



**United States Department of State**

***Washington, D.C. 20520***

December 31, 2024

Case No. FL-2023-00013

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

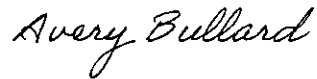
Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

As we noted in our letter dated November 29, 2024, 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 21 additional responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined that all 21 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 Kevin Bell, U.S. Department of Justice Trial Attorney, at [kevin.k.bell@usdoj.gov](mailto:kevin.k.bell@usdoj.gov) and (202) 305-8613. 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 cursive script that reads "Avery Bullard".

Avery Bullard  
Supervisory Government Information Specialist  
Litigation and Appeals Office

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

**Sent:** Thu, 26 Jan 2023 21:25:56 +0000

**To:** (b)(6) GEC-AFRICA (b)(6)

**Cc:** - (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**10/12/22 Updated agenda below. Note that the meeting is virtual (Teams info below).**

## **AF/PDPA – GEC Monthly Coordination Meeting**

**October 12, 2022**

 GEC Programs in AF - Master Matrix.xlsx

- AF/PDPA:
  - Update on AF and AF/PDPA priorities
  - Update on AF senior-level travel and African Leaders Summit
- GEC:
  - China Team:
    - Update: At the meeting.
  - Russia Team:
    - "Mapping Russian Disinformation and Propaganda in sub-Saharan Africa" project updates – site visit!
    - New exposure bulletin on pan-African influencers in the Sahel is going through clearances
  - CT Team:
    - FY 22 award and expansion of current projects
    - WA Tech Challenge
  - Iran Team:
    - Update: At the meeting
  - A&R:
    - Update: At the meeting
- AOB
  - Tech Challenge in AF/W (unless already discussed)
  - Next DAS Scott-(b)(6) meeting

- Next meeting:
  - Scheduled for November 9 (in person at SA-9)

**8/3/22 UPDATE:** Per the conversation at our meeting today, we are moving these to 12:30-1:30, the second Wednesday of every month. Ideally in person in SA-9 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room), but with the flexibility to shift to virtual if need be.

Dear colleagues,

Please note that the monthly coordination meetings will now be held on the second Wednesday of every month, starting on February 9. Virtual format for now.

Best,

(b)(6)

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

### Join on your computer or mobile app

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### Or call in (audio only)

+1 509-824-1908, (b)(6) United States, Spokane

Phone Conference ID: (b)(6)

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**Sent:** Thu, 26 Jan 2023 21:25:56 +0000

**To:** (b)(6) GEC-AFRICA (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**10/12/22 Updated agenda below. Note that the meeting is virtual (Teams info below).**

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  - Update on AF senior-level travel and African Leaders Summit
- GEC:
  - China Team:
    - Update: At the meeting.
  - Russia Team:
    - "Mapping Russian Disinformation and Propaganda in sub-Saharan Africa" project updates – site visit!
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(b)(6)

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**Sent:** Thu, 26 Jan 2023 21:25:56 +0000

**To:**

(b)(6)

GEC-AFRICA; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:**

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

## UPDATED AGENDA:

### AF/PDPA – GEC Monthly Coordination Meeting

August 3, 2022

 GEC Programs in AF - Master Matrix.xlsx

- AF/PDPA:
  - Update on AF/PDPA priorities
  - Update on AF senior-level travel and African Leaders Summit
  - Update on transition – this is (b)(6) last meeting!
- GEC:
  - China Team:
    - Top lines from GEC FO
    - Programs: ESF and .7 PD Updates
    - Analyses: Existing LOEs
  - Russia Team:
    - New Russia Team Director and Deputy
    - “Mapping Russian Disinformation and Propaganda in sub-Saharan Africa” project updates
    - New IPC process, Russia in Africa updates
    - Call for other teams – anyone seen CT/China/other narratives targeting UN or UN peacekeeping?
  - CT Team:
    - Reactions by AQ supporters to Al-Zawahiri's death.
    - Readout of the D-ISIS CWG Meeting in DC
      - Meeting with Nigerien rep
      - Kenya
    - Next CWG in Mid-November in Abu Dhabi
    - Proposal of a meeting in Sept. between the new GEC-CT leadership and the incoming AF/PDPA team/leadership.
  - Iran Team:
    - Update: At the meeting



- A&R:
  - Update: At the meeting
- AOB:
  - Requests for support from Niger
  - Ethiopia
  - Elections
- Next meeting:
  - Scheduled for September 14

**7/19/22 UPDATE:** Please note date change due to my leave schedule. This will be (b)(6) last meeting, and (b)(6) last meeting in his current capacity (although he'll be staying on in AF/PDPA).

Also note that this will be an **in person meeting at SA-9 (Red Cross building, 2025 E St), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.** (b)(6) all know where this room is, so ask them for help if you can't find it. Refreshments provided!



**African Affairs**

(b)(6)

Strategic Communications Coordinator  
Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs  
Bureau of African Affairs  
Office (Mon, Wed, Thurs): (b)(6)

Telework (Tues, Fri): (b)(6)

(b)(6) @state.gov

**Sent:** Thu, 26 Jan 2023 21:25:56 +0000

**To:** (b)(6) GEC-AFRICA (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**7/13 UPDATE:** Please see agenda below.

## **AF/PDPA – GEC Monthly Coordination Meeting**

**July 13, 2022**

 GEC Programs in AF - Master Matrix.xlsx

- AF/PDPA:
  - Update on AF/PDPA priorities
  - Update on AF senior-level travel (S, others?) and African Leaders Summit
  - Update on transition
  - Flagging (b)(6) meetings this week
  - Suggestions for GPA A A/S Trudeau travel
- GEC:
  - China Team:
    - Top lines from GEC FO
    - CCIF and small grants projects
    - Food insecurity report
  - Russia Team:
    - New Russia Team Director
    - New Francophone Fact-Checking Trainings and new piece on network in Cote d'Ivoire- "Mapping Russian Disinformation and Propaganda in sub-Saharan Africa" project
    - Updates on Wagner sync discussions – Nigeria election support?
    - New GEC Bulletin on denazification of Ukraine narratives – grateful for AF/PDPA to help us get that out to AF posts
  - CT Team:
    - Updates on GEC/CT leadership changes
    - Updates on next week's Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS's Communications Working Group Meeting in DC
    - Updates on the GEC counterterrorism strategic communications projects in West Africa
  - Iran Team:

- Update: At the meeting
- A&R:
  - Update: At the meeting
- AOB:
  - Ethiopia
  - Nigeria elections assistance (?)
  - Ukraine/Syria videos
- Next meeting:
  - Scheduled for August 10, but (b)(6) will be on leave – move to August 17?

Dear colleagues,

Please note that the monthly coordination meetings will now be held on the second Wednesday of every month, starting on February 9. Virtual format for now.

Best,

(b)(6)

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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**Sent:** Thu, 26 Jan 2023 21:25:56 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6) GEC-AFRICA; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Attachments:** (SBU) 13 APR 2022 AFDPA GEC Coordination Meeting Notes.docx

### UPDATE MAY 11, 2022

**Location:** SA-09 (the Red Cross building, 2025 E St NW) second floor conference room. When you enter the building, take a left (use your badge to get in) and take the elevator to the second floor, then take a left to the conference room. Call or text me if you have trouble!

**Refreshments:** coffee and donuts provided by AF/PDPA

**Meeting notes from April:** attached (I took them so apologies for any errors/anything I misheard)

**Agenda:**

### AF/PDPA – GEC Monthly Coordination Meeting

**May 11, 2022**

 GEC Programs in AF - Master Matrix.xlsx

- AF/PDPA:
  - Update on AF policy priorities, staffing, etc.
  - Update on AF senior-level travel and African Leaders Summit
    - Readout of D travel, DAS Scott travel
  - Paris PAO workshop
- GEC:
  - China Team:
    - Information Environment Update – Bulletin on PRC-Russia-Ukraine, Zimbabwe product, CRI influencers
    - FY22 Priorities Update – CCIF process
  - Russia Team:
    - Update on “Mapping Russian Disinformation and Propaganda in sub-Saharan Africa” project

- Updates on current events and reporting in CAR and Mali (wider Sahel)
- GEC Russia Team Brief with AF/PDPA to AF bureau - preparation stage
- GEC Russia Team asks GEC colleagues to forward any Ukraine-related narratives across AF
- CT Team:
  - Updates on the GEC counterterrorism strategic communications projects in West Africa.
  - GEC-CT Division participates D-ISIS Ministerial in Morocco
- Iran Team:
  - Update: At the meeting
- A&R:
  - Flintlock/AdTech update: analysis and reports for both the Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire campaigns – way forward?
- AOB:
  - Kenya (?), Ethiopia (?)
  - Proposal from Embassy Kigali (b)(6) to discuss)
  - Ukraine/Syria videos – will they resonate with AF audiences?
- Next meeting:
  - (b)(6) will be on TDY, should we do a virtual meeting in June so she can participate?

---

Dear colleagues,

Please note that we are returning to an in person meeting for this month, and we in AF/PDPA are happy to host it! We will be meeting in SA-9 (the Red Cross building, 2025 E St NW) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. When you enter the building, take a left to the elevators and go up to the second floor. The conference room will be to your left and I'll help direct. Refreshments TBC but most likely coffee and donuts.

I'll send out a call for agenda inputs on Monday.

Best,

(b)(6)

Dear colleagues,

Please note that the monthly coordination meetings will now be held on the second Wednesday of every month, starting on February 9. Virtual format for now.

Best,

(b)(6)

---

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**AF/PDPA – GEC Monthly Coordination Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 2022**

- **AF/PDPA: Updates – Acting Director** (b)(6)
  - Summer transition in AF/PDPA
    - i. (b)(6) leaving mid-July; incoming director is (b)(6) (start TBC)
    - ii. (b)(6) leaving mid-August but returning for Y tour in AF/PDPA; incoming deputy is (b)(6)
    - iii. (b)(6) leaving early August; incoming PACO is (b)(6) (start in August)
    - iv. (b)(6) leaving July 1; new SPOX (b)(6) starts August 22
  - Update on U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit: Aiming for second week of September, but date and location (Washington or NYC?) TBC
  - Principal travel: D travel May 1-6, to Angola, Gabon, South Africa
  - S speech on PRC policy: Shifted to late April, TBC
  - GEC briefing (on GEC mandate, programs, policies) for A/S Phee could happen on April 20 but still waiting for AF/FO update
- **AF/PDPA: Updates – StratComm Coordinator** (b)(6)
  - AFRICOM Information Environment conference
    - i. Attended conference in Garmisch March 28-30; very useful to hear DoD perspectives, as well as think tank (CSIS, CAN) speakers
    - ii. We should take advantage of opportunities to speak in person with DoD conference participants based in/around Washington
- **GEC: General Updates** (b)(6)
  - Acting Coordinator Bray to travel to Brussels next week for U.S.-EU dialogue on China
  - IM from Leah Bray to S going through clearances to ensure S is familiar with GEC's work and products
- **GEC: China Team** (b)(6)
  - Information environment research updates
    - i. Recent conversation with Embassy Harare to discuss both GEC and Embassy PAO observations about PRC activities in media and information environment
    - ii. Unclassified public report on PRC info manipulation (similar to report from Russia team)
  - Programs Update
    - i. Concluded 3 out of 4 NOFOs; panels will start end of April (to allocate CCIF money)
  - Budget planning
    - i. Put forth spend plans for between now and September
      - 1. Importing PRC SME expertise from EUR to AF (possible project)
      - 2. Unfunded priority -- replicating the Kenya type AidData project (not yet approved)
- **GEC: Russia Team** (b)(6)
  - GEC IM to S includes paper on Sudan narratives

- "Mapping Disinformation in SSA" update: three preliminary AF analyses on Ukraine narratives have gone out to post
  - Exporting Best Practices (EBP) program: exporting European disinfo expertise to other regions; project has been successful in WHA; looking to launch in South Africa and Nigeria within next year
  - Will reschedule Russian disinfo briefing for AF (virtual, unclassified, all of AF invited)
  - (b)(6) went to USUN to talk about disinformation support for UN PKOs
    - i. Countering disinfo as #1 priority for PKOs, per UN under secretary
  - Working on public analysis of Russian disinfo in AF (for Disarming Disinfo website)
- **GEC: CT Team**
    - Working on D-ISIS communications working group meeting coming up in Washington
    - Working on "manipulative tactics" communications strategy -- how do people get manipulated into joining VEOs? How can we make them aware of what that looks like?
    - Still doing consultations on al-Shabab strategic implementation plan
    - NOFO for FY22 (East Africa and Central Asia) is with GEC/FO
  - **GEC: Iran Team** - (b)(6)
    - GEC Iran has no active projects in AF
  - **GEC: A&R**
    - Flintlock: Spoke with Embassy Accra about AdTech capability



**Sent:** Thu, 26 Jan 2023 21:25:56 +0000

**To:** GEC-AFRICA: (b)(6)

GEC-AFRICA (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

UPDATE:

Colleagues, please see agenda below. I'll send notes from last month's meeting separately, as I still have to finish the formatting.

## **AF/PDPA – GEC Monthly Coordination Meeting**

**March 9, 2022**

 GEC Programs in AF - Master Matrix.xlsx

- AF/PDPA:
  - Update on AF policy priorities, staffing, etc.
    - Focus on Russia-Ukraine messaging; NSC taskings
    - Tracking key Russian disinfo themes
    - AF/PDPA moving to new offices!
  - Update on AF senior-level travel
  - Support for AFRICOM information symposium
  - Thanks to GEC/RUS for working on the Russian disinfo briefing; we'll reschedule when possible
- GEC:
  - China Team:
    - Information Environment Update – PRC SOEs, Zimbabwe, and Ukraine
    - Programs Update – Highlights from TRF, ICFJ, and USIP
    - FY22 Priorities Update
  - Russia Team:
    - Update on "Mapping Russian Disinformation and Propaganda in sub-Saharan Africa" project
    - Updates on current events and reporting in CAR and Mali (wider Sahel)
    - GEC Russia Team Brief with AF/PDPA to AF bureau - preparation stage
    - GEC Russia Team asks GEC colleagues to forward any Ukraine-related narratives across AF
  - CT Team:
    - Updates on the GEC counterterrorism strategic communications projects in West Africa.

- Iran Team:
  - Update: At the meeting
- A&R:
  - Flintlock/AdTech update: Working on the written analysis and reports for both the Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire campaigns. Those will be in A&R QC this week for final editing and review.
- Next meeting:
  - Moving to second Wednesday of every month (see calendar invite)
  - Return to in person meetings?

---

Dear colleagues,

Please note that the monthly coordination meetings will now be held on the second Wednesday of every month, starting on February 9. Virtual format for now.

Best,

(b)(6)

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

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GEC-AFRICA (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

UPDATE 2/9/22: see agenda below

## **AF/PDPA – GEC Monthly Coordination Meeting**

**February 9, 2022**

 GEC Programs in AF – Master Matrix.xlsx

- AF/PDPA:
  - Update on AF policy priorities, staffing, etc.
  - Update on AF senior-level travel
  - Support for AFRICOM information symposium
- GEC:
  - China Team:
    - Information Environment Update – Zambia Product and Olympics Coverage
    - Programs Update – Release of CCIF NOFOs / Updates on Existing Projects
  - Russia Team:
    - Update on “Mapping Russian Disinformation and Propaganda in sub-Saharan Africa” project
    - Updates on current events and reporting in CAR and Mali (wider Sahel)
    - GEC Russia Team Brief with AF/PDPA to AF bureau - preparation stage
    - GEC Russia Team asks GEC colleagues to forward any Ukraine-related narratives across AF
  - CT Team:
    - The Feb 3 killing of ISIS leader in Syria: Coverage of the operation by regional media outlets. Reactions and narratives from ISIS Africa affiliates.
    - FY 22 CT programming: East Africa region is one of the GEC-CT priorities.
  - Iran Team:
    - Update: At the meeting

- A&R
  - Flintlock/AdTech update
  - FOCAC update
- Ethiopia -- hate speech/social media
  - Overview of analytical support and platform engagement
- Next meeting:
  - Moving to second Wednesday of every month (see calendar invite)
  - Virtual format for now

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---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**CC:** (b)(6) <state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: White House threats to veto NDAA over social media rules  
**Date:** Mon, 7 Dec 2020 19:19:51 +0000

@State.gov

Yes, in mid-Oct the White House took issue with FB/Twitter's decision to moderate a posting about Hunter Biden. It triggered the latest efforts by the White House.  
See <https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/10/14/21516194/hunter-biden-new-york-post-facebook-twitter-removed>. This is a continuation of a longer-term issue.

