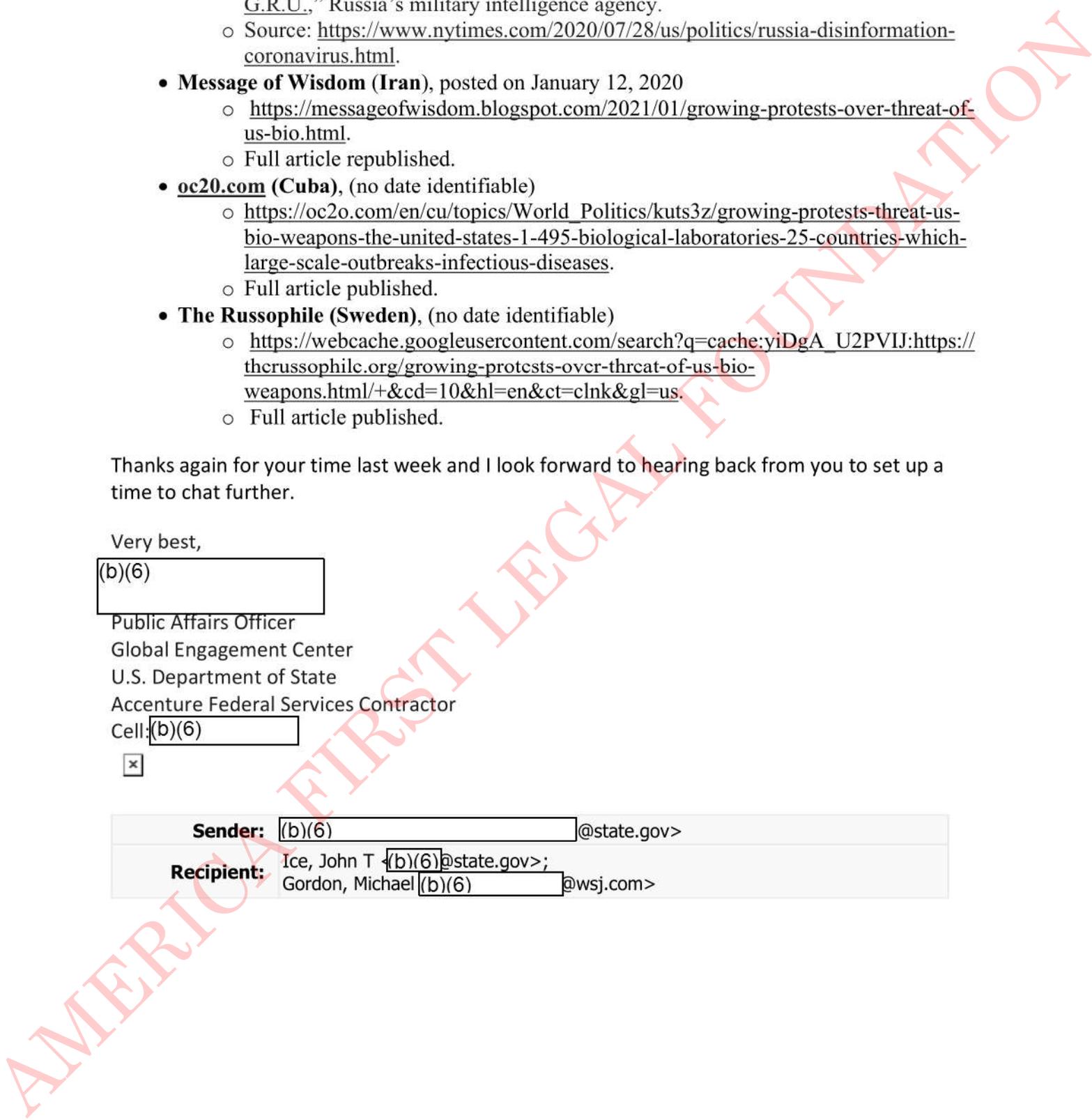
Very best,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer  
Global Engagement Center  
U.S. Department of State  
Accenture Federal Services Contractor  
Cell: (b)(6)



<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Ice, John T <(b)(6)@state.gov>; Gordon, Michael (b)(6)@wsj.com>



<b>From:</b>	Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Foreign disinformation operations
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 16 Dec 2022 13:51:24 -0800

(b)(6)

I saw the announcement, thank you. And please give my regards to Jamie. I was covering the State Department when he was Madeleine Albright's spokesman, which dates us both!

