



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

July 31, 2023

Case No. FL-2023-00013

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

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

As we noted in our letter dated June 30, 2023, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State ("Department") has identified an additional 78 responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all 78 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. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Pardis Gheibi, U.S. Department of Justice Trial Attorney, at [pardis.gheibi@usdoj.gov](mailto:pardis.gheibi@usdoj.gov) and (202) 305-3246. Please refer to the case number, 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", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Enclosures: As stated.

## **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

**From:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Your Reuters.com password has been changed  
**Date:** Sun, 12 Dec 2021 22:55:40 +0000



# Password changed

Your password was changed. If you didn't change your password, please update your password as soon as possible and contact [customer support](#).



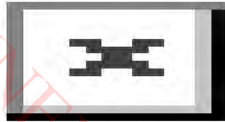
**Terms, conditions, and privacy statement**

© 2021 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.  
3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036

**Sender:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>

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

**From:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Your Reuters.com password has been changed  
**Date:** Sun, 23 Oct 2022 13:55:30 +0000



# Password changed

Your password was changed. If you didn't change your password, please update your password as soon as possible and contact [customer support](#).

**Terms, conditions, and privacy statement**

© 2022 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.

3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036

**Sender:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>

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

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

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

**Subject:** You're invited: Vaccine Equity with USAID Atul Gawande, MD, White House Senior Policy Advisor Cameron Webb, MD and more, 5/17

**Date:** Mon, 9 May 2022 17:06:22 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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

**From:** NYTimes.com <ordercs@nytimes.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** You've canceled your subscription  
**Date:** Tue, 11 Jan 2022 21:26:52 +0000

[My Account](#) | [Help](#)

## You've canceled your subscription.

You'll continue to have access to your Basic Digital Access subscription until the end of your current billing cycle on February 1, 2022.

If you change your mind, you can [reactivate your subscription](#) at any time.

If you didn't request this change or have any questions, please [contact us](#).

This email was sent to josephav1@state.gov

[Account Login](#) | [Help Center](#)

Customer Care/Call Center, 620 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10018, Attn.: Postal

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [California Notices](#)

© 2022 The New York Times Company | 620 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10018

**Sender:** NYTimes.com <ordercs@nytimes.com>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@wsj.com (b)(6)@wsj.com>  
**Subject:** WSJ Mtg. on Russian Disinformation in Africa  
**Date:** Thu, 1 Sep 2022 16:20:45 +0000

(b)(6) is inviting you to a scheduled ZoomGov meeting.

Join ZoomGov Meeting

(b)(7)(E)

Dial by your location

(b)(7)(E)

Join by SIP

(b)(7)(E)

Join by H.323

(b)(7)(E)

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@wsj.com (b)(6)@wsj.com>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** Poynter Seminars <poynter@poynter.org>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** We've added you to our mailing list  
**Date:** Wed, 6 Jan 2021 11:31:30 -0600



## Thank You

Dear (b)(6)

Thanks for your interest in Poynter's fact-checking work.

We have added you to our mailing list about our programs.

And if you have any questions in the meantime, you can email us at [seminars@poynter.org](mailto:seminars@poynter.org).

Thanks again.

The Poynter Institute

---

### Connect With Us



**Contact us:** The Poynter Institute | [seminars@poynter.org](mailto:seminars@poynter.org) | 801 Third Street South | St. Petersburg, FL 33701

If you don't want to receive e-mail updates from Poynter, we understand. All you need to do is follow this link: [Unsubscribe me from this mailing list](#). Please do not reply to this e-mail. It was sent from a mailbox that cannot receive return mail. If you reply to this e-mail address, it will not be read.



**Sender:** Poynter Seminars <poynter@poynter.org>

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

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** WashPost Invite: In-person health equity event Tuesday, 5/17 [Response Requested]  
**Date:** Wed, 11 May 2022 18:28:52 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**Sender:** Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**From:** Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** WashPost Invite: In-person entrepreneurship event with Heather Boushey and Steve Case, 6/21 [Response Requested]  
**Date:** Mon, 13 Jun 2022 15:02:30 +0000

**Sender:** Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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

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

**Subject:** WashPost Invite: In-person Entrepreneurship event with Heather Boushey and more Tuesday, 6/21 [Response Requested]

**Date:** Tue, 7 Jun 2022 15:01:01 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION



OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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

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

**From:** (b)(6)@iwpr.net>  
**SentVia:** Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>  
(h)(6)@state.gov>;  
(h)(6)@state.gov>;  
**To:** (h)(6)@poynter.org>;  
(h)(6)@poynter.org>;  
**Subject:** Updated invitation: Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call @ Tue Dec 8, 2020  
2:30pm - 3:30pm (EST) (h)(6)@state.gov)  
**Date:** Tue, 8 Dec 2020 15:05:46 +0000

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** (h)(6)@state.gov

**Who**

- (h)(6)@iwpr.net - organizer
- (h)(6)@state.gov
- (h)(6)@poynter.org
- (h)(6)@state.gov
- (b)(6)
- (h)(6)@poynter.org

#### more details »

Conference call link:

(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 ryank@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

This electronic mail message and any attached files are intended solely for the named recipients and may contain confidential and proprietary business

information of the Institute for War & Peace Reporting (IWPR) and its affiliates. If you are not the named addressee, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail.

Institute for War & Peace Reporting. 48 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, UK. Registered with charitable status in the United Kingdom (charity reg. no: 1027201, company reg. no: 2744185); the United States under IRS Section 501(c)(3); and The Netherlands as a charitable foundation.

**Sender:** (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

**Recipient:** (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@poynter.org>

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;  
ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>;  
Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>;  
**To:** (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>;  
(b)(6)@mfa.ee (b)(6)@mfa.ee>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Tuesday November 30 OPCW Disinformation Panel - Link to the Meeting - Please join 15 Minutes early.  
**Date:** Fri, 26 Nov 2021 21:51:54 +0000

Dear Ambassadors, Panelists,

As discussed during the dry-run, I will be opening Tuesday's MS Teams meeting 15 minutes early so I can let you in and provide you with the appropriate privileges (use of cam and mic) before the onslaught of regular attendees. The link to the meeting is in the invite you were sent earlier (a couple of you have yet to RSVP) and also below for your convenience:



As I mentioned to some of you during the second dry-run, The Russian Federation (RF) did indeed a virtual event earlier today entitled: "The Navalny case; Setting the record straight". We have received a read-out and I am checking if it can be shared. The gist of it: Russian authorities have been exemplary in dealing with Navalny when he became sick. The alleged discovery of chemical weapons is just a ploy to smear the RF. The OPCW has become politicized and is complicit in the Euro-Atlantic plot against the RF.

As of COB today we had 80+ registered participants from the delegations of more than 60 different countries.

Regards,

(b)(6)  
*Foreign Affairs Officer*

Office of Chemical and Biological Weapons Affairs  
Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

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

(b)(6) @state.sgov.gov

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

Davey Alba (b)(6) @nytimes.com>;

ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (h)(6) @eeas.europa.eu>;

Eliot Higgins (b)(6) @bellingcat.com>;

(b)(6) @eeas.europa.eu (h)(6)

(h)(6) @eeas.europa.eu>;

**Recipient:** (b)(6) @mfa.ee (h)(6) @mfa.ee>;

(h)(6) @state.gov>;

(b)(6) @state.gov>;

(b)(6) @state.gov>;

(h)(6) @state.gov>;

(b)(6) @state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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

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

**Subject:** Tues. at 9:00 a.m. ET: Business founders of color and entrepreneurial equity with SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman and more

**Date:** Fri, 9 Sep 2022 20:09:07 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION



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

**From:** Ren LaForme | Poynter (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Tools to find, track and level-up job applications  
**Date:** Wed, 9 Dec 2020 06:03:58 -0600



Your weekly, bite-sized dose of tools, tips and ideas for digital journalism. Kindly supported by the American Press Institute and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Hello, old friends and new!

This Ren LaForme, your elusive digital tools for journalism newsletter writer. As most of you know, I stepped in as managing editor at Poynter earlier this year. It's been difficult to find time to keep the newsletter going in my new role, but it is still going, thanks to the help of some amazing guest writers.

Today's edition comes from **Mandy Hofmockel, Hearst Connecticut Media Group's managing editor of audience**. It originally appeared in her newsletter Journalism jobs and a photo of my dog, which you can subscribe to here.

See you in 2021,  
Ren LaForme

Navigating the job application field can be tough, especially if you're applying for multiple roles and trying to stand out in a crowded pool of candidates.

I've developed a few tools over the years for myself and others that can help make this process a little easier.

## Track what you're applying for

When I first started out, I applied to A LOT of jobs. Too many.

I wasn't qualified for many of them, but over the years I learned a tremendous amount about the industry and became more self-aware, applying to fewer roles that would better help me

reach the next step in my career.

My strategy for applying has evolved, but one key tool I've kept is [this spreadsheet](#). I've used it for every big application push (and even adapted it for things like apartment hunts).

Make your own copy so you can track the positions you're applying for, the people you've communicated with and the status of your applications.

Down the line, you may even revisit your sheets to find a contact that can help you (or a friend) land a job.

## Know where to look

Because there's no single repository for journalism jobs, locating the one that's right for you can be tough, but there are excellent resources out there if you know where to look.

That's why I built [this slide deck](#), where I collected public-facing job boards, popular hashtags, social accounts and newsletters, and rounded up dozens of employers' pages where they list open positions so you can easily access them all in one place.

Over time you'll come to know the boards or platforms with the roles that best fit your expertise and career interests.

## Get help when you need it

If you get stuck networking or need help proofreading resumes and cover letters, there are multiple mentor networks out there ready to help.

I offer [free 30-minute coaching calls](#) on Thursdays to women and other folks underrepresented in media. And there are more than 130 other mentors on [digitalwomenleaders.com](#) who can help women with all sorts of career questions, from considering graduate school to boosting confidence to developing leadership skills.

Students and early-career journalists can find help through Axios' Adriana Lacy and The Wall Street Journal's Caitlin Ostroff's [Media Mentors program](#).

Sonia Weiser, a journalist and publisher of the [Opportunities of the Week](#) newsletter, also started [this excellent Google spreadsheet](#) with nearly 200 folks in communications and media who have said they are "willing to do pro bono work to help out other industry folk."

---

Have you discovered a favorite tool through Try This? The nonprofit Poynter Institute relies

on the generosity of readers like you to identify and explain digital trends in journalism.  
Please give to Poynter to support this work.

DONATE

Did someone forward you this email? Get it in your own inbox by subscribing [here](#).

Want to [unsubscribe](#)? Let's make it more of a see you later than a goodbye, shall we?

What are you looking here for? Try This! © All rights reserved [Poynter Institute](#) 2020



**Sender:** Ren LaForme | Poynter [\(b\)\(1\)](#)@poynter.org>

**Recipient:** [\(b\)\(6\)](#)@state.gov>

**From:** Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. ET: Women business founders and SBA Administrator on growth of minority-owned businesses  
**Date:** Mon, 12 Sep 2022 15:14:16 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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



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

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

**Subject:** Today at 9:00 a.m. ET: Women business founders and SBA Administrator on growth of minority-owned businesses

**Date:** Tue, 13 Sep 2022 11:19:11 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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

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

**From:** Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Today at 2:00 p.m. ET: The future of small business after COVID-19 with ETSY  
CEO Josh Silverman and more  
**Date:** Wed, 29 Sep 2021 16:00:25 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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

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

**From:** Washington Post Live <postlive@washpost.com>

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

**Subject:** Ticket ID # 2377303: Protecting Public Safety, 6/28

**Date:** Mon, 27 Jun 2022 21:12:00 +0000

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

Thank you for contacting The Washington Post.

Your inquiry with ticket #(2377303) has been received and will be reviewed by our staff.

In the meantime, you may find the following information helpful.

Forgot your password? Reset it through this link:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/subscribe/signin/forgot>

To view your subscription details or manage your subscription, log in to [washingtonpost.com/profile](https://www.washingtonpost.com/profile).

To add additional comments regarding this issue, please reply to this email.

---

This email is a service from Washington Post Customer Care.

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

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



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

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

**Subject:** Thurs. at 12:00 p.m. ET: Business owners on navigating the pandemic and country's racial reckoning

**Date:** Wed, 1 Dec 2021 20:05:15 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

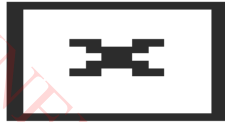


OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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

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

**From:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Reuters.com Password Reset  
**Date:** Sun, 12 Dec 2021 22:52:20 +0000



# Reset password

Reset your password by following the link. This link will expire after 24 hours.

**Reset password**

If you ignore this email, your password won't change.

If you didn't request a password reset, please contact [customer support](#).

---



**Terms, conditions, and privacy statement**

© 2021 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.

3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036

**Sender:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>

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

**From:** GEC-PROGRAMS <GEC-PROGRAMS@state.gov>  
**To:** (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org  
**Subject:** Results Notification SAPP0067119 Poynter Institute  
**Date:** Wed, 29 Jun 2022 17:26:50 +0000

Good morning Alanna Dvorak,

The decision regarding your referenced application to SFOP0008566 Support to Fact-Checking Networks is attached.

Thank you for submitting your application for review, and we look forward to your response.

Best regards,  
GEC Programs

**Sender:** GEC-PROGRAMS <GEC-PROGRAMS@state.gov>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org

**Department of State**

---

**Application Results Notification**

---

June 29, 2022

REF: Notice of Funding Opportunity SFOP00008566, Support to Fact-Checking Networks  
Application SAPP0067119

Poynter Institute  
Alanna Dvorak  
801 Third St S.,  
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701 USA

Dear Alanna Dvorak :

Your referenced application submitted in response to the above Global Engagement Center funding opportunity was given careful consideration by a merit review panel. Regrettably, it was not recommended for funding.

Thank you for submitting your application for review, and we look forward to your continued interest in future Global Engagement Center funding opportunities.

Kind regards,

GEC Programs  
[GEC-Programs@state.gov](mailto:GEC-Programs@state.gov)

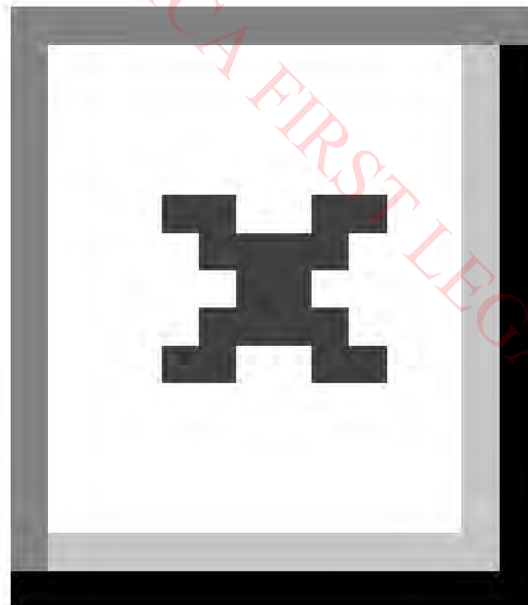
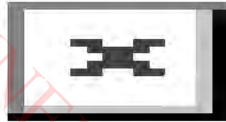


**From:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>

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

**Subject:** Reminder – please confirm your email

**Date:** Wed, 13 Jul 2022 19:38:20 +0000

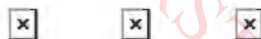


# Don't forget to confirm

We noticed you haven't confirmed your Reuters.com account. Continue to access the outstanding journalism and insights you rely on by confirming your Reuters account.

## Confirm account

This link will expire in 24 hours.



## Terms, conditions, and privacy statement

© 2022 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.

3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036

**Sender:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>

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

**From:** Maarten Schenk (b)(6)@leadstories.com>

**To:** Thanos Sitistas (b)(6)@ellinikahoaxes.gr>

Tijana Cvjetćanin (b)(6)@istinomjer.ba>;

Jency Jacob (b)(6)@boomlive.in>;

Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Gulin (b)(6)@teyit.org>;

Rajneil Kamath (b)(6)@ncmn.in>;

Coreena Soares (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@15min.lt>;

Inga Springe (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@newsmobile.in>;

Ana Brakus (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

Rabiu Alhassan (b)(6)@ghanafact.com>;

Angie Holan (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

**CC:** Bwhitaker (b)(6)@ap.org>;

Jeanfreddy (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

Ellen Tordesillas (b)(6)@verafiles.org>;

Pmfernandez (b)(6)@chequeado.com>;

(b)(6)@zastone.ba>;

MStewart (b)(6)@usatoday.com>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@mdfgeorgia.ge>;

Enock NYARIKI (b)(6)@pesacheck.org>;

Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Harrison Mantas (b)(6)@poynter.org>

**Subject:** Re: Working group to address harassment against fact-checkers

**Date:** Tue, 6 Jul 2021 12:08:23 +0200

Approved and thanks.

Maarten

-----

<http://leadstories.com> - Debunking fake news as it happens

<http://get.trendolizer.com> - Discover what is trending online, on any topic, from any source

<http://opensharecount.com> - Get your Twitter share count back

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 10:59 AM Thanos Sitistas (b)(6)@ellinikahoaxes.gr> wrote:  
Thanks Baybars. I'd love to be part of this initiative.

**Thanos Sitistas (Epachtitis)**

Senior Editor - Coordinator



M: (b)(6)  
Chrysospathi 2-4,  
54629, Thessaloniki  
<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr>



x x x

Στις Τρί, 6 Ιουλ 2021 στις 11:47 π.μ., ο/η Tijana Cvjetićanin <(b)(6)@istinomjer.ba> έγραψε:  
Yes, thank you Baybars!

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 6:28 AM Jency Jacob <(b)(6)@boomlive.in> wrote:  
Dear Baybars,

Glad to be a part and contribute in whichever way I can.

Cheers to all.

Regards

Jency

On Mon, Jul 5, 2021 at 4:42 PM Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:  
Dear friends & colleagues,

Hope you had a restful weekend.

I would like to thank you so much for your interest in this working group to help fact-checkers around the world to address harassment and threats for our work.

We have received a total of 23 submissions to join this working group. It's great to see such a high volume of interest!

I would like to suggest the below model to launch this working group.

#### **Broader group for monitoring and evaluation**

This broader group convenes on a quarterly basis to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of IFCN's actions to help fact-checkers around the world under stress and risks due to harassment and threats. It also provides feedback to IFCN on such activities and evaluates IFCN's performance in those areas by working with IFCN on publishing quarterly "Harassment against fact-checkers" reports for verified signatories and the public.

This group will be updated on a 2/3 basis in a calendar year.

#### **Core group for consulting and planning (group of 11)**

A smaller group acts as the core group for consulting and planning by convening on a monthly basis to discuss reported harassment cases and advising IFCN with action items. This group is provided with immediate updates on every harassment case reported by the fact-checking community and asked for their guidance and input.

This group will be updated on a 2/3 basis in a calendar year.

To move forward, I'm suggesting inviting the following names to the core group considering the diversity in geography and background.

Ana Brakus | Faktograf | Croatia  
Angie Holan | Politifact | United States  
Barbara Whitaker | Associated Press | United States  
Ellen Tordesillas | Vera Files | Phillippines  
Gülin Çavuş | Teyit | Turkey  
Jency Jacob | Boom | India  
Maarten Schenk | Lead Stories | Belgium / United States  
Pablo M. Fernandez | Chequeado | Argentina  
Rabiu Alhassan | GhanaFact | Ghana  
Thanos Sitistas | Elinika Hoaxes | Greece  
Tijana Cvjetićanin | Raskrinkavanje | Bosnia-Herzegovina

#### **Action items for next steps**

I would like you to let me know if you approve the suggested core group by submitting this form no later than this Friday, 9th of July.

Once we have the core group formed, I'll send further information on regular calls (quarterly for the broader group and monthly for the core group) as well as communication methods to foster rapid and effective dialogue.

Please kindly note that this proposed model is not to be set in stone and will require further consultation and discussion to be a better asset for the fact-checking community. Your inputs and feedback are highly needed and appreciated! There will be more opportunities to reflect on this and improve the model on the go as we tackle future challenges and identify room for improvement!

Thank you so much!

Best-

--

Baybars Örsek

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

**Sender:** Maarten Schenk (b)(6)@leadstories.com>

Thanos Sitistas (b)(6)@ellinikahoaxes.gr>;  
Tijana Cvjeticanin (b)(6)@istinomjer.ba>;  
Jency Jacob (b)(6)@boomlive.in>;  
Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;  
Gulin (b)(6)@teyit.org>;  
Rajneil Kamath (b)(6)@ncmn.in>;  
Coreena Suares (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@15min.lt>;  
Inga Springe (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@newsmobile.in>;  
Ana Brakus (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Rabiu Alhassan (b)(6)@ghanafact.com>;

**Recipient:**

Angie Holan (b)(6)@poynter.org>;  
Bwhitaker (b)(6)@ap.org>;  
Jeanfreddy (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Ellen Tordesillas (b)(6)@verafiles.org>;  
Pmfernandez (b)(6)@chequeado.com>;  
(b)(6)@zastone.ba>;  
MStewart (b)(6)@usatoday.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@mdfgeorgia.ge>;  
Enock NYARIKI (b)(6)@pesacheck.org>;  
Ferdí Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;  
Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>;  
Harrison Mantas (b)(6)@poynter.org>

**From:** Thanos Sitistas (b)(6)@ellinikahoaxes.gr>

**To:** Tijana Cvjetćanin (b)(6)@istinomjer.ba>

Jency Jacob (b)(6)@boomlive.in>;

Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>;

Gulin (b)(6)@teyit.org>;

Rajneil Kamath (h)(6)@ncmn.in>;

Coreena Suares (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@15min.lt>;

Inga Springe (h)(6)@gmail.com>;

(h)(6)@newsmobile.in>;

Ana Brakus (h)(6)@gmail.com>;

Rabiu Alhassan (h)(6)@ghanafact.com>;

Angie Holan (h)(6)@poynter.org>;

Bwhitaker (h)(6)@ap.org>;

**CC:** Jeanfreddy (h)(6)@gmail.com>;

Maarten Schenk (h)(6)@leadstories.com>;

Ellen Tordesillas (h)(6)@verafiles.org>;

Pmfernandez (b)(6)@chequeado.com>;

(b)(6)@zastone.ba>;

MStewart (h)(6)@usatoday.com>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(h)(6)@mdfgeorgia.ge>;

Enock NYARIKI (b)(6)@pesacheck.org>;

Ferdi Ozsoy (h)(6)@poynter.org>;

Alanna Dvorak (h)(6)@poynter.org>;

Harrison Mantas (h)(6)@poynter.org>

**Subject:** Re: Working group to address harassment against fact-checkers

**Date:** Tue, 6 Jul 2021 11:58:31 +0300

Thanks Baybars. I'd love to be part of this initiative.

**Thanos Sitistas (Epachtitis)**

Senior Editor - Coordinator



M: (h)(6)  
Chrysospathi 2-4,  
54629, Thessaloniki  
<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr>



✖ ✖ ✖

Στις Τρί, 6 Ιουλ 2021 στις 11:47 π.μ., ο/η Tijana Cvjetćanin (b)(6)@istinomjer.ba> έγραψε:  
Yes, thank you Baybars!

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 6:28 AM Jency Jacob (b)(6)@boomlive.in> wrote:  
Dear Baybars,



Glad to be a part and contribute in whichever way I can.

Cheers to all.

Regards

Jency

On Mon, Jul 5, 2021 at 4:42 PM Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:  
Dear friends & colleagues,

Hope you had a restful weekend.

I would like to thank you so much for your interest in this working group to help fact-checkers around the world to address harassment and threats for our work.

We have received a total of 23 submissions to join this working group. It's great to see such a high volume of interest!

I would like to suggest the below model to launch this working group.

#### **Broader group for monitoring and evaluation**

This broader group convenes on a quarterly basis to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of IFCN's actions to help fact-checkers around the world under stress and risks due to harassment and threats. It also provides feedback to IFCN on such activities and evaluates IFCN's performance in those areas by working with IFCN on publishing quarterly "Harassment against fact-checkers" reports for verified signatories and the public.

This group will be updated on a 2/3 basis in a calendar year.

#### **Core group for consulting and planning (group of 11)**

A smaller group acts as the core group for consulting and planning by convening on a monthly basis to discuss reported harassment cases and advising IFCN with action items. This group is provided with immediate updates on every harassment case reported by the fact-checking community and asked for their guidance and input.

This group will be updated on a 2/3 basis in a calendar year.

To move forward, I'm suggesting inviting the following names to the core group considering the diversity in geography and background.

Ana Brakus | Faktograf | Croatia  
Angie Holan | Politifact | United States  
Barbara Whitaker | Associated Press | United States



Ellen Tordesillas | Vera Files | Phillippines  
Gülin Çavuş | Teyit | Turkey  
Jency Jacob | Boom | India  
Maarten Schenk | Lead Stories | Belgium / United States  
Pablo M. Fernandez | Chequeado | Argentina  
Rabiu Alhassan | GhanaFact | Ghana  
Thanos Sitistas | Elinika Hoaxes | Greece  
Tijana Cvjetićanin | Raskrinkavanje | Bosnia-Herzegovina

### Action items for next steps

I would like you to let me know if you approve the suggested core group by submitting this form no later than this Friday, 9th of July.

Once we have the core group formed, I'll send further information on regular calls (quarterly for the broader group and monthly for the core group) as well as communication methods to foster rapid and effective dialogue.

Please kindly note that this proposed model is not to be set in stone and will require further consultation and discussion to be a better asset for the fact-checking community. Your inputs and feedback are highly needed and appreciated! There will be more opportunities to reflect on this and improve the model on the go as we tackle future challenges and identify room for improvement!

Thank you so much!