**From:** (b)(6) <state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 2:12 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: White House threats to veto NDAA over social media rules

@State.gov

**From:** (b)(6) <state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: White House threats to veto NDAA over social media rules

@State.gov

**From:** (b)(6) <state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 1:16 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: White House threats to veto NDAA over social media rules

@State.gov

On Tuesday, President Trump threatened to veto must-pass defense policy legislation unless lawmakers agree to repeal internet platforms' Section 230 protections, which he claimed were "a serious threat to our National Security & Election Integrity." Several Democratic lawmakers quickly criticized and questioned the move. The threat to veto appears to be a continuation of the Trump Administration's complaints against what they describe as the social media platforms' biased actions against conservative content online. The White House on 28 May released the Executive Order on Preventing Online Censorship in reaction to a deleted Republican tweet, and on 27 July the Commerce Department sent a related petition for rulemaking to the Federal Communications Commission, called "NTIA Petition for Rulemaking to Clarify Provisions of Section 230 of the Communications Act."

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

**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:54 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

@State.gov

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** White House threats to veto NDAA over social media rules

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks, (b)(6)

**Sender:** (b)(6)

@State.gov

**Recipient:**

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

@State.gov

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

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

**CC:** Bray, Leah (b)(6) state.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Potential H&L

**Date:** Thu, 15 Oct 2020 15:00:22 +0000

Dear colleagues,

Please check the story below from our Dutch partner on the Bidens' Implication in Ukraine.  
Thanks.

Regards,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 10:53 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6) @State.gov

**Subject:** Re: Potential H&L

(b)(6) -- thanks for passing along. If you haven't already, you may want to share with the Russia team as well, especially (b)(6)

Best, (b)(6)

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

**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:46 AM

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

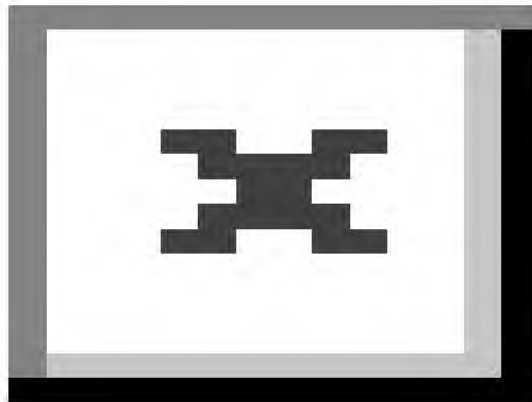
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** FW: Potential H&L

Hi (b)(6)

I received a link to this article from our Dutch colleague about the Bidens' implication in Ukraine. The link is in Dutch, but I was able to translate the story to English with the help of Google!

**With "disclosure" about his emails, the hunt for Hunter Biden has reopened**



Joe Biden and his son Hunter, here in 2010. Image REUTERS

New revelations about the son of US presidential candidate Joe Biden are met with skepticism by US media.

**Seije Slager** October 15, 2020, 14:17

History seems to be repeating itself: Shortly before the US presidential election, there is another big leak of emails that could get the Democratic candidate in trouble.

But while the hacked emails of the Democratic Party in 2016 dominated the news for weeks and thwarted Hillary Clinton's campaign, in 2020 there is still more skepticism at the revelations, which came out through the New York Post. The newspaper, which is known for being slightly sensationalist and Trump-friendly, got its hands on the emails through Rudy Giuliani, adding to the mistrust of the authenticity of the documents. Giuliani is Trump's personal attorney, who in



the past has already released many theories about the Bidens in Ukraine, which turned out to be untrue.

Major social media companies such as Facebook and Twitter had their scripts ready this time, and immediately took steps to curb the spread of the news story until finding out more about the authenticity and origin of the emails.

### **What about the Bidens in Ukraine again?**

In 2014 Hunter Biden joined the board of the Ukrainian energy company Burisma for a generous salary. His father Joe was vice-president under Obama at the time, and his portfolio included Ukraine.

Few believe that Hunter Biden was hired solely because of his unique knowledge of the Ukrainian gas market, and that his political connections had nothing to do with it. The lucrative sinecure of Biden Jr. certainly does not reflect well on the Bidens.

But there has never been any evidence of actual influence. Joe Biden has always said he never talked to his son about Ukraine. Indeed, it has never been proven that Burisma or Hunter Biden influenced US policy, despite unremitting efforts by the Trump camp to make it plausible.

### **What's the news?**

The New York Post released an email on Wednesday in which a Burisma official reportedly thanked Biden in 2015 for "the opportunity to meet your father and spend some time together." If that meeting did take place, it would mean that Joe Biden was not telling the truth when he said he never talked to his son about Ukraine. The newspaper itself calls it a "smoking gun".

### **How credible are those revelations?**

Experts are skeptical. The New York Post also published private photos of Hunter Biden from the same data breach, which appear to be authentic. But it is unclear whether the email itself is authentic: the newspaper only shows a photo of the email, which was taken this week. Original metadata is missing. The archives also seem to indicate that Joe Biden had very different activities in his agenda on the day in question than a meeting. He may have shaken hands briefly in passing.

The email is said to have come from a laptop Hunter Biden allegedly left at a repair shop and never picked up. The store manager says "almost certain" that the laptop was brought by Hunter Biden himself, but he has a visual impairment, so says he cannot vouch for it. The fact that he then made the laptop available to Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal attorney, who has been trumping unproven conspiracy theories about the Bidens in Ukraine for years, makes most experts even more skeptical. Giuliani did not respond to requests from other media to inspect the mail.

### **How harmful is this to Joe Biden?**

Biden now has a few street lengths ahead in the polls, so could have something. Both mainstream and social media are more wary this year than in 2016, limiting the chances that this story will make headlines for weeks, as long as the evidence for it remains as sparse as it is today.

But attention to the opportunistic affairs of his son in Ukraine does him no good in principle. Even though Joe Biden is not personally responsible, the smell of favoritism hangs around his son's lucrative business, and Joe Biden is often irritated when he is asked about it.

Regards,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** Zwoll, Guus van

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 5:01 AM

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

**Cc:** (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.gov>; Nuijten, Martijn <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Potential H&L

Dear (b)(6)

Just as an FYI. I saw on Twitter that this story was flagged as a potential Hack and Leak. Just wanted to flag with you that this was also shared in Dutch Media (trouw):

<https://www.trouw.nl/buitenland/e-mails-zoon-biden-over-inzetten-vader-voor-loon-in-oekraïne~bf019036/>

Best,  
Guus



**Guus van Zwoll**

**Senior Policy Officer**

Human Rights and Political and Legal Affairs Division (DMM-MP)

Task Force International Cyber Policies (DVB-TFC)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs The Netherlands

Rijnstraat 8 | 2515 XP | Den Haag

P.O. Box 20061 | 2500 EB | The Hague

E: (b)(6)

T: (b)(6)

M: (b)(6)



Help save paper! Do you really need to print this email?

Dit bericht kan informatie bevatten die niet voor u is bestemd. Indien u niet de geadresseerde bent of dit bericht abusievelijk aan u is toegezonden, wordt u verzocht dat aan de afzender te melden en het bericht te verwijderen. De Staat aanvaardt geen aansprakelijkheid voor schade, van welke aard ook, die verband houdt met risico's verbonden aan het elektronisch verzenden van berichten.

This message may contain information that is not intended for you. If you are not the addressee or if this message was sent to you by mistake, you are requested to inform the sender and delete the message. The State accepts no liability for damage of any kind resulting from the risks inherent in the electronic transmission of messages.

**Sender:**

(b)(6)

**Recipient:**

All @state.gov

Bray, Leah (b)(6) @state.gov>

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Message to FBI/FITF on Overseas Proxy Site Election-related Narratives  
**Date:** Fri, 30 Oct 2020 15:38:13 +0000

This looks fine to me. If you don't want to send it directly to Lea, you can send it me and (b)(6)  
cc'ing (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2020 11:36 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Message to FBI/FITF on Overseas Proxy Site Election-related Narratives

Lea,

Here is what I asked I2C2's (b)(6) to share with our FBI/FITF contact for their s.a. and (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

As background on this item, (b)(6) observed an uptick in elections-related content on the overseas proxy websites, and coordinated with (b)(6) and myself on the below write-up, which also drew on some related FireEye analysis. Focus is exclusively on overseas activity amplified on identified Russia proxy websites.

I'll also provide you separately with an overview of the proposed plans to monitor for overseas election-related disinformation through next week.

Best (b)(6)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Executive Summary:** Mandiant Advanced Intelligence Access and the Global Engagement Center Russia Team produced the following cursory overview of content pertaining to the Hunter Biden laptop scandal and audio recordings on known proxy websites within the Russian disinformation and propaganda ecosystem. The outlets detailed have all been previously profiled as part of the GEC's Special Report: Pillars of Russia's Disinformation and Propaganda Ecosystem and include SouthFront, the Strategic Culture Foundation, News Front, New Eastern Outlook, and Global Research. These malign actors have published content pertaining to the Hunter Biden laptop scandal and alleged audio recordings. Most of the content pertaining to the GTV leaks was referenced starting on 25 or 26 October. South Front, Global Research, and News Front appear to have the most extensive reporting. Some of

the narratives listed below fall in line with QAnon linked conspiracies, such as accusations of pedophilia. Other narratives are intended to extensively link the Biden family to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), discredit some American officials' accusations that the leaks are part of a Russian disinformation campaign, or criticize American social media and news platforms for censoring or refusing to cover the subject. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

The outlets and articles covered below do not represent all content on this subject being produced and/or amplified by Russia's disinformation and propaganda ecosystem. Similar reporting on these and other election-related themes will follow as they are discovered.

### **SouthFront** (southfront[.]org)

As of 29 October, we found at least six publications on SouthFront regarding the Hunter Biden laptop scandal and alleged audio recordings. These articles are both SouthFront original content and republications from other websites. The publications referenced below range from 22-28 October 2020, and reference the Hunter Biden audio recordings and laptop scandal to include alleged sex tapes, pedophilia, and ties to China. Historical content focused on Hunter Biden's ties to Ukraine.

- HUNTER BIDEN RECORDING PROVES HIS TIES TO CHINESE "SPY CHIEF" - 28 October 2020
- 'YOU'LL BURY EVERYONE INVOLVED': BOBULINSKI RECORDED BIDEN OPERATIVES BEGGING HIM TO STAY QUIET, SET TO RELEASE TUE - 27 October 2020
- OUTRAGE AFTER WAPO SAYS TO 'TREAT BIDEN LEAKS AS FOREIGN INTEL OPERATION—EVEN IF THEY PROBABLY AREN'T' - 26 October 2020
- TWITTER NUKES ALLEGED HUNTER BIDEN SEX TAPE AFTER LETTING BORAT-GIULIANI SEX SCENE TREND - 25 October 2020
- BLOCKBUSTER REPORT REVEALS HOW BIDEN FAMILY WAS COMPROMISED BY CHINA - 23 October 2020
- JOE BIDEN INSISTS SON NEVER PROFITED OFF FAMILY NAME; EXCEPT HUNTER AND EX-PRESIDENT OF POLAND SAY HE DID - 22 October 2020

### **Strategic Culture Foundation** (strategic-culture[.]org)

As of 29 October, we found at least six publications on the Strategic Culture Foundation regarding the Hunter Biden laptop scandal and the Bidens' alleged involvement in Ukraine, as well as an implication that there would likely be a coup attempt made by the Biden administration and Burisma. These articles referenced range from 30 August - 25 October 2020, and are both SouthFront original content and republications from other websites. The Strategic Culture Foundation has been publicly attributed to be directed by Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, or SVR.

- Blaming Moscow for Hunter Biden's Laptop Is Russiagate Disinformation - 25 October 2020

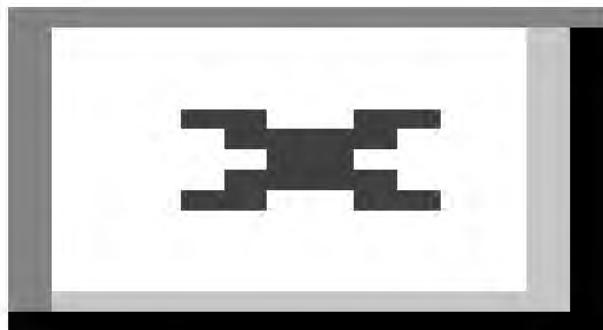
- [Russiagate, The Sequel: Democrats Resurrect 'Russia Bogeyman' Ruse to Cover Joe and Hunter Biden's Foreign Misconduct](#) - 23 October 2020
- [Before the Bidens 'Did' Ukraine, There Was Iraq –and Serbia](#) - 16 October 2020
- [Imagine If MSM Consistently Applied the Evidentiary Standards It's Applying to Hunter Biden's Emails](#) - 16 October 2020
- [Shhh! Don't Talk About Hunter Biden](#) - 15 October 2020
- [Biden's Chances Rest on a John Podesta-Planned Military Coup, Ballot Harvesting, Police Shootings, and a False Flag](#) - 30 August 2020

**News Front** (English edition: en[.]news-front[.]info)

News Front has published a significant amount of content regarding Hunter Biden. These articles -- despite having mundane and seemingly unbiased titles at times -- cover alleged drug use, sex, and pedophilia, as well as frustrations regarding U.S. officials accusing Russia of disinformation and American social media companies allegedly "covering up" the Hunter Biden laptop scandal. Two of the most recent News Front articles are linked below, followed by a screenshot of many other relevant articles focused on Hunter Biden.

- [Biden's partner testifies](#) - 28 October 2020
- [Biden's son was accused of involvement in orgies and drug use](#) - 26 October 2020

Below: A [screenshot](#) from News Front taken 29 October 2020:





### New Eastern Outlook (journal-neo[.]org)

As of 29 October, we found at least two original articles from New Eastern Outlook that focus on Hunter Biden's alleged financial dealings, corruption, and dubious connections between Hunter and Joe Biden and sex trafficking. One of the articles is generally anti-U.S., with sarcastically negative mentions of President Trump and denunciations of Joe and Hunter Biden's alleged financial dealings.

- The United States and Human Trafficking - 11 October 2020
- On the Subject of Invincible Trump, Soulless Joe, Skynet, and the Pope of Wall Street - 9 October 2020

### Global Research (globalresearch[.]ca)

Global Research has a significant amount of content regarding Hunter Biden, though brief negative mentions of both Hunter and Joe Biden in articles only somewhat related to the alleged Hunter Biden scandals make it difficult to estimate how many articles Global Research has produced on the subject. Some of the content pertains to an "ex-CIA officer" discrediting assertions that the Hunter Biden laptop scandal is part of a Russian disinformation campaign. Many of the articles were critical of American social media companies for blocking salacious content pertaining to Hunter Biden. Due to the significant amount of content, we highlighted four recent articles that pertain most directly to the subject.