Sorry to not have had a chance to meet when I was in DC but I look forward to being in touch on global disinformation trends and threats. Please let me know when he might be free to meet, in person or virtually.

Best

Steve

The New York Times

Twitter: @stevenleemyers

Facebook: StevenLeeMyersNYT

WhatsApp and Signal, +1-(b)(6)

On Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 12:17 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Steven

I'm really sorry I was unable to connect when you were in town. Please keep your eye out for Secretary Blinken's announcement today – our new Special Envoy and Coordinator is Jamie Rubin. You can flag for your editors. He said he'd like to grab lunch with you when you are in town next.

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Senior Advisor

Global Engagement Center

<b>Sender:</b>	Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>;
	(b)(6)@state.gov>;
	(b)(6)@state.gov>

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Fact Checking in Cairo
<b>Date:</b>	Wed, 31 Aug 2022 06:02:15 +0000

Ah, you're right, apologies. I'll be out of town the latter half of next week, so would 9 am EST on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> work?

Thanks!

**From:** Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 5:31 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Fact Checking in Cairo

I just realized that is a US federal holiday, so reflectively, probably not great for anyone. Maybe Tuesday?

On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:30 AM Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:  
Good on my end!

On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 3:36 AM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:  
Thanks, Alanna! I've also been traveling, sorry for delayed response. How about Monday September 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 am EST? Would that work for everyone for a quick call?

**From:** Alanna Dvorak <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:34 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Fact Checking in Cairo

Hello!

Sorry for the delay in response; I was traveling in India for work (and then pleasure) and my email got backed up.

I would love to connect with you; North Africa is an area that doesn't have a ton of fact-checkers. We've done some training in Libya and Tunisia and would love to continue to expand.

My Calendly provides my availability. Hopefully there is a time that overlaps, given the time difference.

Looking forward to meeting with you.

Best,

Alanna

On Sun, Aug 14, 2022 at 9:23 AM (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Alaana,

Greetings from Cairo! I work for the Embassy here, focusing on Chinese activities in the Middle East.

As part of my work, I'm partnering with our Public Affairs Section to look at opportunities to counter Russian and Chinese disinformation in the Egyptian media. We have recently been talking about the potential to fund a grant to teach fact-checking to several news outlets here. Journalists have requested this type of training, and how they can learn about tools and online functions to help them fact-check their work.

My colleagues in Washington mentioned that you recently helped with a proposal to do similar work in Tunisia. I was wondering if you might be interested in talking with us about this for Egypt, or if your organization would not be able to work on this type of proposal for Egypt, if you have ideas of others who might be available.

Thank you so much for your time,

(b)(6)

Regional China Officer – Egypt, Iraq, Levant

U.S. Embassy Cairo

Office: (b)(6)

Mobile: +(b)(6)

(Please note Cairo's workweek is Sunday-Thursday)