Best-

--

Baybars Örsek

**Director** | International Fact-Checking Network

@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

**Sender:** Thanos Sitistas (b)(6)@ellinikahoaxes.gr>

Tijana Cvjetićanin (b)(6)@istinomjer.ba>;

Jency Jacob (b)(6)@boomlive.in>;

Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Gulin (b)(6)@teyit.org>;

Rajneil Kamath (b)(6)@ncmn.in>;

**Recipient:** Coreena Suares (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@15min.lt>;

Inga Springe (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@newsmobile.in>;

Ana Brakus (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

Rabiu Alhassan (b)(6)@ghanafact.com>;

Angie Holan (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Bwhitaker (b)(6)@ap.org>;  
Jeanfreddy (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Maarten Schenk (b)(6)@leadstories.com>;  
Ellen Tordesillas (b)(6)@verafiles.org>;  
Pmfernandez (b)(6)@chequeado.com>;  
(b)(6)@zastone.ba>;  
MStewart (b)(6)@usatoday.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@mdfgeorgia.ge>;  
Enock NYARIKI (b)(6)@pesacheck.org>;  
Ferdí Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;  
Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>;  
Harrison Mantas (b)(6)@poynter.org>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** "Khin, John" (b)(6)@ap.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Subject:** RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

**Date:** Fri, 5 Mar 2021 18:26:30 +0000

Hi (b)(6)

Instead of the AP Academy website listed below, please use the new updated site of  
[https://aphelp.ap.org/Content/SupportDocs/apnewsroom/#t=Video\\_Tutorials.htm](https://aphelp.ap.org/Content/SupportDocs/apnewsroom/#t=Video_Tutorials.htm)

Hope this help and have a great weekend,

John

---

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 03, 2021 2:56 PM

**To:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>; Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>

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

**Subject:** RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

[EXTERNAL]

Thanks Dave-

We will send them the below materials and share John's email. 4 pm your time is good for us so can you share a day that works for you and we can invite them to participate?  
Have a lovely one.

Many thanks, (b)(6)

---

**From:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 4, 2021 7:50 AM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>

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

**Subject:** RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi (b)(6)

Please have the user's that require account verification and resets reach out directly to John Khin above.

\*John please re-run current users list to and provide for (b)(6)

Resending the link for online training materials on AP Academy:

<https://www.ap.org/ap-academy/>

Also, we would like to let you know that we now have a product training and client engagement team and would be happy to schedule a Zoom presentation for the group. Realize difficult with time change involved but we have some people that could be game to do this at an odd hour.

Thanks,

Dave

---

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 03, 2021 12:49 AM

**To:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>; Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>

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

**Subject:** RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Dave and John-

I am following up on the below email. We'd really like to reach out to the members and give them helpful info on using this service.

Have a good one.

Many thanks, (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:29 AM

**To:** (b)(6)@ap.org; Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi Dave and John-

Per the report you sent to Maggie I can see that several of the users need to verify accounts or change their passwords. Can you send us the Youtube videos you mentioned as well as the best email for the users who need assistant resetting or verifying their accounts. We'd like to reach out to all of them again to encourage them to use the service and we can ask if they'd like a training via WebEx.

In the meantime is there any way to see how much the active users are accessing and/or downloading from AP?

Have a wonderful day.

Many thanks, (b)(6)

---

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:18 AM

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

**Subject:** FW: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi (b)(6)

FYI

(b)(6)

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office

U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

(b)(6)@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva

✕ ✕ ✕

---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 2:23 PM

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

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

**Subject:** FW: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi (b)(6)

Received this from Dave today. Have emailed him back to ask for some guidance on how to read this report as its not very clear to me.

Appreciate if you have more insight on this to share, thank you.

Cheers,

(b)(6)

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office

U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

(b)(6)@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva

✕ ✕ ✕

---

**From:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:46 AM

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

**Cc:** Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Subject:** RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific



Hi (b)(6)

Well we made it to November 4<sup>th</sup> but still no declared winner, historic and exhausting at once. Here is the information you requested. It seems to me that it would be a good idea to organize a training session or training materials for you users. Realize there is a time difference issue but we can be flexible for a webex session, there is also a plethora of information online including instructional YouTube videos – please let me know how that sounds.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave

---

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

**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 6:44 PM

**To:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Cc:** Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Subject:** RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Dave,

Awesome to hear from you! Yes thank you, usage reports will be most appreciated when you get a chance. Of course, the elections just around the corner, I'm excited seeing and hearing all about that. Wishing you and the team all the very best in your coverage.

Talk soon. Have a gorgeous evening on that end.

Cheers,

(b)(6)

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office  
U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

(b)(6)@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva

✕ ✕ ✕

---

**From:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 10:38 AM

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

**Cc:** Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Subject:** RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi (b)(6)

My apologies for the delayed response and thank you for bumping this up in my inbox. We can run usage reports for you, typically it would take a couple days to compile and deliver, it may take a bit longer as elections are currently consuming a lot of resources.

I will keep you posted and provide a delivery date on the reports shortly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave

---

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

**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 4:52 PM

**To:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Cc:** Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Subject:** RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

[EXTERNAL]

Good Afternoon Mr. Rizzo,

Just following up on my email. Appreciate if you have had a moment to consider the request.

Thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you.

Cheers,

(b)(6)

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office

U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

(b)(6)@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva

✕ ✕ ✕

---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 3:52 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@ap.org' (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Cc:** (b)(6)@ap.org' (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Subject:** Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Good Afternoon Mr. Rizzo,

Trust this email finds you well. My name is (b)(6) Boyle and I'm working with the US Embassy in Suva, Fiji.

I understand you were integral in the free provision of AP content for the Pacific Islands and I would appreciate your assistance in my current task to highlight some data on the program's uptake.

I'm hoping to compile some data on how many news organizations in the Pacific are using the free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service since the inception of the grant/program.

Is there a way in which your organization is able to assist with this information gathering, also how often they are using the content?

Appreciate your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,

(b)(6)

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office  
U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

(b)(6)

@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva

✕ ✕ ✕

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.



**Sender:** "Khin, John" (b)(6)@ap.org>

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;  
Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis  
**Date:** Mon, 1 Feb 2021 14:48:49 +0000

Good afternoon Erica,  
I defer to Baybars from Poynter and Vonda from IWPR (who manages this sub-award for GEC).  
From the latest IWPR monthly report I received, Poynter is preparing to roll out its initial trainings in February in select countries, although it is unclear when Tunisia activities will occur. To note, Poynter's International Fact-Checking Network received a 2021 Nobel Peace Prize nomination. We are thrilled to support Baybars on such impactful work.

Kindly,

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On January 29, 2021 at 02:24:51 EST, Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:  
Hi Baybars and (b)(6)  
Happy New Year. I'm checking in to see if you have any updates on the Poynter Tunisia project. I look forward to your feedback.

*Erica Thibault*

(b)(6)@state.gov

(b)(6)

I am currently teleworking

---

**From:** Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2020 11:27 PM  
**To:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Baybars

I hope that you are doing well. As Gabby noted, HAICA appears to be a great fit. Is there anything specific that you need from Embassy Tunis in order to move forward? If not, what is your current timeline and your planned next steps, knowing that COVID may require adjustments?

Best regards,

Erica Thibault  
Counselor for Public Affairs  
U.S. Embassy Tunis

(b)(6) @state.gov

(b)(6)

I am currently teleworking

---

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

**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 6:44 PM

**To:** Price, Gabrielle M ( Tunis)

**Cc:** (b)(6) Vonda Wolcott; Alan Davis; (b)(6) Ferdi Ozsoy; Thibault, Erica (Tunis); Fanous, Mary K (Tunis)

**Subject:** Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Gabrielle,

Thanks for sharing those with me.

Hope you have completed your transition smoothly.

Erica and Mary,

I'd be more than happy to jump on a call and discuss about this to know more about their fitness to our program.

Would that be possible to do it next week?

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best-

Baybars

On Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 1:26 PM Price, Gabrielle M ( Tunis) (b)(6) @state.gov> wrote:  
Hi Baybars,

I am transitioning out of post, so I will leave my colleagues Erica and Mary to respond to this officially. I think the HAICA proposal looks promising and that it is worth serious consideration. (My only issue with the proposal is that they have the Covid timeline in Tunisia wrong.) It appears to dovetail with another project supported by the Embassy / GEC on Counter disinformation and propaganda on the Covid-19 pandemic in Tunisia. Our grantee is the Grande Ecole de la Communication (GEC) which is working with the Tunisian Ministry of Health.

Best regards,

Gabrielle

---

**From:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 3:21 PM  
**To:** Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hello again,

Hope this finds you in a good health.

Just wanted to kindly remind my inquiry about your thoughts on HAICA from Tunisia as a potential local partner for our training engagement in the country.

I'm sharing two documents that I've received about the organization (via UNDP) and kindly asking your feedback on their status and eligibility to be a good partner for this project.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 10:35 AM Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:  
Hello everyone,

Just wanted to get a quick feedback on [haica.tn](https://haica.tn) and their collaborative initiative <https://tunisiachecknews.com/>

UNDP and Council of Europe seem to be supporting them

I'm aware that HAICA is a constitutional body set up after the revolution and is not a private organization, however, wondering if they are more independent than similar organizations around the world.

Thanks a lot!

Baybars

On Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 12:42 PM Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:  
Hi Gabby,

Hope you had a great weekend!

Just wanted to kindly check in since I have not received an invite yet.

I believe we are still confirmed for tomorrow 11am EDT.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 9:25 AM Price, Gabrielle M ( Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:  
Super!

---

**From:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 2:22 PM  
**To:** Price, Gabrielle M ( Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Thibault, Erica (LEO) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Gabby,

Sure thing! Please kindly feel free to send an invite with your preferred method of communication.

Looking forward to it!

Best-

Baybars



On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 9:16 AM Price, Gabrielle M ( Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:  
Baybars,

That's great. Would it be possible to push the moving back to 11 am Tampa / 4 pm Tunis? That better suits a key person on our side. We can set the meeting up via Teams or Zoom. Let us know your preference and we'll send a link by Monday am our time.

Thanks again,

Gabby

---

**From:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 2:07 PM  
**To:** Price, Gabrielle M ( Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net; (b)(6)@state.gov; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org; Thibault, Erica (LEO) (b)(6)@state.gov; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Yes, that works for me.

Looking forward to it!

Baybas

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 5:53 AM Price, Gabrielle M ( Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:  
Hi Baybars,

Tuesday morning (Eastern time) works well for us too. Are you available around 10 am Tampa / 3 PM Tunis?

Thanks,

Gabby

---

**From:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2020 5:35 PM  
**To:** Price, Gabrielle M ( Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net; (b)(6)@state.gov; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org; Thibault, Erica (LEO) (b)(6)@state.gov; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Gabby,

Great to hear from you!

Next week would be very ideal for me!

I'm based in Florida, Eastern Time Zone

My Tuesday morning (EDT) seems flexible. I hope that would work for you given the time difference and your schedule.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 12:31 PM Price, Gabrielle M ( Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:  
Dear Baybars,

It is a pleasure to meet you. Perhaps we can meet next week over Zoom. Please let me know where you are based so that we can work out a date and time. I would like to include out incoming PAO, Erica Thibault, and our new press officer, Mary Fanous in the call.

Best regards,

Gabby

---

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

**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2020 3:52 PM

**To:** Price, Gabrielle M ( Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>

**Subject:** Fwd: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Dear Gabby Price and all,

Hope this email finds you well.

Thanks a lot for this introduction, Nick! Happy to be connected.

Gaby, we are lacking a trainee organization in Tunisia to kick off the trainings. Dogruluk Payi from Turkey will be our regional partner in those trainings, therefore will be providing guidance and support throughout the implementation of the engagement.

We like to hear your thoughts and guidance on identifying a Tunisian newsroom and/or non-profit organization to engage with and train them to be eligible for the International Fact-Checking Network's Code of Principles.

I'll be more than happy to connect with the colleagues at the embassy to seek help in our search for a partner in the country.

Available for a call at your convenience.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Date: Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 5:35 PM

Subject: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

To: (b)(6)@poynter.org, (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Cc: Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>, Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>, (b)(6)@state.gov>

Baybars,

I hope you are doing well! I'm touching base with you regarding the Tunisia portion of your IFCN program. I understand from your recent amendment that Poynter still seeks a local Tunisian organization with whom to partner.

May you provide our public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis with an update on where things stand regarding Tunisia **by open of business tomorrow (Thursday)**? Her name is Gabby Price and her email is (b)(6)@state.gov. She is already aware that you and IWPR will reach out with an update and to begin coordinating on potential local implementers. The embassy likely can assist you in your search.

Please cc myself, Vonda, Alan, and (b)(6)@state.gov from our Near Eastern Affairs Bureau on your email. I ask with urgency because Gabby is leaving her position within the next several days. She would like to brief her successor on all pending projects to avoid any disconnect or confusion that the transition may cause. It would also be useful for you to mention that you've identified Doğruluk Payı -- the Turkish fact-checking organization -- as the one who will be connected with the Tunisian organization TBD.

Thank you again, and I do hope you and your family are remaining healthy these days.

Kindly,

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)@state.gov

--

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

--

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

--

Baybars Örsek

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

--

Baybars Örsek

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

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

Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;

Baybars Örsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

**Recipient:** Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**From:** Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**To:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Response for interview request with State Department's Global Engagement Center  
**Date:** Fri, 26 Aug 2022 10:28:57 -0700

Sure, I think so. Best time for me might be later this afternoon, say around 4 or 5 eastern?

The New York Times  
Twitter: @stevenleemyers  
Facebook: StevenLeeMyersNYT  
What'sApp and Signal, (b)(6)

On Fri, Aug 26, 2022 at 10:18 AM GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov> wrote:  
Good afternoon Mr. Myers,  
Thanks for getting back to us.  
Could you do a Microsoft Teams call?

(b)(6)

**From:** Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 26, 2022 12:46 PM  
**To:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Response for interview request with State Department's Global Engagement Center

Thank you very much. I am free today (on Pacific coast time) at (b)(6)  
Best

Steve  
The New York Times  
Twitter: @stevenleemyers  
Facebook: StevenLeeMyersNYT  
What'sApp and Signal, +(b)(6)

On Fri, Aug 26, 2022 at 6:44 AM GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov> wrote:  
Good morning Mr. Myers,  
I'm reaching out from the State Department's Global Engagement Center. We received notice that you would like to speak to an official at the Department regarding Russian disinformation operations.

I believe that your deadline is 5:00pm today. We have someone available to speak with you between 1:30 and 5 today - please let us know if this works for you.

We ask that the interview be on background and attributed to a State Department official.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer  
Global Engagement Center  
U.S. Department of State  
All Native Group Contractor

x]

**Sender:** Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Recipient:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

**From:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re:  
**Date:** Thu, 4 Feb 2021 15:57:31 -0500

We have about 30 to 60 before goes into final edits/publication. Precise timing unclear.

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 3:46 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Julian,

We still plan to respond today, let us know if you can hold just a bit longer. Sorry for the delay.

Very best,

(b)(6)

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

x]

**From:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 3:13 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Re:

Checking in

Julian E. Barnes  
Intelligence, National Security reporter  
The New York Times  
(b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 10:42 AM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Julian,

I think it should be very shortly.

Very best,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer  
Global Engagement Center  
U.S. Department of State  
Accenture Federal Services Contractor

Cell: (b)(6)

x]

**From:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:39 AM

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

**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re:

Will you be able to get back to me today?

Julian E. Barnes  
Intelligence, National Security reporter  
The New York Times  
+(b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 9:44 AM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Julian,

Can you give us a little more time? We should be able to get back with you shortly.

Very best,

(b)(6)

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

x]

**From:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 5:22 PM

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

**Subject:**

(b)(6)

Looks like the story I was helping my colleague could go as early as tomorrow afternoon. Not sure if there is anything you will be able to share Thursday morning. Give a ring when you can

(b)(6)

Julian E. Barnes  
Intelligence, National Security reporter  
The New York Times  
+(b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

--

(b)(6) mobile/signal/WhatsApp

**Sender:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

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

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** "Nakashima, Ellen" (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**To:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**CC:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: re-upping last little question  
**Date:** Wed, 16 Mar 2022 12:45:26 +0000

Beautiful and thanks again.

**From:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 8:20 AM  
**To:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: re-upping last little question

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Ok here

**From:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 8:18 AM  
**To:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** re-upping last little question

Ok to say this?

**A State Department official knowledgeable about foreign disinformation**

**From:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:32 PM  
**To:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: just double-checking

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes



**From:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:28 PM  
**To:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: just double-checking

Great and thank you, Ned! That's on-background to a State Department official?

**From:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:17 PM  
**To:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: just double-checking

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER**

Yes, I signed off w doing it on background.

**From:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:13 PM  
**To:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** just double-checking

Hi, Ned,

Just double-checking on my request to speak with the GEC's Daniel Kimmage, who is on leave at NDU, for a story about Ukraine's information campaign.

Would that be okay with you –and under what ground rules –on record or on background?

Many, many thanks!  
Ellen Nakashima  
The Washington Post  
(b)(6)

**Sender:** "Nakashima, Ellen" (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Recipient:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

**From:** Alanna Dvorak (b)(7)(F)@poynter.org>  
**To:** Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;  
**CC:** (b)(7)(F)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Poynter/IFCN call  
**Date:** Wed, 20 Apr 2022 11:27:33 -0400

6 a.m. is a bit early. Is there any way we can move this to within more standard working hours?

Best,  
Alanna

On Wed, Apr 20, 2022 at 11:21 AM Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

### Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

### Or call in (audio only)

(b)(7)(E) United States, Spokane

Phone Conference ID: (b)(7)(E)

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

---

--

Alanna Dvorak

International Training Manager/IFCN

The Poynter Institute

ph: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@poynter.org

www.poynter.org

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

Famous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;

Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;

Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Poynter-GEC intro connection re training resources  
**Date:** Wed, 3 Nov 2021 17:31:51 +0000

Hi Vonda,

Thanks for the introduction.

**Alanna:** Please let me know your availability for a 15-30 minutes call sometime this week and I will send you an invitation to the MS Teams.

Thanks and I look forward to chatting with you.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

China Division | Global Engagement Center  
Regional Program Lead, South and Central Asia (SCA)  
U.S. Department of State  
Contractor - Alutiiq Information Management, LLC

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov, (b)(6)@america.gov



*"Mission: To direct, lead, synchronize, integrate, and coordinate efforts of the Federal Government to recognize, understand, expose, and counter foreign state and foreign non-state propaganda and disinformation efforts aimed at undermining or influencing the policies, security, or stability of the United States, its allies, and partner nations."*

**From:** Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Subject:** Poynter-GEC intro connection re training resources

Good morning all:

(b)(6) I wanted to introduce you to Alanna, who has been leading the project's training activities, including in the SCA region. She works with all training resources, even beyond the IFCN-related work she is doing in connection with our project. She can best answer questions about all of Poynter's training resources and other support.

Thanks!

--

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

---

This electronic mail message and any attached files are intended solely for the named recipients and may contain confidential and proprietary business information of the Institute for War & Peace Reporting (IWPR) and its affiliates. If you are not the named addressee, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail.

Institute for War & Peace Reporting. 48 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, UK. Registered with charitable status in the United Kingdom (charity reg. no: 1027201, company reg. no: 2744185); the United States under IRS Section 501(c)(3); and The Netherlands as a charitable foundation.

**Sender:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Recipient:** Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Poynter-GEC intro connection re training resources  
**Date:** Tue, 9 Nov 2021 19:21:27 +0000

Hi Alanna,

No problem. Please suggest a few available time slots for the next week. I guess 30 minutes should be more than enough. I look forward to chatting with you.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

China Division | Global Engagement Center  
Regional Program Lead, South and Central Asia (SCA)  
U.S. Department of State  
Contractor - Alutiiq Information Management, LLC

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov, (b)(6)@america.gov



*"Mission: To direct, lead, synchronize, integrate, and coordinate efforts of the Federal Government to recognize, understand, expose, and counter foreign state and foreign non-state propaganda and disinformation efforts aimed at undermining or influencing the policies, security, or stability of the United States, its allies, and partner nations."*

**From:** Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 1:59 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Poynter-GEC intro connection re training resources

Hi (b)(6)

Sorry the delay! This sort of got buried in my inbox amidst the IWPR project, the launch of our Facebook programs and two private MENA trainings.

I'm slogging through my final reports for IWPR, so would a meeting next week work for you?

Best,

Alanna

On Wed, Nov 3, 2021 at 1:32 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Vonda,

Thanks for the introduction.

**Alanna:** Please let me know your availability for a 15-30 minutes call sometime this week and I will send you an invitation to the MS Teams.

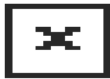
Thanks and I look forward to chatting with you.  
Sincerely,

(b)(6)

China Division | Global Engagement Center  
Regional Program Lead, South and Central Asia (SCA)  
U.S. Department of State  
Contractor - Alutiiq Information Management, LLC

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov, (b)(6)@america.gov



*"Mission: To direct, lead, synchronize, integrate, and coordinate efforts of the Federal Government to recognize, understand, expose, and counter foreign state and foreign non-state propaganda and disinformation efforts aimed at undermining or influencing the policies, security, or stability of the United States, its allies, and partner nations."*

**From:** Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:31 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Alanna Dvorak <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

**Subject:** Poynter-GEC intro connection re training resources

Good morning all:

(b)(6) I wanted to introduce you to Alanna, who has been leading the project's training activities, including in the SCA region. She works with all training resources, even beyond the IFCN-related work she is doing in connection with our project. She can best answer questions about all of Poynter's training resources and other support.  
Thanks!

--

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

information of the Institute for War & Peace Reporting (IWPR) and its affiliates. If you are not the named addressee, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail.

Institute for War & Peace Reporting. 48 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, UK. Registered with charitable status in the United Kingdom (charity reg. no: 1027201, company reg. no: 2744185); the United States under IRS Section 501(c)(3); and The Netherlands as a charitable foundation.

--

Alanna Dvorak  
Interactive Training Manager/IFCN  
The Poynter Institute  
ph: (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@poynter.org  
www.poynter.org

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

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



**From:** "Kroeker, Scott" (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>

**To:** 'Cabral, Roxanne J (Majuro)' (b)(6)@state.gov>

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

**CC:** Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

Joshua Peller (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Subject:** RE: Opportunity for Marshall Islands Journal to join the New York Times Content Project

**Date:** Tue, 15 Dec 2020 19:58:21 +0000

Thanks very much Ambassador. I hope Giff will be open to reconsidering.

Best regards,  
Scott

**Scott Kroeker** | Senior Program Officer, Professional Development Program, East-West Center |  
(b)(6)

**From:** Cabral, Roxanne J (Majuro) (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:46 AM

**To:** Kroeker, Scott (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>

**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Joshua Peller (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Subject:** Re: Opportunity for Marshall Islands Journal to join the New York Times Content Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use Caution with Links and Attachments.

Dear Scott,

Happy to make the introduction. I mentioned this to Giff a few months ago, but he didn't seem that interested. I think the MIJ prefers to focus on local and regional news. But we can give it another try!

I've also been trying to get more content for radio, which is big here. Do you know of any programs which provide short and simple (VOA type) news summaries of the major issues?

Thanks...  
Roxanne

**From:** Kroeker, Scott (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 7:13:40 AM

**To:** Cabral, Roxanne J (Majuro) (b)(6)@state.gov>

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

Wolcott <(b)(6)>@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis <(b)(6)>@iwpr.net>; Joshua Peller <(b)(6)>@nytimes.com>  
**Subject:** Opportunity for Marshall Islands Journal to join the New York Times Content Project

Aloha Ambassador Cabral:

I hope you are keeping healthy and enjoying this holiday season. I am writing to you as the East-West Center is administering a project for the Department of State which provides licensing agreement to use *New York Times* content in select Pacific Islands newsrooms. The funds are drawn from the GEC Information Access Fund which we are accessing through a sub-award with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. We would like to make this opportunity available to the *Marshall Islands Journal* if you think that Giff Johnson would be open to the opportunity and a worthy recipient of the license. The year-long license (valued at \$6,000) would allow the Journal to republish *New York Times* content (in both English and Mandarin languages) in its paper and online presence (if any).

If you think that MIJ would be appropriate would you be willing to make the first approach to introduce Giff to the idea? (b)(6) our GEC contact at INDOPACOM, prefers that approach instead of the EWC directly reaching out, if you are willing. Myself and our contact at the *New York Times* will follow-up your initial query with practical details.

At the end of this email I'm included some boilerplate language used by other embassies to contact media outlets. Feel free to use verbatim or customize to your circumstances.

Thanks very much for your help. Stay safe and happy holidays.

Best regards,  
Scott Kroeker

---

My name is XXXXX and I work with the US Embassy in XXXX it's my pleasure to E-meet you.

I'd like to bring your attention to an opportunity to access content for your publication, the XXXXX.

The U.S. Embassy is offering your news outlet the opportunity to be part of our *New York Times* English & Mandarin content project. We know that many small and medium size news outlets would like to use content from larger outlets, and, that content in Mandarin for occasional Mandarin language supplements is also helpful.

We are pleased to announce a new project for select news outlets in the Pacific:

- 1) free usage license for *New York Times* English and Mandarin content for at least one year,
- 2) custom training from the *New York Times* on their website (so you can most easily access the content you want, and on-going technical support),
- 3) quarterly webinars with prominent international journalists on relevant topics to the Pacific facilitated by the East-West Center, and
- 4) customized training organized by the East-West Center on specific topics you deem most important to your newsroom.

We hope you will join us in this project! If you are interested, we would like to connect you with Scott Kroeker from the East-West Center, who will be organizing logistics."

**Scott Kroeker** | Senior Program Officer, Professional Development Program (b)(6)

**East-West Center**

1601 East-West Road

Honolulu, HI 96848-1601, USA

[EastWestCenter.org](http://EastWestCenter.org)

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

**Sender:** "Kroeker, Scott" (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>

'Cabral, Roxanne J (Majuro)' (b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

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

Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

Joshua Peller (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;  
Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>;  
**To:** ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: OPCW Disinformation Panel - Fine Tuning and Dry Run  
**Date:** Tue, 23 Nov 2021 20:11:33 +0000

Thank you all for chiming in. I will see you tomorrow for the dry-run. This morning worked great and helped us iron a few things out. It should run even better tomorrow. By then we likely have a moderated Q&A system in place.

You should have received an invite for the event itself with the 1PM US EST/6PM London/7PM The Hague start time. I am going to add the EU and Estonian Ambassador to it so you may receive an update.

Thanks again for your participation in this event. We are looking forward to an interesting and very timely discussion.

Regards,

(b)(6)

AVC/CBW

**From:** Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 23, 2021 3:02 PM

**To:** Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>

**Cc:** ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (The Hague)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (The Hague)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; LEINONEN Mika-Markus (EEAS-THE HAGUE) (b)(6)

(b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>

**Subject:** Re: OPCW Disinformation Panel - Fine Tuning and Dry Run

Same here, the delay is fine with me and OK with being recorded.

On Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 3:02 PM Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com> wrote:

Hi all, I'm happy with the delay and its no problem if its recorded.

Thanks

Eliot

On Tue, 23 Nov 2021, 19:53 ERONEN Pasi (EEAS), (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu> wrote:  
Dear all,

Sincerest apologies for my late email reply!

Just to confirm also here, delaying the event with 30 minutes works perfectly well with me.

Also, recording the event works well with me, especially if we also get an access to the recording.

Best regards,  
Pasi

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** 19 November 2021 22:15  
**To:** Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>; ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** OPCW Disinformation Panel - Fine Tuning and Dry Run

Dear Davey, Eliot, Pasi and (b)(6)

Apologies for the long email. I figured you'd rather have it all at once instead of than some repeated back and forth.

Most important and time sensitive: Are you Ok pushing back the event 1/2H? The EU and Estonian Delegation have suggested a 7PM start (The Hague time) to give delegate times to grab a bite before the panel. That would make the panel run from 1PM to 2:30PM Eastern Standard Time.

Another thing I will need your green light: Are you comfortable with the event being recorded. While the event will be limited to the OPCW Delegates and some OPCW Staff who will be invited, we are considering editing a shorter video to be for wider sharing. If we record, based on what is said we can of course revisit. We would not make anything public without your consent.

Also we'd like to schedule a dry run early next week to ensure Microsoft Teams works properly for all of you. This is the platform most OPCW delegations are familiar with because the OPCW uses it. Even if you do not have the App/Software installed, the web version works well. We'd appreciate if you could put your availabilities for the dry run in the doodle below with your initials:

[https://doodle.com/poll/p4t4ve2a6ag6szcs?utm\\_source=poll&utm\\_medium=link](https://doodle.com/poll/p4t4ve2a6ag6szcs?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link)

Attached is the draft invitation, let me know if there is anything you'd like tweaked. It says 7PM but again this is only if that works for all of you. In case you don't know each other already, below are the bios we were planning to share with delegates. We welcome your edits

#### **Davey Alba – New York Times**

Alba is a technology reporter for The New York Times and covers online disinformation and its global harm. She was previously a senior reporter at BuzzFeed News and wrote about artificial intelligence and tech effects on people and communities.



**Pasi Eronen – EUvsDisinfo**

Eronen is a policy officer at EUvsDisinfo, the flagship project of the European External Action Service's East StratCom Task Force established in 2015 to better forecast, address, and respond to disinformation campaigns affecting the European Union, its Member States, and countries in the shared neighborhood.

**Eliot Higgins – Bellingcat**

Higgins is a citizen journalist and founder of Bellingcat the storied open-source investigation website. He has investigated the Syrian Civil War, 2014–15 Russian military intervention in Ukraine, the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, and the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal.

Below is a proposed agenda for the event. Again your suggestions are welcome. I have attached in a separate document the three themes and some suggested questions that John may use to get the conversation started. I will let him chime in on this as well as he was away this week and has not seen the latest draft. Obviously the elephant in the room will be Russia. We would like to keep things as general as possible and let delegates connect the dots.

- a. Brief introductions (1-2 min.) by three co-hosting ambassadors in alphabetical country name order, mirroring the order of themes discussed by panelists:
  - i. Global scope of state-sponsored disinformation (Estonian Amb. Kuusing)
  - ii. Countering disinformation (EU Amb. Leinonen)
  - iii. CW disinformation (U.S. Amb. Manso, hands over to moderator GEC (b)(6) (b)(6))
- a. Moderator remarks, introducing panelists (2-3 min.)
- b. Panelist remarks (10 min. each)
  - i. Davey Alba (NYT)
  - ii. Pasi Eronen (EEAS)
  - iii. Eliot Higgins (Bellingcat)
- a. Moderated Q&A – questions submitted by chat and selected by moderator (30 min.)
- b. Closing remarks by moderator

Thank you all again for accepting to participate in our panel and in John's case to moderate it. We are looking forward to a successful and very timely panel as we just learned that the Russian delegation is planning to hold its own side event on November 26 an hour before that of the Canada/German on the Impact of CW on Women.

Most respectfully,

(b)(6)

Foreign Affairs Officer

Office of Chemical and Biological Weapons Affairs  
Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

(b)(6) desk)  
(b)(6) cell)

(b)(6) @state.gov  
(b)(6) @state.sgov.gov

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

--

**Davey Alba**

| Reporter |

(b)(6)

@daveyalba

620 Eighth Avenue, 4th Floor,

New York, NY 10018

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

Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;

Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>;

ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>;

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Stuart Thompson (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**CC:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: NYT inquiry - Disinformation from Russia  
**Date:** Wed, 9 Mar 2022 21:16:03 +0000

Hi Stuart,

Responses below. You can attribute these on background to a Senior State Department Official. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

***What propaganda or misleading information are you seeing out of Russia? Do you have examples?***

- We took note of Russia's false claims about alleged U.S. chemical and biological weapons labs in Ukraine. We've also seen Chinese officials echo these conspiracy theories.
- To be clear: this is preposterous. It's exactly the kind of disinformation operation we've seen repeatedly from the Russians over the years in Ukraine and in other countries around the world, which have been debunked conclusively, and an example of the types of false pretexts we have been warning the Russians would invent.
- The United States is in full compliance with its obligations under the Biological Weapons Convention and does not develop or possess such weapons anywhere.
- It's Russia that has a long and well-documented track record of using chemical weapons, including in attempted assassinations and poisoning of Putin's political enemies like Alexey Navalny. It's Russia that continues to support the Assad regime in Syria, which has repeatedly used chemical weapons. It's Russia that has long maintained a biological weapons program in violation of international law.



- Also, Russia has a track record of accusing the West of the very crimes that Russia itself is perpetrating. Prior to the war, Russia falsely accused the U.S. of deploying contractors with chemical weapons in Ukraine.
- This is all an obvious ploy by Russia to try to justify further premeditated, unprovoked, and unjustified attacks on Ukraine.
- Now that Russia has made these false claims, and China has seemingly endorsed this propaganda, we should all be on the lookout for Russia to possibly use these kinds of chemical or biological weapons in Ukraine, or to create a false flag operation using them. It's a clear pattern, and no one should fall for it.
- In response to increasing media and social media exposure of the Russian military targeting civilians in Ukraine, Russia is also operating "debunking" disinformation campaigns to cover up its actions and label accurate reporting as fake.
- One example is the allegedly state-linked "Война с фейками" or "War with Fakes" website and its affiliated Telegram channel which appeared on February 24, at the outset of Russia's further invasion of Ukraine. The site and channel describe all incriminating videos they showcase as "fakes." "War with Fakes" also amplifies the narrative that Ukrainian forces are to blame for Russia's attacks impacting schools, hospitals, and homes in an attempt to cover up Russia's strikes on or near civilian buildings.
- Another example: Russia's Defense Ministry spokesperson claimed Ukraine was holding a group of Indian students "hostage" to use them as human shields. President Putin repeated this allegation in his March 2 conversation with Indian Prime Minister Modi, offering Moscow's help. However, the Indian Foreign Ministry said it had not received any reports of its citizens being held in this manner.

***Can you speak to their overall strategy and goals regarding misinformation/propaganda right now?***

- Russia has a long history of manipulating information to pursue its own strategic goals and accomplish its political agenda.
- The Global Engagement Center (GEC) has seen an increase in Russian disinformation operations about Ukraine across the Russian disinformation ecosystem, especially on social media platforms.
- Russia's disinformation ecosystem includes official channels, such as statements from the Kremlin and Russian officials in Moscow and overseas; narratives on state-sponsored media platforms; proxy websites connected to the Russian government; amplification by external actors who echo Kremlin talking points; as well as bots and other tools to push their narratives forward.
- All of these are part of the coordinated effort by Russia's government to spread Kremlin talking points globally, to undermine confidence in Ukraine's government, to shift blame away from the Kremlin, and to cause confusion.

***Who are they targeting? Russians, the West, both?***

- Pro-Kremlin media and influencers, as well as proxy sites covertly controlled by the Kremlin, continue to spread disinformation as part of ongoing Russian influence operations intended to demoralize Ukraine, globally discredit the United States and other countries supporting Ukraine, and create fissures in relations between Western countries and Ukraine. The Russian government's disinformation efforts are increasingly being used against Russian citizens as well.
- Russian government-backed online influence actors are likely using the following websites and blogs, among others, to promote

Kremlin interests and produce and amplify Russian officials' or state media disinformation targeting Ukraine, NATO, the European Union, and the United States:

- topwar.ru
- army-news.ru
- e-news.su
- medium-info.ru
- pan.bg
- politikus.ru (dormant)
- pravdoryb.info
- Rusonline.org
- westvoices.ru

*Can you say anything about the platforms you're seeing used for this purpose? Is it just state-run media or are there other avenues, like social media?*

- We know the Russian government tasks and influences many proxy media outlets to publish content that denigrates Ukraine and depicts Ukraine as the aggressor in its ongoing invasion.
- Articles from these proxy outlets make their way to official Russian state-funded media outlets such as RIA Novosti, and to propaganda outlets such as RT and Sputnik, as well as to foreign outlets, where they are at times portrayed as coming from legitimate sources
- Russia's government sows disinformation and propaganda meant to undermine, demoralize, and discredit Ukrainian governmental organizations and personnel.
- State-media accounts, such as RT Arabic, RT Spanish, and others promote this disinformation globally.

***Are you aware of any bot activity or similar social media manipulation?***

- Yes. Russia has a track record of using bots, false personas and other means of manipulating platform algorithms and amplifying the impact of its disinformation.
- The Department of State has noted that a number of social media companies are taking measures as a result of the further Russian invasion of Ukraine to label Russian state-sponsored media organizations, to suspend those violating their terms of service, and to reduce the opportunity of purveyors of disinformation to manipulate the platform algorithms.

(b)(6)

National Media Strategy | Global Events & Travel  
Global Public Affairs | U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

**From:** Stuart Thompson (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 6:16 PM

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

**Subject:** Re: NYT inquiry - Disinformation from Russia

Great, thanks!

Stuart A. Thompson

REPORTER

P: (b)(6)

F: (b)(6)@nytimes.com

A: 620 8th Ave # 1, New York, NY 10018

On Tue, Mar 8, 2022 at 6:00 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Stuart,

These answers will be ready tomorrow.

(b)(6)

National Media Strategy | Global Events & Travel  
Global Public Affairs | U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

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

**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2022 9:12 AM

**To:** Stuart Thompson (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Subject:** Re: NYT inquiry - Disinformation from Russia

Hi Stuart,

Thanks for sending over. We'll do our best to answer your questions ASAP, but want to note our answers might not be ready until Wednesday.

(b)(6)

National Media Strategy | Global Events & Travel  
Global Public Affairs | U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

**From:** Stuart Thompson (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2022 8:35 AM

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

**Subject:** Re: NYT inquiry - Disinformation from Russia

Hi (b)(6) thanks! I'm hoping to close this piece by tomorrow.

To the extent you can answer:

- 1) What propaganda or misleading information are you seeing out of Russia? Do you have examples?
- 2) Can you speak to their overall strategy and goals regarding misinformation/propaganda right now?
- 3) Who are they targeting? Russians, the West, both?
- 4) Can you say anything about the platforms you're seeing used for this purpose? Is it just state-run media or are there other avenues, like social media?
- 5) Are you aware of any bot activity or similar social media manipulation?

Thanks so much.

Stuart A. Thompson



REPORTER

P: (b)(6)

E: (b)(6)@nytimes.com

A: 620 8th Ave # 1, New York, NY 10018

On Sun, Mar 6, 2022 at 12:20 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Stuart,

Thanks for reaching out! If you send over written questions, we will certainly get them answered for you this week. What is your deadline?

(b)(6)

National Media Strategy | Global Events & Travel  
Global Public Affairs | U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

**From:** Stuart Thompson (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Friday, March 4, 2022 1:13 PM

**To:** PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>

**Subject:** NYT inquiry - Disinformation from Russia

Hi there, I'm working on a story about Russia's disinformation/propaganda efforts and I'm wondering if I can connect with someone at the State Department to hear about what they've seen in this so far.

If you have any other prepared materials on these efforts, I'd also love to take a look.

Many thanks!

Stuart A. Thompson



REPORTER

P: (b)(6)

E: (b)(6)@nytimes.com

A: 620 8th Ave # 1, New York, NY 10018

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

**Recipient:** Stuart Thompson (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;  
GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

OPINION BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
**CC:** DL USCYBERCOM\_PAO (H3C9) <DLUSCC\_J0\_PAO@cybercom.mil>;  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: NYT connection to State Dept GEC  
**Date:** Tue, 2 Feb 2021 13:19:41 -0500

Thanks Captain, I shall write (b)(6) the substance of my query in a second email

Julian E. Barnes  
Intelligence, National Security reporter  
The New York Times  
+(b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

On Tue, Feb 2, 2021 at 1:13 PM (b)(6) wrote:  
Julian-

Connecting you to (b)(6) of the Global Engagement Center-- not sure if they will have something for you on Russian anti-vax disinformation campaign in Spanish, but wanted to make sure you had a good POC for her.

(b)(6)

V/R,  
(b)(6)  
U.S. Cyber Command, Public Affairs  
COMM:(b)(6)  
NSTS:(b)(6)  
Personal Cell:(b)(6)  
Work Cell:(b)(6)

**Sender:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
(b)(6)  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
DL USCYBERCOM\_PAO (H3C9) <DLUSCC\_J0\_PAO@cybercom.mil>;  
(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Kroeker, Scott (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>  
'Joshua Peller' (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;  
Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
**CC:** Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Media outlets for New York Times Project  
**Date:** Wed, 11 Nov 2020 21:05:26 +0000

Noted (b)(6).  
I will reach out and get back to Scott as soon as I can.  
Thank you,

(b)(6)

Get Outlook for iOS

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

**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 3:08:50 AM

**To:** Kroeker, Scott (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>; (b)(6) (Port Moresby)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** 'Joshua Peller' (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Port Moresby)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Media outlets for New York Times Project

Scott:

Sorry this has been such a struggle.

(b)(6) Would you make another round of outreach to our contacts to see if can get some movement? Perhaps they think it's something they need to pay for? Please reiterate that this is a service we are providing at no cost to them.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

**From:** Kroeker, Scott (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2020 12:24 PM

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** 'Joshua Peller' (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Media outlets for New York Times Project

Aloha (b)(6)

I wanted to update you on our outreach efforts to media outlets in PNG, Solomons and Vanuatu since it's been a struggle to get people to respond to our offer of New York Times content licenses.



Of the 9 media outlets originally proposed for the project by your Embassy we have been able to bring on-board only 4. These are:

- The Bougainvillean
- EMTV
- Solomon Star
- Vanuatu Daily Post

At least we've gone one in each country. Of the other 5 here are the results of our outreach:

- PNG Loop – Referred us to their parent organization in Fiji who we hoped would sign on but they eventually declined the offer.
- Post Courier – Contact provided, Todagia Kelola, responded that he was no longer in charge of full editorial duties and referred the offer to Managing Director, Kevin Smith and acting Editor and General Manager Frank Genaia. Repeated outreach to both of them has produced no response at all.
- SIBC – Contact provided, Fred Osifelo, responded that he had forwarded the offer to the GM and that he didn't hear back. After repeated efforts, including using personal contacts to find out the correct email address for the GM Ronald Buaoka (all website emails bounce back) we have received no response.
- FM100 & The National – No response at all. I activated East-West Center media alum Belinda Kora from the PNG Media Council--she used to run the newsroom at FM100 and is still very well connected--who tried to get them to respond to no avail.

A similar thing happened with outlets in Fiji and Post was able to identify a couple of other outlets that were ready and willing to take this on board. Since we still have funding for 4 licenses and our funder the GEC is potentially open to alternatives IF the preferred outlets just don't come on-board do you have any suggestions for different outlets in your 3 countries? How about the Island Sun in Solomons which is run by an EWC media alum Priestly Habru. Or would you prefer to take another stab at squeezing answers out of the original outlet? Let me know.

Thanks  
Scott

**Scott Kroeker** | Senior Program Officer, Professional Development Program (b)(6)

**East-West Center**

1601 East-West Road  
Honolulu, HI 96848-1601, USA  
[EastWestCenter.org](http://EastWestCenter.org)

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; Kroeker, Scott (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>; 'Joshua Peller' (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

**CC:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>

**Subject:** Re: M&E Workbook Template

**Date:** Tue, 16 Feb 2021 13:57:18 -0500

Hi (b)(6)

No thank you for taking you time to explain this new workbook to us. We will work on it soon and share it with all soon.

The workbook is working fine now.

Looking forward to working with you.

Have a great week ahead.

Best,

Ferdi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Date: Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 1:35 PM

Subject: M&E Workbook Template

To: Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Cc: Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>

Hi Ferdi,

It was really great to talk to you this morning. Thank you for your time.

Let me know if you still have trouble opening the workbook.

Best,

(b)(6)

M&E Specialist

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

Contractor - Alutiiq Information Management, LLC

(b)(6)@state.gov



--

Ferdi Ferhat Özsoy

Program Manager | *International Fact-Checking Network*

@ferdi\_ozsoy | @factchecknet



**Sender:** Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

**Recipient:**

Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>

**From:** "Nakashima, Ellen" (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**To:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**CC:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: just double-checking  
**Date:** Wed, 16 Mar 2022 00:33:05 +0000

Got it, and thanks again!  
Ellen

**From:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:32 PM  
**To:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: just double-checking

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes

**From:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:28 PM  
**To:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: just double-checking

Great and thank you, Ned! That's on-background to a State Department official?

**From:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:17 PM  
**To:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: just double-checking

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes, I signed off w doing it on background.

**From:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:13 PM  
**To:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** just double-checking

Hi, Ned,

Just double-checking on my request to speak with the GEC's Daniel Kimmage, who is on leave at NDU, for a story about Ukraine's information campaign.

Would that be okay with you –and under what ground rules –on record or on background?

Many, many thanks!  
Ellen Nakashima  
The Washington Post  
(b)(6)

**Sender:** "Nakashima, Ellen" (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Recipient:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>



**From:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Invitation: Discussion on FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe  
**Date:** Fri, 30 Oct 2020 01:46:39 -0400

Hi (b)(6)

Happy to participate!

Looking forward to it!

Baybars

On Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 11:52 AM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

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

--

Baybars Örsek

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

**Sender:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**From:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**To:** Atwood, Kylie (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
**CC:** GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Hansler, Jennifer (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Global Engagement Center conversation  
**Date:** Fri, 6 May 2022 17:18:55 +0000

Hi Ms. Atwood,  
You can call my number (b)(6) - I will conference you in to Mr. Stoltz.

**From:** Atwood, Kylie (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 6, 2022 1:12 PM  
**To:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Cc:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Hansler, Jennifer (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Global Engagement Center conversation

Hi – can I actually call you guys? I won't be on my cell I will be on an office line that is not my own (long story!). What number can I call?  
Thanks!

---

**From:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Date:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 1:19 PM  
**To:** Atwood, Kylie (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Cc:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>, Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>, GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>, Hansler, Jennifer (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Global Engagement Center conversation

Great - we will call you at 1:30 tomorrow for the on background call with Mr. Stoltz.

Thanks for your flexibility.

---

**From:** Atwood, Kylie (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 12:47 PM  
**To:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Cc:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Hansler, Jennifer (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Global Engagement Center conversation

Yes that works tomorrow. How about 1:30 pm tomorrow. Happy to do it over the phone or in person masked. Thanks!



Kylie Atwood  
CNN National Security Correspondent  
Cell: (b)(6)

---

**From:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Date:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 12:21 PM  
**To:** Atwood, Kylie (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Cc:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>, Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>, GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Global Engagement Center conversation

GEC Deputy Coordinator, Karl Stoltz, is available to speak with you tomorrow from 1:30-3:30. Are you free during that time frame?

If so, I can call you and conference you in to Mr. Stoltz.

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Atwood, Kylie (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 9:54 AM  
**To:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Cc:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Global Engagement Center conversation

Hi (b)(6) - thanks for reaching out. Yes, these are the topics I would like to cover.  
Thanks so much, Kylie

Get Outlook for iOS

---

**From:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 9:30:10 AM  
**To:** Atwood, Kylie (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Cc:** Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Global Engagement Center conversation

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Caution opening links or attachments**

Good morning Ms. Atwood,

The Global Engagement Center would like to arrange for someone to speak with you on background. To help us identify the best person at GEC to speak with, we would like to confirm that these are still the topics you are looking to discuss:

What is the GEC is doing when it comes to the disinformation that Russia and China have increasingly put out about the Ukraine war?  
How is the GEC tracking it?  
What kinds of trends have there been?  
Is the GEC leading any efforts to directly combat it?

We look forward to hearing from you and arranging a time for the conversation.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer  
Global Engagement Center  
U.S. Department of State  
All Native Group Contractor

(b)(6)



**Sender:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Atwood, Kylie (b)(6)@cnn.com>;

Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>;

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

GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

Hansler, Jennifer (b)(6)@cnn.com>



**From:** Edward Lucas (b)(6)@me.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(h)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(h)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Corina Rebegea (h)(6)@cepa.org>;  
Sarah Cook (h)(6)@FreedomHouse.org>;  
danielle Cave (h)(6)@aspi.org.au>;  
Rachael Owen (h)(6)@aspi.org.au>;  
**CC:** Alex Joske (b)(6)@aspi.org.au>;  
Tom De Waal (h)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
Alan Davis (h)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
Vonda Wolcott (h)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
(h)(6)@ff.cuni.cz (h)(6)@ff.cuni.cz>;  
Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>;  
(h)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>;  
(h)(6)@ceip.org (h)(6)@ceip.org>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Alan Davis (h)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
(b)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>;  
(h)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Subject:** Re: GEC FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe  
**Date:** Thu, 5 Nov 2020 15:07:26 +0000

Hello everyone - rather than take up precious minutes during the call, I just wanted to share our new weekly newsletter on PRC influence ops. I'm pasting it below.

Happy to discuss during the call, but also please do feed me any tips, ideas or criticism for future editions. My cell is below (works on Signal, Line and WhatsApp) and I have protonmail if anyone needs it

Link is here <https://mailchi.mp/cepa.org/announcing-china-influence-monitor-tracking-the-ccps-westward-footprint-567570?e=4622d7f0c6>

And I am pasting it below  
Best regards, Edward

Edward Lucas (b)(6)  
**Subscribe to my weekly newsletter at [edwardlucas.substack.com](http://edwardlucas.substack.com)**  
Follow me on Twitter @edwardlucas  
skype edwardlucas

[www.edwardlucas.com](http://www.edwardlucas.com)



Hello, and welcome to China Influence Monitor, a collaboration between CEPA and Coda Story. I'm Edward Lucas, the curator of this weekly newsletter tracking how Chinese policy and influence is affecting politics, the economy, and alliances across Russia and into Europe — and what that means for the world.

---

**Welcome to China Influence Monitor! Make sure you're subscribed to the newsletter [here](#) and help us [spread the word](#).**

---

China is stepping up efforts to promote and spread its **poverty alleviation policy** abroad.

Lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty is the party-state's strongest claim to legitimacy — and has drawn [plaudits](#) from outsiders. But it also involves erasure of minority cultures (especially Tibetan and Uyghur), [forced labor](#) and political indoctrination (see this [critique](#) from the Economist.)

Three international publishing houses have signed [contracts](#) to translate and publish eight books hailing the merits of the scheme. Uzbekistan's government (which also backs China's Chinese Covid vaccine) [announced](#) it would begin a China-funded research project to see how it could implement a similar anti-poverty approach. CGTN recently highlighted "[lessons for Africa](#)" in the Chinese scheme.

**Why it matters:** Poverty-busting could be the next big element in Chinese economic diplomacy, especially as infrastructure efforts and technology exports

run into difficulty (see next items).

**Talking point:** It's interesting that foreign publishers don't see any problem with recycling Chinese Communist Party propaganda. Other publishers (like this German one, suddenly told to rewrite the plot of a children's book) are not so happy.

### Roads to nowhere

The China State Construction Engineering Corporation is in **trouble in Poland**. It submitted seven road-building bids, but officials there doubt whether the Chinese giant (which was on a World Bank corruption blacklist until 2015) has the capacity to build the projects, and are fighting a legal battle to exclude it.

**Talking point:** The Chinese company's arrogance (lack of a Polish website, office or point of contact in the country) hasn't helped its case.

### Hold the line

Sweden's 5G ban has prompted threats to Swedish companies operating in China, while Huawei claims **Poland** and **Romania** are breaching EU law.

American efforts to keep the well-connected Chinese telecoms giant out of European networks are now focusing on the **Balkans**, where Chinese influence is ebbing, even in once-friendly Serbia. **Greece** has pledged to join the US-led "clean network", excluding Chinese-made 5G equipment.

**Background:** In September the US-educated prime minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis hosted Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at his family home in Crete. Hospitality pays off: one of the US Navy's largest and most modern warships, the USS Hershel "Woody" Williams, will be based at Souda Bay, the island's naval port.

**Why it matters:** Greece used to be a notable Chinese ally, playing a leading role in blocking any signs of EU hawkishness, not least on human rights. Not any more.

---



### Wolf warriors

This week's award for diplomatic snarling goes to the comrades at the Chinese mission in Ankara. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, included a **Taiwanese flag in a tweet thanking** international medical aid donors. A sharp complaint ensured the removal of this horrific breach of the one-China taboo..

Cue the usual disinhibited gloating from the Global Times. **Top phrase** concerned Taiwan's "fragile self-esteem" and "chaotic division about ... national identity". That'll teach them.

But on other fronts the deluded secessionist jackals (that's "Free China" if you grew up in the Cold War) are doing rather well.

- The World Health Organization, normally spineless **on the Taiwan issue**, explicitly praised the offshore Chinese democracy's performance on covid, elegantly calling it an "east Asian economy".
- The International Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) is backing the campaign for **Taiwanese participation in the WHO**.
- British MPs have invited foreign minister Joseph Wu to address them.