- Ten Ways to Call Something "Russian Disinformation" Without Evidence - 27 October 2020
- Former CIA: Blaming Moscow for Hunter Biden's Laptop is "Russiagate Disinformation" - 23 October 2020
- The Elusive "October Surprise". Iran Seeks to Confuse the United States? to Confuse the United States? - 23 October 2020
- The Biden Campaign and China's Oligarchs - 19 October 2020

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

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



**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: I2C2 Posted International Products for the Week of October 12 – October 19, 2020  
**Date:** Fri, 16 Oct 2020 15:52:56 +0000

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 11:41 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** I2C2 Posted International Products for the Week of October 12 – October 19, 2020

**Colleagues,**

**Please find the weekly compilation of products we received from International partners for the week of October 12 – October 19. Please include us on any products that we may be missing so that we can provide a holistic picture for GEC. Let us know if you have any questions or if you identify any collaborative opportunities with our partners based on the products, thanks!**

**If you have any questions regarding the distribution list please contact** (b)(6)

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

(b)(6): Colleagues, Please find the weekly compilation of products...  
posted in R-GEC PPO / COVID-19 Disinformation at Oct 16, 2020 11:34 AM

**International Product Highlights for the Week of October 12 – October 19, 2020:**

- 1. (SBU) EUvsDisinfo News and Analysis:**  
**MH17, what happened since March?:** According to EUvsDisinfo, there were 24 cases of disinformation about MH17 around the start of the trial on 9 March. It dropped a bit in April and May, with six and seven cases per month, respectively. In June and July, it peaked again with 17 and 18 cases, respectively. Then it dropped again in August and September (one case each month). It's hard to explain the June and July waves of cases exactly. Nothing happened publicly in the trial process in those months. **SOURCE:** EUvsDisinfo
- 2. (SBU) DisinfoLab focused on tackling sophisticated disinformation campaigns targeting the EU, its member states, core institutions, and core values.**  
**Shaping Europe's digital future, Second set of reports – Fighting COVID-19 disinformation Monitoring Program:** The EU Commission publishes a further set of reports provided by the signatories of the Code of Practice on

Disinformation as part of the COVID-19 monitoring and reporting program set out in the Joint Communication "Tackling COVID-19 disinformation - Getting the facts right." In general, the reports provide a good overview of actions taken by the platforms to address disinformation around COVID-19. However, there are still substantial gaps. In some instances, data has been provided at global, rather than at EU or Member State level. In other instances, it is unclear whether the data provided relates to actions taken to address COVID-19 disinformation, or a broader range of objectives. SOURCE: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/second-set-reports-fighting-covid-19-disinformation-monitoring-programme>

**3. (FOUO) OSC Disinformation Digest:**

**How Russia Today skirts high-tech blockade to reach US readers:** RT continues to draw a large American audience, helped unwittingly by some of America's most prominent conservative websites. The reason: those news outlets agreed to join a distribution network that allows other members' content to be displayed on their home pages. The company responsible is Mixi.Media, which assembled a network of right-leaning publishers, including National Review, The Daily Caller and Newsmax, as well as mainstream sites like RealClearPolitics. Also in Mixi's fold are RT and Sputnik. Links that Mixi places on its partners' websites often appear under headings such as 'From Our Partners,' but the source isn't always clear until after the headline has been clicked. That is by design. Mixi is the largest source of RT's 'referral traffic' in the US, delivering 19% of visitors coming from other websites in July, not including social media.

**4. (FOUO) OSC Disinformation Digest:**

**Removing coordinated inauthentic behavior on Facebook:** Facebook has removed ten networks from various countries that were conducting coordinated inauthentic behavior. Targets included audiences in the US, Kenya, Botswana, Myanmar, Azerbaijan, Nigeria, Russia, the Philippines, South East Asia, Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, Japan, Armenia, Georgia, Belarus and Moldova. More than half of the networks targeted domestic audiences in their countries. Two of the networks engaged primarily in leaving comments on posts by media entities and public figures — relying on real people, not automation — to create the perception of wide-spread support of their narratives. OSC comment: *DFRLab, Graphika and the Stanford Internet Observatory carried out independent analysis of these networks.* SOURCE: [Facebook](#)

**5. (SBU) NATO Centre of Excellence StratCom: New Publication "Clarifying Digital Terms":**

NATO StratCom Centre of Excellence has published a new report "Clarifying Digital Terms," created by the NATO StratCom COE Terminology Working Group. The purpose of this glossary is to encourage the use of precise and simple language that bridges the terminological divide between policymakers, soldiers, tech companies, academics, and programmers. It is at the intersection of their respective fields, that digitalization's potential for positive change as well as ensuing challenges can

be recognized and addressed. Sharing a common vocabulary is the first step. This publication includes proposed definitions for terms like algorithm, artificial intelligence, cyber, digital engagement, digital forensics and much more.

SOURCE: <https://stratcomcoe.org/clarifying-digital-terms>

**International Products for the Week of 12 – October 19, 2020:**

1. EEAS Kyrgyz Republic Elections \_ Statement by the Spokesperson on the latest developments
2. European External Action Service \_ Russia\_ High Representative-Vice-President Josep Borrell speaks to Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov
3. European Union External Action \_ Tajikistan\_ Statement by the Spokesperson on the presidential elections
4. European Union External Action\_ Foreign Affairs Council \_ Remarks by the High Representative at the press conference
5. IA-2020-00824 - ASFC Intelligence Analysis Update - 07-12 October 2020
6. OSC Disinformation Digest 14 October 2020
7. European Union External Action\_ Canada\_ High Representative-Vice-President Borrell speaks to Foreign Affairs Minister Champagne
8. European Union External Action\_ Demonstrating Europe's commitment to Africa
9. European Union External Action\_ Kyrgyz Republic\_ Elections\_ Resignation of Kyrgyz President
10. European Union External Action\_ Ukraine\_ Statement by the Spokesperson on the attempted conscription by Russia in Crimea
11. EUvsDisinfo Publication October 15\_ Pro-Kremlin Disinformation Week
12. US Elections\_ With disclosure about his emails, the hunt for Hunter Biden has reopened
13. NATO StratCom Centre of Excellence \_ Clarifying Digital Terms
14. EU DISINFO LAB\_ Second set of reports – Fighting COVID-19 disinformation Monitoring Program

(b)(6)

International Partner Engagement Planner I  
Interagency and International Coordination Cell (I2C2)  
Global Engagement Center (GEC)

HST 2428 Office: (b)(6)

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

Muscogee International, Contractor



***"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."***

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

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

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

@State.gov

**Subject:** Re: FireEye Report Forthcoming - NAEBC Remains Active**Date:** Mon, 26 Oct 2020 16:44:41 +0000

(b)(5)

x]

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:26 AM**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-R-EXP  
<GEC-R-EXP@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>**Subject:** Re: FireEye Report Forthcoming - NAEBC Remains Active

Thanks (b)(6)

(b)(6) could you please add those two sentences?

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:13 AM**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-R-EXP <GEC-R-EXP@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>**Subject:** Re: FireEye Report Forthcoming - NAEBC Remains Active

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Analytics and Research

Global Engagement Center

AFS | GEC | DOS

(b)(6)@state.gov

X

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:02 AM**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-R-EXP  
<GEC-R-EXP@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>**Subject:** Re: FireEye Report Forthcoming - NAEBC Remains Active

Reuters.

What to you guys think?

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

**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 4:57 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; GEC-R-EXP <GEC-R-EXP@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov

**Subject:** Re: FireEye Report Forthcoming - NAEBEC Remains Active

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Analytics and Research

Global Engagement Center

AFS | GEC | DOS

(b)(6)@state.gov



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

**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 4:56 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; GEC-R-EXP <GEC-R-EXP@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov

**Subject:** RE: FireEye Report Forthcoming - NAEBEC Remains Active

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 4:52 PM

**To:** GEC-R-EXP <GEC-R-EXP@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov

**Subject:** Fw: FireEye Report Forthcoming - NAEBEC Remains Active

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

<http://www.ilanamerцер.com/biographical/>

<https://freewestmedia.com/author/ilana/>

<https://naebc.com/category/authors/ilanamercer/>

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 4:27 PM  
**To:** GEC-Russia Team <GEC-RussiaTeam@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@mandiant.com; (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** FireEye Report Forthcoming - NAEBC Remains Active

Good Afternoon Russia Team -

Attached is a **DRAFT** of a FireEye Intelligence report that will be published to our FireEye Intelligence Portal shortly.

(b)(5)

I wanted to get this over to you all as soon as possible because of the election nexus but **please refrain from further sharing the draft**. I will follow up with the official FINTEL report as soon as it posts to our portal, which will likely be either later tonight or first thing tomorrow morning.

Once the report is live on our intelligence portal the usual sharing guidelines will apply. It will be pre-approved for sharing in full with US Federal Civilian Agencies and Departments (USAGM, USAID, FBI etc.) and you will be pre-approved to pull out approx. 1500 characters or roughly 2 paragraphs to drop into a derivative work product to share with other USG and FVEY partners to include with DoD, the IC and combatant commands.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I'll follow up with the official report as soon as it publishes to our FireEye Intelligence Portal.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Global Engagement Center  
U.S. Department of State  
FireEye Inc.

Cell: 

(b)(6)

**Sender:**

(b)(6)

**Recipient:**

@State.gov



\*This Information is Not to Be Shared Outside of the USG\*

**Fort Russ News (Serbia)**

**Website:** [https://fort-russ\[.\]com/](https://fort-russ[.]com/)

**WhoIs:** <https://www.whois.com/whois/fort-russ.com>

**Registered:** Arizona, US

**Traffic Overview** (November 2020): <https://www.similarweb.com/website/fort-russ.com>

- 391.63K total monthly visits
- Primary Traffic by Country: United States (42.8%); United Kingdom (12.5%); Australia (9.0%); Canada (5.9%); Singapore (4.3%)

**Social Media** (as of 8 December 2020):

- Facebook: 25,009 followers (links to FRN website prohibited on FB 11/14/20) (they can link to their Telegram...)

**Summary:** Fort Russ News (FRN) is an English language outlet based in Serbia and connected to the Center for Syncretic Studies, a Belgrade-based think-tank. The mission statement defines the "Western public" as the intended target audience, which it describes as suffering from deceitful "Corporate Media."

The mission statement's mention of a "new multi-polar world" is mirroring the Eurasianist ideology promulgated by Russian philosopher and Eurasian imperialist Aleksandr Dugin. This worldview is one that views itself as caught in a perpetual information war against the Western ideals of democracy and liberalism. The pseudo-academic Center for Syncretic Studies confirms this ideological stance, with a plethora of references to Dugin's obscure "Forth Political Theory" on its website.

Both FRN and the Center for Syncretic Studies clearly espouse pro-Kremlin narratives on core issues in Russia's foreign policy ambitions. FRN also devotes much attention to the spreading of conspiracy theories, with an edge towards "The Deep State" and "The Anglo-Zionist Empire" to include COVID-19 health and vaccine disinformation and disinformation targeting the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

The Editor-in-Chief of Fort Russ News and Director of the Center for Syncretic Studies is an American, who for Privacy Act reasons we are not able to research further.

The Center for Syncretic Studies (CSS) is a Serbia-based NGO that advocates for multi-polarity and anti-liberalism. It publishes Fort Russ News and has created the "projects" New Resistance Evropa, New Resistance North America, and Nova Resistência (Brazil).

This network of websites regularly publishes content that supports Russian geopolitical objectives and spreads COVID-19 disinformation that risks significant loss of life.

The CSS website, novaresistencia.org, has historically been registered by a Russian national and currently resides on an IP address reserved for “think tanks” used in Russian influence operations, including one run by Russian oligarch, Konstantin Malofeev.

Paul Antonopoulos, a research fellow at the Center for Syncretic Studies, is a frequent InfoBRICS author. InfoBRICS.org, a site run by InfoRos, Ltd., a Russian propaganda outfit financed by the Russian government and covertly run by GRU Unit 54777.

A trusted GEC third-party partner assesses with high confidence that the Center for Syncretic Studies and its network of websites represent a Russian gray propaganda influence operation linked to the Russian government.

### **Zero Hedge (Bulgaria)**

**Website:** [https://www.zerohedge\[.\]com/](https://www.zerohedge[.]com/)

**WhoIs:** <https://www.whois.com/whois/zerohedge.com>

**Registered:** Sofia, Bulgaria

**Traffic Overview** (November 2020): <https://www.similarweb.com/website/zerohedge.com>

- 46.67M total monthly visits
- Primary Traffic by Country: United States (64.9%); Canada (8.3%); United Kingdom (3.9%); Australia (1.9%); Germany (1.8%)

**Social Media** (as of 8 December 2020):

- Twitter: 835.5K followers
- Facebook: 67,478 followers
- YouTube: 20.3K subscribers

**Summary:** Zero Hedge is a wildly popular blog devoted to reporting primarily on finance. Much of the material is published under the pen name Tyler Durden – one of the main characters of the 1999 movie Fight Club. The blog has been online since 2009 and has proven to be able to occasionally present correct prognoses on financial processes. The content is of an almost consequently pessimistic nature, with frequent warnings on various “bubbles” about to burst. Court records reveal that the site belongs to ABC Media Ltd., a Bulgarian company whose sole manager is Krassimir Ivandjiisky.

In the spring of 2016, it was disclosed that the team behind “Tyler Durden” were Bulgarian economist Daniel Ivandjiisky, son of site owner Krassimir Ivandjiisky, and two American financial analysts. While these individuals cannot be researched further due to Privacy Act restrictions, one of them stated in a public interview in 2016 that “the gig had a certain formula: Russia=good. Obama=idiot. Bashar al-Assad=benevolent leader. John Kerry=dunce. Vladimir Putin=greatest leader in the history of statecraft.”

Since the autumn of 2014, after Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, Zero Hedge has proliferated pro-Russian narratives. Example topics covered include those claiming that there

was massive voter fraud in the U.S. 2020 presidential election; that COVID-19 escaped from a lab in Wuhan “accidentally or not;” that the coronavirus genome contains components of HIV; that the downing of Flight MH17 was a pretext for the NATO invasion of eastern Ukraine; and that “the Ukrainian government just indicted the Burisma gas company & named Hunter Biden for accepting millions of dollars from a slush fund” to name only a few.

Zero Hedge has published a manifesto describing the site's ambitions:

- to widen the scope of financial, economic and political information available to the professional investing public.
- to skeptically examine and, where necessary, attack the flaccid institution that financial journalism has become.
- to liberate oppressed knowledge.
- to provide analysis uninhibited by political constraint.
- to facilitate information's unending quest for freedom.

The site links to other websites in Russia's disinformation and propaganda ecosystem such as SouthFront, Oriental Review, the Saker and other sites aligned with the Kremlin.

Zero Hedge has been censored on social media in the past, but remains highly active on Twitter and Facebook. The site also maintains a YouTube channel that has been inactive since February 2019.

### **News Front Georgia (Crimea)**

**Website:** <https://ge.news-front.info/>

**Summary:** News Front Georgia is the Georgian language branch of News Front, a Crimea-based disinformation and propaganda outlet. News Front's self-proclaimed goal is to provide an “alternative source of information” to Western audiences. With reported ties to the Russian security services and Kremlin funding, News Front is particularly focused on supporting Russia-backed forces in Ukraine.

In addition to Georgian, News Front publishes content in Slovak, Hungarian, French, Serbian, Spanish, German, Bulgarian, English, and Russian. According to public reporting, News Front has at least 100 contributors around the world.

News Front's manipulative tactics to boost reach led to a near total dismantling of its presence on social media in early 2020. In April 2020, Facebook removed a network of accounts associated with News Front Georgia, for “violating... [Facebook's] policy against foreign interference which is coordinated inauthentic behavior on behalf of a foreign entity.”