--

Alanna Dvorak

International Training Manager/IFCN

The Poynter Institute

ph: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@poynter.org

www.poynter.org

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Alanna Dvorak

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Alanna Dvorak

International Training Manager/IFCN

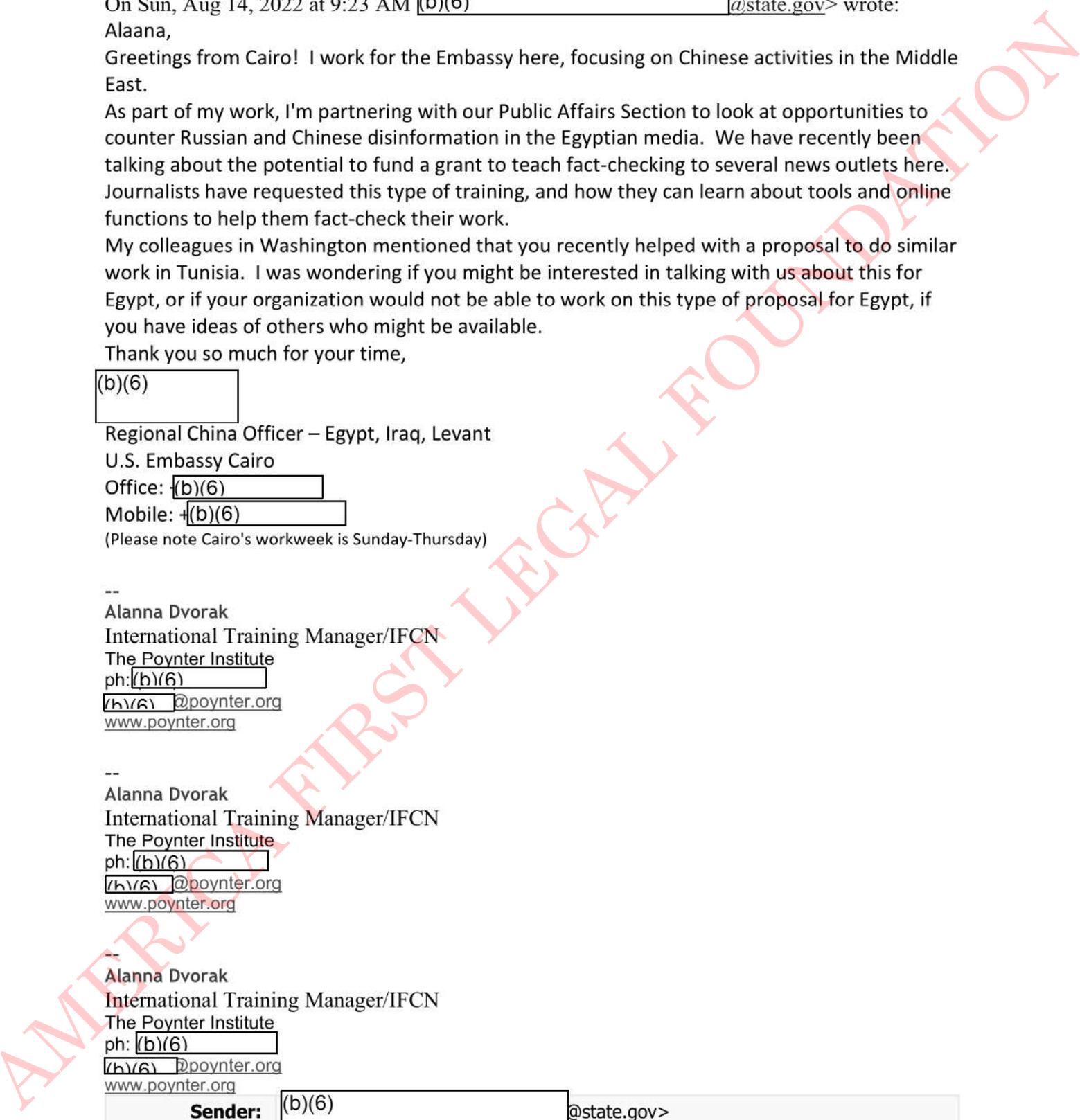
The Poynter Institute

ph: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@poynter.org

www.poynter.org

**Sender:** (b)(6)@state.gov



<b>Recipient:</b>	Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@pqynter.org>;
	(b)(6)@state.gov>;
	(b)(6)@state.gov>;
	(b)(6)@state.gov>

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

<b>From:</b>	"Fanous, Mary K (Tunis)" (b)(6) @state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	Alanna Dvorak (b)(6) @poynter.org>
<b>CC:</b>	(h)(6) @state.gov>; Baybars Orsek (b)(6) @poynter.org>; (b)(6) @state.gov>; (h)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>; Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6) @state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Connecting - Poynter/IFCN and U.S. Embassy Tunis
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 19 Apr 2022 20:50:24 +0000

Apologies for the delay Alanna. I'm trying to coordinate a call on Friday morning. If you are available, I will circle back with the proposed time. Thanks.

Get Outlook for iOS

**From:** Alanna Dvorak (h)(6) @poynter.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 9:41:23 PM

**To:** Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (h)(6) @state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6) @state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6) @state.gov>; Baybars Orsek (h)(6) @poynter.org>; (h)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Connecting - Poynter/IFCN and U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi all,

Just following up on this to see if we can get a call scheduled.

Best,

Alanna

On Sat, Apr 9, 2022 at 3:48 AM Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6) @state.gov> wrote:

Hi Alanna

Thanks for getting back to us so quickly. Mary Fanous who leads our press efforts will work with you on a time next week fo a call.