### In the shadows

Meanwhile an official (presumably an American) has briefed Stars and Stripes, the U.S. military newspaper, about the increasing China focus of the **Five Eyes network**(the UK and US, plus Australia, Canada, and New Zealand).

The Five Eyes grouping — the anglosphere victors in World War Two — used to deal solely with intelligence-sharing. Now it's the basis for a **global coalition** of countries worried about political and economic warfare from China (and Russia). None of these efforts are avowed. Yet.

### What we're reading

Top British China-watcher Charles Parton's blistering new report has three

takeaways. The UK must:

- Recognize a values divergence with China
- Have a foreign interference watchdog and tighter rules on political lobbying
- Take a clear stance on Taiwan

And [this](#) from ChinaFile by Jessica Batke and the great Mareike Ohlberg (who's also the co-author of Hidden Hand) on what analysis of procurement contracts reveals about the **party-state's surveillance system**.

**What we're watching:** A British parliamentary committee inquiry into **Uyghur slave labor** [quizzes business chiefs](#) -- Thursday at 10:30 UK time

**Germany's defense minister** Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer keeps banging the drum for international cooperation against China -- this time in [a joint appearance](#) with her Australian counterpart, also Thursday.

That's it for this week. We will be back in your inboxes next Thursday. Please tell your friends about China Influence Monitor and encourage them to subscribe.

Best Regards,  
Edward Lucas

☐ [Share](#)

☐ [Tweet](#)

☐ [Forward](#)

*This newsletter is a collaboration between Coda Story and the Center for European Policy Analysis.*



*Liked what you read? [Please forward this to a friend.](#)*

---

On 5 Nov 2020, at 14:46, (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

### Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

(b)(7)(E) United States, Spokane (Toll)

Conference ID: (b)(7)(F)

Apologies for the multiple updates. We've added a new Teams line that includes a phone dial-in option. Looking forward to speaking with you all later today.

Please find appended below an agenda for tomorrow's discussion. We look forward to speaking with you all.

///

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.

**Global Engagement Center China Directorate**  
**Agenda for FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe Roundtable**  
November 5, 2020

#### **Participants:**

Global Engagement Center

(b)(6)

Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Danielle Cave

Rachael Owen

Alex Joske

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Evan Feigenbaum

Erik Brattberg

Center for European Policy Analysis

Edward Lucas

Corina Rebegea

Freedom House

Sarah Cook

Institute for War and Peace Reporting

Alan Davis

Tom Baker

Vonda Wolcott

Poynter Institute

Baybars Örsek

Ferdi Özsoy

Sinopsis

Martin Hála

**Agenda (all times in EST):**

14:00 – 14:05	Welcome remarks and GEC/China strategic landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (b)(6) GEC/China Director</li></ul>
14:05 – 14:25	Research and networking activities in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each participant summarizes their relevant work in Europe as it relates to the GEC (max three minutes per organization), proceeding in alphabetical order as shown in the Participants list.</li></ul>
14:25 – 14:55	Open discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can we ensure these activities are complementary?</li><li>• How much overlap is there among our European network partners?</li><li>• Are there opportunities to amplify each other's work to maximize counter-propaganda and -disinformation impact?</li><li>• How do we create sustained impact?</li></ul>
14:55 – 15:00	Synthesis, closing remarks, next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (b)(6) GEC/China Director</li></ul>

<Mail Attachment.ics>

**Sender:** Edward Lucas (b)(6)@me.com>

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(h)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Corina Rebegea (h)(6)@cepa.org>;  
Sarah Cook (h)(6)@FreedomHouse.org>;  
danielle Cave (h)(6)@aspi.org.au>;  
Rachael Owen (h)(6)@aspi.org.au>;  
Alex Joske (h)(6)@aspi.org.au>;  
Tom De Waal (h)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
Alan Davis (h)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
Vonda Wolcott (h)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
(h)(6)@ff.cuni.cz (h)(6)@ff.cuni.cz>;  
Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>;  
(h)(6)@poynter.org (h)(6)@poynter.org>;  
(h)(6)@ceip.org (h)(6)@ceip.org>;  
(h)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Alan Davis (h)(6)@iwpr.net>;  
(h)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>;  
(h)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>

**From:** "Gordon, Michael" (b)(6)@wsj.com>  
**To:** Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up  
**Date:** Mon, 22 Feb 2021 16:55:01 -0500

J.T. (b)(6)

Update? Where do we stand? 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: [michaeltgordon.com](http://michaeltgordon.com)

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 4:40 PM Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:  
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: [michaeltgordon.com](http://michaeltgordon.com)

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

Thanks for the call. Daniel Kimmage 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 Daniel 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 Ice, John T <(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 (b)(6) 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)

x]

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://euvdisinfo.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://piazzaacara.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)



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



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**CC:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>;  
Michael Crowley (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;  
Lara Jakes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up  
**Date:** Sun, 7 Mar 2021 23:08:37 +0000

Hi Julian,

Please see the following, attributable On Background to a State Department Spokesperson:

- The Global Engagement Center (GEC) does not have a report to release at this time.
- The Department of State can confirm that the GEC has identified four Russian platforms that are directed by Russian intelligence services and spread disinformation. These four platforms are: **News Front**, which is guided and tasked by the Federal Security Service; **New Eastern Outlook and Oriental Review**, directed and controlled by the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service; and **Rebel Inside**, controlled by the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. These sites all vary in their reach, tone, and audience – but they all are spreading Russian propaganda and disinformation. The State Department’s finding of a link between these sites and Russian Intelligence is a result of a joint interagency conclusion.
- Three of these outlets (News Front, New Eastern Outlook and Oriental Review) spread many types of disinformation, including about both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, as well as international organizations, military conflicts, protests, and any divisive issue that they can exploit. Rebel Inside has been largely dormant for the past year.
- The Department will continue to expose Russia’s nefarious activities online.
- We will also continue to work closely with our allies and partners to provide a global response to countering disinformation.

Very best,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer  
Global Engagement Center  
U.S. Department of State  
Accenture Federal Services Contractor

Cell: (b)(6)

x]

**From:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 7, 2021 10:40 AM

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

**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>; Michael Crowley (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Lara Jakes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up

(b)(6)

I see the **Journal** story on the state report has (at last) been published

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/russian-disinformation-campaign-aims-to-undermine-confidence-in-pfizer-other-covid-19-vaccines-u-s-officials-say-11615129200>

Can you provide us a copy of the report?

Julian

Julian E. Barnes

Intelligence, National Security reporter

The New York Times

(b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 6:13 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Thanks! Do you still plan to run the story tomorrow?

Very best,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

Accenture Federal Services Contractor

Cell: (b)(6)

x]

**From:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 6:09 PM

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

**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up

Got this and forwarding to lead writer.

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 6:05 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Julian,

My apologies again for this delay! Busy times at the State Department today. Please let me know if there is still time to make it in the story.

The following comments are provided on background, attributable to a State Department Spokesperson.

- Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic we've seen Russia's disinformation ecosystem develop false narratives around the virus and pandemic response, including vaccines.
- On vaccines specifically, Russia has pushed two common disinformation and propaganda narratives to the global community, primarily focused on promoting their own vaccines, and seeking to sow distrust in U.S.- and Western-origin vaccine development programs-
- Towards the end of 2020 as vaccines received regulatory approval, the State Department's Global Engagement Center (GEC) analyzed COVID-19 vaccine-focused messaging from over 1,000 suspected Russian-aligned Twitter accounts.
- Consistent with past observations of Russian-aligned disinformation efforts on Twitter, Spanish-language accounts showed the greatest engagement during this period.
- These false narratives focus on disproportionately magnifying the risk of potential side effects associated with western vaccines. Additionally, some accounts promoted intentionally misleading narratives falsely alleging that mRNA vaccines are untested and thus risky.
- Scientists and manufacturers all over the world are innovating and doing remarkable things to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The United States continues to focus on the facts and follow the lead of scientists that are working on robust and transparent clinical trials, regulatory processes, and high-quality manufacturing. Russia's efforts to promote disinformation through social media, undermines the collective global effort to end the global pandemic.

Very best,

(b)(6)

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



--

(b)(6) mobile/signal/WhatsApp

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

Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;

GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>;

**Recipient:** Michael Crowley (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;

Lara Jakes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up  
**Date:** Thu, 4 Feb 2021 18:23:31 -0500

Pubbing tomorrow morning. Unclear what Time

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 6:13 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:  
Thanks! Do you still plan to run the story tomorrow?

Very best,

(b)(6)

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



**From:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 6:09 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: GEC Follow Up

Got this and forwarding to lead writer.

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 6:05 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Julian,

My apologies again for this delay! Busy times at the State Department today. Please let me know if there is still time to make it in the story.

The following comments are provided on background, attributable to a State Department Spokesperson.

- Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic we've seen Russia's disinformation ecosystem develop false narratives around the virus and pandemic response, including vaccines.
- On vaccines specifically, Russia has pushed two common disinformation and propaganda narratives to the global community, primarily focused



on promoting their own vaccines, and seeking to sow distrust in U.S.- and Western-origin vaccine development programs-

- Towards the end of 2020 as vaccines received regulatory approval, the State Department's Global Engagement Center (GEC) analyzed COVID-19 vaccine-focused messaging from over 1,000 suspected Russian-aligned Twitter accounts.
- Consistent with past observations of Russian-aligned disinformation efforts on Twitter, Spanish-language accounts showed the greatest engagement during this period.
- These false narratives focus on disproportionately magnifying the risk of potential side effects associated with western vaccines. Additionally, some accounts promoted intentionally misleading narratives falsely alleging that mRNA vaccines are untested and thus risky.
- Scientists and manufacturers all over the world are innovating and doing remarkable things to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The United States continues to focus on the facts and follow the lead of scientists that are working on robust and transparent clinical trials, regulatory processes, and high-quality manufacturing. Russia's efforts to promote disinformation through social media, undermines the collective global effort to end the global pandemic.

Very best,

(b)(6)

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



--

(b)(6) mobile/signal/WhatsApp

--

(b)(6) mobile/signal/WhatsApp

**Sender:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

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



**From:** Jeremy Peters (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**To:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>;  
Patel, Vedant R. EOP/WHO (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: hey... question for you on the Global Engagement Center  
**Date:** Sat, 27 Aug 2022 11:15:15 -0400

Hi there (b)(6) So I heard back from Vedant yesterday and told him next week would be great, on the earlier side if possible. By end of day Tuesday would be ideal.

As for any specific questions, at this point I think I'm just generally focused on the misinformation/disinformation around food shortages, where they're originating, how pervasive they are, and how serious an issue this could become if more people start believing that the food supply is being rationed, etc.

For your reference, I'm going to cite this report in my story, which gets into quite a bit of detail about this particular mis/disinformation campaign: <https://networkcontagion.us/reports/7-28-22-hunger-is-our-only-hope-the-russian-disinformation-ecosystem-and-online-conspiracy-communities-shifting-focus-to-looming-food-crisis/>

Hope that helps. And please let me know if you have any other questions.

Jeremy

(b)(6)

On Fri, Aug 26, 2022 at 4:26 PM GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Jeremy -

Hope this note finds you well! My name is (b)(6) and I am on the GEC Press team and your note below made its way to us. We're happy to schedule a conversation next week with you. Are there any specific questions you'd like to flag beyond what you've shared below and could you share with us your deadline?

We look forward to speaking soon -- either myself or my colleague Scott will follow up with you once we hear back.

All the best,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Edward Price (b)(6)@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, August 26, 2022 3:16 PM

**To:** Jeremy Peters (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: hey... question for you on the Global Engagement Center

Greetings from just down the street from you! I'm copying my work address and will forward this along. The team will be back to you. I'm confident they can help.

On Aug 26, 2022, at 12:40 PM, Jeremy Peters (b)(6)@nytimes.com> wrote:

Hi there. So for a story I'm doing on the new front in disinformation wars, I think the Global Engagement Center at State could be a great resource. My story is going to focus on the Russian campaign to manufacture fears of a global food shortage crisis. And the center has done some work on this recently. One recent report is here: <https://www.state.gov/disarming-disinformation/russias-disinformation-cannot-hide-its-responsibility-for-the-global-food-crisis/>

Do you have a contact there you'd recommend reaching out to? I think this could be a pretty eye opening piece because there are a lot of overlaps with the conspiracy theories about the food supply and those about vaccines and elections. Anyway, I know you're super busy. But I'd be grateful for any guidance. And hope you're doing well.

--

Jeremy Peters  
The New York Times

(b)(6)

--

Jeremy Peters  
The New York Times

(b)(6)

**Sender:** Jeremy Peters (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Recipient:** GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>;  
Patel, Vedant R. EOP/WHO (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Foreign disinformation operations  
**Date:** Fri, 16 Dec 2022 22:16:09 +0000

Excellent, will do. Let's stay in touch, and we'll arrange that chat with Jamie after the holidays. Feel free to reach out any time.

(b)(6)

Get Outlook for iOS

**From:** Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2022 4:51:24 PM

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

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

**Subject:** Re: Foreign disinformation operations

(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

What's App and Signal, (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)

Senior Advisor

Global Engagement Center

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

Steven Lee Myers (h)(6)@nytimes.com>;

**Recipient:** (h)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**From:** "(b)(6)"@state.gov>  
**To:** Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Fact-Check Org Connect Question  
**Date:** Fri, 5 Mar 2021 12:59:21 +0000

Hi Baybars,

Quickly following up on this -- our regional POC's let us know that they've made contact with IFCN through Cristina Tardaguila. Apologies for the redundancy -- it seems there is no further action needed.

Please have a great weekend!

V/r,

(b)(6)

Program Analyst

GEC | DOS | KTG Contractor

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, March 4, 2021 1:51 PM

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

**Subject:** Fact-Check Org Connect Question

Dear Baybars,

Hoping this finds you well. (b)(6) from GEC here. It's been a while since we last spoke -- just in case it's been too long, I cover Latin America and the Caribbean for the China team.

I had a quick question that I thought you might have some insights into -- my colleagues in our regional bureau were hoping to convene a virtual meet and greet for a small number of U.S. and Brazilian fact-checking orgs. They're looking to get in touch with folks from the following orgs: AFP Fact Check USA, PolitiFact, Snopes, and The Washington Post Fact Checker.

Would you happen to have connections to folks in these orgs? If so, please let me know how this can best be facilitated. Please let me know if you have any questions, and please feel free to give my cell a ring if easiest.

V/r,

(b)(6)

Program Analyst

GEC | DOS | KTG Contractor

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov

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

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



**From:** "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**CC:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads  
**Date:** Tue, 23 Mar 2021 21:08:23 +0000

Thank you.

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 3:17 PM  
**To:** "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Thanks for your patience. I can deploy these lines **On Background, attributable to a State Department Spokesperson:** *We have run targeted messaging on migration for a long time. It's a continued process of writing, production, and implementation. The content of the ads we have provided were developed and implemented during this administration.*

Regards,

(b)(6)  
Press Officer  
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

---

**From:** Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 2:31 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

(b)(6) is there a reason that this is off the record? Can it be on the record to provide context to our readers?

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 1:28 PM  
**To:** "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Below is my updated response.

**Off the record:** We have run targeted messaging on migration for a long time. It's a continued process of writing, production, and implementation. The content of the ads I provided to you were developed and implemented during this administration. That's all the information I could find.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

---

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:29 PM

**To:** Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

**Off the record:** Correction, let me confirm what I just sent you in my last email. I'll get back to you soon.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

---

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:22 PM

**To:** Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

**Off the record:** Apologies for the confusion. The ads I provided to you were developed and implemented during this administration, but for a long time we have run targeted messaging on migration.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

---

**From:** Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:15 PM

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

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

What do you mean by a true shift? I'm at (b)(6) if it's easier to discuss on the phone.

I'm confirming that the sample ads you shared started to run during the Biden administration, specifically, not prior.

---

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

**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 11:12 AM

**To:** "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

**Off the record:** We have long implemented targeted messages in the region, but have seen a true shift in the scope of messaging in the last six weeks.

Regards,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

---

**From:** Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:06 PM

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

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Got it. And when did they start running? Just making sure it's been during this administration.

---

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

**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 10:59 AM

**To:** "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>,

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

**Off the Record:** Yes, these radio ads in Guatemala are still running. We have localized ads running across the Northern Triangle. As a sample, we wanted to share what we're doing in Guatemala in terms of migration messaging and ad campaigns.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

---

**From:** Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 10:17 AM

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

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Understood. And just to confirm, these ads are still running, is that right?

Are ads only in Guatemala right now? Or others running in Honduras and El Salvador?

---

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

**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:21 AM

**To:** "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>,

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Yes, go ahead. Apologies for the confusion. Only the contents of my email message are off the record.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

---

**From:** Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 7:23 AM

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

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi (b)(6)

Can we use the Spanish ad? Given your note off the record below, wanted to confirm.

Thanks,

Priscilla

---

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

**Date:** Monday, March 22, 2021 at 5:59 PM

**To:** "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Cc:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>,

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hello Priscilla,

Off the record: My name is (b)(6) and I'm a press officer at the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. I wanted to follow up on an inquiry you submitted to my colleague (b)(6). See your initial email below for reference.

Off the record: To clarify, we use Facebook and Instagram's advertising platform as a service. Attached are samples of radio ads we have run in Guatemala in Spanish and two indigenous languages (Kakchiquel and Tzutujil). Facebook/Instagram promoted content are posted publicly on each respective Embassy's Facebook page.

Regards,



(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

**Your Initial Email:**

**From:** Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 5:36 PM

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

**Subject:** CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hello,

I'm an immigration reporter at CNN. I'm reaching out regarding the digital and radio ads released in Latin America to discourage migration to the US southern border.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the US, via the State Department, had placed approximately 17,118 radio ads in Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras since January 21 in Spanish, Portuguese and six indigenous languages. She also said the State Department worked with Facebook and Instagram on an advertising campaign.

Can you share examples of those ads?

I can also be reached at (b)(6)

Thank you,

Priscilla

**Sender:** "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
**Recipient:** WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Bajak, Frank (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: AP calling - Russian vaccine disinfo campaign/  
**Date:** Fri, 28 May 2021 15:50:46 +0000

Hi Frank,  
Sorry for the delay in getting back to you.

Unfortunately, we don't have any analysis to share specific to the recent French allegations of Russian disinformation about the Pfizer vaccine.

However, I did pull together an on-background response (below) regarding Russian disinformation about western vaccines, more generally, as well as U.S. efforts to combat COVID.

Further below, and off-the-record, I've also included a list of examples of Russian disinformation that we thought might be helpful.

Thanks. (b)(6)

**Response on background, attributable to "a State Department spokesperson":**

- Since the early days of this pandemic, we have observed Russian disinformation about COVID, including falsehoods and misleading information about Western vaccines' safety and efficacy. Russia's tactics include distorting and excluding context about the side effects of Western-origin vaccines, spreading conspiracy theories about alleged malign intentions behind vaccine production, and portraying Western vaccination efforts as failing.
- These tactics undermine the integrity of the scientific process, threaten public confidence in vaccines which have been transparently reviewed for safety and efficacy, and do not serve the public interest. Despite efforts to undermine confidence in vaccines produced in the United States, there is clear, consistent demand for them globally.
- On May 17, the President announced that we are giving away 80 million doses of vaccine by the end of June. The vaccine doses the United States is providing to the world don't come with strings attached. We're leading the world in global vaccination efforts because it's the right thing to do: the right thing morally, the right thing from a global public health perspective, and the right thing for our collective security and well-being. We will work with COVAX and other partners to ensure these safe and effective vaccines are delivered in a way that is equitable and follows the science and public health data. The United States will not use its vaccines to secure favors from other countries.

**Examples of Russian disinformation and overpromising (provided off-the-record)****Disinformation Narratives from Russian Outlets:**

- Russia has not only highlighted adverse vaccine side effects and falsely claimed that mRNA vaccines are dangerous, but also disparaged the COVAX initiative:
  - Sputnik: "As Pfizer Side Effects Emerge, Why Is the West Still Overlooking Russian Anti-Covid Vaccines?"
  - RT: "WHO vaccination scheme at 'very high' risk of failure, leaving poor nations without Covid-19 shots until 2024 – report,"
  - Pfizer used fake or improperly conducted trials:
    - VGTRK (Rossiya 24) o\_>><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPQpoHdN5zQ<<>
  - Pfizer and other Western pharmaceutical companies and their executives are driven solely by money and power
    - RT: Pfizer CEO sells \$5.6mn of stock on record surge the day he praised Covid-19 vaccine's 90% effectiveness, denies insider trading
  - Domestic and international Russian media targeted the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine as a failure:
    - RT: 'Average' effectiveness & unexplained side effects: 7 QUESTIONS that AstraZeneca needs to answer about its Covid-19 vaccine
  - Claimed the vaccine could be not be successful without Russia's Sputnik V vaccine:
    - Rossiya 24: >>[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2C6EI9vMr\\_E&t=74s<<](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2C6EI9vMr_E&t=74s<<)

**Disinformation Narratives from Russian intelligence-linked proxy sites:**

- Western vaccines are pushed for the benefit of "Big Pharma," social media companies, and Bill Gates:
  - NEO: "The Vaccine Race: Yet Another US Weapon for World Domination"
  - Oriental Review: "Hoarding The Jabs: The Inequalities Of Vaccine Distribution"

**Useful Background:**

- The Times: Russians spread fake news over Oxford coronavirus vaccine
- Politico: In race for coronavirus vaccine, Russia turns to disinformation
- Alliance For Securing Democracy: Securing Democracy Dispatch
- DFRLab: How pro-Kremlin outlets and blogs undermine trust in foreign-made COVID vaccines
- EU vs Disinformation: Telling Half Truths Is Also Lying

- New York Times: Russian Campaign Promotes Homegrown Vaccine and Undercuts Rivals
- German Marshall Fund: Influence-enza: How Russia, China, and Iran Have Shaped and Manipulated Coronavirus Vaccine Narratives

**From:** Bajak, Frank (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 5:06 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: AP calling - Russian vaccine disinfo campaign/

(b)(6)

Using passive DNS, we've determined that Fazze.com and Adnow.com share some internet infrastructure.

And both have listed the same London address as their headquarters. Most of Adnow's employees are in Russia, according to LinkedIn. But who owns the company?

Best,  
-fb

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 10:12 AM  
**To:** Bajak, Frank (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Subject:** Re: AP calling - Russian vaccine disinfo campaign/

[EXTERNAL]  
Hi Frank,

Thanks for your note.

I've reached out to our Russia Team. I'll see what I can dig up for you.

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Bajak, Frank (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 5:51 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** AP calling - Russian vaccine disinfo campaign/

Hi (b)(6)

I wonder if the GEC can discuss with us the apparent Russian connections here:

<https://apnews.com/article/europe-social-media-coronavirus-pandemic-business-coronavirus-vaccine-c4ce42244be08d7d73a412dd42e36360>

We did not include them in our reporting yet \_ we're still working on it. But we're seeing apparent Russian hosting of fазze.com (which is now offline) and interesting LinkedIn connections between adnow.com and fазze employees. Is this an SVR front, one wonders?

Seems like there may be considerably more to Russia's effort to try to discredit Pfizer and other Western vaccines than what this WSJ piece referenced <https://www.wsj.com/articles/russian-disinformation-campaign-aims-to-undermine-confidence-in-pfizer-other-covid-19-vaccines-u-s-officials-say-11615129200>

Many thanks,  
-fb

Frank Bajak, Cybersecurity/Investigations

Twitter: @fbajak – secure email: [\(b\)\(6\)@protonmail.ch](mailto:(b)(6)@protonmail.ch) - Boston, U.S.A.

(b)(6)

PGP/encrypted chat: <http://keybase.io/fbajak> Fingerprint: 06CFF14700F4CAA4

Wickr, WhatsApp – XMPP: [sfbjr@jabber.ccc.de](mailto:sfbjr@jabber.ccc.de)



The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

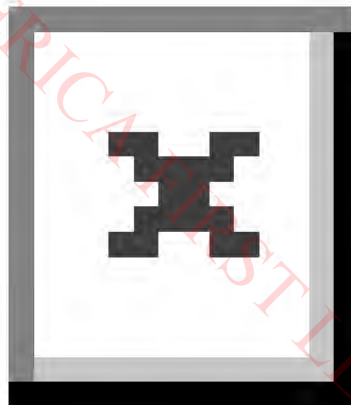
**Sender:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

Bajak, Frank (b)(6)@ap.org>;

**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>



**From:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Please confirm your email  
**Date:** Wed, 13 Apr 2022 18:01:40 +0000



## Thanks for joining us

Thank you for creating an account to Reuters.com. Continue to access the outstanding journalism and insights you rely on by confirming your Reuters account.

Here's what you can expect from Reuters.com:

- Redesigned pages showcasing our unbiased reporting as well as global insights and analyses
- Video-rich and mobile-first experience
- Immersive and deeply visual presentation

### **Confirm account**

This link will expire in 24 hours.



### **Terms, conditions, and privacy statement**

© 2022 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.  
3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036

**Sender:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>

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

**From:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, 4 Feb 2021 16:29:25 -0500

(b)(6)

give me a quick call to update me on where you stand. (need to speak to you before 5)  
Julian

Julian E. Barnes  
Intelligence, National Security reporter  
The New York Times  
+(b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

**Sender:** Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** (b)(6)@wsj.com (b)(6)@wsj.com>  
**Subject:** Linkedin article  
**Date:** Thu, 14 Oct 2021 15:45:50 +0000

Hi, Liza,

I saw your article today on Linkedin closing in China. Would you be able to send me the full piece? I don't have my subscriptions set up at my new job yet. If not, no worries.

(b)(6)

Foreign Affairs Officer, China Team

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

Office (b)(6) | Cell: (b)(6)



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

178

**From:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Last day to register: WashPost's Global Women's Summit with Ukrainian first lady Olena Zelenska, Hillary Clinton, Vivek Murthy and more  
**Date:** Sun, 13 Nov 2022 15:01:37 +0000

**Sender:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** ICYMI: Calif. Secretary of State Alex Padilla on stimulus checks, impeachment and more  
**Date:** Tue, 12 Jan 2021 00:13:06 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** 'Julian Barnes' (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
(h)(6)@state.gov>;  
**CC:** DL USCYBERCOM\_PAO (H3C9) <DLUSCC\_J0\_PAO@cybercom.mil>;  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** Contact for Russian mirror sites  
**Date:** Wed, 3 Feb 2021 18:35:00 +0000

Julian-

Clint Watts has some interesting insight on how Russian-affiliated/directed influence platforms that will likely contribute to your question on Russian disinfo on COVID.