The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), a Georgian civil society group, concluded that News Front's Facebook activity in the country included theft of platform users' identities. It detailed News Front's efforts “instigating antagonism and aggression among Georgian Facebook users, dividing the society...creating political polarization” and “employing a range of tactics to spread anti-Western, pro- Russian messages.”

According to a Georgian counter-disinformation project Myth Detector, News Front Georgia is managed by Shota Apkhaidze, a Moscow-based pro-Russian activist, associated with ultranationalist movement, "Georgian March." Apkhaidze is a frequent guest on Russian state and pro-Kremlin media including Sputnik, Zvezda TV and Tsargrad.

According to Myth Detector, News Front Georgia's Facebook page is linked to pro-Russian assets such as Georgia and World, Eurasian Union, and Patriot TV

News Front Georgia spreads disinformation regarding Covid-19. According to ISFED, they focus on the following narratives:

- Europe is powerless in the face of the pandemic and Georgia should align itself with Russia;
- Quarantine and social distancing policies do not work;
- The role of the Lugar Lab in helping Georgia is exaggerated. China is the one who is truly helping Georgia;
- COVID-19 virus did not originate naturally in China. The United States created the virus artificially and disseminated it through its military and the Lugar Lab;
- By declaring the state of emergency, the authorities are fighting against the Orthodox Church, not the virus.

### **The Duran (Cyprus)**

**Website:** <https://theduran.com/>

**WhoIs:** <https://www.whois.com/whois/theduran.com>

**Registered:** Panama; owned by Cypriot company

**Traffic Overview:** <https://www.similarweb.com/website/theduran.com>

- Traffic Overview: 346.28K
- Primary Country Traffic: United States (39.9%); Canada (21%); United Kingdom (16.7%); Australia (3.0%); Indonesia (1.8%)

**Social Media** (as of 8 December 2020):

- Facebook: 58,989 followers
- Twitter: 10K followers
- YouTube: 134K subscribers

**Summary:** The Duran is a Panama-registered site with a strong pro-Kremlin tendencies. It is owned by a Cypriot company, DRN Media PLC, which is headed by Moscow native and current resident of Nicosia, Cyprus, Alex Christoforou. A prominent American RT show host, whom we are unable to profile due to Privacy Act restrictions, directs and writes for the outlet. According to the Telegraph, the editor of the website is Alexander Mercouris, a disbarred London-based attorney who went on to become a "pro-Russian commentator on world affairs for Russian TV news outlets and websites."

The content on the site closely follows and republishes RT and Sputnik's reporting, covering topics like U.S. politics, Syria, the downfall of the West, and the supremacy of the Eurasian idea. Buzzword concepts like "the deep state" and "mainstream media are common on the site. Recent disinformation claims include those blaming the United States for COVID-19, those attempting to disparage notable figures on the American left, and those alleging there was massive voter fraud in the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

The Duran republishes content from a number of other outlets in Russia's disinformation and propaganda ecosystem, including SouthFront, ZeroHedge, and the Strategic Culture Foundation, which has been attributed to Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, or SVR.

Funding for The Duran comes from Paypal and Patreon donations, as well as advertising.

**Centre for Research on Globalization (aka Global Research) (Canada)**

**Website:** <https://www.globalresearch.ca/>

**WhoIs:** <https://www.whois.com/whois/globalresearch.ca>

**Registered:** Montreal, Canada

**Traffic Overview:** <https://www.similarweb.com/website/globalresearch.ca#overview>

**Social Media** (as of 8 December 2020):

- **Facebook:** 277,632 followers
- **Twitter:** 38.3K followers
- **YouTube:** 38.1K subscribers

**Summary:** Global Research is the name of the website of the Centre for Research on Globalization in Canada. It launched in August 2001 and has been a steady source of anti-U.S. and anti-Western disinformation and propaganda ever since. The Economist referred to it as "a hub for conspiracy theories and fake stories." Internet watchdog NewsGuard noted, "[t]his website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Global Research founder and head Michel Chossudovsky is a retired professor who runs the website from his "upscale condo in Old Montreal." Chossudovsky has met with, backed, and praised anti-Western world leaders, including former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic Fidel Castro of Cuba. Chossudovsky used to be a regular contributor to the Russian state-funded outlet RT, and Global Research often republishes RT's content.

Global Research's large roster of fringe authors and conspiracy theorists serves as a talent pool for the Russian and Chinese websites with which Global Research has partnered since the early 2010s, including the Chinese website The 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the SVR-linked Strategic Culture Foundation. Its publications also provide a Western voice that other elements of the ecosystem can leverage to their advantage. Articles published from across Russia's disinformation and propaganda ecosystem frequently appear on Global Research's website, including those from RT, Sputnik, SouthFront, Fort Russ News, Geopolitica.ru, and many others.



Global Research is a rampant proliferator of pro-Russian content. Additionally, the outlet is well-known for spreading disinformation claiming that COVID-19 is a U.S. bioweapon, that there was widespread fraud in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, that vaccines are deadly, and that 9/11 was an inside job.

Global Research published or republished seven authors attributed by Facebook to be false online personas created by The Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, popularly known as the GRU. Altogether, these seven GRU personas are responsible for 108 articles that appear on Global Research's website.

### **Gorchakov Fund**

**Website:** <https://gorchakovfund.ru>

**Social Media** (as of 8 December):

- Facebook: 9,405 followers
- Twitter: 2,122 followers
- Youtube: 3.15K followers

**Summary:** The Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund was founded by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2010 at the decree of President Dmitriy Medvedev. The Fund's stated mission is to establish "a favorable for Russia public, political and business climate."

The Fund's Board of Trustees includes the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, as well as a number of current and former Russian government officials and prominent businessmen, including the U.S.-sanctioned Rostec's Director General, Sergei Chemezov, and the former chairman of the board of the Russian state-owned company Russian Railways, Vladimir Yakunin.

The Fund's main activities include offering grants to NGOs and organizing public diplomacy events including conferences and lectures. The Fund runs several research and educational programs aimed at strengthening ties between Russian and foreign youth from the Balkans, Central Asia, Baltic countries, and the Caucasus. It provides training for young foreign affairs experts, scientists, journalists and politicians. These programs provide participants an opportunity to meet with prominent Russian foreign affairs scholars and government officials.

The Fund also organizes conferences with foreign affairs experts from Germany and Slovakia and operates the Russian-Georgian Center, which aims at improving Russian-Georgian relations.

**RUSSIA THREAT TEAM WEEKLY OPERATIONS UPDATE****8/01/2022****(U) Current Observations and Analysis on Convergence Themes in the Information Environment**

**Russia Accused Ukraine of Bombing its Own POWs in Olenivka.** In an attempt to deflect blame and discredit U.S. military assistance to Ukraine, the Russian government, via its UN Twitter account, accused Ukraine of using U.S.-made high-mobility artillery rocket systems (HIMARS) in the July 29 bombing of Olenivka prison, Donetsk Oblast, which led to the killing of over 50 Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs). Russian representative to the UN, Dmitry Polyanskiy, described the bombing as a “proxy war against Russia.” While Russia continues to block the Red Cross from accessing the Olenivka prison, the Russian disinformation ecosystem went on the offensive through outlets such RT Arabic, RT Última Hora, and Russian embassy accounts, to show Russia’s readiness to cooperate with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) investigators. The ecosystem also touted Russia’s humanitarian treatment of Ukrainian POWs, including those from the “neo-Nazi” Azov Battalion.



### (U) Key Leader Engagement

### (SBU) Ongoing GEC and Partner Activities

### (U) Russia Threat Team Actions

- (SBU) GEC Russia Division staff meets with Selected CSDIF Recipients. GEC Russia Team staff met with representatives from Embassy Sofia, Embassy Kampala, and Embassy Cairo to discuss projects and next steps for funding for those proposals approved by the GEC FO through the Countering State Disinformation Innovation Fund (CSDIF). Calls included representatives from GEC Resources, GEC M&E, and GEC China Threat Team. Funds will be allocated before the end of the fiscal year.

### (U) GEC Reports/Products



**(U) New GEC Snapshots on Russia's Disinformation on Ukraine:** On July 28 and August 2, GEC released two Snapshots on Russia's disinformation trends on Ukraine. The first overviews Foreign Minister Lavrov's Ukraine disinformation during his visit to Congo, Uganda, and Ethiopia, pro-Kremlin media claims that Russia's FSB foiled a plot by Ukraine's military intelligence to hijack Russian jets, and how the Russian propaganda and disinformation ecosystem weaponizes maps to question the legitimacy of Ukraine's statehood. The second Snapshot analyzed Kremlin narratives alleging prisoner of war deaths in Russian-occupied Olenivka were caused by a Ukrainian "provocation," how Russia's disinformation and propaganda ecosystem is promoting the false narrative that the United States is behind renewed unrest between Serbia and Kosovo to distract from unrealized goals in Ukraine, and Kremlin plans to carry out a "referendum" in occupied Kherson exposed by the Security Service of Ukraine that included establishing "election commissions" and organizing pro-Russian demonstrations. To be added to GEC's distribution list for future Snapshots, please contact (b)(6) at (b)(6)@State.gov

**From:** "Buangan, Richard L" (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**To:** EAP-CM-STRATCOM-DL <EAP-CM-STRATCOM-DL@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Dawson, Camille (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
**CC:** Stilwell, David R (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Bray, Leah (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>;  
Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Zhao Lijian Tweet Plan  
**Date:** Mon, 30 Nov 2020 16:03:19 +0000

STRATCOMM See highlighted.

(b)(5)

Adding GEC for the SMH/Twitter angle.

Richard

**From:** Peterson, Lucas W (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2020 10:31 AM  
**To:** Buangan, Richard L (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Zhao Lijian Tweet Plan

We saw that content pop in our morning report as well (attached).

(b)(5) But the headlines getting traction out there as far as we could see are "Chinese Diplomat Whistleblowers Share Image of Australian Soldier Killing Afghan Boy" -- what we want is "Chinese Officials Spread Disinformation, Doctored Photos In False Accusation"

(b)(5)  
<https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/twitter-slow-to-comply-with-morrison-s-takedown-request-20201130-p56j80.html>

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

**Luke W. Peterson**

Deputy Assistant Secretary Research and Analytics  
U.S. Department of State

Bureau of Global Public Affairs

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

state.gov

(b)(6)

America.gov



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**From:** Buangan, Richard L <(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2020 9:38 AM

**To:** Peterson, Lucas W <(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** FW: Zhao Lijian Tweet Plan

(b)(5)

(b)(5) Luke,

Need your guidance on something.

Richard

**From:** Stilwell, David R <(b)(5)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2020 8:55 AM

**To:** Buangan, Richard L <(b)(5)@state.gov>; Fritz, Jonathan D <(b)(5)@state.gov>; Feith, David <(b)(5)@state.gov>; Keshap, Atul <(b)(5)@state.gov>

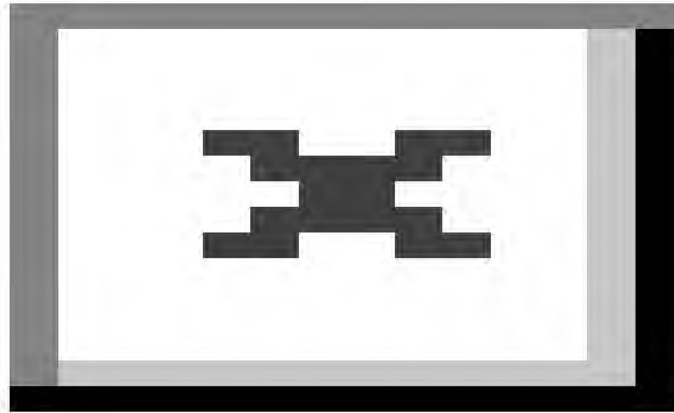
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Knapper, Marc E (b)(6)@state.gov>  
Subject: Zhao Lijian Tweet Plan

Some thoughts:

(b)(5)

**[Australia] Australia Demands China Apologize After 'Repugnant' Afghan Tweet**

Bloomberg [11/29/2020 10:13 PM, Jason Scott, 6400K, Negative] reports Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he was seeking an apology from China after a diplomat in Beijing tweeted an image purporting to show an Australian soldier holding a knife to the throat of an Afghan child. The tweet, posted by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, was "repugnant," Morrison told reporters in Canberra on Monday. The Australian premier said the image was doctored and called for Twitter to remove it. "The Chinese government should be totally ashamed of this post," Morrison said. The tweet will diminish China's global reputation, he said. Morrison's calls for an apology further ramps up tensions between the nations, following China's decision to impose crippling anti-dumping duties on its wine over the weekend. Diplomatic ties have plummeted this year after Australia called for independent investigators to be allowed into Wuhan to probe the origin of the pandemic, leading to a series of trade reprisals.



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**From:** TechMIS - DOS Daily <[dos@techmis.com](mailto:dos@techmis.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2020 4:42 AM

**To:** [noreply@techmis.com](mailto:noreply@techmis.com)

**Subject:** State Department News Briefing (11-30-20)

## STATE DEPARTMENT NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the U.S. Department of State

By TechMIS

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

Mobile User Copy

**TO: State Department & Staff**

**DATE: Monday, November 30, 2020 5:00 AM ET**

### State Department News

#### **Trump senior aide Kushner and team heading to Saudi Arabia, Qatar**

Reuters [11/29/2020 3:40 PM, Steve Holland, Neutral] reports White House senior adviser Jared Kushner and his team are headed to Saudi Arabia and Qatar this week for talks in a region simmering with tension after the killing of an Iranian nuclear scientist. A senior

administration official said on Sunday that Kushner is to meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the Saudi city of Neom, and the emir of Qatar in that country in the coming days. Kushner will be joined by Middle East envoys Avi Berkowitz and Brian Hook and Adam Boehler, chief executive of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation. Kushner and his team helped negotiate normalization deals between Israel and Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Sudan since August. The official said they would like to advance more such agreements before President Donald Trump hands power to President-elect Joe Biden on Jan. 20. U.S. officials believe enticing Saudi Arabia into a deal with Israel would prompt other Arab nations to follow suit. But the Saudis do not appear to be on the brink of reaching such a landmark deal and officials in recent weeks have been focusing on other countries, with concern about Iran's regional influence a uniting factor. Kushner's trip comes after the killing on Friday of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh in Tehran by unidentified assailants. Western and Israeli governments believe Fakhrizadeh was the architect of a secret Iranian nuclear weapons program. Days before the killing, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu travelled to Saudi Arabia and met with bin Salman, an Israeli official said, in what was the first publicly confirmed visit by an Israeli leader. Israeli media said they were joined by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

#### **China Urges U.S. to Drop Probe That Claims Yuan Undervalued**

Bloomberg [11/30/2020 12:34 AM, Staff, 6400K, Neutral] reports China said a preliminary U.S. ruling that it allegedly provided a trade subsidy to some exporters by undervaluing the yuan violated international rules. The case relates to a U.S. investigation into Chinese exports of cable or twist ties, with the U.S. Department of Commerce imposing tariffs on the products after determining that producers are getting an unfair advantage because of the currency. China's Commerce Ministry called on U.S. authorities to stop its investigation, while also disputing the preliminary finding. "The move seriously violated relevant international rules," China's ministry said in a statement on its website Saturday, citing an unidentified official. "We hope the U.S. Department of Commerce will fully consider the evidence and counter opinions submitted by the Chinese side and correct the relevant wrong practices and conclusions." The claim by the U.S. that the yuan's exchange rate to the dollar was undervalued by 5% in 2019 is "completely wrong" and isn't supported by any analysis, the ministry said. It cited a U.S. Treasury report on the yuan for that figure, which wasn't in the Commerce Department statement.