Best regards,

Erica Thibault

Counselor for Public Affairs

US Embassy Tunis

(b)(6) @state.gov

**From:** Alanna Dvorak (h)(6) @poynter.org>

**Sent:** Friday, April 8, 2022 7:33 PM

**To:** (b)(6) @state.gov>

**Cc:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6) @poynter.org>; Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Connecting - Poynter/IFCN and U.S. Embassy Tunis

Thanks for the connection, (b)(6)

Yes, we do think supplemental mentorship could help both those organizations. What has been helpful is both Fatabyyano's desire to help them cross the finish line and the fact that both organizations are highly motivated and really want to be both effective fact-check units and signatories.

I'd love to hop on a call next week to discuss potential next steps, if that's something you all are amenable to?

Best,  
Alanna

On Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 7:36 AM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Baybars and Alanna,

I oversaw the *Empowering Fact-Checking in the Global South* sub-award from the State Department's Global Engagement Center, working through IWPR. I re-read your final report and the Tunisia portions had some fantastic findings.

I'm connecting you directly with Erica Thibault, the Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, to explore what additional mentorship through Poynter/IFCN might look like in Tunisia. Also cc'd is (b)(6) from the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of Press and Public Diplomacy. The report had recommended that the two organizations in Tunisia – Les Grandes Ecoles de la Communication and Business News/BN Check – would benefit from additional mentorship to absorb the fact-checking skills.

Erica and (b)(6) - Baybars Örsek is the director of international programming at the Poynter Institute and director of the International Fact-Checking Network. Alanna Dvorak is Poynter's International Training Manager.

Please feel free to keep me cc'd but I'm glad to be connecting you all.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Foreign Affairs Officer