His number is (b)(6) and he is eager to discuss-- think this is new info.

(b)(6)

V/R,

(b)(6)

U.S. Cyber Command, Public Affairs

COMM: (b)(6)

NSTS: (b)(6)

Personal Cell: (b)(6)

Work Cell: (b)(6)

**Sender:** (b)(6)  
'Julian Barnes' (h)(6)@nytimes.com>;  
(h)(6)@state.gov>;  
**Recipient:** DL USCYBERCOM\_PAO (H3C9) <DLUSCC\_J0\_PAO@cybercom.mil>;  
(b)(6)@nsa.gov>

**From:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Agenda announced for WashPost Global Women's Summit featuring Ukrainian first lady Olena Zelenska, Hillary Clinton and more  
**Date:** Fri, 11 Nov 2022 14:59:14 +0000

**Sender:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION



**From:** (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**SentVia:** Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Accepted: GEC FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe @ Thu Nov 5, 2020 2pm - 3pm (EST) (b)(6)  
**Date:** Thu, 5 Nov 2020 17:37:19 +0000

(b)(6)@poynter.org has accepted this invitation.

### GEC FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe

When Thu Nov 5, 2020 2pm – 3pm Eastern Time - New York

Calendar (b)(6)

Who

- (b)(6) organizer
- (b)(6)@poynter.org - creator
- Alan Davis
- Baybars Orsek
- Sarah Cook
- Tom Baker
- Vonda Wolcott
- Alex Joske
- (b)(6)
- Corina Rebegea
- Danielle Cave
- (b)(6)@ceip.org
- (b)(6)@me.com
- Grodnicki, Marsha
- (b)(6)@ff.cuni.cz
- (b)(6)
- Rachael Owen
- (b)(6)
- (b)(6)
- (b)(6)
- (b)(6)

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

(b)(7)(E) United States, Spokane (Toll)

Conference ID: (b)(7)(E)

Apologies for the multiple updates. We've added a new Teams line that includes a phone dial-in option. Looking forward to speaking with you all later today.

Please find appended below an agenda for tomorrow's discussion. We look forward to speaking with you all.

///

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.

Global Engagement Center China Directorate

Agenda for FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe Roundtable

November 5, 2020

Participants:

Global Engagement Center

(b)(6)

Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Danielle Cave

Rachael Owen

Alex Joske

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Evan Feigenbaum

Erik Brattberg

Center for European Policy Analysis

Edward Lucas

Corina Rebegea

Freedom House

Sarah Cook

Institute for War and Peace Reporting

Alan Davis

Tom Baker

Vonda Wolcott

Poynter Institute

Baybars Örsek

Ferdi Özsoy

Sinopsis

Martin Hála

Agenda (all times in EST):

14:00 – 14:05

Welcome remarks and GEC/China strategic landscape

\* (b)(6) GEC/China Director

14:05 – 14:25

Research and networking activities in Europe

\* Each participant summarizes their relevant work in Europe as it relates to the GEC (max three minutes per organization), proceeding in alphabetical order as shown in the Participants list.

14:25 – 14:55

Open discussion

\* How can we ensure these activities are complementary?

\* How much overlap is there among our European network partners?

\* Are there opportunities to amplify each other's work to maximize counter-propaganda and -disinformation impact?

\* How do we create sustained impact?

14:55 – 15:00

Synthesis, closing remarks, next steps

\* (b)(6) GEC/China Director

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account chapmanj2@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](#)

**Sender:** (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>

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

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** (b)(6)@fullfact.org>  
**SentVia:** Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Accepted: Defending Democracies against Disinformation: Part I, Med... @ Mon Dec 6, 2021 1pm - 2:15pm (GMT) (b)(6)  
**Date:** Mon, 29 Nov 2021 14:48:29 +0000

(b)(6)@fullfact.org has accepted this invitation.

### Defending Democracies against Disinformation: Part I, Media Literacy

**When** Mon Dec 6, 2021 1pm – 2:15pm United Kingdom Time

**Where** <https://statedept.webex.com/statedept> (map)

**Calendar** (b)(6)

**Who**

- (b)(6) - organizer
- (b)(6)@fullfact.org - creator

#### JOIN WEBEX EVENT

(b)(7)(E)

Event password: (b)(7)(E)

#### TAP TO JOIN FROM A MOBILE DEVICE (ATTENDEES ONLY)

(b)(7)(E)

Some mobile devices may ask attendees to enter a numeric password.

#### JOIN BY PHONE

(b)(7)(E)

#### Global call-in numbers

(b)(7)(E)

#### Can't join the event?

(b)(7)(E)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Please note that this Webex service allows audio and other information sent during the session to be recorded, which may be discoverable in a legal matter. By joining this session, you automatically consent to such recordings. If you do not consent to being recorded, discuss your concerns with the host or do not join the session.

Invitation from Google Calendar

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account chapmanj2@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](#).

**Sender:**

(b)(6)@fullfact.org>; Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>

**Recipient:**

(b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 29 Nov 2021 14:45:39 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)@fullfact.org  
**Subject:** Defending Democracies against Disinformation: Part I, Media Literacy

JOIN WEBEX EVENT

(b)(7)(E)

Event password: (b)(7)(E)

TAP TO JOIN FROM A MOBILE DEVICE (ATTENDEES ONLY)

(b)(7)(E)

Some mobile devices may ask attendees to enter a numeric password.

JOIN BY PHONE

(b)(7)(E)

Global call-in numbers

(b)(7)(E)

Can't join the event?

(b)(7)(E)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Please note that this Webex service allows audio and other information sent during the session to be recorded, which may be discoverable in a legal matter. By joining this session, you automatically consent to such recordings. If you do not consent to being recorded, discuss your concerns with the host or do not join the session.



**From:** Nicola Aitken (b)(6)@fullfact.org>  
**SentVia:** fakenewssci@googlegroups.com  
**To:** fakenewssci@googlegroups.com  
**Subject:** [fakenewssci] Consultation: Framework for information incidents  
**Date:** Wed, 24 Mar 2021 08:26:38 +0000

Dear colleagues,

With apologies for any cross posting, I am happy to share that Full Fact, the UK's independent fact checking charity, has launched a new consultation on a model for tackling information incidents.

Over the past seven months, Full Fact has been working with a variety of organisations including Facebook, Google, Twitter, First Draft and the UK and Canadian governments to create a Framework for Information Incidents.

The Framework is intended to enable better collaboration among organisations tackling information incidents. We all know that certain events (e.g. the pandemic, elections, natural disasters) can affect the information environment so that it becomes harder for those of us tackling misinformation to do so effectively. It is our belief that collaboration and a greater consideration of proportionality and global consistency is needed in order to effectively respond to these events. That is why we have created this new model.

We are now looking for feedback on the proposed five level system for determining the severity of an incident, the common challenges that occur across different incidents, and how to respond in proportionate and effective ways. We are keen to get responses from a wide range of organisations who tackle or are affected by misinformation during crisis events. We will use this feedback to further develop and refine the framework, with the goal of publishing a second version later in the year.

The consultation will be open until 14 May. You can respond either by email to [policy@fullfact.org](mailto:policy@fullfact.org), or online via [fullfact.org/incidentframework](https://fullfact.org/incidentframework). I've attached the pdf, but you can also access the text [online](#).

Best wishes,  
Nicola

--

**Nicola Aitken**

Policy Manager

(b)(6)

Full Fact

[fullfact.org](https://fullfact.org)

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) • [LinkedIn](#)

--

#FakeNewsSci seeks to cultivate and continue an academic and practical agenda around defining and protecting against fake news and misinformation, and work to build news literacy, defend a free press and strengthen first amendment principles.

There are three ground rules for this community aimed at ensuring appropriate communication and exchange:

- (1) Civility is the primary responsibility of membership - we intend to avoid uncivil debates or rhetoric and those who violate this rule will be immediately removed.
- (2) To preserve people's comfort with being open and frank, all exchanges are to be treated as "off the record" unless the member(s) in question explicitly agree otherwise.
- (3) To maintain high-quality exchanges of ideas and practice, all new members must be recommended by two other group members to be added to this group. Please fill the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/h1UkZHwGEjt5Z4wg1> before you apply for membership.

---

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Combating Fake News: The Science of Misinformation" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [fakenewssci+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:fakenewssci+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com).

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/fakenewssci/CAO5gHedK8p1UVuYEej1fAB3cF9sPMLS%3DuS4f1perx-FmcvVkdA%40mail.gmail.com>.

**Sender:** Nicola Aitken [mailto:na@fullfact.org]; fakenewssci@googlegroups.com

**Recipient:** fakenewssci@googlegroups.com

MARCH 2021

# A framework for information incidents

## Consultation document

Closing Date for Responses: 14 May 2021





# About the framework for information incidents

**Events such as elections, public health emergencies and natural disasters can affect the information environment in ways that make it harder to tackle misinformation effectively.**

The responses from internet companies, governments, media, fact checkers, academics and civil society to Covid-19 misinformation in 2020 shows that those tackling misinformation can adapt and innovate fast. But these responses also highlighted the need for greater discussion of principles, proportionality, and the use of evidence in responding to other types of information incidents in future.

Full Fact is bringing together practitioners, experts and community groups from different sectors to develop a framework to identify how to respond to issues that occur during moments of crisis.

The aim of this consultation document is to test our thinking so far among a wide range of potential users. We extend our warmest thanks to those who contributed their time and gracious feedback throughout the first stage of this project, especially:

- Africa Check (South Africa/Nigeria/Kenya/Senegal)
- Boom (India)
- Chequeado (Argentina)
- Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (UK)
- Facebook
- First Draft (UK/US/Australia)
- Google
- International Fact-Checking Network
- Maldita.es (Spain)
- Privy Council Office (Canada)
- Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University
- Twitter

We refer to 'misinformation' throughout this document, but this framework is intended to also cover disinformation and malinformation as defined by Claire Wardle and Hassein Derakhshan:<sup>1</sup>

- Mis-information is when false information is shared, but no harm is meant.
- Dis-information is when false information is knowingly shared to cause harm.
- Mal-information is when genuine information is shared to cause harm (e.g. by moving information designed to stay private into the public sphere).

This project was supported in 2020 by a grant from Facebook.

---

1 Wardle, Claire, and Derakhshan, Hossein, "Information Disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making", Council of Europe, 2017

## Full Fact

2 Carlton Gardens  
London  
SW1Y 5AA



[fullfact.org/contact](mailto:fullfact.org/contact)



[@FullFact](https://twitter.com/FullFact)



[fullfact.org](https://fullfact.org)

# Contents

Providing feedback: summary of questions	5
Why do we need a framework for information incidents?	7
What is an information incident?	9
Five levels of severity	12
Examples from recent information incidents	17
What common challenges exist across incidents - and how should we respond?	20
How do severity levels map across to challenges and responses?	26
Conclusion	29
Annex: Further case studies	30
References	34

# Providing feedback

## Summary of questions

Below is an overview of questions which are asked throughout this consultation document. Please answer as many questions as you want.

**Page 9** covers a list of incidents which could cause significant changes to the information environment and create additional challenges for those tackling misinformation. The related questions are:

- Q1.** Is there anything missing, either as a category of information incident, or significant type of situation that might fall within a category?
- Q2.** Do you think that the distinction between categories of information incident is sufficiently clear? Yes/No. If No, please describe how this could be improved.

**Page 12** sets out a system of five levels for determining an incident's severity. The related questions are:

- Q3.** Are these five levels of severity clear to understand and do the descriptors at each level of severity sufficiently cover the characteristics of information incidents? Yes / No. If No, please describe what needs to be clearer.
- Q4.** Which entities should be involved in assessing and declaring an incident's severity level in any country?
- Q5.** Can you describe (an) example(s) of what response(s) you/your organisation might introduce or look to see happening at different levels, for example at **Level 2**, **Level 3** and/or **Level 4**?

**Page 20** sets out common challenges which arise across different types of incident. The related questions are:

- Q6.** Thinking about efforts to combat misinformation in exceptional circumstances, are there any important challenges missing or challenges that you would characterise differently?
- Q7.** Looking at the high level aims, are there any missing aims and/or significant responses which should be included here? (Please state the number of the challenge you are referring to.)



**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CLOSING DATE FOR RESPONSES: 14 MAY 2021**

**Page 26** pulls these components together. The related questions is:

- Q8.** Would this kind of tool be useful as a basis for discussions in your team and/or with other organisations?

Question 9 is for you to offer any other feedback:

- Q9.** Do you have any other comments on the framework (not covered by the previous questions)?

The last two questions are about you:

- Q10.** Please state the country you are based in and your name and email address.
- Q11.** If you work for an entity or organisation working on or affected by these issues, please state which one.

### **How to respond**

There are two ways to respond to this consultation: either by email or via the Full Fact website. To respond via email, please send your answers to **policy@fullfact.org** (preferably in an attachment), indicating which question you are responding to.

Please feel free to answer as many or as few questions as you wish. To respond online, please fill in your answers at **fullfact.org/incidentframework**. Please note we will not be able to acknowledge every response.

**You can respond to the ideas set out in this document by Friday 14 May 2021.**

Following consultation, we will consider feedback on the framework's utility and main elements in order to refine the product content, before converting it into a useful tool and inviting organisations to test it in practice in the latter half of 2021.

# Why do we need a framework for information incidents?

We know that certain events can affect the information environment. That could be by increasing the complexity of accurate information, by creating confusion or creating information gaps – all of which can result in an increase in the volume of misinformation. This was clearly evident in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic, which prompted a slew of intensified measures from internet companies, governments, media, fact checkers, academics and civil society to try and tackle the huge amount of misinformation about the virus.

In 2020 we saw how fast and innovatively those working to analyse and counter misinformation can respond. But it has also thrown light on the need for greater discussion of the principles behind such measures, of what proportionality means, and on the use of evidence. This will be important for responding to other types of information incidents that may be just round the corner.

This document presents a framework for helping decision-makers understand, respond to and mitigate information crises in proportionate and effective ways. Full Fact brought together practitioners, experts and community groups from different sectors who are affected by and/or seek to affect the information environment to develop this framework. We sought to identify:

- A methodology for assessing the severity of an information incident
- The most common issues that occur during information incidents
- Joint aims for how organisations should try to respond to these issues

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CLOSING DATE FOR RESPONSES: 14 MAY 2021**

We hope that this framework will enable more collaboration, for example sharing information during and in the run up to incidents, joint planning and evaluation, or increased sharing of capacity and resources.

We are producing this framework with the aim that it is compatible with other analysis, including existing frameworks used by different organisations to spot and guide responses during crises. Analogous frameworks are used in mature industries such as cyber security, or emergency response guidance from public health bodies and governments.<sup>1</sup>

In developing this work we have drawn on existing research and analysis from First Draft, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Ben Nimmo, Joan Donovan, the University of Texas researchers and others to develop a methodology for determining and describing the severity of different information incidents. We are grateful to the authors of these reports for laying the groundwork to understand these complex issues.

We would now like to test this thinking among a wider range of potential users, in order to develop a simple and useful tool to help specialists in this area coordinate work, and to help other stakeholders better understand and engage with that work. In this consultation, we are particularly keen to hear from organisations, groups and individuals that identify, analyse and respond to misinformation, and those whose work, audiences and/or service users are affected by misinformation.

**You can respond to the ideas set out in this document by Friday 14 May 2021.**

---

1 World Health Organisation, "Emergency Response Framework", second edition, who.int, 2017; HM Government, "Emergency Response and Recovery non statutory guidance accompanying the Civil Contingencies Act 2004", gov.uk, 2013; Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, "CISA National Cyber Incident Scoring System", cisa.gov, as of March 2021.



# What is an information incident?

Our aim is to identify the types of incidents that are likely to have a substantial and material impact on the people, organisations and systems that consume, process, share or act on information – referred to in this document as the “information environment”.<sup>2</sup> Importantly, the information environment informs decisions – whether by citizens, other actors or policy-makers – toward good, neutral or bad outcomes.

An unexpected incident like a terrorist attack is likely to lead to an increased demand for information and news, but there is often a gap before information is confirmed which may lead to a surge in false information or conspiracy theories. An election or referendum (particularly where referendums are not normal occurrences) might spur polarisation or prompt high profile false claims from figures in authority who are usually trusted by mainstream audiences. In both these scenarios, the baseline information environment shifts: information might be complex, incomplete, or shared or consumed in new ways – both deliberate and accidental.

Based on a comprehensive mapping of recent incidents, we propose nine categories of information incidents that might require responses above and beyond ‘business as normal’. These categories are non-exhaustive and are broad by design. They are intended to give an understanding of the types of situations where one could reasonably expect the information environment to be affected. Not all incidents will require the same level of response: later we present a methodology for determining the severity of an incident, and ways to translate this into proportionate responses.

## Categories of incidents:

- **Human rights or freedom of expression abuse.** Civil action such as disrupted peaceful protests; violent public confrontations; long term escalating tension e.g. between regions; mass detainment and/or killings; citizenship or demographic changes.

2 This description of “the information environment” is adapted for the purpose of discussing largely domestic misinformation from a definition used by the military in relation to the hybrid warfare context.

## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CLOSING DATE FOR RESPONSES: 14 MAY 2021

- **Unexpected disasters with high, wide reaching impact.** Deliberate attack with wide reaching, long-term impact; innovative or novel deliberate attack; incidents without warning that create deaths or displacement of people; national/regional health incidents; natural disasters affecting people.
- **Unexpected events where response plans are likely to exist, with low and/or short term impact.** High impact weather; incidents with cultural/religious significance; localised deliberate attacks with short term impact; accidents and transport disasters; some hacks, leaks or data dumps. Authorities would be expected to have a plan for response or containment for these types of incidents.
- **Long-horizon and long-tail incidents.** Economic changes; shortages e.g. food or fuel; exceptional electoral events; displacement of people; climate change.
- **Planned political events in democratic states.** National or regional votes.
- **Nationally significant events where there could be opportunities to exploit polarisation.** War memorials; societal or political commemorations; controversial political incidents.
- **High impact incidents that occur or where the impact is felt across multiple markets.** Pandemic or war.
- **Controversial and/or shocking news stories.** Events that generate news headlines, but do not become major incidents.
- **Spreading of false/misleading information by authoritative actors.** Some party political messages; high profile endorsements of conspiracies; denying controversial incidents.

**Q1**

Is there anything missing, either as a category of information incident, or significant type of situation that might fall within a category?

**Q2**

Do you think that the distinction between categories of information incident is sufficiently clear? Yes/No. If No, please describe how this could be improved.

## Use of the framework in an ongoing cycle

The framework can also be used to show whether an incident is becoming less serious, and to evaluate whether it has been well managed.

A five level framework of determining an incident's severity lets us have shared risk assessments.

**Identify proportionate responses to meet aims**

**Determine severity of incident**

**Identify challenges posed by incident and context**

**Set aims for response**

Every incident will require particular responses but we can draw on previous experiences. Different organisations will have different strengths and resources.

Incidents are often novel, but they cause common challenges. Common challenges means that we can identify common aims in response to many incidents.



# Five levels of severity

**Beyond these broad categories of incidents in scope we wanted to understand which incidents were more severe than others, and whether there were common attributes that could distinguish between them.**

The below methodology attempts to do this, with the goal being that different levels will require different actions to keep the responses proportionate, and which can be ramped up or lowered as needed. We propose five levels to map this increasing escalation of severity.

**Level 1** is "business as usual" in recognition that some misinformation is, and will remain, a constant fact of life. A world in which there is no misinformation circulating is also likely to be a world with an unreasonable and dangerous amount of surveillance and censorship, and we do not advocate for that scenario. Instead, **Level 1** identifies a realistic scenario where there are low levels of misinformation, but where organisations have space to focus resources on long-term goals and priorities.

Incidents could move between levels over time, whether that is in response to rising severity, for example if it becomes clear that longer-term responses are needed, or where severity is decreasing, such as when an incident is drawing to a close. Early on, it may not always be clear how long an incident will last: this framework aims to offer flexibility to adapt to this reality. Having clear "exit criteria" that indicate when an incident can be moved down in severity will be a key priority for the next phase of developing this framework.



## Levels of incidents

### Level 1 ● ● ● ● ●

Business as normal, no additional response needed

**Reach:** Misinformation is circulating at levels considered to be normal, with no incident apparent on the horizon.

**Subject matter:** There may be some spikes of claims around certain events, topics or locations but they die down quickly.

**Urgency of response:** There is space to work on long-term goals such as audience resilience and media literacy.

**Collaboration:** Key organisations are collaborating to identify emerging threats.

### Level 2 ● ● ● ● ●

Monitor and prepare external facing responses

**Reach:** False claims or narratives are breaking out related to a certain topic or event, on one or more smaller platforms.

**Urgency of response:** Subject matter may be controversial or polarising, or has potential to cause harm if the volume of misinformation or engagement grows, e.g. may threaten vulnerable groups.

**Collaboration:** There is time to put plans in place to mitigate the growth and effects of misinformation.

### Level 3 ● ● ● ● ●

An incident is occurring, responses ramp up

**Reach:** Misinformation is moving into the mainstream and there may be amplification (whether organic or coordinated).

Continues...

## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CLOSING DATE FOR RESPONSES: 14 MAY 2021

**Urgency of response:** The incident may be relatively short term, so acting immediately is important.

**Collaboration:** Individual organisations are implementing internal incident response plans; collaboration is enhanced to identify cross-media and cross-platform risks.

**Level 4** ●●●●●

An incident is occurring, coordinated responses start

**Reach:** Misinformation is moving into the mainstream / being amplified by large accounts; there may be evidence of coordination or malicious intent or unprecedented use of online campaigning techniques/technology.

**Subject matter:** The event or topics may be completely new, or emotive, to the audience, increasing the likelihood of confusion; the topic(s) may be polarising.

**Urgency of response:** The misinformation might spark violence or physical danger; the incident may compound existing conspiracy theories / false narratives.

**Collaboration:** Core and expanded (e.g. public health, agriculture) organisations are collaborating.

**Level 5** ●●●●●

Maximum response levels and co-operation required

**Reach:** The incident is unusual in terms of fast spread and high volumes of misinformation, and is unlikely to be resolved in the short term; the incident is global or affecting multiple regions, with the same misinformation often appearing in different languages.

**Urgency of response:** The misinformation is causing, or is likely to cause, significant human harm; lasting effects on public misperceptions may occur.

**Collaboration:** A maximum level of cooperation from a range of different organisations is required.

## Deciding on a level

One of the reasons to have a shared framework is to improve coordination and cohesion and establish shared language. From that perspective, it would be beneficial for different organisations to agree the level of an incident together. However, it may not be acceptable or appropriate for one or multiple organisations to impose a decision on others. In particular, governments should not declare a level for others. Even in countries without concerns about political dynamics or government being involved in the information flows, a government declaring a level might undermine the action of others and their distinct roles (or perceptions around this).

An approach where each organisation reaches their own determination allows for flexibility, but may become inoperable. We recognise the difficulty for large multinational companies and governments to commit to something too rigid, but equally recognise the tension in creating something that cannot achieve the aims set out above, including enabling quick responses. We welcome views on which approach would function best.

## Impact of levels

The purpose of having different levels is to enable greater understanding and to identify what a proportionate response would be. Measures which are seen as proportionate and reasonable in response to a **Level 5** incident should not be the same measures which would be taken in response to a **Level 2** incident. Incidents may not exhibit every single feature described at each level above.

We seek to define this further below but welcome views on what types of measures you would expect to occur at each level.

**Q3**

Are these five levels of severity clear to understand and do the descriptors at each level of severity sufficiently cover the characteristics of information incidents? Yes / No. If No, please describe what needs to be clearer.

Continues...

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CLOSING DATE FOR RESPONSES: 14 MAY 2021

**Q5**

Which entities should be involved in assessing and declaring an incident's severity level in any country?

**Q6**

Can you describe (an) example(s) of what response(s) you/your organisation might introduce, or would want to see happening at different levels, for example at **Level 2**, **Level 3** and/or **Level 4**?

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION



# Examples from recent information incidents

## Level 2: 5G conspiracies, UK, April 2019

When conspiracy theories about 5G technology in the UK first began to emerge in April 2019, Full Fact highlighted a distinct lack of official guidance that properly addressed public concerns.<sup>3</sup> Level 2 characteristics included:

- False claims and narratives breaking out about safety of 5G on one or more platforms
- Potential for real world harm in the future, but no immediate threat
- Time to put plans in place to mitigate growth of misinformation

Public health information about the safety of 5G rollout was not improved at the time when Full Fact identified this emerging incident. As a result we saw it increase in severity: 5G conspiracy theories merged with Covid-19 ones in early 2020, attracting celebrity endorsements and leading to the vandalism of phone masts. At this point we would have classified the 5G conspiracies as a **Level 3** incident, particularly as the conspiracies online translated into offline activities. We saw enhanced collaboration between organisations as the UK government, health bodies and mobile infrastructure companies created new materials on the safety of 5G and the internet companies worked to promote that information on their platforms. Many news outlets also ran explainer pieces debunking conspiracies.

## Level 3: Notre Dame fire, France, April 2019

The Notre Dame church in Paris catching fire in April 2019 almost immediately prompted false claims that the fire was deliberately started, that the chant "Allahu Akbar" was heard at the church and that a Yellow

3 Rahman, Grace, "Here's where those 5G and coronavirus conspiracy theories came from", Full Fact, April 2020

Vest protester was seen in a tower.<sup>4</sup> Authorities quickly suggested the fire was accidental, relating to a refurbishment. This lack of malicious cause, although accurate, left a vacuum for conspiracy theories and hate narratives aimed at non-Christians, particularly Islamophobic narratives.

**Level 3** indicators included:

- Unexpected event, where acting immediately to respond to misinformation is important.
- Marginalised groups more likely to be targeted with misinformation.
- Misinformation breaking out onto mainstream platforms and the incident attracting news coverage.