#### **SCO Heads of Government Summit Today: Indian PM Narendra Modi & Pakistani Counterpart Imran Khan to Skip Meeting**

Yahoo News/Latestly [11/29/2020 10:12 PM, Staff, 4021K, Neutral] reports India will host the Heads of Government (HoG) council meeting of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on Monday. According to reports, Indian PM Narendra Modi will not attend the meeting and instead Vice president M Venkaiah Naidu will chair the meeting. The virtual conference will be attended by six Prime Ministers, including Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, as well as the PMs of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan will also not join the virtual meeting and he has deputed his Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Andleeb Abbas in his place. "It will be the first time that a Summit-level Meeting will be held under India's Chairmanship since it gained full membership of the organization in 2017," the MEA statement read, adding that, "This Summit is held annually at the level of Prime Ministers of SCO and deals primarily with the trade and economic agenda of the organisation."

**[Iran] Iran's Nuclear Efforts Pose Growing Threat to Its Foes Despite Setbacks**

The Wall Street Journal [11/29/2020 5:37 PM, Laurence Norman and Michael R. Gordon, Neutral] reports the killing of one of Iran's most important nuclear scientists has dealt a setback to the country's nuclear program, which had staged a partial rebound after the 2015 nuclear deal brokered under President Obama unraveled. Yet, the U.S. and its allies still face major hurdles in trying to constrain Tehran's nuclear ambitions, current and former officials said. The challenge is likely to be particularly acute for President-elect Joe Biden, who is planning to engage Iran diplomatically in the hope of negotiating restoring and building on the 2015 deal. Mr. Biden will inherit considerable economic leverage in his dealings with Tehran: The sweeping sanctions the Trump administration has imposed on Iran after withdrawing from the agreement in 2018 have depleted Iran's currency reserves and battered its economy. But the fatal shooting of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, widely seen as the father of Iran's weapons program in the 1990s and 2000s, and the American strike in January in Baghdad that killed top Iranian military official Qassem Soleimani, is also expected to complicate Mr. Biden's task. "To restore its economy Iran must agree to either a full or partial return to the Iran nuclear deal," said Karim Sadjadpour, an Iran expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. But "to restore deterrence and regime pride, Iran must avenge the deaths of Fakhrizadeh and Soleimani. The latter will significantly complicate the former, which is likely among the reasons why Fakhrizadeh was assassinated." Iran has long said that its nuclear activities are for purely peaceful purposes, such as power plants. It has hailed Mr. Fakhrizadeh as a hero and accused Israel of being behind his killing.

**[Iran] Iran under intense pressure over how to respond to top scientist's killing**

The Los Angeles Times [11/29/2020 5:30 PM, Nabih Bulos, 1825K, Neutral] reports the U.S. drone missile punched through the car of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Suleimani, instantly killing the 62-year-old Iranian spymaster and national hero as he drove through the streets of Baghdad last January. Days later, Iranian leaders who swore "severe revenge" lobbed ballistic missiles at a U.S. base in Iraq, leaving scores of American servicemen and contractors with traumatic brain injuries. Iran also mobilized its irregular forces, including Iran-supported militias in Iraq, which regularly fired rockets at the U.S. Embassy and bases with American troop presence. Now, Iran finds itself the target of another attack, this time the broad-daylight assassination on Friday of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh-Mahabadi, one of Iran's top nuclear scientists. The killing, by what many believed was a U.S.-sanctioned Israeli hit team, has ratcheted up the pressure on Iran's leaders for vengeance again. On Friday afternoon, as Iranians were enjoying the first day of their weekend amid coronavirus restrictions, Fakhrizadeh was in a car heading down a highway near the resort town of Absard, some 35 miles east of Tehran. There, a car loaded with explosives blew up, and gunmen descended on Fakhrizadeh, cutting him down along with members of his security detail. CNN [11/29/2020 10:57 PM, Sara Mazloumsaki and Elliott C. McLaughlin, 7975K, Negative] reports the Iranian nuclear scientist assassinated Friday east of Tehran was shot by a remote-controlled machine gun operating out of another car, the semi-official Fars News Agency said Sunday. With top Iranian officials blaming Israel, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and others have promised revenge for the killing of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was the country's chief nuclear scientist. The AP [11/30/2020 1:16 AM, Staff, 2164K, Negative] reports Iran has begun a funeral for a recently killed scientist who founded the Islamic Republic's military nuclear program in the early 2000s. State TV broadcast the ceremony Monday showing the casket of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. An honor



guard carried it to a podium where reciters read the Quran and other religious verses in an outdoor area of the Defense Ministry in Iran's capital, Tehran.

**[Iraq] Rocket attack causes fire at oil refinery in northern Iraq**

The AP [11/29/2020 2:47 PM, Staff, Negative] reports a rocket attack in northern Iraq on Sunday caused a large fire to break out at an oil refinery, briefly halting operations, the country's Oil Ministry said. The fire hit a fuel storage tank at the small Siniya refinery in Salahuddin province. There were no reports of casualties, the ministry statement said. The fire was extinguished and operations resumed within few hours after the attack, the ministry said, citing the state-owned Northern Refining Company that runs the refinery. The Siniya refinery is near Iraq's largest oil refinery, Baiji, which sustained major damage during the war against the Islamic State group. The refinery was overhauled and eventually reopened in 2017 following the extremist group's defeat. It was not immediately clear who was behind Sunday's attack. Although IS no longer holds territory in Iraq, the group maintains sleeper cells and frequently carries out attacks across parts of the country, including the north.

**[France] Almost 100 Police Officers injured during Saturday protests in France**

Yahoo News/ANI [11/29/2020 5:40 PM, Staff, 4021K, Neutral] reports the tally of French law enforcement officers injured as a result of Saturday nationwide protests against the new security legislation has been finalized at 98 people, French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said on Sunday. On Saturday, protests were held in over 70 cities across France, most actively in Paris, against the new draft law criminalizing the display of images of law enforcement officers. The rallies in Paris grew into unrest and clashes with police. "Final assessment -- 98 wounded among the police and gendarmes. I express my full support for them. The perpetrators of this violence must be held accountable," Darmanin said on Twitter. The minister's previous update on Saturday evening stated 37 law enforcement officers injured. The controversial legislation was passed at the French parliament's lower house on Tuesday, immediately sparking a broad public outcry, especially among journalists. The bill entails one-year imprisonment and a fine of 45,000 euros (USD 54,000) in punishment for the distribution of images of police officers and gendarmes that can potentially lead to their physical and psychological harm.

**[Turkey] Turkey's military campaign beyond its borders is powered by homemade armed drones**

The Washington Post [11/29/2020 4:36 PM, Kareem Fahim, 13480K, Neutral] reports as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wages a widening military campaign for influence from North Africa to the Caucasus, his forces have relied on a potent weapon to gain a battlefield edge while drumming up domestic support for foreign interventions: homemade armed drones. Their impact has been substantial. The drones played a central role in recent months in shifting Libya's civil war in favor of the Turkish-backed government based in the capital, Tripoli, and they helped Azerbaijan, an ally of Turkey, prevail over Armenian forces in the fighting over the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region, according to military analysts. In northern Syria, Turkish drones played a major part this year in a series of devastating attacks on Syrian armored forces that caught some military observers by surprise and helped bring a Syrian government offensive against rebel areas to a halt. At home, the drones have become a symbol of Turkish technological innovation and self-sufficiency, boosting national confidence amid a severe economic downturn and friction with some other NATO countries. But the battlefield successes pose an urgent foreign policy challenge for



the incoming Biden administration: what to do about Ankara's expansionist policies, which have put Turkey in conflict with a range of other U.S. allies, including Greece and the United Arab Emirates. James Jeffrey, a former U.S. ambassador to Turkey who served until recently as the Trump administration's special representative for Syria, said Turkey's foreign forays had "stymied" Russian military ambitions in places like Syria and Libya, and "that's not a bad thing." At the same time, he said, "Erdogan scares the hell out of most everyone in the Middle East." The Turkish leader "is very unpredictable and very ambitious. He is moving into vacuums."

#### **[United Kingdom] U.K. Unveils 5G Plan Banning Huawei Installations**

Bloomberg [11/29/2020 7:01 PM, Thomas Seal, 6400K, Neutral] reports the U.K. will ban the installation of 5G equipment from China's Huawei Technologies Co. by the end of next September. The restriction, first reported by Bloomberg last Monday, is part of a 250 million-pound (\$333 million) package of measures brought in to diversify Britain's wireless supply chain announced by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The stricter rules may also help fend off a challenge from lawmakers in the ruling Conservative Party seeking tighter restrictions on the Chinese network equipment maker. British ministers announced in July that Shenzhen-based Huawei would be totally banned from Britain's next-generation mobile networks in 2027, with purchases barred from January 2021. To comply with those rules, phone companies would have had to stop adding Huawei components eventually, but the new ban may accelerate their plans to overhaul systems. Maintaining existing equipment will be allowed. The crackdown followed a U.S. push for allies to exclude Huawei on the grounds it was an unacceptable security threat, which the company denies. In January, British officials said Huawei could play a limited role with manageable risks. They since reversed that stance and backed a ban following U.S. sanctions introduced in May, saying the American squeeze on Huawei's silicon supply chain meant its security could no longer be guaranteed. Reuters [11/29/2020 10:19 PM, William James, 4021K, Neutral] reports China has criticised that decision, while Huawei said last week it was disappointed Britain was looking to exclude it from the 5G roll-out after the publication of new laws that could see firms fined 100,000 pounds (\$133,140) if they break the ban. Monday's announcement comes ahead of a debate over new telecoms legislation in parliament and fleshes out the timeline for equipment removal. "I am setting out a clear path for the complete removal of high risk vendors from our 5G networks," digital minister Oliver Dowden said in a statement. "This will be done through new and unprecedented powers to identify and ban telecoms equipment which poses a threat to our national security."

#### **[Australia] Australia Demands China Apologize After 'Repugnant' Afghan Tweet**

Bloomberg [11/29/2020 10:13 PM, Jason Scott, 6400K, Negative] reports Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he was seeking an apology from China after a diplomat in Beijing tweeted an image purporting to show an Australian soldier holding a knife to the throat of an Afghan child. The tweet, posted by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, was "repugnant," Morrison told reporters in Canberra on Monday. The Australian premier said the image was doctored and called for Twitter to remove it. "The Chinese government should be totally ashamed of this post," Morrison said. The tweet will diminish China's global reputation, he said. Morrison's calls for an apology further ramps up tensions between the nations, following China's decision to impose crippling anti-dumping duties on its wine over the weekend. Diplomatic ties have plummeted this year after Australia called

for independent investigators to be allowed into Wuhan to probe the origin of the pandemic, leading to a series of trade reprisals.

**[China] EU proposes new post-Trump alliance with U.S. in face of China threat**

Reuters [11/29/2020 4:06 PM, Anirudh Saligrama, 5304K, Neutral] reports the European Union is seeking to forge a new alliance with the United States to bury the tensions of the Trump era and meet the challenges posed by China, the Financial Times reported on Sunday, citing a draft plan. The plan proposes rebuilding ties with common fronts on issues from digital regulation to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, the FT said. Relations between the United States and Europe have been strained under President Donald Trump. The EU and most of the bloc's states have congratulated President-elect Joe Biden. "As open democratic societies and market economies, the EU and the US agree on the strategic challenge presented by China's growing international assertiveness, even if we do not always agree on the best way to address this," the FT cited the draft plan as saying. The plan, which will be submitted for endorsement by national leaders at a meeting on Dec. 10-11, proposed the launch of a new transatlantic agenda in an EU-U.S. summit in the first half of 2021, the newspaper added.

**[North Korea] North Korea tightening borders to build 'wall of defense' against COVID-19**

FOX News [11/29/2020 9:00 PM, Staff, Neutral] reports North Korea has tightened its borders to build a "wall of defense" against the COVID-19 pandemic, state media said Sunday. The Hermit Kingdom has increased its number of guard posts and was "building a strong wall of defense at its borders," CNN reported, citing state-run Korean Central News Agency. The country is also working to "completely remove uncivilized and unhygienic elements that could help make room for the spread of an epidemic" during the winter, according to the report. These measures will include new rules about venturing out to sea and collecting potentially contaminated materials. South Korean intelligence officials told lawmakers that North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un banned fishing and salt production to prevent seawater from being infected with the virus. Ha Tae-keung, one of the South Korean officials briefed on the matter, said he had been told that the despot was displaying "excessive anger" and taking "irrational measures" over the pandemic and its economic repercussions. The new measures come despite North Korea insisting that it hasn't had a single COVID-19 case, though experts outside the country have been skeptical of that claim — pointing out that it shares a border with China, the original source of the outbreak.

**[Sri Lanka] Sri Lanka coronavirus prison riot leaves 8 dead, over 50 wounded**

Reuters [11/30/2020 2:50 AM, Waruna Karunatilake, Neutral] reports at least eight prisoners were killed and more than 50 injured in clashes with guards at a Sri Lankan prison, officials said on Monday, as authorities tried to quell a protest over rising coronavirus infections in the country's crowded jails. Sri Lanka has witnessed an upsurge in coronavirus cases in the past month and over-congested prisons across the country have reported thousands of fresh infections. Inmates have staged protests in recent weeks demanding an increase in coronavirus testing and new isolation facilities for infected prisoners. The latest clash at Mahara prison situated on the outskirts of the capital Colombo started on Sunday when some inmates protested against prisoners infected by the Covid-19 virus being transferred from other facilities to Mahara. "We can't say it for certain but most of the deaths and injuries appear to be due to gunshots," said Ajith Rohana, a senior police

official tracking the incident. Hundreds of additional police were deployed to help the guards and strengthen security at the prison. "A majority of prisoners injured in the Mahara jail clashes were in critical condition," said Shelton Perera, director of the Ragama Hospital where inmates from the prison were undergoing treatment.

**[Mexico] Mexico charges ex-security chief who faces trial in US**

The AP [11/29/2020 3:56 PM, Maria Verza, 2164K, Neutral] reports Mexican officials said Sunday they want to prosecute former security chief Genaro Gará Luna in his own country, despite the fact he faces trial in the U.S. for allegedly protecting a drug gang. The action follows a U.S. decision to drop charges against another former top Mexican official accused of drug links, ex-Defense Secretary Salvador Cienfuegos, and leave any prosecution up to Mexico. A federal official told The Associated Press on Sunday that the Attorney General's Office had issued an arrest warrant on Friday for former Public Security Secretary García Luna and that officials "are assessing the viability of starting an extradition process." The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authorization to discuss the case publicly, said García Luna is accused here of illegal enrichment. García Luna served as security chief under former President Felipe Calderón from 2006 to 2012 as the leader in the government's fight against organized crime. He was arrested in December in Texas and pleaded not guilty last month to drug trafficking charges, including a new one of engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise. U.S. prosecutors accuse him of accepting tens of millions of dollars in bribes — often stuffed in briefcases full of cash — to shield the Sinaloa cartel from law enforcement. In January, the former Mexican official pleaded not guilty to charges of cocaine trafficking conspiracy and a false statement. The United States earlier this month dropped a drug trafficking and money laundering case against Cienfuegos, an extraordinary reversal that followed an intense pressure campaign from Mexico. A judge in New York City approved the dismissal of charges and the general was quickly sent back to Mexico, where so far he faces no charges.