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)@state.gov

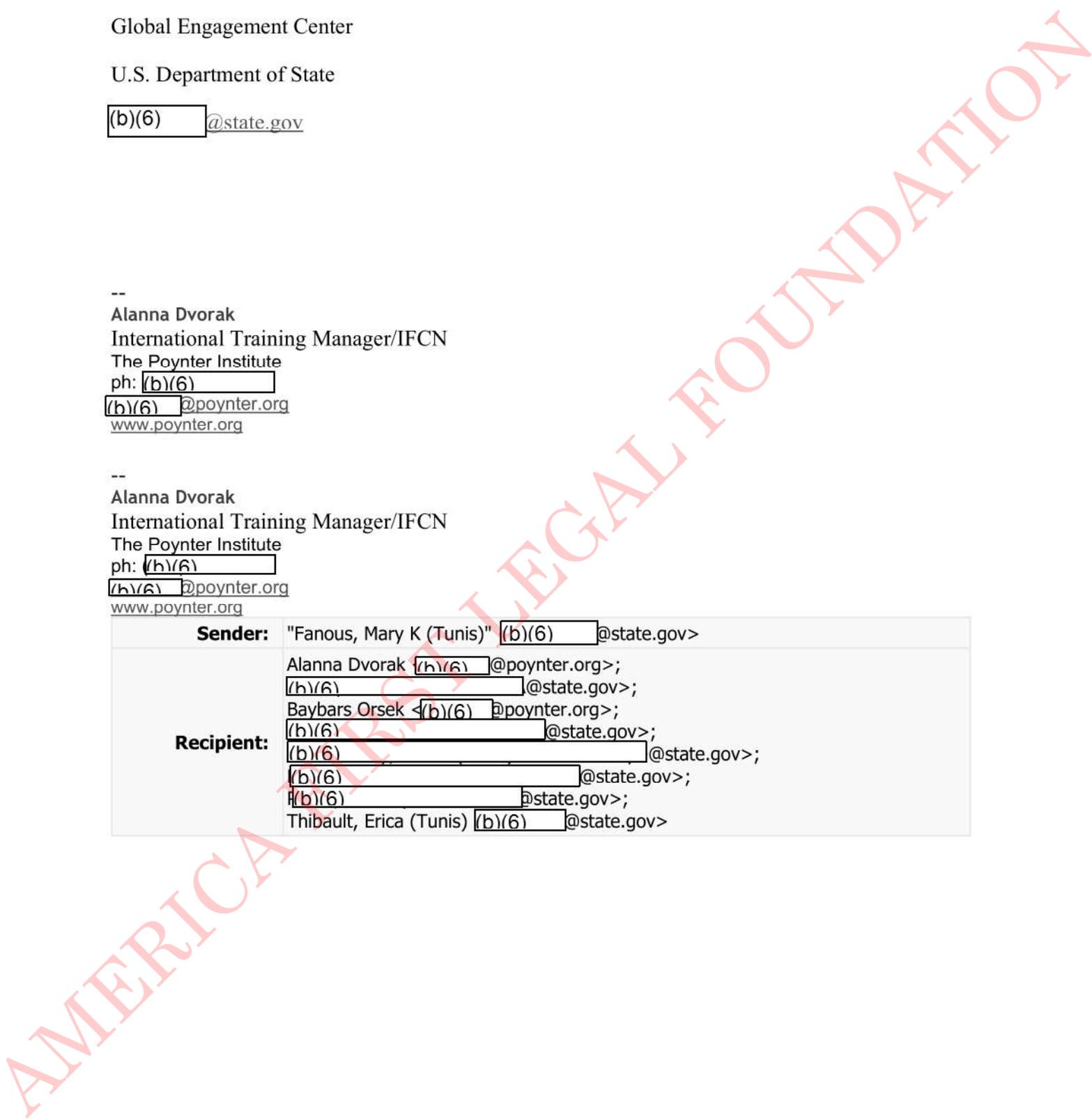
--

Alanna Dvorak  
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<b>Sender:</b>	"Fanous, Mary K (Tunis)" (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>



<b>From:</b>	Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>CC:</b>	Ferdi Ozsoy <(h)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Concerns about Thailand Grant
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 4 Mar 2021 22:19:20 -0500

Hi (b)(6)

Hope this email finds you well.

Just wanted to provide you with a quick update on our plans in Thailand.

The embassy is connecting us with CoFact, a new fact-checking initiative in Thailand, inspired by Taiwanese CoFacts.

It's a great match since we know CoFacts of Taiwan very well, including spending time with its founder Lee Bi-Ling, aka Billion, at Poynter for a few weeks during her National Committee on U.S.-China Relations - Professional Fellows Program visit to the United States.

I also had a chance to meet with her team members in Taiwan during a workshop in late 2019 (pre-COVID world!) and really impressed by their efforts.

Our plan with CoFact (Thailand) is to do a public-facing event on the International Fact-Checking Day on April 2nd and provide our 8 hours long self-directed and self-paced training afterward. Our training material will be sent to Thai translators after we have our first meeting with CoFact next week (she is on a leave this week) and confirm the scope of the training based on their team's background and experience.

The goal is to complete the localization and translation of the training material by the end of this month and release the material to them so their team can complete them in 2-3 weeks. Once the self-directed course will be completed by them, we will organize one or two live webinars with them to provide more guidance and tips to apply to IFCN's Code of Principles.

I'll share more in the next few weeks as the program moves forward.

All the best-

Baybars

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 12:52 PM Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:  
Absolutely!

Actually, he must have received that update yesterday but I can see that the communication takes longer given the time difference between us and him in Bangkok.

We will share our updates with him and his team with you.

Have a great weekend!

Baybars

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 12:45 PM <(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:  
Baybars, Ferdi,

Thank you so much for the quick response.

Can you please share that update with (b)(7) in Bangkok and reassure him that you are confident things will be executed on time since he reached out with concerns?

Thank you!

**From:** Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

**Sent:** Friday, February 5, 2021 12:41 PM

**To:** <(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; <(b)(6)@state.gov>; <(b)(6)@state.gov>; <(b)(6)@state.gov>; <(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Concerns about Thailand Grant

Hi <(b)(6)>

Thanks for checking in.

As of today, the DS1909 form has been sent to our VP of Finance and Business for her signature and will be sent back to the Embassy in Bangkok for execution.

That will officially extend the project to July 31st of this year.

The course material has been prepared and currently it's currently in the translation process.

The materials will be shared with the embassy for confirmation and they can be delivered as early as the first week of March.

Thank you for your understanding and happy to have a call to discuss if you have any questions.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 12:34 PM <(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Ferdi, Baybars,

I want to reach out to see if we could resolve some concerns that have been raised over the Thailand project. I know you have been swamped but post is concerned it is falling behind planned timelines and has voiced concern that it has been hard to keep thing moving. Would you have a moment to touch base so we can make sure things stay on track?