Organisations moved quickly to share the information that the authorities released about the true cause of the fire, but it took a significant amount of time for that information to permeate given the amount of misinformation online. Some continued to believe the conspiracy theories: in November 2019 a French man set fire to a mosque and shot two men. He told investigators it was an act of revenge for the Notre Dame fire<sup>5</sup>.

## **Level 4: Brexit Referendum, UK, June 2016**

Fresh from a recent election victory in 2015, the UK government announced a referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. One campaign ran a billion targeted Facebook ads (a lot, at the time), while the other campaign was criticised for using government funds to distribute partisan leaflets. Evidence of malicious coordination was proved retrospectively<sup>6</sup>, but other **Level 4** indicators present at the time included:

- Unfamiliar event (a UK referendum) with complex and hard-to-communicate topics (e.g. EU law and trade).
- Polarising campaign with misleading claims amplified by high profile/large accounts and compounding existing false narratives (e.g. 10%/70% of UK law comes from the EU).

---

4 Funke, Daniel and Benkelman, Susan, "5 lessons from fact-checking the Natre Dame fire", Poynter, 2019

5 Abdelaziz, Rowaida and Robins-Early, Nick, "How A Conspiracy Theory About The Notre Dame Cathedral Led To A Mosque Shooting", HuffPost, 2019

6 Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, "Disinformation and 'fake news': Interim Report", parliament.uk, 2018

- Unprecedented use of technology to distribute unscrutinised claims to certain groups.

At the time the response to these high levels of misinformation was limited to fact checking, which – despite best efforts – struggled to reach a large proportion of the UK population who did not trust the experts attempting to inform them.<sup>7</sup>

### **Level 5: Start of Covid-19 pandemic, February 2020**

This is the only incident to date we would classify as a **Level 5**. As well as global lockdowns and economic crises, the pandemic prompted a slew of measures attempting to grapple with newly challenging types and volume of misinformation. The characteristics that put this incident at the most severe level include:

- Unusually high volumes and fast spread of life threatening misinformation on multiple platforms.
- Extended time period, with lasting effects on public misperceptions and public health.
- Unprecedented levels of cooperation among different organisations to effectively combat the incident.

The response to this was immediate but was, at the beginning, inconsistent, uncoordinated and required many organisations to create new emergency procedures and work internationally at a scale not seen before. Particularly as it became clear the incident was here for the long term, organisations had to reconsider protocols, funding structures, the deployment of resources and response policies.

---

7 For example, a YouGov poll carried out in June 2016 found that trust in economists stood at 38% and trust in academics stood at 42% ("YouGov / Today Programme Survey Results", yougov.co.uk, 2016)



# What common challenges exist across incidents – and how should we respond?

Every incident is unique. But in many cases, common or predictable challenges will emerge for those trying to find and distribute reliable information, or tackle bad information. We have seen many incidents that threaten freedom of expression, create an unclear or quickly changing situation, or create longer lasting problems that outlast the initial incident, such as conspiracy theories or breakdowns in trust.

The existence of these common challenges implies that in some cases it should be possible to plan in advance how to respond. In this section, we present a set of aims for responding to the most common challenges we have identified. This is likely to be non-comprehensive, and we would welcome views on whether there is anything significant missing.

It is likely that organisations will prioritise aims differently; it is right that different organisations have different strengths and specialities and this should continue. But we believe that by communicating about intentions (and expectations), finding shared terminology, and even harmonising plans in advance where possible, more effective action can be taken to mitigate the pressures of crises with efficient, credible responses from all actors with the ability to do so.

Sometimes responses may be applied across different timelines: there might be a combination of short term tactical measures and longer term strategic measures.

The prior identification of challenges and aims also points to the necessity of dialogue with other actors that have an interest in a good outcome whether as a directly impacted group or community of practice or specialist organisation.

# Challenges across different incidents with aims and possible responses

## 1: Threats to freedom of expression

Challenges e.g. when there is:

- Lack of independent scrutiny of laws, moderation policies and norms that allows for censorship creep
- Unprecedented use of technology to reach large audiences without the ability to independently scrutinise
- Suspected or known foreign interference

**Aims: Design responses that are demonstrably proportionate to clearly identified harms, and open to informed debate and discussion**

- Provide access to engagement, trends, and advertiser data to enable independent research on the impact of responses
- Evaluate the effectiveness of counter-misinformation efforts and publish learnings
- Enable independent experts to scrutinise AI recommendations

## 2. Unclear or quickly changing situation

Challenges e.g. when there is:

- Lack of insight into type and scope of misinformation and/or movement of content between platforms
- Unhelpful duplication of efforts among organisations
- Contradictory interpretations of a situation

**Aims: Work towards a shared assessment of the situation and complimentary responses**

- Share monitoring and verification information between trusted experts
- Support smaller platforms to share trends data to help predict when narratives / claims might move to mainstream platforms
- Brief media and other mainstream sources of information to reduce risk of amplification and stop dissemination of harmful information

Continues...

### 3. Difficulty disseminating or communicating information

Challenges e.g. when there is:

- Low baseline knowledge of key issues among public, politicians and media
- Low statistical literacy among public and media
- Accurate information is not contextualised or adapted for certain groups
- Topics are complicated or highly technical
- Information overload and audiences find it hard to judge content in the decontextualised format of news feeds
- Intense partisanship / emotive topics make it harder for accurate information to be believed

**Aims: Ensure good information reaches both affected groups and the wider public, and the key information is communicated effectively by trusted figures**

- Promote relevant impartial or official sources of information
- Identify and engage with appropriate trusted voices to disseminate information
- Disseminate information to pre-empt belief in emerging conspiracy theories

### 4. Information vacuums and uncertainty

Challenges e.g. when:

- Information is partial, allowing for distorted reporting and discussion
- New information must be produced, leaving a temporary gap
- Official advice is changing quickly or official sources backtrack
- The future is unknown so unfounded claims of certainty gain traction

**Aims: Ensure reliable information from authoritative sources is available and that any limitations are communicated**

- Funding and resources for statistical offices and impartial information providers

Continues...



- Horizon scanning to ensure information is adequate for future public decisions
- Transparently explain why information or advice has changed
- Strengthen and support impartial journalism

## **5. Unhelpful behaviour by influential public figures**

**Challenges e.g. when high profile figures:**

- Repeat false claims or make conflicting statements
- Cast doubt on accurate information
- Deliberately encourage distrust of mainstream media

**Aims: Provide context to help audience make judgements and promote alternative trustworthy sources of information**

- Apply warnings, pop-ups and labels
- Promote alternative coverage from trustworthy media and fact checkers
- Give information and caveats about sources of information being presented

## **6. Pressure to work at speed and scale to halt spread of false beliefs**

**Challenges e.g. when:**

- Volume and speed of information increases beyond resources of human teams to monitor and counteract it
- Increased consumption of news encourages media to report insignificant stories as major developments and increases likelihood of mistakes being made
- Unintended consequences arise from responses including entrenchment of false beliefs

Continues...

**Aims: Limit bad information and ensure corrective information appears when and where people need it, and have a clear plan for scaling**

- If appropriate, reduce circulation of harmful false content and / or address persistent offenders in a proportionate and transparent manner
- Design effective corrective content
- Implement additional verification standards before information is disseminated
- Strengthen moderation enforcement policies
- Invest in burst capacity and systems including support for experts and news organisations
- Work with volunteers to feed AI with marked up data for emerging topics or claims

## **7. Immediate threats to public order and safety**

**Challenges e.g. when:**

- Public order and safety is dependent on the public understanding information accurately
- Communication from affected communities and first responders is compromised or ignored
- False information creates potential for physical harm through violence or hazard

**Aims: Consider targeted measures for affected audiences to see and trust accurate information**

- Adapt or contextualise information to reach target / affected audiences
- Identify and engage with appropriate trusted voices to disseminate information

## **8. Lasting longer term impacts of an incident or incidents**

**Challenges e.g. when:**

- The incident spawns or entrenches conspiracy theories or myths which outlast the incident

Continues...

## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CLOSING DATE FOR RESPONSES: 14 MAY 2021

- False narratives are repeated over years and create hard-to-shift public misperceptions

**Aims: Build audience resilience, and communicate and debunk effectively**

- Cross sector investment in effective communication of information
- Increase audience awareness of and ability to identify bad information
- Research and fund effective teaching methods for information literacy, and evaluate existing information literacy programmes
- Work with schools, universities and qualifications bodies to ensure critical thinking and information literacy curriculums are effective and regularly evaluated and updated

**Q7**

Thinking about efforts to combat misinformation in situations above **Level 1**, are there any important challenges missing or challenges that you would characterise differently?

**Q8**

Looking at the high level aims, are there any missing aims and/or significant responses which should be included here? (Please state the number of the challenge you are referring to.)



# How do severity levels map across to challenges and responses?

After this consultation, we aim to bring these elements together to create a simple, coherent product that can be consulted when incidents occur and be a common reference tool for effective action.

We want to match up the elements outlined above: understanding the severity of an incident and mapping out common challenges and responses.

It is clear that different levels should require different responses. A proportionate measure to address a **Level 4** scenario might not be proportionate in a **Level 2** scenario. In a **Level 1** situation with normal misinformation flow, the risk is likely to be low in the immediate term.

As we have set out above, **Level 1** is intended to represent the regular, day-to-day environment that organisations work in. In this situation there is no specific incident either currently happening or on the horizon, and therefore no need to do anything beyond business as usual. In this situation organisations can work on long-term priorities such as building media literacy resilience, responding to the topical news of the day, trialling new products or interventions, undertaking research, and planning and preparing for when incidents do occur. Each organisation will have their own priorities and aims to achieve (and will communicate with other actors in common spaces and forums on shared concerns accordingly).

**Levels 2-5** represent when something is happening outside of the norm. Our current thinking is for users of the framework to select a challenge (outlined above), and then to identify which of the corresponding aims is likely to mitigate or resolve this challenge. We propose that different severity levels will not affect challenges and aims, but that responses can be calibrated and adapted to ensure they are proportionate to the severity level.



Below we outline possible responses to the challenge of dealing with information vacuums and uncertainty. The suggested responses are not mutually exclusive to each other, for example **Level 4** responses might be put in place in addition to **Level 3** responses.

### **Worked example: information vacuums and uncertainty**

**Aim:** Ensure reliable information from authoritative sources is available and that any limitations are communicated

Responses that could meet this aim in a **Level 2 scenario**, when false claims are breaking out on smaller platforms, which may be polarising or threaten vulnerable groups:

- Identify topic-relevant information producers and influencers
- Establish when information might change quickly and what is needed to keep messaging clear, including how to communicate uncertainty
- Remind public figures to avoid making claims of false certainty
- Identify potentially problematic gaps in public information and ways they could be filled within existing work plans

Responses that could meet this aim in a **Level 3 scenario**, when misinformation is moving into the mainstream but the incident is likely to be short term:

- Increase information-sharing with fact checkers and media to enable quick effective rebuttals
- Provide additional relevant information from authoritative sources
- Increase flagging of most viral claims to platforms and authorities
- Communicate to intermediaries where information gaps currently exist
- Avoid creating/ promoting speculation about the cause of the incident and work rapidly to put out accurate clear statements
- Transparently explain why information or advice has changed or where there are gaps

Continues...

## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CLOSING DATE FOR RESPONSES: 14 MAY 2021

Responses that could meet this aim in a **Level 4 scenario**, when misinformation is being amplified, there may be evidence of coordination, and there is potential for violence of physical danger:

- Promote materials that debunk false claims of certainty and link to official sources and accurate news
- Provide access to data on the incident to enable learning and improvement
- Strengthen and support impartial journalism
- Update and introduce policies transparently and collaboratively
- Increase funding and resources for statistical offices and impartial information providers to fill information gaps
- Increase collaboration with organisations to identify false claims and disseminate reliable information
- Coordinate with others to ensure messaging and advice is clearly heard
- Promote best practice for communicating about uncertainty

Responses that could meet this aim in a **Level 5 scenario**, where there are high volumes of misinformation spreading very fast and likely to cause significant human harm:

- Maximum monitoring and information sharing between all relevant sectors
- Emergency support for impartial journalism and independent research
- Increase funding and resources for statistical offices and impartial information providers to fill information gaps
- Commission real time or rapid research into trends, misperceptions and behaviour which can be applied straight away to improve responses
- Inter- and cross-industry collaboration to create new policies and products to respond to the situation

Following feedback from consultation, we intend to create a tool to articulate the different response levels for the other challenges.

**Q9** Would this kind of tool be useful as a basis for discussions in your team and/or with other organisations?

# Conclusion

**Finally, thank you for your interest in this work. Please do submit any views on the questions outlined in this consultation or any further views. The consultation will be open until Friday 14 May 2021 to allow time for your consideration and response.**

There are two ways to respond to this consultation: either by email or online via the Full Fact website. If you are providing your input by email please simply send your answers to **policy@fullfact.org** (preferably in an attachment) and indicate which questions you are responding to. Please feel free to answer as many or as few questions as you wish. If you would like to respond online, go to the website at **fullfact.org/incidentframework** and fill in your answers there.

We look forward to hearing from you.



# Annex: Further case studies

## Case study 1: Covid-19 pandemic

While Covid-19 was first identified in December 2019, it was not until early February 2020 that much of the world realised that there was a significant incident underway. It took a further few weeks for organisations to realise the extent of the information crisis that was underway. If this framework had been widely operational before the pandemic, the incident could have played out as follows.

Governments around the world begin to implement measures to try and restrict the virus. Recognising that an incident is occurring, representatives from internet companies and government, civil society, health experts and news media meet to discuss. The group recognises that:

- There is clearly a lot of confusion and misreporting, both online and offline, on the symptoms of the virus, how it can be caught and passed on and the new restrictions on socialising and movement.
- Conspiracy theories around the origin of the virus are growing in popularity and translating into anti-Chinese sentiment.
- The incident is global, misinformation is being shared in multiple languages and across borders and engagement is only rising.
- Organisations are struggling to keep on top of how the accurate information is evolving, and tracking the misinformation being shared. It is clear that this cannot be effectively mitigated by individual organisations working alone.

After deliberation and dialogue the group decides this is a **Level 5** incident. This is the first time that **Level 5** has been triggered. The key challenges are identified as:

- Difficulty disseminating or communicating complex scientific information.
- Information vacuums and uncertainty.

- An unclear and quickly changing situation, with contradictory explanations and changing scientific advice.

In addition, the danger of lasting long-term impacts and the pressure of needing to work at speed and at scale are recognised. Academics and civil society point out that there is also a risk of threat to freedom of speech from overzealous new content moderation policies taken in response to these challenges. The number and variety of challenges contribute to the agreement that this is a Level 5 incident. Three aims are chosen as priorities:

**Aim 1: Ensure reliable information from authoritative sources is available and that any limitations are communicated**

- Government and health bodies have responsibility for collecting and producing accurate and reliable information.
- The internet companies take significant steps to provide information to users, from redirecting search results to providing proactive information boxes at the top of the newsfeed.
- Fact checkers and news organisations seek to communicate the limitations of any information and provide easy to understand explanations of the data available.

**Aim 2: Work towards a shared assessment of the situation and complimentary responses**

- Researchers, internet companies, governments and fact checkers share information on a regular basis about the situation, including the most common narratives and any emerging claims that may be concerning.

**Case study 2: Stem rust crop fail (hypothetical)**

At the start of a boiling hot August, reports of stem rust, a serious yield-affecting disease caused by a fungus, begin appearing in Facebook groups for farmers in South East England. Soon, farmers' unions declare an industry emergency: the disease has not appeared in such force since 1955. Theories begin to emerge online: environmentalist groups planted the disease; the government is trying to break the farmers' unions; potatoes and rice will infect your garden.

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CLOSING DATE FOR RESPONSES: 14 MAY 2021**

The summer news lull is quickly replaced by interviews with panic-stricken farmers begging the government to buy up fungicide to protect British crops. Front pages feature close-ups of wheat ears with lurid orange growths next to images of food made from UK grain. As #stemruststockpile starts trending on Twitter, hoaxes soon become reality and supermarket shelves are emptied of flour, bread, yeast and granola. WhatsApp messages urge farmers and their allies to take to the streets and block roads into London.

Recognising that an incident is occurring, representatives from internet companies, government, civil society, farmers' unions, scientists and news media meet and decide the situation is a Level 3 incident. It is noted that:

- There is misinformation moving into the mainstream and organic amplification.
- Response plans could be improved through collaboration.
- There is little time to plan; acting quickly is vital to maintaining public order and safety.

The group agrees that the key challenges are:

- Unclear situation: lack of insight into type and scope of misinformation on platforms.
- Limited threats to public order and safety: false information may fuel violence/shortages.
- Information vacuums and uncertainty: unfounded claims of certainty are gaining traction.

The organisations choose several aims to address these problems, with actions for each.

**Aim 1: Work towards a shared assessment of the situation and complimentary responses**

- Internet companies and monitoring groups agree to a two month period of sharing detailed topic-specific trends data and verification information.
- Fact checkers and impartial researchers begin the first of sixteen coordinated bi-weekly briefings for media detailing the top false claims circulating to the reduce risk of amplification.



**Aim 2: Consider targeted measures for affected audiences to see and trust accurate information**

- Facebook and Google introduce flash grants to newsrooms and fact checkers to support contextualisation of information to reach affected audiences.
- The government identifies and engages with trusted voices to disseminate information.

**Aim 3: Ensure reliable information from authoritative sources is available and that any limitations are communicated**

- The UK Statistics Authority diverts resources to ensure that public information on wheat crops and diseases is communicated accurately and corrected quickly.
- The Royal Agricultural Society of England agrees to regular media appearances transparently explaining the background to changes in public advice.
- A consensus is reached that there should be limits on frequency of briefings, media appearances, etc, and an end-date for collaboration, recognising that the incident is of relatively low severity.

**Evaluation**

One example of evaluation could be that the regulator, The Office of Communications, known as Ofcom, commissions an independent evaluation which looks at organisations' satisfaction with collaboration, tests audience beliefs, and retrospectively analyses patterns in misinformation and online activity. This could be reported back in a debrief meeting two months after the end of the incident.

# References

Abdelaziz, Rowaida and Robins-Early, Nick, "How A Conspiracy Theory About The Notre Dame Cathedral Led To A Mosque Shooting", HuffPost, 2019 [huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/boyonne-mosque-notre-dome-fire-conspiracy\\_n\\_5dc2fd22e4b0d8eb3c8e8a91](https://huffpost.co.uk/entry/boyonne-mosque-notre-dome-fire-conspiracy_n_5dc2fd22e4b0d8eb3c8e8a91)

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, "CISA National Cyber Incident Scoring System", [cisa.gov](https://cisa.gov), as of March 2021

Donovan, Joan, "The Lifecycle of Media Manipulation", The Verification Handbook 3, 2020 [datajournalism.com/read/handbook/verification-3/investigating-disinformation-and-media-manipulation/the-lifecycle-of-media-manipulation](https://datajournalism.com/read/handbook/verification-3/investigating-disinformation-and-media-manipulation/the-lifecycle-of-media-manipulation)

Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, "Disinformation and 'fake news': Interim Report", [www.parliament.uk](https://www.parliament.uk/publications/2018/cmselect/cmcmds/363/363.pdf#page=45), 2018 [publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmcmds/363/363.pdf#page=45](https://www.parliament.uk/publications/2018/cmselect/cmcmds/363/363.pdf#page=45)

Funke, Daniel and Benkelman, Susan, "5 lessons from fact-checking the Notre Dame fire", Poynter, 2019 [poynter.org/fact-checking/2019/5-lessons-from-fact-checking-the-notre-dame-fire](https://poynter.org/fact-checking/2019/5-lessons-from-fact-checking-the-notre-dame-fire)

HM Government, "Emergency Response and Recovery non statutory guidance accompanying the Civil Contingencies Act 2004", [gov.uk](https://gov.uk/assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/253488/Emergency_Response_and_Recovery_5th_edition_October_2013.pdf), 2013 [assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/253488/Emergency\\_Response\\_and\\_Recovery\\_5th\\_edition\\_October\\_2013.pdf](https://gov.uk/assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/253488/Emergency_Response_and_Recovery_5th_edition_October_2013.pdf)

Miller, Carl and Colliver, Chloe, "The 101 of Disinformation Detection", The Institute for Strategic Dialogue, 2020 [isdglobal.org/isd-publications/the-101-of-disinformation-detection](https://isdglobal.org/isd-publications/the-101-of-disinformation-detection)

Nimmo, Ben, "The Breakout Scale: measuring the impact of influence operations", Foreign Policy at Brookings, 2020 [brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Nimmo\\_influence\\_operations\\_PDF.pdf](https://brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Nimmo_influence_operations_PDF.pdf)

Pamment, James, "The EU's Role in Fighting Disinformation: Crafting A Disinformation Framework", Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2020 [carnegieendowment.org/2020/09/24/eu-s-role-in-fighting-disinformation-crafting-disinformation-framework-pub-82720](https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/09/24/eu-s-role-in-fighting-disinformation-crafting-disinformation-framework-pub-82720)

Rahmon, Grace, "Here's where those 5G and coronavirus conspiracy theories came from", Full Fact, 2020 [fullfact.org/online/5g-and-coronavirus-conspiracy-theories-came](https://fullfact.org/online/5g-and-coronavirus-conspiracy-theories-came)

Tran, Thi, Valecha, Rohit, Rad, Paul, Rao, Raghav, "Investigation of Misinformation Harms Related to Social Media During Humanitarian Crises", University of Texas at San Antonio, 2020 [researchgate.net/publication/339718919\\_An\\_Investigation\\_of\\_Misinformation\\_Harms\\_Related\\_to\\_Social\\_Media\\_During\\_Humanitarian\\_Crises](https://researchgate.net/publication/339718919_An_Investigation_of_Misinformation_Harms_Related_to_Social_Media_During_Humanitarian_Crises)

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CLOSING DATE FOR RESPONSES: 14 MAY 2021**

US Department of Defence, "Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms", Joint Electronic Library, December 2020 [jcs.mil/Portals/36/Documents/Doctrine/pubs/dictionary.pdf?ver=2018-09-28-100314-687](https://jcs.mil/Portals/36/Documents/Doctrine/pubs/dictionary.pdf?ver=2018-09-28-100314-687)

Wardle, Claire, "Fake news. It's complicated", First Draft, 2017 [firstdraftnews.org/latest/fake-news-complicated](https://firstdraftnews.org/latest/fake-news-complicated)

Wardle, Claire, and Derakhshan, Hossein, "Information Disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making", Council of Europe, 2017 [rm.coe.int/information-disorder-report-version-august-2018/16808c9c77](https://rm.coe.int/information-disorder-report-version-august-2018/16808c9c77)

World Health Organisation, "Emergency Response Framework", second edition, who.int, 2017 [apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/258604/9789241512299-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/258604/9789241512299-eng.pdf)

YouGov, "YouGov / Today Programme Survey Results", yougov.co.uk, 2016 [d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus\\_uploads/document/x4iynd1mn7/TodoyResults\\_160614\\_EUReferendum\\_W.pdf](https://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus_uploads/document/x4iynd1mn7/TodoyResults_160614_EUReferendum_W.pdf)

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**Full Fact**

2 Carlton Gardens  
London  
SW1Y 5AA



[fullfact.org/contact](mailto:fullfact.org/contact)



[@FullFact](https://twitter.com/FullFact)



[fullfact.org](https://fullfact.org)

**From:** Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Tues. at 4:00 p.m. ET: The startup boom with AOL Co-Founder Steve Case, White House Council of Economic Advisers member Heather Boushey and more  
**Date:** Mon, 20 Jun 2022 20:41:29 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION



OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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

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

**From:** Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Traveling Re: Reconnecting: State/Poynter  
**Date:** Fri, 17 Jun 2022 06:27:16 -0700

Thanks for reaching out.

I am currently traveling for a series of back to back conferences. I will be checking my email, but replies may be more delayed than usual.

Best,  
Alanna

--

\*Alanna Dvorak\*  
International Training Manager/IFCN  
The Poynter Institute  
ph: (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@poynter.org  
www.poynter.org

**Sender:** Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
Steven Erlanger (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;  
Samuel Stoltz (b)(6)@politico.eu>;  
**To:** (b)(6)@bloomberg.net (b)(6)@bloomberg.net>;  
Julien GIRAULT (b)(6)@afp.com>  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** TOMORROW: Off the record with Leah Bray, Acting Coordinator of the State Department's Global Engagement Center  
**Date:** Thu, 21 Apr 2022 15:33:55 +0000

Dear Journalist Colleagues,

We're looking forward to seeing you at the Brussels Media Hub tomorrow. Reminder: we'll be at Boulevard du Regent 40 (NOT the U.S. Embassy). Please be in the lobby at 915am and (b)(6) (cc'ed) will escort you to our conference room. We're still good for a 45 minute chat from 9:30 to 10:15am.

Leah Bray bio

<https://www.state.gov/biographies/leah-bray/>

The Global Engagement Center

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-public-diplomacy-and-public-affairs/global-engagement-center/>

Thanks,  
Justin

(b)(6)  
**Director, Brussels Media Hub**  
U.S Department of State  
Bureau of Global Public Affairs

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



**Sender:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
Steven Erlanger (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;  
Samuel Stoltz (b)(6)@politico.eu>;  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@bloomberg.net (b)(6)@bloomberg.net>;  
Julien GIRAULT (b)(6)@afp.com>

(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Today at 1:30 p.m. ET: Inflation, supply chain disruptions and reinventing small business  
**Date:** Wed, 13 Jul 2022 12:11:27 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

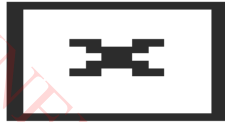


OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

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

**From:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Reuters.com Password Reset  
**Date:** Sun, 23 Oct 2022 13:52:30 +0000



# Reset password

Reset your password by following the link. This link will expire after 24 hours.

**Reset password**

If you ignore this email, your password won't change.

If you didn't request a password reset, please contact [customer support](#).

---



**Terms, conditions, and privacy statement**

© 2022 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.