**[Nigeria] Nigeria buries 43 farmers killed by militants, dozens missing**

Reuters [11/29/2020 7:05 PM, Lanre Ola, 11261K, Negative] reports villagers in northeast Nigeria's Borno state on Sunday buried 43 farmers killed in an attack by suspected Islamist militants while security forces searched for dozens still missing. Around 30 of the men were beheaded in the attack, which began on Saturday morning in the village of Zabarmari, while residents said 70 people in all are feared dead. While there was no claim of responsibility, such massacres have been carried out in the past by Boko Haram or the Islamic State West Africa Province which are both active in the area, where Islamic militants have killed at least 30,000 people. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari condemned the killings and said "the entire country is hurt". In Zabarmari, dozens of mourners surrounded the bodies, which were wrapped in white burial shrouds and placed on wooden pallets, as clerics led prayers for the deceased. One resident and Amnesty International said 10 women were among those missing. United Nations humanitarian coordinator Edward Kallon said he was "outraged and horrified" by "the most violent direct attack" against civilians this year. The U.N. estimated that at least 110 people were killed across the Jere local government area of Borno state. Yahoo News/ANI [11/29/2020 7:05 PM, Staff, 4021K, Negative] reports the death toll from an attack on farmers in a village in Nigeria's northeastern state of Borno has risen to 110, with many wounded, a United Nations official said on Sunday. Edward Kallon, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, condemned the incident, in which several women were also kidnapped by the terror group Boko Haram suspected of

being responsible for the attack on Saturday. Nigerian authorities earlier on Sunday confirmed more than 40 farmers were killed after Boko Haram militants launched the attack at Koshebe village in the Mafa local government area of the state while working on their farmlands.

## Headlines

### **The Washington Post**

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

Bracing for a 'superimposed' holiday surge, top health experts urge Americans to take restrictive measures

Biden hires all-female senior communications team, names Neera Tanden director of OMB

Car bombing at Afghan base kills at least 30

Japan and South Korea see surge of suicides among young women, raising new questions about pandemic stress

### **The New York Times**

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

Virus Deaths Approach Spring Record Amid Changing U.S. Crisis

Assassination in Iran Could Limit Biden's Options. Was That the Goal?

Beijing Takes Its South China Sea Strategy to the Himalayas

Protests Over Security Bill in France Draw Tens of Thousands

### **The Wall Street Journal**

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

Joe Biden Fills Out His Economic Team

Biden's Delay on Defense Pick Gives Rise to Dissent

Black Friday Was a Bust for Many Stores, Better for Online

Iran's Nuclear Efforts Pose Growing Threat to Its Foes Despite Setbacks

### **ABC News**

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

Biden chooses an all-female senior White House press team

Don't want to frighten people, but we may see 'surge upon surge': Fauci

Congress returns with virus aid, federal funding unresolved

### **CBS News**

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

Biden-Harris announce all-female communications staff

Birx says Americans who gathered for Thanksgiving should assume they're infected and get tested

New coronavirus restrictions set around the world as COVID-19 surges

### **CNN**

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

Biden moves quickly to build a diverse administration

A leaderless America slips deep into a grim pandemic winter

Assassinated Iranian nuclear scientist shot with remote-controlled machine gun, news agency says

**Fox News**

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

President-elect Joe Biden to receive first President's Daily Brief

Biden WH communications team raises questions over revolving door with liberal networks

North Korea tightening borders to build 'wall of defense' against COVID-19

**NBC News**

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

Biden and Harris announce all-female communications team

Protesters clash with police at Paris protest against police violence

Portuguese youngsters clear major hurdle in European climate lawsuit

**Washington Schedule****President**

The White House

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

10:00 AM House Pool Call Time

12:30 PM The President has lunch with the Vice President

**Vice President**

The White House

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

See source link. Schedule not yet available.

**Senate**

Senate

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

3:00 PM: Convene.

5:00 PM: Proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Taylor B. McNeel, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi.

6:00 PM SVC-217 Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on United Arab Emirates arms sales.

**House of Representatives**

House of Representatives

(11/30/2020 6:00 AM)

There are no public events scheduled today.

**{End of Report}**

**Sender:** "Buangan, Richard L" (b)(6)@state.gov>

EAP-CM-STRATCOM-DL <EAP-CM-STRATCOM-DL@state.gov>;

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

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

Stilwell, David R (b)(6)@state.gov>;

Bray, Leah (b)(6)@state.gov>;

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

Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6)@state.gov>



# Media Monitoring Unit Global Media Trends

November 30, 2020

*This report examines global media narratives based on trending social media engagement and relevance to U.S. multilateral equities from 11/29 to 11/30. Data is as of 7:00 AM EST on 11/30. Click here for full [Methodology](#).*

## BLUF

- Senior Advisor Kushner's upcoming trip to the Middle East to continue Arab-Israeli normalization efforts gains traction. Escalating tensions between Australia and China garner high-engagement coverage. Police violence in France trends amid mass demonstrations against President Macron's proposed global security law.

## Key Takeaways

### **Department Messaging:**

- Department messaging on the [CCP's](#) human rights abuses in Xinjiang, [Afghanistan](#) peace negotiations, and the [Venezuelan](#) crisis receives minimal traction.

### **Foreign Affairs Issues Drawing Audience Engagement:**

- Senior Advisor [Kushner's](#) upcoming trip to Qatar and Saudi Arabia gains traction, focusing on the possibility of additional [normalization](#) deals with Israel.
- Escalating tensions between Australia and China lead top EAP coverage amid the CCP's accusations of Australian "[war crimes](#)" in Afghanistan.
- Top Iran narratives focus on the alleged [assassination](#) of an Iranian nuclear scientist and Tehran's move to boost uranium [enrichment](#).

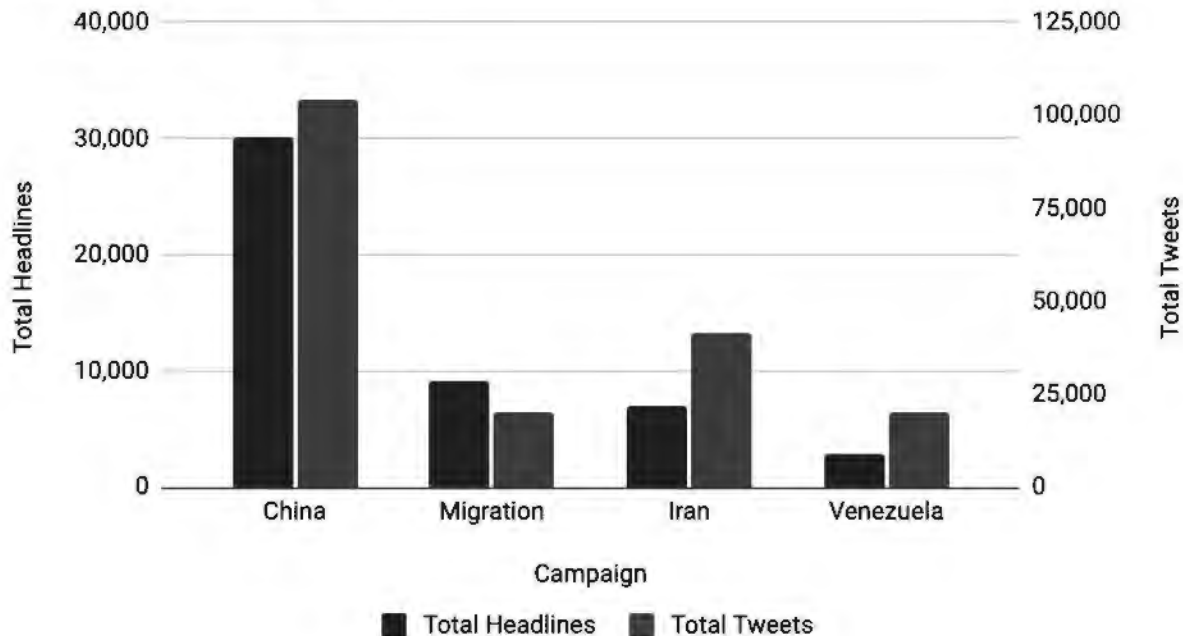
### **High-Engagement Global Media Content and Themes:**

- Video of French [police](#) beating a Black music producer trends in EUR media, fueling ongoing [demonstrations](#) against President Macron's proposed global security law.
- [Boko Haram's](#) Nigeria massacre and the [Ethiopian](#) conflict garner high engagement in AF and NEA markets, respectively.
- Protests in [Thailand](#) continue to lead top hashtags mentioning the Department.
- Top Department [headlines](#) cover President-elect Biden's all-women communications team, eclipsing [China](#), [Iran](#), [Venezuela](#), and U.S. [immigration](#) policy mentions.



# GPA Priority Campaigns

## Volume by Engagement



### China

#### Top Headlines by Engagement

(India) *Business World*: [Japan Factory Output Grows for Fifth Month, Retail Sales Surge](#); 4,116 Facebook engagements\*

(Vietnam) *Δ - Tuổi Trẻ*: [Reuters: America Blacklist the Owner of Hai Duong Drilling Rig 981](#); 2,494 Facebook engagements; 1 Twitter share

(Guatemala) *Δ - Soy 502*: [Which Countries Will Be the First to Apply the Covid-19 Vaccine?](#); 410 Facebook engagements\*

#### Top Tweets

Engagements	Text
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30K	<div></div> <div><b>Lin Wood</b> @LLinWood</div> <div>...</div> <p>Many (&amp; I mean many) Democrat &amp; Republican elected officials should be investigated for financial ties to China, George Soros, Bill Gates, etc.</p> <p>Unlawful foreign interference with U.S. election must not be allowed to stand.</p> <p>Start with investigation of @KLoeffler &amp; @BrianKempGA.</p> <div></div> <div><b>Stephen M Muzick</b> @MuzickStephen · 19h</div> <div>Replying to @LLinWood @GOP and 6 others</div> <div>Everyone sees the fraud and yet no one sees the fraud. What is going on here Lin? Why do they refuse to see what everyone else can plainly see? Who holds sway over these politicians? Someone is holding them back.</div> <p>10:34 AM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone</p> <div><b>8.8K</b> Retweets   <b>751</b> Quote Tweets   <b>21.6K</b> Likes</div>
27K	<div></div> <div><b>Walter Shaub</b>  @waltshaub</div> <div>...</div> <p>Remember that time we gave billions of tax dollars in direct aid to farmers who voted for Trump because Trump lost a trade war he started with China and then millionaire Chuck Grassley applied for the handouts? And then they voted for Trump again? And the trade war continued?</p> <p>9:51 AM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App</p> <div><b>5.1K</b> Retweets   <b>398</b> Quote Tweets   <b>20.9K</b> Likes</div>



6K



**Lee Smith**  
@LeeSmithDC

...

Establishment GOP is obtuse: Trump voters see election fraud as part of rolling coup targeting POTUS. If vote is rendered useless in 2020, why vote in 2022? If they don't fight now, GOP is finished—maybe for best, when replaced by nationalist, anti-globalist (China) current.

**Lee Smith** @LeeSmithDC · 21h

If GOP wants to be party of working men and women, it'll have to not only fight for them but as hard as they do, not like lobbyists and consultants. And they better start now, by fighting clear election fraud and defending POTUS. Or by 2022 it'll be too late. [twitter.com/arifleischer/s...](https://twitter.com/arifleischer/s...)

10:25 AM · Nov 29, 2020 · TweetDeck

**1.4K** Retweets **158** Quote Tweets **4.4K** Likes

## Iran

### Top Headlines by Engagement

Newsweek: Retired Admiral Says He's 'Very Concerned' About Trump Loyalists at Pentagon During Biden Transition; 645 Facebook engagements; 443 Twitter shares; 26,781 Reddit engagements

CBS: Fired Director of U.S. Cyber Agency Chris Krebs Explains Why President Trump's Claims of Election Interference Are False; 17,277 Facebook engagements; 2,580 Twitter shares; 1,707 Reddit engagements

Epoch Times: Judge Blocks, Unblocks, Then Blocks Georgia From Wiping or Resetting Election Machines; 10,270 Facebook engagements; 491 Twitter shares; 147 Reddit engagements

### Top Tweets

Engagements	Text
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7K



**Nicolas Clamorgan** 🇺🇸 **Hold That Line!**

@Nick\_Clamorgan

...

The Japanese support Trump

The Koreans support Trump

Oppressed Venezuelans support Trump

Oppressed Iranians support Trump

Christian African countries support Trump

In a nutshell: all oppressed or threatened peoples on earth support @realDonaldTrump !



From **Fabio Q** 🇺🇸

9:20 AM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for Android

**1.7K** Retweets **162** Quote Tweets **6K** Likes



2K



*Biden's a Fraud* ηαηω  
@LVNancy

...

5 US Special forces died in the CIA server farm seizure #Germany.

CIA Cyberwarefare allowed #China #Iran #Russia access to manipulate votes.

This is #TREASON against the United States !!

#Kraken @GenFlynn

#CoupAttempt #hammerscorecard

[creativestructionmedia.com/analysis/2020/...](https://creativestructionmedia.com/analysis/2020/...)



President Elect Wendy and 9 others

9:20 AM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App

917 Retweets 104 Quote Tweets 1.4K Likes



2K



علی بیطرفان  
@ali\_bitarafan4

اسرائیل و آمریکا الان حاضرین ۱۰۰ تا موشک بخوره وسط پایگاه هاشون ولی ایران برنگرده به غنی سازی ۲۰ درصد و اخراج جاسوسان آژانس انشاالله هم پاسخ متقابل این جنایتتون رو میگیرین هم ایران برمیگرده به زمانی که آرزو داشتین از کنار مراکز اتمیمون رد بشین

#غنی\_سازی\_۲۰درصد  
#اخراج\_بازرسان\_آژانس

Translated from Persian by Google

Israel and the United States are now ready to fire 100 missiles in the middle of their bases, but Iran will not return to 20% enrichment and expulsion of IAEA spies.

God willing, you will get a reciprocal response to this crime, and Iran will return to the time when you wished to pass by the nuclear centers.

#غنی\_سازی\_۲۰درصد  
#اخراج\_بازرسان\_آژانس

6:49 AM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App

791 Retweets 12 Quote Tweets 1.9K Likes

## Venezuela

### Top Headlines by Engagement

*Business Insider:* [Trump Attorneys Described Giuliani as 'Deranged' and Likened the Team Pushing Election Fraud Claims to a 'Clown Car,' Report Says](#); 11,183 Facebook engagements; 884 Twitter shares; 11,857 Reddit engagements

*BizPacReview:* [Sidney Powell Files Emergency Demand to Seize All Voting Machines for Forensic Audit](#); 21,964 Facebook engagements; 271 Twitter shares; 400 Reddit engagements

*Daily Beast:* [Trump Baselessly Suggests FBI Rigged Election Against Him in First Post-Election Interview](#); 6,820 Facebook engagements; 307 Twitter shares; 15,478 Reddit engagements



Top Tweets

Engagements	Text
4K	<div><div></div><div><div>Leonardo Padrón</div><div>@Leonardo_Padron</div></div><div>...</div></div> <p>Maduro juega a que Claudio Fermín y Timoteo Zambrano son enemigos. Je. Culpa a la AN legítima de todas las calamidades del país. Dice que con su triunfo el 6D volverá la prosperidad. El mismo argumento usaron para inducir a votar por la ANC. Y todo fue peor. Que nadie salga el 6D</p> <p>Translated with Google</p> <p>Maduro plays Claudio Fermín and Timoteo Zambrano as enemies. Heh Blame the legitimate NA for all the calamities in the country. He says that with his triumph the 6D will return prosperity. The same argument was used to induce a vote for the ANC. And everything was worse. Let no one come out on 6D</p> <p>7:51 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone</p> <p>1K Retweets 59 Quote Tweets 2.7K Likes</p>



2K



**First Words**  
@unscriptedmike

200

Sidney Powell asks U.S. District Court in Georgia for emergency judgment that Dominion voting machines be seized and impounded immediately for a forensic audit.

Note that a warehouse holding thousands of these cheating voting machines was set ablaze in Venezuela back in March.

7:30 AM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

**568** Retweets **24** Quote Tweets **1K** Likes



800

MIPPCI  
@Mippcivzla

¡Toma Nota!

La nueva máquina de votación presentada por el @ve\_cne para los comicios del #6D sitúa a Venezuela a la vanguardia en América Latina y el mundo, con una tecnología robusta, de fácil manejo y mantenimiento.