Best, <(b)(6)>

--

Baybars Örsek

**Director** | International Fact-Checking Network  
@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

--

Baybars Örsek

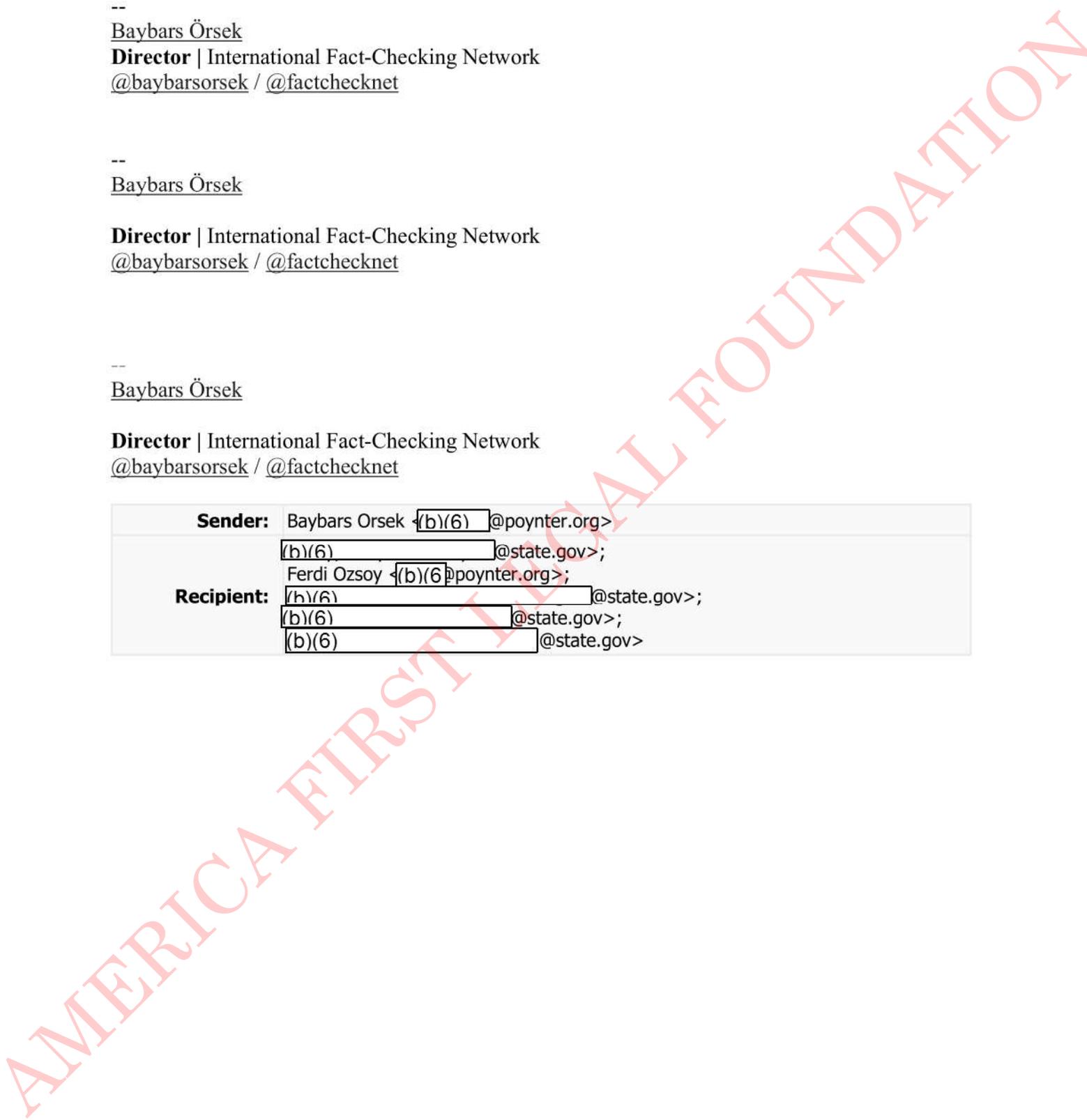
**Director** | International Fact-Checking Network  
@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

--

Baybars Örsek

**Director** | International Fact-Checking Network  
@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

<b>Sender:</b>	Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov; Ferd Ozsoy <(b)(6)poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>



<b>From:</b>	Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Poynter IFCN and GEC Pacific Islands connector re follow on work
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 7 Jan 2022 14:34:23 -0500

Good morning/afternoon all:

Per (b)(6) request, I wanted to link up the GEC and Poynter folks interested in talking about follow-on work in the Pacific Islands.