3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036

**Sender:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>

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

**From:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: WashPost Invite: Join former NIH director Francis S. Collins and more at "Trust in Science" event, 12/6  
**Date:** Fri, 2 Dec 2022 19:58:50 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION



**Sender:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**From:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>

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

**Subject:** Re: WashPost Invite: In-person entrepreneurship event with Isabella Casillas Guzman, Theresia Gouw and more, 9/13 [Response Requested]

**Date:** Thu, 8 Sep 2022 18:05:36 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**Sender:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6) @state.gov>

**From:** Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>

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

**Subject:** RE: WashPost Invite: In-person entrepreneurship event with Heather Boushey and Steve Case, 6/21 [Response Requested]

**Date:** Thu, 16 Jun 2022 16:04:22 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**Sender:** Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>

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

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**Subject:** RE: WashPost Invite: In-person climate change event with Sen. Brian Schatz, Patagonia CEO Ryan Gellert and more, 9/20 [Response Requested]  
**Date:** Fri, 16 Sep 2022 18:06:30 +0000

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, (b)(6)

---

**From:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@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

•

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

**Recipient:** Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>



**From:** Gordon Crovitz (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>

**To:** Nakashima, Ellen (h)(6)@washpost.com>

Angie Mallory (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>;

Austin Branch (h)(6)@umd.edu>;

Barton Brown (b)(6)@lexsg.com>;

(h)(6)@nctc.gov>;

**CC:** Joseph Michael Kelly (h)(6)@umd.edu>;

Michael Williams (h)(6)@gmail.com>;

(h)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov (h)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Thank you to Panel 1!!

**Date:** Sat, 17 Apr 2021 14:07:20 -0400

All:

It was a pleasure being on the panel with you. I hope our paths will cross soon.

Joe, thanks for including me.

Regards,

Gordon

On Sat, Apr 17, 2021 at 1:52 PM Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com> wrote:

Thanks very much for the feedback, Joe. I appreciated the opportunity to take part -and I greatly enjoyed the discussion.

I look forward to continuing the dialogue and engagement. The more we air these issues the more progress we can make.

All bests,

Ellen

**From:** Joseph Michael Kelly (h)(6)@umd.edu>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 17, 2021 11:01 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)@nctc.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov; Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>; Gordon Crovitz

(b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>

**Cc:** Michael Williams (b)(6)@gmail.com>; Angie Mallory (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>; Austin Branch (b)(6)@umd.edu>; Barton Brown (b)(6)@lexsg.com>  
**Subject:** Thank you to Panel 1!!

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER**

Speakers,

I want to thank each and everyone of you for your participation on Tuesday. As you probably saw, yours was the most popular panel drawing over half the keynote audience.

By all accounts, your discussion was truly groundbreaking. Many of the comments I heard in the days afterward focused on the need for appropriate coordination and collaboration across the US government but also between government and the media as well as wider industry. Collectively, you planted the seed for a new way to think about the challenges of disinformation and malign foreign influence.

In the next week or so, we will be posting the keynote address and all the panel recordings to the IPA website behind a password protected link available only to registered attendees. You should all get a copy of that link when we send it out.

Thank you again for your support of the Phoenix Challenge conference and the wider IO community. I look forward to the chance to work with each of you again in the future.

V/R,

Joe

--

**Joe Kelly**

Professor of the Practice

Applied Research Lab for Intelligence and Security (ARLIS)

University of Maryland

Mobile: (b)(6)

--

Gordon Crovitz

Co-CEO

NewsGuard

25 West 52nd Street, 15th Floor

New York, NY 10019

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@newsguardtech.com

Get NewsGuard for your phone or desktop browser.

**Sender:** Gordon Crovitz (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>

Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>;

Angie Mallory (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>;

Austin Branch (b)(6)@umd.edu>;

Barton Brown (b)(6)@lexsg.com>;

**Recipient:** (b)(6)@nctc.gov>;

Joseph Michael Kelly (b)(6)@umd.edu>;

Michael Williams (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov <kimmaged@state.gov>

**From:** "Ice, John T" (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Lee, Matthew (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Taken Questions  
**Date:** Wed, 4 Nov 2020 22:23:10 +0000

No worries, Matt. Talk to you, then.

J.T.

**From:** Lee, Matthew (h)(6)@ap.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 4, 2020 5:18 PM  
**To:** Ice, John T (h)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Taken Questions

Hey there:

I'm sorry. We're so swamped with election stuff I haven't gotten an answer. Can I get back to you tomorrow morning?

Thanks,

Matt

On Nov 4, 2020, at 5:14 PM, Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Matt,

Off the record, realizing there is a lot going on, we wanted to touch base on this. Are you still looking to put something together? If not, let us know and we will begin to look at other options.

Best,

J.T.

**From:** Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 2, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Lee, Matthew (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Taken Questions

Hi Matt,

I hope that you are at least somewhat recovered from the trip. Bumping this up to the top of your email queue.

Best,

J.T.

**From:** Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 3:35 PM

To: Lee, Matthew (b)(6)@ap.org>  
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>  
Subject: Response to Taken Questions

Hi Matt,

Following up on the conversation last week, below are GEC's responses to the two taken questions.

These responses are provided on deep background.

**Q1. How are people getting to these sites? Google? Etc**

The majority of users accessing these four sites go to the site directly. For greater context, we have outlined the traffic for each of the four sites below. This data captures traffic for the full month of September from SimilarWeb, a publicly available tool.

**Definitions:**

**Direct traffic** occurs when a visitor arrives directly on a website by typing in the website's URL, without having clicked on a link on another site or using a search engine.

**Referral traffic** describes the people who come to a domain from other sites, without using a search engine.

**Search traffic** refers to the visitors who arrive at a website by clicking search results leading to that particular website (mostly after searching keywords or phrases).

**Social traffic** is traffic from social media outlets.

- **NEO:** 79% direct traffic; 8.5% referral traffic (mostly from other alternative media); 7.7% traffic from search; 3.7% social traffic (43.6% from Facebook)
- **Oriental Review:** 55.5% direct traffic; 13.3% referral traffic (83% from news aggregator Inoreader); 21.4% from search traffic; 9.7% social traffic (56% from Twitter)
- **News Front:** 63.9% direct traffic; 13.5% referral traffic (33% from Russian search engine Yandex; other traffic from news aggregators and websites); 5.9% from search traffic; 9.8% social traffic (56.8% VKontakte)
- **Rebel Inside:** Not available on SimilarWeb.

**Q2. Are we seeing lots of Spanish speaking audiences targeted from these sites?**

News Front is the only one of the four entities we outlined that directly targets Spanish speaking audiences. News Front has a dedicated Spanish-language proxy site and claims that the site's editorial branch is based in Spain. In addition, we see that News Front targets Spanish speaking audiences on the Russian social media platform VKontakte. The page self identifies as being located in Madrid, Spain and has 1,633 followers. News Front's Spanish-language no longer has any pages on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube because they all have been suspended by the platforms.

Happy to discuss any proposal to move something to "on background."

Finally, could you give some idea about when you are looking to publish?

Best,

J.T.

**John T. Ice****Deputy Spokesperson****United States Department of State**

Office: (b)(6) | Cell: (b)(6)

✉: (b)(6)@state.gov

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

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

Lee, Matthew (b)(6)@ap.org&gt;;

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

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



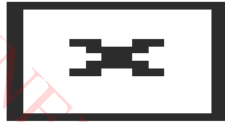
**From:** Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: WashPost Invite: In-person public safety event with Vanita Gupta, Keith Ellison, and more, 6/28 [Response Requested]  
**Date:** Fri, 24 Jun 2022 15:06:07 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION



**Sender:** Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>  
**Recipient:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**From:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Reuters.com Password Reset  
**Date:** Sun, 23 Oct 2022 13:52:30 +0000



# Reset password

Reset your password by following the link. This link will expire after 24 hours.

**Reset password**

If you ignore this email, your password won't change.

If you didn't request a password reset, please contact [customer support](#).

---



**Terms, conditions, and privacy statement**

© 2022 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.

3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036

**Sender:** Reuters <account@reuters.com>

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

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>; ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: OPCW Disinformation Panel - Fine Tuning and Dry Run
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 23 Nov 2021 20:11:33 +0000

Thank you all for chiming in. I will see you tomorrow for the dry-run. This morning worked great and helped us iron a few things out. It should run even better tomorrow. By then we likely have a moderated Q&A system in place.

You should have received an invite for the event itself with the 1PM US EST/6PM London/7PM The Hague start time. I am going to add the EU and Estonian Ambassador to it so you may receive an update.

Thanks again for your participation in this event. We are looking forward to an interesting and very timely discussion.

Regards,

(b)(6)

AVC/CBW

**From:** Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 23, 2021 3:02 PM

**To:** Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>

**Cc:** ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (The Hague)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (The Hague)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; LEINONEN Mika-Markus (EEAS-THE HAGUE) (b)(6)

(b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>

**Subject:** Re: OPCW Disinformation Panel - Fine Tuning and Dry Run

Same here, the delay is fine with me and OK with being recorded.

On Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 3:02 PM Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com> wrote:

Hi all, I'm happy with the delay and its no problem if its recorded.

Thanks

Eliot

On Tue, 23 Nov 2021, 19:53 ERONEN Pasi (EEAS), (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu> wrote:

Dear all,

Sincerest apologies for my late email reply!

Just to confirm also here, delaying the event with 30 minutes works perfectly well with me.

Also, recording the event works well with me, especially if we also get an access to the recording.

Best regards,  
Pasi

---

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

**Sent:** 19 November 2021 22:15

**To:** Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>; ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

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

**Subject:** OPCW Disinformation Panel - Fine Tuning and Dry Run

Dear Davey, Eliot, Pasi and (b)(6)

Apologies for the long email. I figured you'd rather have it all at once instead of than some repeated back and forth.

Most important and time sensitive: Are you Ok pushing back the event 1/2H? The EU and Estonian Delegation have suggested a 7PM start (The Hague time) to give delegate times to grab a bite before the panel. That would make the panel run from 1PM to 2:30PM Eastern Standard Time.

Another thing I will need your green light: Are you comfortable with the event being recorded. While the event will be limited to the OPCW Delegates and some OPCW Staff who will be invited, we are considering editing a shorter video to be for wider sharing. If we record, based on what is said we can of course revisit. We would not make anything public without your consent.

Also we'd like to schedule a dry run early next week to ensure Microsoft Teams works properly for all of you. This is the platform most OPCW delegations are familiar with because the OPCW uses it. Even if you do not have the App/Software installed, the web version works well. We'd appreciate if you could put your availabilities for the dry run in the doodle below with your initials:

[https://doodle.com/poll/p4t4ve2a6ag6szcs?utm\\_source=poll&utm\\_medium=link](https://doodle.com/poll/p4t4ve2a6ag6szcs?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link)

Attached is the draft invitation, let me know if there is anything you'd like tweaked. It says 7PM but again this is only if that works for all of you. In case you don't know each other already, below are the bios we were planning to share with delegates. We welcome your edits

#### **Davey Alba – New York Times**

Alba is a technology reporter for The New York Times and covers online disinformation and its global harm. She was previously a senior reporter at BuzzFeed News and wrote about artificial intelligence and tech effects on people and communities.

**Pasi Eronen – EUvsDisinfo**

Eronen is a policy officer at EUvsDisinfo, the flagship project of the European External Action Service's East StratCom Task Force established in 2015 to better forecast, address, and respond to disinformation campaigns affecting the European Union, its Member States, and countries in the shared neighborhood.

**Eliot Higgins – Bellingcat**

Higgins is a citizen journalist and founder of Bellingcat the storied open-source investigation website. He has investigated the Syrian Civil War, 2014–15 Russian military intervention in Ukraine, the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, and the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal.

Below is a proposed agenda for the event. Again your suggestions are welcome. I have attached in a separate document the three themes and some suggested questions that (b)(6) may use to get the conversation started. I will let him chime in on this as well as he was away this week and has not seen the latest draft. Obviously the elephant in the room will be Russia. We would like to keep things as general as possible and let delegates connect the dots.

- a. Brief introductions (1-2 min.) by three co-hosting ambassadors in alphabetical country name order, mirroring the order of themes discussed by panelists:
  - i. Global scope of state-sponsored disinformation (Estonian Amb. Kuusing)
  - ii. Countering disinformation (EU Amb. Leinonen)
  - iii. CW disinformation (U.S. Amb. Manso, hands over to moderator GEC (b)(6) (b)(6))
- a. Moderator remarks, introducing panelists (2-3 min.)
- b. Panelist remarks (10 min. each)
  - i. Davey Alba (NYT)
  - ii. Pasi Eronen (EEAS)
  - iii. Eliot Higgins (Bellingcat)
- a. Moderated Q&A – questions submitted by chat and selected by moderator (30 min.)
- b. Closing remarks by moderator

Thank you all again for accepting to participate in our panel and in John's case to moderate it. We are looking forward to a successful and very timely panel as we just learned that the Russian delegation is planning to hold its own side event on November 26 an hour before that of the Canada/German on the Impact of CW on Women.

Most respectfully,

(b)(6)

Foreign Affairs Officer

Office of Chemical and Biological Weapons Affairs  
Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

(b)(6) desk)  
(b)(6) cell)

(b)(6) @state.gov  
(b)(6) @state.sgov.gov

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

--

**Davey Alba**

| Reporter |

(b)(6)

@daveyalba

620 Eighth Avenue, 4th Floor,

New York, NY 10018

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>; ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>



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

Grove, Paul (b)(6)@appro.senate.gov>;  
Karem, Robert (McConnell) (b)(6)@mcconnell.senate.gov>;  
McTigue, Jessica (b)(6)@hsgac.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@armed-services.senate.gov (b)(6)@armed-services.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@gardner.senate.gov (b)(6)@gardner.senate.gov>;  
Rieser, Tim (b)(6)@appro.senate.gov>;  
Rimkunas, Matt (b)(6)@lgraham.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@ssci.senate.gov (b)(6)@ssci.senate.gov>;  
Yoder, Brandon (b)(6)@foreign.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@rubio.senate.gov (b)(6)@rubio.senate.gov>;  
Heiman, Nathan (b)(6)@moran.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@ConsultVistra.com (b)(6)@ConsultVistra.com>;  
(b)(6)@w (b)(6)@w>;  
orldlearning.org <orldlearning.org>;  
(b)(6)@worldlearning.org (b)(6)@worldlearning.org>;  
(b)(6)@ypfp.org (b)(6)@ypfp.org>;  
(b)(6)@alhurra.com (b)(6)@alhurra.com>;  
(b)(6)@alhurra.com (b)(6)@alhurra.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@ntdtv.com (b)(6)@ntdtv.com>;  
(b)(6)@ntdtv.com (b)(6)@ntdtv.com>;  
(b)(6)@politico.com (b)(6)@politico.com>;  
(b)(6)@rfa.org (b)(6)@rfa.org>;  
(b)(6)@outlook.com (b)(6)@outlook.com>;

**To:** (b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@voanews.com (b)(6)@voanews.com>;  
(b)(6)@VOANews.COM (b)(6)@VOANews.COM>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@rfa.org (b)(6)@rfa.org>;  
(b)(6)@mid.ru (b)(6)@mid.ru>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@mid.ru (b)(6)@mid.ru>;  
(b)(6)@mid.ru (b)(6)@mid.ru>;  
(b)(6)@watb.tv (b)(6)@watb.tv>;  
(b)(6)@alliance-exchange.org (b)(6)@alliance-exchange.org>;  
(b)(6)@alliance-exchange.org (b)(6)@alliance-exchange.org>;  
(b)(6)@americaabroadmedia.org (b)(6)@americaabroadmedia.org>;  
(b)(6)@ASIAPHILE.NET (b)(6)@ASIAPHILE.NET>;  
(b)(6)@ajc.org (b)(6)@ajc.org>;  
Graham Lampa (b)(6)@atlanticcouncil.org>;  
(b)(6)@aol.com (b)(6)@aol.com>;  
(b)(6)@bbg.gov (b)(6)@bbg.gov>;  
Trimble, Jeffrey (Broadcasting Board of Governors) (b)(6)@bbg.gov>;  
(b)(6)@bbg.gov (b)(6)@bbg.gov>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@korff.org (b)(6)@korff.org>;  
Heath, Robert (b)(6)@aol.com>;  
(b)(6)@DiplomacyCenterFoundation.org  
(b)(6)@DiplomacyCenterFoundation.org>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@globaltiesus.org (b)(6)@globaltiesus.org>;  
(b)(6)@globaltiesus.org (b)(6)@globaltiesus.org>;  
(b)(6)@heritage.org (b)(6)@heritage.org>;  
(b)(6)@IBGC.com (b)(6)@IBGC.com>;  
Stuart MacDonald (b)(6)@culturalrelations.co.uk>;  
(b)(6)@irex.org (b)(6)@irex.org>;  
(b)(6)@meridian.org (b)(6)@meridian.org>;  
(b)(6)@meridian.org (b)(6)@meridian.org>;  
(b)(6)@msn.com (b)(6)@msn.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@verizon.net (b)(6)@verizon.net>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@hotmail.com (b)(6)@hotmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@aol.com (b)(6)@aol.com>;  
(b)(6)@peacetechnology.org (b)(6)@peacetechnology.org>;  
(b)(6)@peacetechnology.org (b)(6)@peacetechnology.org>;  
(b)(6)@peacetechnology.org (b)(6)@peacetechnology.org>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@eastwestcenter.org (b)(6)@eastwestcenter.org>;  
Alan Heil Jr. (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@hotmail.com (b)(6)@hotmail.com>;  
JoeB Johnson (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Michael Schneider (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@yahoo.com (b)(6)@yahoo.com>;  
Michael Anderson (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Cynthia Grissom Efrid (b)(6)@earthlink.net>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@yahoo.com (b)(6)@yahoo.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Peter Kovach (b)(6)@aol.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Anne Barbaro (b)(6)@abarbaro.net>;  
(b)(6)@unanca.org (b)(6)@unanca.org>;  
Theresa Beatty (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
Buk, Mirela (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
(b)(6)@usagm.gov (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
(b)(6)@usagm.gov (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
Yuna Jacobson (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
Yelena Osipova-Stocker (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
Shawn Powers (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
(b)(6)@america.gov (b)(6)@america.gov>;  
(b)(6)@usagm.gov (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
Brian Carlson (b)(6)@vestnik.com>;  
Joel Fischman (b)(6)@comcast.net>;  
(b)(6)@voanews.com (b)(6)@voanews.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@usc.edu (b)(6)@usc.edu>;

(b)(6)@heritage.org (b)(6)@heritage.org>;  
(b)(6)@dinfos.edu (b)(6)@dinfos.edu>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@newshour.org (b)(6)@newshour.org>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@wsj.com (b)(6)@wsj.com>;  
Juyun Cha (b)(6)@mofa.go.kr>;

(b)(6)

McManus, Claire M. (HCTM/OD) (b)(6)@usaid.gov>;

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@student.american.edu (b)(6)@student.american.edu>;  
(b)(6)@yahoo.com (b)(6)@yahoo.com>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@usf.edu (b)(6)@usf.edu>;  
Martha Bayles (b)(6)@bc.edu>;  
T.J. Foley (b)(6)@college.harvard.edu>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

Patel, Nimish (b)(6)@msk.com>;

Donald Bishop (b)(6)@hotmail.com>;

Katherine Brown (b)(6)@globaltiesus.org>;

(b)(6)@cardiff.ac.uk (b)(6)@cardiff.ac.uk>;

(b)(6)@yahoo.com (b)(6)@yahoo.com>;

(b)(6)@syr.edu (b)(6)@syr.edu>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@hotmail.co.uk (b)(6)@hotmail.co.uk>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@guidehouse.com (b)(6)@guidehouse.com>;

(b)(6)@northeastern.edu (b)(6)@northeastern.edu>;

(b)(6)@america.gov (b)(6)@america.gov>;

(b)(6)@american.edu (b)(6)@american.edu>;

(b)(6)@america.gov (b)(6)@america.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@live.com (b)(6)@live.com>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@america.gov (b)(6)@america.gov>;

(b)(6)@northeastern.edu (b)(6)@northeastern.edu>;

(b)(6)@northeastern.edu (b)(6)@northeastern.edu>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@usc.edu (b)(6)@usc.edu>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@outlook.com (b)(6)@outlook.com>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@forsmarshgroup.com (b)(6)@forsmarshgroup.com>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@yahoo.com (b)(6)@yahoo.com>;

Olga Stefanou (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;

	(b)(6)@foreign.senate.gov (b)(6)@foreign.senate.gov>; (b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Announcing the Publication of the ACPD's 2020 Comprehensive Report on Public Diplomacy and International Broadcasting
<b>Date:</b>	Sun, 7 Feb 2021 18:26:29 +0000

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to announce the publication of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy's 2020 Comprehensive Annual Report on Public Diplomacy and International Broadcasting. This report, published by the ACPD per its congressional mandate, assesses the major public diplomacy and global media activities conducted by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM).

Based on data collected from the State Department's Public Diplomacy bureaus and offices, the Public Affairs Sections at U.S. embassies worldwide, and the USAGM, the report serves as a unique reference document, highlighting public diplomacy strategies and resources used to advance U.S. foreign policy objectives.

The report also serves as a platform for innovation, assuring that U.S. government public diplomacy initiatives remain effective in a consistently competitive global information environment.

Finally, the 2020 report showcases U.S. public diplomacy's embrace of diversity, to include the promotion of broad information sharing networks, multiple viewpoints and voices, and varied cultures.

Please don't forget to join the ACPD for an expert panel discussion of the issues covered in this report on Thursday, February 11, 2021 from 12:00-1:30PM EST. The Zoom webinar registration link is [https://statedept.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_x9G-iHzlTbOCz6Vjcm-CTw](https://statedept.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_x9G-iHzlTbOCz6Vjcm-CTw).

Best Regards,

(b)(6)

Executive Director

U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy

(b)(6)@state.gov



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

Grove, Paul (b)(6)@appro.senate.gov>;  
Karem, Robert (McConnell) (b)(6)@mcconnell.senate.gov>;  
McTigue, Jessica (b)(6)@hsgac.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@armed-services.senate.gov (b)(6)@armed-services.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@gardner.senate.gov (b)(6)@gardner.senate.gov>;  
Rieser, Tim (b)(6)@appro.senate.gov>;  
Rimkunas, Matt (b)(6)@lgraham.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@ssci.senate.gov (b)(6)@ssci.senate.gov>;  
Yoder, Brandon (b)(6)@foreign.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@rubio.senate.gov (b)(6)@rubio.senate.gov>;  
Heiman, Nathan (b)(6)@moran.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@ConsultVistra.com (b)(6)@ConsultVistra.com>;  
(b)(6)@w (b)(6)@w>;  
worldlearning.org <worldlearning.org>;

(b)(6)@worldlearning.org (b)(6)@worldlearning.org>;  
(b)(6)@ypfp.org (b)(6)@ypfp.org>;  
(b)(6)@alhurra.com (b)(6)@alhurra.com>;  
(b)(6)@alhurra.com (b)(6)@alhurra.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@ntdtv.com (b)(6)@ntdtv.com>;  
(b)(6)@ntdtv.com (b)(6)@ntdtv.com>;  
(b)(6)@politico.com (b)(6)@politico.com>;  
(b)(6)@rfa.org (b)(6)@rfa.org>;

**Recipient:**

(b)(6)@outlook.com (b)(6)@outlook.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@voanews.com (b)(6)@voanews.com>;  
(b)(6)@VOANews.COM (b)(6)@VOANews.COM>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@rfa.org (b)(6)@rfa.org>;  
(b)(6)@mid.ru (b)(6)@mid.ru>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@mid.ru (b)(6)@mid.ru>;  
(b)(6)@mid.ru (b)(6)@mid.ru>;  
(b)(6)@watb.tv (b)(6)@watb.tv>;  
(b)(6)@alliance-exchange.org (b)(6)@alliance-exchange.org>;  
(b)(6)@alliance-exchange.org (b)(6)@alliance-exchange.org>;  
(b)(6)@americaabroadmedia.org (b)(6)@americaabroadmedia.org>;  
(b)(6)@ASIAPHILE.NET (b)(6)@ASIAPHILE.NET>;  
(b)(6)@ajc.org (b)(6)@ajc.org>;  
Graham Lampa (b)(6)@atlanticcouncil.org>;  
(b)(6)@aol.com (b)(6)@aol.com>;  
(b)(6)@bbg.gov (b)(6)@bbg.gov>;  
Trimble, Jeffrey (Broadcasting Board of Governors) (b)(6)@bbg.gov>;  
(b)(6)@bbg.gov (b)(6)@bbg.gov>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@korff.org (b)(6)@korff.org>;  
Heath, Robert (b)(6)@aol.com>;

(b)(6)@DiplomacyCenterFoundation.org  
(b)(6)@DiplomacyCenterFoundation.org>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@globaltissues.org (b)(6)@globaltissues.org>;  
(b)(6)@globaltissues.org (b)(6)@globaltissues.org>;  
(b)(6)@heritage.org (b)(6)@heritage.org>;  
(b)(6)@IBGC.com (b)(6)@IBGC.com>;  
Stuart MacDonald (b)(6)@culturalrelations.co.uk>;  
(b)(6)@irex.org (b)(6)@irex.org>;  
(b)(6)@meridian.org (b)(6)@meridian.org>;  
(b)(6)@meridian.org (b)(6)@meridian.org>;  
(b)(6)@msn.com (b)(6)@msn.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@verizon.net (b)(6)@verizon.net>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@hotmail.com (b)(6)@hotmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@aol.com (b)(6)@aol.com>;  
(b)(6)@peacetechnologylab.org (b)(6)@peacetechnologylab.org>;  
(b)(6)@peacetechnologylab.org (b)(6)@peacetechnologylab.org>;  
(b)(6)@peacetechnologylab.org (b)(6)@peacetechnologylab.org>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@eastwestcenter.org (b)(6)@eastwestcenter.org>;  
Alan Heil Jr. (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@hotmail.com (b)(6)@hotmail.com>;  
JoeB Johnson (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Michael Schneider (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@yahoo.com (b)(6)@yahoo.com>;  
Michael Anderson (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Cynthia Grissom Efrid (b)(6)@earthlink.net>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@yahoo.com (b)(6)@yahoo.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Peter Kovach (b)(6)@aol.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
Anne Barbaro (b)(6)@abarbaro.net>;  
(b)(6)@unanca.org (b)(6)@unanca.org>;  
Theresa Beatty (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
Buk, Mirela (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
(b)(6)@usagm.gov (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
(b)(6)@usagm.gov (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
Yuna Jacobson (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
Yelena Osipova-Stocker (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
Shawn Powers (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
(b)(6)@america.gov (b)(6)@america.gov>;  
(b)(6)@usagm.gov (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
Brian Carlson (b)(6)@vestnik.com>;  
Joel Fischman (b)(6)@comcast.net>;  
(b)(6)@voanews.com (b)(6)@voanews.com>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@usc.edu (b)(6)@usc.edu>;  
(b)(6)@heritage.org (b)(6)@heritage.org>;  
(b)(6)@dinfos.edu (b)(6)@dinfos.edu>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@newshour.org (b)(6)@newshour.org>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@wsj.com (b)(6)@wsj.com>;  
Juyun Cha (b)(6)@mofa.go.kr>;

(b)(6)

McManus, Claire M. (HCTM/OD) (b)(6)@usaid.gov>;

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@student.american.edu (b)(6)@student.american.edu>;  
(b)(6)@yahoo.com (b)(6)@yahoo.com>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@usf.edu (b)(6)@usf.edu>;  
Martha Bayles (b)(6)@bc.edu>;  
T.J. Foley (b)(6)@college.harvard.edu>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;

Patel, Nimish (b)(6)@msk.com>;

Donald Bishop (b)(6)@hotmail.com>;

Katherine Brown (b)(6)@globaltiesus.org>;

(b)(6)@cardiff.ac.uk (b)(6)@cardiff.ac.uk>;

(b)(6)@yahoo.com (b)(6)@yahoo.com>;

(b)(6)@syr.edu (b)(6)@syr.edu>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@hotmail.co.uk (b)(6)@hotmail.co.uk>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@guidehouse.com (b)(6)@guidehouse.com>;

(b)(6)@northeastern.edu (b)(6)@northeastern.edu>;

(b)(6)@america.gov (b)(6)@america.gov>;

(b)(6)@american.edu (b)(6)@american.edu>;

(b)(6)@america.gov (b)(6)@america.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@live.com (b)(6)@live.com>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@america.gov (b)(6)@america.gov>;

(b)(6)@northeastern.edu (b)(6)@northeastern.edu>;

(b)(6)@northeastern.edu (b)(6)@northeastern.edu>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@usc.edu (b)(6)@usc.edu>;

(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;

(b)(6)@outlook.com (b)(6)@outlook.com>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@forsmarshgroup.com (b)(6)@forsmarshgroup.com>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>;



(b)(6)@yahoo.com (b)(6)@yahoo.com>;  
Olga Stefanou (b)(6)@usagm.gov>;  
(b)(6)@foreign.senate.gov (b)(6)@foreign.senate.gov>;  
(b)(6)@gmail.com (b)(6)@gmail.com>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6) (b)(6)@ndi.org (b)(6)@ndi.org>; (b)(6)@washpost.com (b)(6)@washpost.com>; (b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>CC:</b>	Jakub Janda (b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>
<b>Subject:</b>	Details about your panel at STRATCOM SUMMIT
<b>Date:</b>	Sat, 5 Jun 2021 09:26:51 +0000

I. Dear colleagues,

we are excited to welcome you at the **STRATCOM SUMMIT 2021 held on June 9-10 in Prague, Czech Republic**. As the conference is approaching, we would like to provide you with some important details.