#VenezuelaProtegida

Translated from Spanish by Google

TomaNota!

The new voting machine presented by the @ve\_cne for the elections of #6D places Venezuela at the forefront in Latin America and the world, with robust technology, easy to use and maintain.

#VenezuelaProtegida



4:40 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · TweetDeck

665 Retweets 21 Quote Tweets 111 Likes

## Migration

### Top Headlines by Engagement





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*NBC:* [Biden and Harris Announce All-Female Communications Team](#); 57,119 Facebook engagements; 1,108 Twitter shares; 79 Reddit engagements

*CNN:* [Biden Announces a Senior Female Senior Communications Team at the White House](#); 18,286 Facebook engagements; 971 Twitter shares; 207 Reddit engagements

*Politico:* [Biden Announces All-Female White House Communications Team](#); 8,611 Facebook engagements; 120 Twitter shares


Top Tweets

Engagements	Text
16K	<div> <b>NY AG James</b>  @NewYorkStateAG <span>...</span></div> <p>Once again, the Trump administration is trying to illegally leave millions of undocumented immigrants out of the #2020census and deny states like New York fair representation in Congress.</p> <p>Tomorrow, we're going to the Supreme Court to fight back and ensure everyone is counted.</p> <p>12:49 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone</p> <hr/> <p><b>3K</b> Retweets   <b>218</b> Quote Tweets   <b>13.2K</b> Likes</p>



1K



**Rooster**   
@no\_silenced

...

70% of people claiming 'Refugee' status are economical migrants fleeing poverty....The are not fleeing corruption or danger like our Country requires to qualify for refugee status

We don't owe people in other Countries anything

I know it sounds harsh, but i'm America First

11:30 AM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App

**275** Retweets **28** Quote Tweets **789** Likes



1K



**NY AG James**  
@NewYorkStateAG

...

Replying to @NewYorkStateAG

Otra vez, la administración Trump trata de ilegalmente dejar a millones de inmigrantes indocumentados fuera del #censo2020 y negar a estados como NY una representación justa en el Congreso.

Mañana, iremos a la Corte Suprema para luchar y asegurarnos de que todos sean contados.

Translated from Spanish by Google

Once again, the Trump administration tries to illegally shut millions of undocumented immigrants out of the #censo2020 and deny states like NY fair representation in Congress.

Tomorrow, we will go to the Supreme Court to fight and make sure everyone is counted.

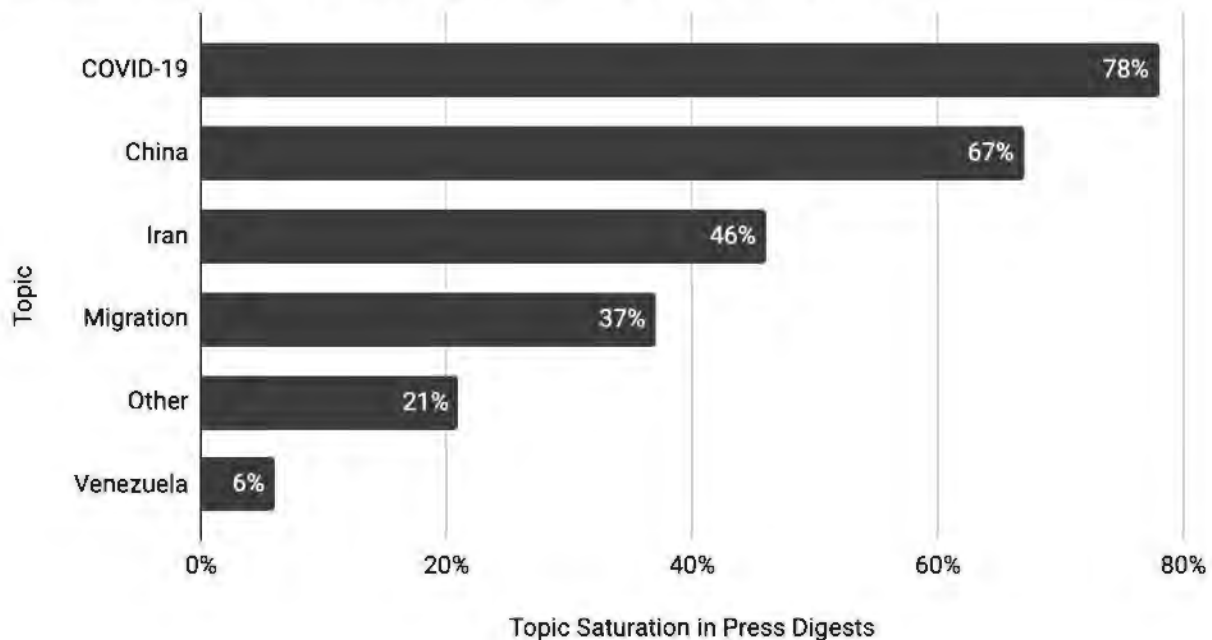
12:49 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

**195** Retweets **10** Quote Tweets **748** Likes

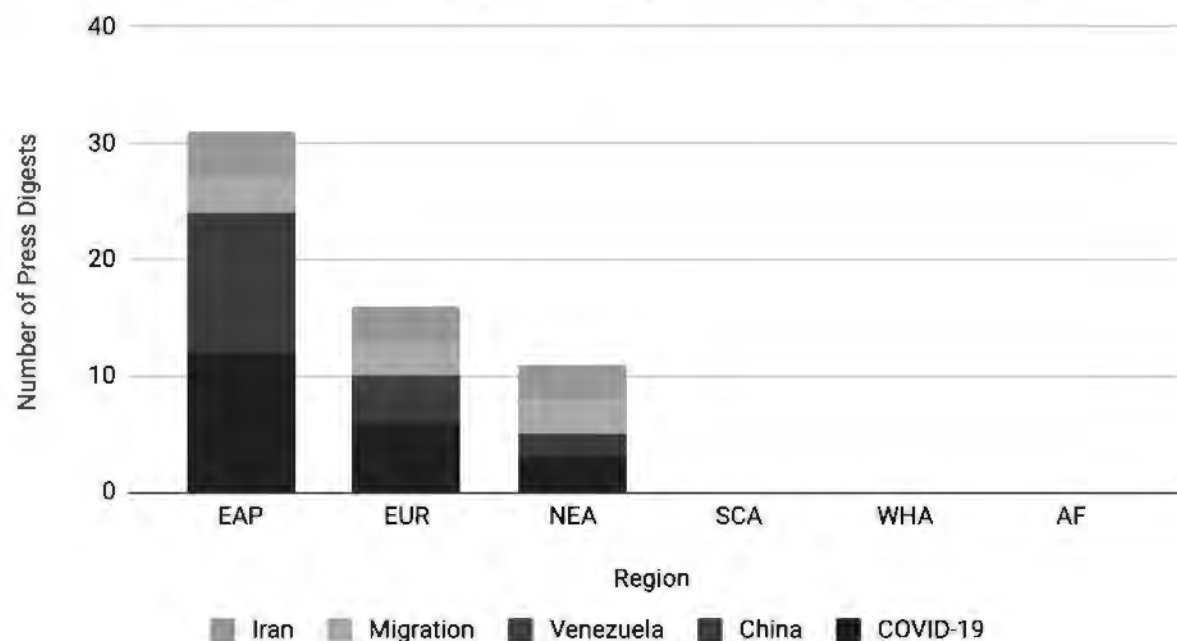


# Global Missions Press Digests

## Global Missions Press Digests: Topic Saturation






## Global Missions Press Digests: Topic Coverage by Region





# Global Media Trends

## Top Global Twitter Trends:

Hashtag/Mention	Volume	Top Tweet
Neera Tanden	63.1K	<div> <b>Gravel Institute</b>  @GravellInstitute <span>...</span></div> <p>Neera Tanden wanted to take Libyan oil as "payback" for overthrowing their government. Now she'll be Biden's budget director.</p> <p>6:30 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App</p> <p>2.2K Retweets 170 Quote Tweets 14.3K Likes</p>
60 Minutes	49.8K	<div> <b>BrooklynDad_Defiant!</b> <span>...</span> @mmpadellan</div> <p>Chris Krebs, explaining on 60 Minutes how the 2020 election was the most secure election ever, has more credibility and integrity in his pinky nail than trump and his Klan administration have combined.</p> <p>I BELIEVE HIM.</p> <p>8:05 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for Android</p> <p>3.5K Retweets 276 Quote Tweets 25.1K Likes</p>



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#TheUndoing

48.5K



max rockatansky  
@finnsrvy

...

they told us who the killer was day one and we were all out here like this blaming everyone and the extras. i cannot 😊😊😊😊😊😊 #TheUndoing👉



10:11 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

535 Retweets 148 Quote Tweets 4.4K Likes






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Rand Paul	43.5K	<div><div><div><b>Wayne Dupree Media, LLC</b>  @WayneDupreeShow</div></div><div><p>Rand Paul wants an explanation on why Trump's "defeat" happened in 4 data dumps between 1:34 am and 6:31 am</p><div></div><p>Rand Paul is Listening to the Base...He Just Got On Twitter and Very Boldly ... I don't know anyone who actually believes that Joe Biden won the presidency. Granted, I am not exactly surrounded by a lot of liberals in my ... <a href="https://waynedupree.com">waynedupree.com</a></p><p>8:15 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Sendable</p><div><div>5.5K Retweets</div><div>540 Quote Tweets</div><div>13.1K Likes</div></div></div></div>
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#CyberMonday	39.1K	<div><div> <b>Nintendo of America</b>  @NintendoAmerica</div><p>This #CyberMonday, get a special #NintendoSwitch Fortnite Wildcat Bundle, including:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ A uniquely designed Nintendo Switch system and dock</li><li>✓ Yellow and Blue Joy-Con</li><li>✓ Fortnite game pre-installed</li><li>✓ 2,000 V-Bucks</li><li>✓ A download code for The Wildcat Bundle</li></ul><p><a href="https://ninten.do/6019pMouX">ninten.do/6019pMouX</a></p><div></div><p>12:01 AM · Nov 30, 2020 · Sprinklr Publishing</p><p>473 Retweets 439 Quote Tweets 6.6K Likes</p></div>
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## AF

### Top Press Headlines (Highest-Engaged):

(Nigeria)  $\Delta$  - Legit: Driver Recognizes Kidnapper Among His Passengers; 3,749 Facebook engagements; 5 Twitter shares

(Mauritius)  $\Delta$  - Le Defi: Earthquake Off Rodrigues; 1,521 Facebook engagements

(Nigeria)  $\Delta$  - Legit: Zabarmari: UN Reveals Number of Killings in Borno; 1,130 Facebook engagements; 1 Twitter share





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### **Trending Topic (Across Top AF Outlets):**

Boko Haram's massacre of Nigerian villagers: [\*Premium Times\*](#), [\*Legit\*](#), [\*Africa News\*](#)

## **EAP**

### **Top Press Headlines (Highest-Engaged):**

(Australia) *VIC Emergency*: [\*Staghorn Flat, Fitzpatrick Dr\*](#); 360,597 Facebook engagements; 945 Twitter shares; 303 Reddit engagements

(Malaysia)  $\Delta$  - *Astro Awani*: [\*Residents Worry about Wild Pigs Threatening Security\*](#); 13,204 Facebook engagements\*

(Cambodia)  $\Delta$  - *Fresh News*: [\*People found 19 positive for Covid in community\*](#); 10,730 Facebook engagements

### **Trending Topic (Across Top EAP Outlets):**

Beijing/Canberra tensions over "Australian war crimes" tweet: [\*Sydney Morning Herald\*](#), [\*South China Morning Post\*](#), [\*Channel News Asia\*](#)

## **EUR**

### **Top Press Headlines (Highest-Engaged):**

(Spain)  $\Delta$  - *Hispanaviación*: [\*Embraer Delivers First Modernized E-99 to Brazilian Air Force\*](#); 2,415 Facebook engagements\*

(France)  $\Delta$  - *France Bleu*: [\*Coronavirus: The High Authority of Health recommends priority vaccination for residents of nursing homes\*](#); 907 Facebook engagements; 3 Twitter shares

(Italy)  $\Delta$  - *La Repubblica*: [\*Virus, Christmas Shopping Alert\*](#); 782 Facebook engagements; 24 Twitter shares

### **Trending Topic (Across Top EUR Outlets):**

Uproar over French police beating Black music producer: [\*France 24\*](#), [\*BBC\*](#), [\*Deutsche Welle\*](#)

## **NEA**

### **Top Press Headlines (Highest-Engaged):**

(Pan-Arab) *Al Jazeera*: [\*Leader of Ethiopia's Tigray Forces Says Fighting Near Mekelle\*](#); 6,192 Facebook engagements; 75 Twitter shares



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(Israel) *Haaretz*: Kushner Heading to Saudi Arabia, Qatar Amid Regional Tension Over Fakhrizadeh Assassination; 1,886 Facebook engagements; 40 Twitter shares

(Israel) *Times of Israel*: Killing of Nuke Chief Was Done Entirely by Remote Control — Iranian Report; 1,511 Facebook engagements; 143 Twitter shares; 33 Reddit engagements

#### **Trending Topic (Across Top NEA Outlets):**

Iran boosts uranium enrichment: *Al Arabiya*, *\*\*Tehran Times*, *Arutz Sheva*

## **SCA**

#### **Top Press Headlines (Highest-Engaged):**

(India) *India Times*: On Guru Nanak Jayanti, Farmers From Punjab Continue Fight for Rights; 5,350 Facebook engagements; 1 Twitter share

(India) *Business World*: Tikri, Singhu Borders Shut for Traffic Movement Amid Farmers' Protest; 4,116 Facebook engagements\*

(India) *Republic World*: Farmer Thanks PM Modi for Mentioning Him on Mann Ki Baat: Shares How Farm Bills Helped Him; 2,807 Facebook engagements; 34 Twitter shares

#### **Trending Topic (Across Top SCA Outlets):**

Indian protests against farm legislation: *India Times*, *Business World*, *Republic World*

## **WHA**

#### **Top Press Headlines (Highest-Engaged):**

(Peru) *Δ - ATV*: Francisco Sagasti Announces That They Will Go To The TC If Congress Insistently Approves The Return Of ONP; 2,530 Facebook engagements

(Brazil) *Δ - Jornal da Cidade Online*: Ibope Manipulates Electoral Data, Accuses President of MDB in RS; 2,085 Facebook engagements; 70 Twitter shares

(Mexico) *Δ - Excelsior*: "I Had Some Pavitos That I Was Going To Sell In December And They Drowned" Inhabitant Of Tabasco; 1,702 Facebook engagements; 25 Twitter shares

#### **Trending Topic (Across Top WHA Outlets):**

Tributes to soccer legend Maradona: *Infobae*, *Excelsior*, *O Globo*



# Department Media

## Top Five Articles Mentioning State Department Principals

CNN: [Biden Announces a Senior Female Senior Communications Team at the White House](#); 18,363 Facebook engagements; 987 Twitter shares; 207 Reddit engagements


(Brazil) [TV Sergipe: Biden Announces Its Communication Team Will Be Fully Made Up Of Women](#); 8,628 Facebook engagements; 1 Twitter share

CNN: [Assassinated Iranian Nuclear Scientist Shot With Remote-Controlled Machine Gun: Report](#); 5,190 Facebook engagements; 336 Twitter shares; 72 Reddit engagements

Fox News: [Biden Chooses an All-Female Senior White House Press Team](#); 4,439 Facebook engagements; 8 Twitter shares

(India) [Business World: Biden-Harris Announce All-Women White House Communications Team](#); 4,116 Facebook engagements\*

## Top Department-Owned Posts

Account	Top Post	Engagements
USAdarFarsi	 <p>Translation: The Revolutionary Guards hire foreign fighters to increase their influence abroad. The Afghan Shiite Fatimid Corps formed the Pakistani Shiite Zainab Brigade and the Pakistani Shiite Brigade to fight in regional conflicts, especially in Syria. The US government sanctioned both groups in 2013 for terrorism. The West Point Counterterrorism Center reports that the size of the Fatimid army is between 10,000 and 12,000, while a Fatimid official in Iran said in January that more than 2,000 militants had been killed in Syria.</p>	15K



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## U.S. Embassy Algiers



U.S. Embassy Algiers

20h · 🌐

...