As everyone may recall, (b)(6) is now GEC's officer in the Pacific Islands region based in Hawaii. Baybars is the Director of Poynter's IFCN program and Alanna and Ferdi are the other key IFCN personnel working on the GEC project.

As I mentioned on our recent GEC call, Poynter had said RMIT (its regional partner in the Pacific Islands) is also interested in continuing the work in there.

And a timely note: Some of the people quoted in that Guardian piece I sent today were beneficiaries in Poynter's program, including Scott Waide, Dan McGarry and Leilani Reklai.

I leave it to you all from here. I wish you all productive discussions.

Thanks!

--

Vonda Wolcott  
Sr. Program Manager  
Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)  
1156 15th Street, NW  
Suite 329  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: +1 (b)(6)

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<b>Sender:</b>	Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; Alanna Dvorak <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; Ferdinand Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

<b>From:</b>	Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Mon. at 2:00 p.m. ET: New Government with California Secretary of State Alex Padilla
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 8 Jan 2021 22:44:48 +0000

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

BEGIN:VCALENDAR  
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URL:https://newgovtjan11.splashthat.com  
DTSTART:20210111T190000Z  
DTEND:20210111T193000Z  
SUMMARY:New Government January 11  
DESCRIPTION:For more information - https://newgovtjan11.splashthat.com  
LOCATION:Washington DC 20071  
END:VEVENT  
END:VCALENDAR

**Sender:** Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>

**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov

<b>From:</b>	Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Mon. at 2:00 p.m. ET: New Government with California Secretary of State Alex Padilla
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 8 Jan 2021 22:44:47 +0000

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

BEGIN:VCALENDAR  
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UID:eabf42e0f60a2e0577d204a14510b6f81c2e3a88@newgovtjan11.splashthat.com  
URL:https://newgovtjan11.splashthat.com  
DTSTART:20210111T190000Z  
DTEND:20210111T193000Z  
SUMMARY:New Government January 11  
DESCRIPTION:For more information - https://newgovtjan11.splashthat.com  
LOCATION:Washington DC 20071  
END:VEVENT  
END:VCALENDAR

**Sender:** Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>

**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

<b>From:</b>	Washington Post Customer Care <help@washpost.com>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Let us know what you think
<b>Date:</b>	Mon, 19 Sep 2022 19:05:42 +0000

##- Please type your reply above this line -##

Hello (b)(6)

We'd love to hear what you think of our customer service. Please take a moment to answer a few simple questions by clicking the link below:

[http://washingtonpost.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9oaQiX9HIRQR833?ticket.id=2512669&ticket.assignee.name=Charles&ticket.tags=survey\\_sent\\_washposthelp\\_zendesk\\_wpl\\_no&type=dig](http://washingtonpost.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9oaQiX9HIRQR833?ticket.id=2512669&ticket.assignee.name=Charles&ticket.tags=survey_sent_washposthelp_zendesk_wpl_no&type=dig)

Here's a reminder of what your ticket was about:

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**Charles** (Washington Post Customer Care)

Sep 16, 2022, 2:44 PM EDT

Thank you for letting us know.

---

(b)(6)

Sep 16, 2022, 2:07 PM EDT

Katherine,

Thank you for the invitation. Unfortunately, I have another obligation immediately adjacent to the time-slot and cannot make it work. Please keep me in mind for future events.

Best,

(b)(6) senior adviser, GEC Iran Team, All Native Group contractor, 202-  
(b)(6)

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**From:** Katherine O'Hearn (b)(6)@washpost.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2022 2:02 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: WashPost Invite: In-person climate change event with Sen. Brian Schatz, Patagonia CEO Ryan Gellert and more, 9/20 [Response Requested]

Hello,

I'm following up on the invitation I sent for Washington Post Live's upcoming event, **Protecting Our Planet**, which will be held on Tuesday, September 20 at The Post's headquarters.

In order to reserve your seat, please make sure that you register **here** by Friday, September 16.

We hope to see you at the event this Tuesday.

Kathy and Marisa

Katherine O'Hearn  
Executive Producer  
Washington Post Live

Marisa Fariña  
Managing Director  
Washington Post Live

Washington Post Live would like to offer you an exclusive invitation to **Protecting Our Planet**, where speakers such as **Sen. Brian Schatz** (D-Hawaii), Patagonia CEO **Ryan Gellert**, Black Girl Environmentalist founder **Wanjiku "Wawa" Gatheru**, Climate Cardinals executive director **Sophia Kianni** and Novoloop CEO **Miranda Wang** join Washington Post Live in person for a series of conversations about the human, environmental and economic consequences of climate change and the efforts to combat them.