The unique WEBEX link for your panel will be sent to you by AV Media **on Monday, June 7**. If you don't get the link or in case of any issues please contact Nikola Nekvindová at (b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz (phone: (b)(6))

#### Details about your panel:

1. **DATE: JUNE 10, 16:45 – 17:45**

1. **PANEL: U.S. Government Policy - Building Transatlantic Consensus to Counter China's Malign Interventions**

- Moderator: **Jakub Janda**, Director, European Values Center for Security Policy, CZ
- **Topic:** The Biden's administration position vis-à-vis Xi Jinping's China, which appears, at present, adversarial. Certain European governments remain unwilling to genuinely confront China's disregard for rules and fair play. Is transatlantic consensus regarding a belligerent Beijing achievable, if so, how?

Speakers:

- **Elnigar Iltebir**, Director for China at National Security Council, The White House, USA (*confirmed*)
- **Peter Mattis**, Senior Advisor for Global Democratic Resilience at National Democratic Institute (NDI), USA (*confirmed*)
- **Josh Rogin**, Washington Post columnist and CNN commentator, USA (*confirmed*)
- **Daniel Kimmage**, Principal Deputy Coordinator of the State Department's Global Engagement Center (GEC) (*confirmed*)

#### SPEAKER GUIDE

- Please **connect to Webex 40 minutes earlier** before your panel starts
- Moderator will open and close each panel
- Moderator will introduce the panel and each speaker
- Moderator will guide the discussion
- Each of the speakers has **3–5 minutes introductory remarks**
- After all the introductory remarks, the panel continues with a **guided discussion**
- **Q&A** from the moderator and the audience (participants will have the opportunity to ask questions via streaming platform).

**Language of the conference:** English – no interpretation provided

If you want to follow the full **STRATCOM SUMMIT program**, please **register here:** <https://1url.cz/pKNiW>. Upon registration you will receive your **unique streaming link**

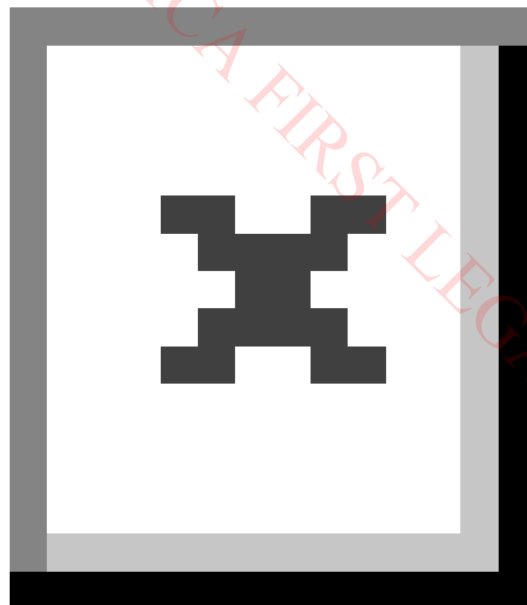
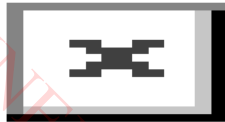
**Participants:** 200 governmental specialists from 15+ allied and several selected partner nations, upon invitation and confirmation by the organizers only

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Nikola Nekvindová at (b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz

Respectfully,  
Team European Values Center for Security Policy

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6) (b)(6)@ndi.org (b)(6)@ndi.org>; (b)(6)@washpost.com (b)(6)@washpost.com>; (b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov>; Jakub Janda (b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>

<b>From:</b>	Reuters <account@reuters.com>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	Please confirm your email
<b>Date:</b>	Mon, 6 Dec 2021 17:59:40 +0000



# Thanks for joining us

Thank you for creating an account to Reuters.com. Continue to access the outstanding journalism and insights you rely on by confirming your Reuters account.

Here's what you can expect from Reuters.com:

- Redesigned pages showcasing our unbiased reporting as well as global insights and analyses
- Video-rich and mobile-first experience
- Immersive and deeply visual presentation

## Confirm account

This link will expire in 24 hours.



## Terms, conditions, and privacy statement

© 2021 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.

3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036

<b>Sender:</b>	Reuters <account@reuters.com>
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>

**From:** "Kimmage, Daniel" (b)(6)@state.gov>  
Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>;  
Steve Parode (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>;  
(b)(6)@umd.edu (b)(6)@umd.edu>;  
**To:** (b)(6)@lexsg.com (b)(6)@lexsg.com>;  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)@newsguardtech.com (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>  
**CC:** (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal and Coordination  
**Date:** Thu, 25 Mar 2021 14:45:58 +0000

Joe,

I can make either of those dates and times (1600 on April 5; 0900 on April 9) work, too. Best, Daniel

---

**From:** Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:06 AM  
**To:** Steve Parode (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>; (b)(6)@umd.edu; (b)(6)@lexsg.com; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Kimmage, Daniel  
(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal and Coordination

Hi, Joe,

Working with Steve's availability, I'm free at 1600 on 5 Apr; 1600 on 6 Apr; and 0900 on 9 Apr.

Thanks and bests,  
Ellen

Washington Post

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Steve Parode (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:21 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@umd.edu; (b)(6)@lexsg.com; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com;  
Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal and Coordination

Joe,

Good morning. WRT rehearsal availability: 1600 on 5 Apr; Both options 6 Apr; Unavail 7-8 Apr; 0900 on 9 Apr.

Bio and headshot coming as requested via SEPCOR. For rehearsal, I will use the same endpoint equipment that I will have for the event. However, since I will be in Newport for the event, I am afraid that we must place trust in Cox to deliver a broadband service on par with the Verizon service I will use for rehearsal. It should be fine, right? Right?

Warm regards,  
Steve

Steve Parode  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Engineering Program Manager  
The Applied Research Laboratory of  
Pennsylvania State University  
(b)(6) (nonsecure/landline/voicemail)

**From:** Joseph Michael Kelly (b)(6)@umd.edu>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 10:58 PM

**To:** Barton Brown (b)(6)@lexsg.com>; (b)(6)

Steve Parode (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>; (b)(6)@state.gov;

Gordon Crovitz (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>; (b)(6)@washpost.com

**Cc:** Angie Mallory (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal and Coordination

Panel Members

Thank you again for joining us at the Phoenix Challenge conference on April 13th. Your panel will run from **1030-1215 EDT** – please mark your calendars accordingly.

You are on Panel 1: Information Effects in Strategic Competition and **your panel shepherd** to guide you through the rehearsal is **Boyd Brown**. He will follow up with you on matters in this email.

In order to check comms prior and ensure a smooth panel, we must schedule **a rehearsal the week of April 5<sup>th</sup> at either 0900 or 1600ET. Please reply with your availability ASAP.** To the extent possible, please arrange to participate in the rehearsal from the same location and computer that you will use on April 13<sup>th</sup>. This will allow us to identify and plan for any technical issues.

In order for us to adhere to our event compliance and provide pertinent information to attendees, we ask that all speakers provide the following information. As the event is fast approaching, if each of you could **provide these to me (and Angie Mallory copied) as soon as possible**, it would be greatly appreciated.



1. Short bio and a head shot. If you would like us to pull these from LinkedIn or another website, just let us know.
2. Emergency contact information (cell phone, office phone & email) for the day of the event to allow instant contact in case of tech issues.
3. We have your names, titles, and institutions listed below – please send us back any corrections.

- a. MODERATOR: (b)(6) Director, Strategic Multilayer Assessment, Joint Staff J3
- b. RADM Steve Parode, USN (Ret), Penn State University Applied Research Lab
- c. Maj Gen Alexis Grynkeiwich, USAF, Director of Operations (J3), USCENCOM
- d. Mr. Daniel Kimmage, Acting Coordinator, Global Engagement Center, Department of State
- e. Mr. Gordon Crovitz, Co-Founder & Co-CEO, Newsguard
- f. Ms. Ellen Nakashima, National Security Reporter, The Washington Post

Please find attached the updated agenda and note that it includes a change in format. We will not be holding breakout sessions with attendees as it will interfere with effective presentations by you our panelists. That means we will need you to participate for the full scheduled panel time.

We will be recording the event but conducting it under Chatham House rules of non-attribution and the recording will only be made available to registered attendees. Please keep an eye out for a speaker release form that will be coming separately.

Thank you again for your support to the information operations community!

On behalf of ARLIS and the IPA,

Joe

Joseph M. Kelly  
Professor of Practice  
Interim Director of Computational Infrastructure  
UMD Applied Research Lab for Intelligence and Security

(b)(6) @arlis.umd.edu

Mobile: (b)(6)

<b>Sender:</b>	"Kimmage, Daniel" (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>; Steve Parode (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>; (b)(6)@umd.edu (b)(6)@umd.edu>; (b)(6)@lexsg.com (b)(6)@lexsg.com>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>; (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION

<b>From:</b>	David Mikkelson <snopes@snopes.com>
<b>SentVia:</b>	<fakenewssci@googlegroups.com>
<b>To:</b>	<fakenewssci@googlegroups.com>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: [fakenewssci] Daily Caller
<b>Date:</b>	Mon, 22 Feb 2021 10:51:38 -0800

One of the key requirements of IFCN certification is supposed to be transparency of funding. If anyone can parse this word salad and figure out who or what funds the Daily Caller's fact-checking arm, I'd like to know:

<https://checkyourfact.com/about-us/>

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 6:30 AM Dean Jackson <(b)(6)@ned.org> wrote:

On the other hand, you really have to ask yourself if you want to be featured on a website with a history of hiring writers with white supremacist views, next to headlines like "public schools are becoming cesspools of woke liberal activism."

It's something everyone has to answer for themselves. I personally wouldn't lend them the credibility.

---

**From:** Barrett Golding <(b)(6)@gmail.com> **On Behalf Of** Barrett Golding  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2021 8:04 PM  
**To:** fakenewssci@googlegroups.com  
**Subject:** Re: [fakenewssci] Daily Caller

The Daily Caller has a NewsGuard Green rating (scoring 70/100), a Source Credibility of Medium from Logically, an Our.news status of Verified, and an MBFC factual-reporting rating of Mixed:

<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/daily-caller/>

By way of comparison CNN and MSNBC are also MBFC Mixed. Another thing Daily Caller has in its favor is its connection with the IFCN-verified fact-checking site:

<https://checkyourfact.com/about-us/>

Plus their interview with Dr. Gleb Tsipursky seemed fair and fine.

On Feb 19, 2021, at 6:17 AM, 'Dr. Gleb Tsipursky' via Combating Fake News: The Science of Misinformation <[fakenewssci@googlegroups.com](mailto:fakenewssci@googlegroups.com)> wrote:

Sharing my personal experience being interviewed by The Daily Caller a few months ago on my own project to address misinformation, it was a good experience, and they published a fair interview. Here's the article, FYI. Anyone interested in knowing more can contact me off the list <https://dailycaller.com/2020/10/06/politicians-pro-truth-pledge-stop-spread-misinformation/>

On Feb 19, 2021, at 2:41 AM, Harith Alani <(b)(6)@gmail.com> wrote:

... According to my database, Daily Caller has published several misinforming articles themselves.

**De :** [fakenewssci@googlegroups.com](mailto:fakenewssci@googlegroups.com) <[fakenewssci@googlegroups.com](mailto:fakenewssci@googlegroups.com)> de la part de Stephan Lewandowsky <(b)(6)@bristol.ac.uk>  
...the *Daily Caller* is an "orange" site (by the Grinberg et al., 2019, classification)

bg

--

<https://hearingvoices.com/>

<https://iffy.news/>

--

#FakeNewsSci seeks to cultivate and continue an academic and practical agenda around defining and protecting against fake news and misinformation, and work to build news literacy, defend a free press and strengthen first amendment principles.

There are three ground rules for this community aimed at ensuring appropriate communication and exchange:

(1) Civility is the primary responsibility of membership - we intend to avoid uncivil debates or rhetoric and those who violate this rule will be immediately removed.

(2) To preserve people's comfort with being open and frank, all exchanges are to be treated as "off the record" unless the member(s) in question explicitly agree otherwise.

(3) To maintain high-quality exchanges of ideas and practice, all new members must be recommended by two other group members to be added to this group. Please fill the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/h1UkZHwGEjt5Z4wg1> before you apply for membership.

---

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Combating Fake News: The Science of Misinformation" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [fakenewssci+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:fakenewssci+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com).

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/fakenewssci/2A87C797-CA15-4732-9B18-CA26A077E94C%40hearingvoices.com>.

--

#FakeNewsSci seeks to cultivate and continue an academic and practical agenda around defining and protecting against fake news and misinformation, and work to build news literacy, defend a free press and strengthen first amendment principles.

There are three ground rules for this community aimed at ensuring appropriate communication and exchange:

(1) Civility is the primary responsibility of membership - we intend to avoid uncivil debates or rhetoric and those who violate this rule will be immediately removed.

(2) To preserve people's comfort with being open and frank, all exchanges are to be treated as "off the record" unless the member(s) in question explicitly agree otherwise.

(3) To maintain high-quality exchanges of ideas and practice, all new members must be recommended by two other group members to be added to this group. Please fill the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/h1UkZHwGEjt5Z4wg1> before you apply for membership.

---

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Combating Fake News: The Science of Misinformation" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [fakenewssci+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:fakenewssci+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com).

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/fakenewssci/MN2PR18MB3309FA83352F14763B93AE2AA5819%40MN2PR18MB3309.namprd18.prod.outlook.com>.

--

#FakeNewsSci seeks to cultivate and continue an academic and practical agenda around defining and protecting against fake news and misinformation, and work to build news literacy, defend a free press and strengthen first amendment principles.

There are three ground rules for this community aimed at ensuring appropriate communication and exchange:

(1) Civility is the primary responsibility of membership - we intend to avoid uncivil debates or

rhetoric and those who violate this rule will be immediately removed.

(2) To preserve people's comfort with being open and frank, all exchanges are to be treated as "off the record" unless the member(s) in question explicitly agree otherwise.

(3) To maintain high-quality exchanges of ideas and practice, all new members must be recommended by two other group members to be added to this group. Please fill the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/h1UkZHWGEjt5Z4wg1> before you apply for membership.

---

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Combating Fake News: The Science of Misinformation" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [fakenewssci+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:fakenewssci+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com).

To view this discussion on the web visit [https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/fakenewssci/CAK-uGwMj-YJKdrUst%2Biy8UdiC%2BnMi1XqQ\\_-sdT\\_rSVXT751c4Q%40mail.gmail.com](https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/fakenewssci/CAK-uGwMj-YJKdrUst%2Biy8UdiC%2BnMi1XqQ_-sdT_rSVXT751c4Q%40mail.gmail.com).

<b>Sender:</b>	David Mikkelson <snopes@snopes.com>; <fakenewssci@googlegroups.com>
<b>Recipient:</b>	<fakenewssci@googlegroups.com>



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** Rizzo, Dave <(b)(6)@ap.org>  
**CC:** (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Mileto, Rosemarie <(b)(6)@ap.org>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji  
**Date:** Wed, 20 Apr 2022 18:37:16 +0000

Dave,

What spectacular news! You just made my day. We'd like to prioritize the Vientiane Times in that case.

To clarify, we would extend the current arrangement for 3 months (July-October) and add the VT for 6 months. Would it be possible to start the VT access earlier than July? So that their access would sunset in October around the same time as the rest?

Best,

(b)(6)

She/her/hers

Campaign Coordinator

EAP/PD

In office today: (b)(6)

Tuvli, LLC Contractor

---

**From:** Rizzo, Dave <(b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 12:29 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Mileto, Rosemarie <(b)(6)@ap.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji

Hi, (b)(6)

We would waive an additional fee for adding one outlet.

Dave

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 12:11 PM



To: Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Mileto, Rosemarie (b)(6)@ap.org>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** RE: State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji

**Importance:** High

[EXTERNAL]

Dave,

Many thanks for this. Understood about the 90 day limitations for new outlets. In the past day it's become increasingly clear that we won't be able to fund all the Laos/Timor outlets I sent over, at least not immediately. What would the cost be to add one outlet for six months?

Thank you, and sorry for the changes...the situation is fluid, as they say.

(b)(6)

She/her/hers

Campaign Coordinator

EAP/PD

In office today: (b)(6)

Tuvli, LLC Contractor

---

**From:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 11:04 AM

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

**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Mileto, Rosemarie (b)(6)@ap.org>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** RE: State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji

Hi, (b)(6)

Synching up schedules with my international colleagues and managing the assortment of US and International sales and user databases has proven to be a challenge, one I am sure you can understand.

Attaching two documents, excel sheet with existing customers/outlets and the associated users, and a PDF with an updated proposal.

Proposal Points:

- Will add the 10 outlets (Laos & Timor) on 6-month term extension
- Not set up administratively to add new outlets on 3-month term extension
- Group price provided for up to 24 AP Approved outlets, rather than per user fee
- Three options on the APR20 Updated Proposal.
  1. 3-month extension as-is
  2. 6-month extension as-is
  3. 6-month extension with requested adds from Laos and Timor

Thank you, please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dave

---

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 2:42 PM

**To:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Mileto, Rosemarie (b)(6)@ap.org>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** RE: State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji

**Importance:** High

[EXTERNAL]

Good afternoon Dave,

Bumping this back to the top of inboxes. Do you have word on whether we could add outlets for periods of less than a year, and how much it would cost to do so? Ideally we would like a 3 month and six month option. We have the funding available to extend the PIC portion, it's just a question of whether we can add any of the below outlets in Laos or Timor. Do you have preexisting relationships with any of the below?

In addition, I was wondering if your colleagues were able to gather any of the back end usage information for the existing grant. Our records indicate the following outlets have access, does that square with your records?

- Fiji (Fiji Broadcast Corporation, Fiji Times)
- Tonga (Tonga Broadcasting Commission, Taimi o Tonga newspaper)
- Kiribati (Broadcasting and Publications Authority)
- Tuvalu (Tuvalu Broadcasting Service)
- Nauru (Nauru Media)
- French Polynesia (La Dépêche, Tahiti Infos, Polynésie la 1ère, Tahiti Nui Television, and Tahiti Pacifique)
- Palau (Island Times)
- Federated States of Micronesia (Kaselehie Press)
- Marshall Islands (Marshall Island Journal)
- Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post)
- Cook Islands (Cook Islands Media)
- PNG (Post Courier, FM100, Capital 107FM, The National)

(b)(6)

She/her/hers  
Public Diplomacy Campaign Coordinator  
Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs  
Office of Public Diplomacy  
Tuvli, LLC Contractor

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 12:58 PM  
**To:** 'Rizzo, Dave' (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; 'Mileto, Rosemarie' (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Subject:** RE: State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji

Hi Dave,

I hope you had a lovely weekend!

We heard back from our colleagues in Laos and East Timor. The desired outlets are as follows.

Laos:

1. Vientiane Times
2. Lao Youth Radio
3. Laotian Times
4. Muan.la
5. Lao X

Timor

- GMNTV group
- Timor Post
- Independente
- Dili Post
- Hatutan.com

(b)(6)

She/her/hers  
Public Diplomacy Campaign Coordinator  
Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs  
Office of Public Diplomacy  
Tuvli, LLC Contractor

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022 1:14 PM  
**To:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Mileto, Rosemarie (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Subject:** RE: State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji

Dave,

I'll work on getting you those outlet names as soon as I can, since my colleagues in the field are asleep at present. I think adjusting the timing would be helpful!

(b)(6)  
She/her/hers  
Campaign Coordinator  
EAP/PD  
In office today: (b)(6)  
Tuvli, LLC Contractor

---

**From:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022 11:01 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Mileto, Rosemarie (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Subject:** RE: State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji

Hi, (b)(6)

I appreciate the dilemma and the solution could be adjusting our policy for new additions on less than one-year subscriptions. That decision would be made by my senior management. I would be happy to ask for special consideration to add the six outlets on shorter term and adjust pricing. Does that solve the problem?

To prepare for that discussion I would like to know the names and location of the six outlets, to make sure its not disruptive to AP's commercial business.

Thank you, happy to help.

Sincerely,

Dave

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022 10:39 AM  
**To:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Mileto, Rosemarie (b)(6)@ap.org>  
**Subject:** RE: State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji  
**Importance:** High

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Dave,

Thanks for this information again. We are currently in active discussions about how we should best approach an extension. As it stands, pending availability of funds, we are interested in potentially extending the existing mechanism for 13 outlets for a 90 day period. We are also investigating whether there would be funds available to add 4-6 additional outlets. However, funding some outlets for a year and some for 90 days would put two buckets of outlets on two different grant/funding cycles. If we can pull the funding together, we would want to have all the outlets on the same billing cycle. Do you have a suggestion on how we could get the existing and potential new outlets on the same cycle? Again, we haven't reached a decision yet and all this is pending availability of funds, but the information would be helpful to inform our discussions.

Thank you!

(b)(6)

She/her/hers

Campaign Coordinator

EAP/PD

In office today: (b)(6)

Tuvli, LLC Contractor

---

**From:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 4:58 PM

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

**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Mileto, Rosemarie (b)(6)@ap.org>

**Subject:** RE: State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji

Hi, (b)(6)

My apologies had hoped to get this out to you earlier today. Attached are the proposal rates you requested for a short-term extension of AP Service.

Separately, I have made an internal request for AP Newsroom user data for the 13 participating outlets and will share that when available. AP doesn't collect any market information, can only provide the user logs from our platform.

As for the fees associated with adding outlets, we would only provide quotes per outlet on an annualized basis, not for shorter term. Keeping in mind that AP would have the right of refusal if an outlet is an existing direct customer or customer of an AP partner, a good estimate for adding outlets would be \$6,000 per year, per outlet.

I hope this helpful, if I missed anything or if you have questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



**Dave Rizzo**

Director of Government Contracting

The Associated Press

1100 13th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005

(b)(6)

[ap.org](https://www.ap.org)



---

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

**Sent:** Thursday, April 7, 2022 12:39 PM

**To:** Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>; (b)(6)@ap.org

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

**Subject:** State Department AP Grant in Suva, Fiji

**Importance:** High

[EXTERNAL]

Good afternoon Mr. Rizzo and Mr. Mendelsohn,

I am reaching out on behalf of my colleagues at the U.S. Embassy in Suva, Fiji because the Department of State is interested in amending the attached grant where AP provides content to 13 Pacific Island outlets. Embassy Suva would like a cost estimate to extend the grant by three or six months, as well as a per-outlet cost to add on new outlets in Southeast Asia.

Can you assist with this request? I'm sure you had some staff turnover in the past two years, so if you are no longer the correct points of contact, I would appreciate being passed to the right inbox.

We are on a tight schedule with this request, so would appreciate your soonest response.

Thank you!

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

*She/her/hers*

Public Diplomacy Campaign Coordinator

Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs

Office of Public Diplomacy

U.S. Department of State

Tuvli, LLC Contractor

(b)(6)

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Mileto, Rosemarie (b)(6)@ap.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>