In a segment presented by SK Group, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of SK Growth Opportunities Corporation **Richard Chin** discusses the importance of sustainable business strategies and investment across the clean energy landscape. This segment will explore how SK is investing in next-generation clean energy technologies, products, and services to enhance sustainable growth and value for all stakeholders.

The event is at The Post's D.C. headquarters and invitations are limited, but we would like to give you priority access. **Please RSVP here to reserve your spot by Friday, September 16.**

**Date & Time**

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Doors open for coffee reception at 8:15 a.m. ET.

Program 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. ET

**Location**

The Washington Post  
1301 K Street, NW

**Speakers**

---

Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii)  
Ryan Gellert, CEO, Patagonia Works and Patagonia, Inc.  
Wanjiku "Wawa" Gatheru, Climate Justice Advocate & Founder, Black Girl Environmentalist  
Sophia Kianni, Founder & Executive Director, Climate Cardinals and U.S. Representative on  
UN Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change  
Miranda Wang, CEO & Co-Founder, Novoloop

*Content from SK:*

Richard Chin, Executive Officer & Board Member, SK Growth Opportunities Corporation

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. We look forward to having you join us.

Best,

Kathy and Marisa

Katherine O'Hearn  
Executive Producer  
Washington Post Live

Marisa Fariña  
Managing Director  
Washington Post Live

---

[Unsubscribe](#)

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<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov

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<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>
<b>CC:</b>	(h)(7)@poynter.org (h)(7)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 8 Dec 2020 20:21:30 +0000

<http://www.pina.com.fj/>

<http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pina&m=contactus>

## Pacific Islands News Association - Contact us

Home; News; Feature; Business; Sports; Technology; Lifestyle; Voices; Archive; PINA; Business News : FFA to increase focus on gender equality and social inclusion in Pacific fisheries [16/09/2020 - Solomon Islands] News Feature : Experts call for stronger management of marine resources [16/09/2020 - Fiji] Business News : 60 Samoa sailors approved for Mediterranean Shipping Company jobs [16/09 ...

www.pina.com.fj

**From:** Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:58 AM  
**To:** (h)(7)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (h)(7)@poynter.org (h)(7)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
 (b)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>; (h)(6)@state.gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call

Yep. Dialing in now..

On Tue, Dec 8, 2020 at 2:57 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:  
 Can we switch to this conf line to finish the call? I will open it up now. Thank you!!

USA Toll-Free: (b)(7)(E)

USA Caller Paid (b)(7)(E)

Access Code: (b)(7)(E)

Host Password: (h)(7)(7)

**From:** (b)(6)@iwpr.net  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 4:15 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@iwpr.net (h)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (h)(7)@poynter.org  
 (h)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@pacom.mil>; (b)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>

**Subject:** Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call

**When:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:30 AM-10:30 AM.

**Where:**

**This event has been changed.**

### Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call

When **Changed:** Tue Dec 8, 2020 2:30pm – 3:30pm Eastern Time - New York

Calendar [\(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](#)

Who

- [\(b\)\(6\)@iwpr.net](#) - organizer
- [\(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](#)
- [\(b\)\(6\)@poynter.org](#)
- [\(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](#)
- [\(b\)\(6\)@pacom.mil](#)
- [\(b\)\(6\)@poynter.org](#)

[more details »](#)

Conference call link:

[\(b\)\(6\)](#)

PW [\(b\)\(6\)](#)

Agenda:

Intro (IWPR)

Overview and timeline of project (Poynter)

Questions/comments (GEC et al)

Going [\(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](#)? **Yes - Maybe - No** [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account [\(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](#) because you are an attendee of this event. To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event. Alternatively you can sign up for a Google account at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/> and control your notification settings for your entire calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer and be added to the guest list, or invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or to modify your RSVP. [Learn More](#).

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--

Vonda Wolcott  
Sr. Program Manager  
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1156 15th Street, NW  
Suite 329  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: +1 [REDACTED]

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<b>Sender:</b>	[REDACTED]@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Vonda Wolcott [REDACTED]@iwpr.net>; [REDACTED]@poynter.org [REDACTED]@poynter.org>; [REDACTED]@poynter.org [REDACTED]@poynter.org>