11K

لدينا مسابقة جديدة! والجوائز قيمة، كفانا من سندويشات القرنطبة مع خالدا! للمشاركة في مسابقتنا "عندي حلم"، كل ما عليكم إلا ملء هذا الإستطلاع هنا، وسيتم إدراجكم في عملية السحب بالقرعة للحصول على جهاز كمبيوتر محمول HP جديد:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDJ6CPB>  
ولكن إذا كنتم ترغبون في زيادة فرصكم في الفوز، شاهد جميع الحلقات العشر لبرنامج "عندي حلم"، ثم قوموا بملء الإستطلاع، وسيتم إدراجكم في عمليات السحب بالقرعة الثلاث للفوز بثلاثة أجهزة كمبيوتر محمولة جديدة من نوع HP:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsbVIOhiok0>  
المسابقة مفتوحة حتى 29 ديسمبر ويمكنكم الإطلاع على القواعد الرسمية للمسابقة عبر الرابط:  
<https://dz.usembassy.gov/andi-hulm-contest/>  
We have a new contest! And the prizes are actually something nice, no more garantita sandwiches with Khaled!  
To enter in our Andi Hulm contest, all you have to do is fill out this survey here, and you will be entered in one drawing for a brand-new HP laptop computer:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDJ6CPB>  
But if you want to increase your chances of winning, watch all ten episodes of Andi Hulm, then fill out the survey, and you will be entered in all three drawings for three brand-new HP laptops: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsbVIOhiok0>  
The contest is open until December 29 and the official contest rules are here:  
<https://dz.usembassy.gov/andi-hulm-contest/>  
See Translation



👍👍 6.2K

1.8K Comments 673 Shares

## U.S. Embassy Ghana



U.S. Embassy Ghana

21h · 🌐

6k

Happy birthday to Ghana's former president John Dramani Mahama. We wish you the very best of the day.



👍👍 5.6K

266 Comments 134 Shares



### Top Posts - Flagship Accounts

Account	Top Post	Engagements
@StateDept		3.1K
@SecPompeo	N/A	N/A
@StateDeputySPOX	N/A	N/A
@StateDeptSpox	N/A	N/A

### Twitter Trends - Department Mentions

Hashtag	Volume
#มือบ29พฤศจิกายน (Mob 29 Nov)	3.4K
#29พฤศจิกายนไปราบ11 (29 Nov 11)	3.2K
#georgia	2,1K
#ทหารกองแผ่นดิน (soldiers of the land)	1.4K
#stopthesteal	840



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### Top Five Tweets Mentioning the Secretary

Tweet	Engagements
-------	-------------



Nirva mas  
@mas\_nirva

...

2.6K

#massivedumps #Diaperdon  
So true, in dumping #DiaperDonnie we dumped so  
many bad hombres with him  
Like  
Mike Pence  
Bill Barr  
Mike Pompeo  
and so many more bad women too  
Like  
Melania  
Hope Hicks  
Trump's mouth piece  
#Losef  
tick-tock 52 days to  
#PresidentElectJoeBiden

WHEN YOU REALIZE, IT'S NOT A  
SLOGAN, BUT AN EXPIRATION DATE



12:51 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App

334 Retweets 77 Quote Tweets 2.3K Likes



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**Mehdi Hasan** ✓

@mehdirhasan

...

1.2K

It bothers me that we refer to hawkish anti-diplomacy reactionaries in Iran's government as 'hardliners' but to hawkish anti-diplomacy reactionaries in America's government as just 'Mike Pompeo' and 'Mike Pence' #justsayin

7:08 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

170 Retweets 9 Quote Tweets 1K Likes

**Mueller, She Wrote Podcast**

@MuellerSheWrote

...

540

Let's call this what it is: a last ditch effort for Kush and his Kush Co business partner to threaten Qatar into paying more of his business debts or go the way of Iran in the new "Middle East" deal Pompeo and Bibi cooked up with MBS last week. Also on the trip, an envoy to Iran

**WSJ The Wall Street Journal** ✓ @WSJ · 14h

Jared Kushner is heading to Saudi Arabia and Qatar this week in a last-ditch attempt to secure more diplomatic agreements in the Middle East before the Trump administration leaves office in January, according to U.S. and Gulf officials on.wsj.com/3qb7RMm

8:54 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

128 Retweets 8 Quote Tweets 407 Likes





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Wyn17+17

@Wyn17Plus

...

450

Replying to @Wyn17Plus

Former Dir of CIA, Sec Of State Pompeo: China labeled each of 50 America's Governors; "Friendly," "Hardline," or "Ambiguous.", many indeed referenced by name.

China "War Chess" Shopping List.

Money, Power, & Corruption

Think 2020 Election.

National Security.

#TheBestIsYetToCome



9:24 AM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App

231 Retweets 20 Quote Tweets 215 Likes

**Venture Capital**  
@kelly2277

...

370

🔥 Is everyone finally starting to put the pieces together to see the CONSPIRACY TO UNDERMINE OUR DEMOCRACY !? Note date of my thread. If you understand this you will see why the @GOP shills and @SenateGOP are denying @JoeBiden's win. They are TRAITORS !! cc @Mpolymer

**Venture Capital** @kelly2277 · Jun 13, 2018

🤖 Erik Prince and Oliver North proposed to Mike Pompeo and Trump that they create a global private spy network that would CIRCUMVENT official US intelligence agencies 🤖

Show this thread

considering a set of proposals developed by Blackwater founder Erik Prince and a retired CIA officer — with assistance from Oliver North, a key figure in the Iran-Contra scandal — to provide CIA Director Mike Pompeo and the White House with a global, private spy network that would circumvent official U.S. intelligence agencies.” The *Intercept's* sources

10:14 AM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

115 Retweets 12 Quote Tweets 249 Likes

### Department Owned Social Media Platforms

- Average engagement rate week of November 23: 212
- Average engagement rate month of October: 263
- Average engagement rate year of 2019: 321

Platform	Engagement	Top Post
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Instagram	15K	 <p><i>Translation: The Revolutionary Guards hire foreign fighters to increase their influence abroad. The Afghan Shiite Fatimid Corps formed the Pakistani Shiite Zainab Brigade and the Pakistani Shiite Brigade to fight in regional conflicts, especially in Syria. The US government sanctioned both groups in 2013 for terrorism. The West Point Counterterrorism Center reports that the size of the Fatimid army is between 10,000 and 12,000, while a Fatimid official in Iran said in January that more than 2,000 militants had been killed in Syria.</i></p>
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Facebook	11K	<div><div> U.S. Embassy Algiers</div><div><p>لدينا مسابقة جديدة! والجوائز قيمة، كفانا من سندويشات القرنطية مع خالد! للمشاركة في مسابقتنا "عندي حلم"، كل ما عليكم إلا ملء هذا الإستطلاع هنا، وسيتم إدراجكم في عملية السحب بالقرعة للحصول على جهاز كمبيوتر محمول HP جديد:</p><p><a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDJ6CPB">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDJ6CPB</a></p><p>ولكن إذا كنتم ترغبون في زيادة فرصكم في الفوز، شاهد جميع الحلقات العشر لبرنامج "عندي حلم"، ثم قوموا بملء الإستطلاع، وسيتم إدراجكم في عمليات السحب بالقرعة الثلاث للفوز بثلاثة أجهزة كمبيوتر محمولة جديدة من نوع HP :</p><p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsbVIOhioK0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsbVIOhioK0</a></p><p>المسابقة مفتوحة حتى 29 ديسمبر ويمكنكم الإطلاع على القواعد الرسمية للمسابقة عبر الرابط:</p><p><a href="https://dz.usembassy.gov/andi-hulm-contest/">https://dz.usembassy.gov/andi-hulm-contest/</a></p><p>We have a new contest! And the prizes are actually something nice, no more garantita sandwiches with Khaled!</p><p>To enter in our Andi Hulm contest, all you have to do is fill out this survey here, and you will be entered in one drawing for a brand-new HP laptop computer:</p><p><a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDJ6CPB">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDJ6CPB</a></p><p>But if you want to increase your chances of winning, watch all ten episodes of Andi Hulm, then fill out the survey, and you will be entered in all three drawings for three brand-new HP laptops: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsbVIOhioK0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsbVIOhioK0</a></p><p>The contest is open until December 29 and the official contest rules are here: <a href="https://dz.usembassy.gov/andi-hulm-contest/">https://dz.usembassy.gov/andi-hulm-contest/</a></p><p>See Translation</p></div><div></div><div><div> 8.2K</div><div>1.8K Comments 673 Shares</div></div></div>
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Twitter	3.1K	<div><b>Department of State</b> @StateDept US government account</div> <p>.@SecPompeo: The Chinese Communist Party's war on faith targets Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and Falun Gong devotees alike. The Party spares no one.</p> <div><p><b>"The Chinese Communist Party's war on faith targets Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and Falun Gong devotees alike."</b></p><p>SECRETARY OF STATE MICHAEL R. POMPEO</p></div> <p>8:55 PM · Nov 29, 2020 · Twitter Media Studio</p> <p>862 Retweets 70 Quote Tweets 2.2K Likes</p>
Weibo	1.6K	<div><b>U.S. Embassy</b> 11-29 00:33</div> <p>#美国政府中的原住民#Do you think you are different from others?</p> <p>"I resist the motive that only when I become part of mainstream society can I be accepted in a certain way." Native American politician Susan Allen is gay and is called "double "Soul" (two-spirited), this is a general term used by some aboriginal groups to describe people whose gender and/or spiritual do not match the actual gender role. She knew she was different from a very young age, but she insisted on being herself. As a child, she was outraged by the school's dress code: "The only rule imposed on boys is to tuck shirts into pants, while girls must wear skirts. When my brother and I are not at school, people think we are brothers, which always makes I feel happy." As an adult, she still has confidence in her identity. Allen comes from a branch of the Rosebud Sioux tribe. She was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2012, becoming the first openly Native American lesbian to win an election in the state legislature. In addition to politics, Allen is also a lawyer who specializes in serving aboriginal tribes, helping them draft tribal laws in a wide range of areas. #United States of America Native American Traditional Month# # American Diversity#</p> <div></div>

### Most-Used Words from all Department Social Media Accounts



### State.Gov Web Traffic from non-U.S., non-DOS visitors<sup>1</sup>

- Average unique page views in last six months: 22,811
- Average time on page in last six months: 00:02:38

Top Page	Total Number of Unique Page Views	Average Time on Page	Top Location of Users Visiting Page
<a href="#">CCP's Human Rights Abuses in Xinjiang</a>	772	00:05:09	Australia
<a href="#">Press Releases</a>	482	00:01:51	Japan
<a href="#">State.gov Website Modernization</a>	484	00:03:08	U.K.

## Methodology

Click here for the full [Methodology](#). Contact [gpa-ra-an-monitoring@state.gov](mailto:gpa-ra-an-monitoring@state.gov) with any questions.

\* Denotes Twitter share data unavailable for a given article

$\Delta$  Indicates the headline has been translated to English

**\*\* Indicates the news outlet is state-affiliated, state-sponsored, or state-funded**

~ Indicates the "outlet has been designated by the Department a foreign mission"

<sup>1</sup> state.gov website data excludes traffic from DOS IP addresses

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Chat conversation with (b)(6) from Microsoft Teams  
**Date:** Monday, January 23, 2023 11:02:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [0e7691f3-d991-4219-847f-6effce28d2c7](#)  
[logo](#)

---

## Microsoft Teams



EM

(b)(6)

11 months ago

MFA LV Viktor Makarov (Guest) we have reported both seemingly inauthentic accounts that spread false information about the invasion of Ukraine and hate speech against Ukrainians, and accounts of real people who, in our opinion, spread hate speech against Ukrainians. meta is currently being evaluated.





ò>~ m²ÜäK (€y"Ä'—&\_ AÔ×\*pW□+·□+ç €P±êç5>□¥Cpšó OÊOöJâ-í7WJšH,¥et  
Ô>Ûo.ßf×ýS4^^kÍtÚDD(%o§□Êm... k{<ŠlÓ□eÄdýfö?°Í@âj`j Éê»Lp'°°Y vL.ö³£\w+ îwİ.úßKš'‰-û-  
ÄAþ□†â°Ñ½Ô°{□xV\$ZöŸ8,™®ß<BbœøT@IÇ\$ÍçS&□¥40ùîêKÔÑ-ð~¼  
U©ê(¬{uİŌâ1a=Y□œYú0μœ~“b□öNýÚC°¬gã:°É°±IEND®B',

**Subject:** Meeting with NDI and Yevhen Fedchenko, StopFake  
**Location:** HST DRL Conference Room 5835

**Start:** Tue 11/22/2022 11:30 AM  
**End:** Tue 11/22/2022 12:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** (b)(6)

**Required Attendees:**

(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) DRL-GP-EUR-CORE; Smith, Erica N; EUR-EE-  
Ukraine Pol-DL; EUR-ERA-DL; EUR-ACE-DL; DRL-PPD-PD; EUR-PPD-DL; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) INR-OPN; (b)(6) IO-HRH-Ukraine;  
JGCJ\_UKR; (b)(6) GEC-Russia Team; (b)(6) t; DRL-GP-  
IF; CDP-DigitalFreedom; Bray, Leah; (b)(6)

**Optional Attendees:**

(b)(6)

**SkypeTeamsProperties:**

{"cid":"19:meeting\_MGZjODQxNmYtNWY0MS00ODQxLTgzMGYtMGRIYTM1OGRkZTcy@thread.v2","rid":0,"mid":0,"uid":null,"private":true,"type":0}

**SkypeTeamsMeetingUrl:**

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%  
3ameeting\_MGZjODQxNmYtNWY0MS00ODQxLTgzMGYtMGRIYTM1OGRkZTcy%  
40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%2266cf5074-5afe-48d1-a691-  
a12b2121f44b%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%2255d55dec-  
aa1e-47b7-87db-4906f8bb1372%22%7d

**SchedulingServiceUpdateUrl:**

https://api.scheduler.teams.microsoft.com/teams/66cf5074-5afe-48d1-a691-  
a12b2121f44b/55d55dec-aa1e-47b7-87db-4906f8bb1372/19  
\_meeting\_MGZjODQxNmYtNWY0MS00ODQxLTgzMGYtMGRIYTM1OGRkZTcy@thread.v  
2/0

**OnlineMeetingConfLink:**

conf:sip:lentinegs@state.gov;gruu;opaque=app:conf:focus.id:teams:2:0!  
19:meeting\_MGZjODQxNmYtNWY0MS00ODQxLTgzMGYtMGRIYTM1OGRkZTcy-  
thread.v2!55d55decaa1e47b787db4906f8bb1372!66cf50745afe48d1a691a12b2121f44b  
66cf5074-5afe-48d1-a691-a12b2121f44b

**TeamsVtcTenantId:**

Dear colleagues,

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) will be hosting Yevhen Fedchenko, co-founder and Chief Editor of StopFake.org. He is also Director of the Mohyla School of Journalism at National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Kyiv, Ukraine. He advises on issues of tackling disinformation and media literacy, is an active commentator of Ukrainian politics and speaker at numerous high-level international conferences.

We hope you will join us for this discussion.

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (she/her/hers)

Program Officer, EUR

U.S. Department of State

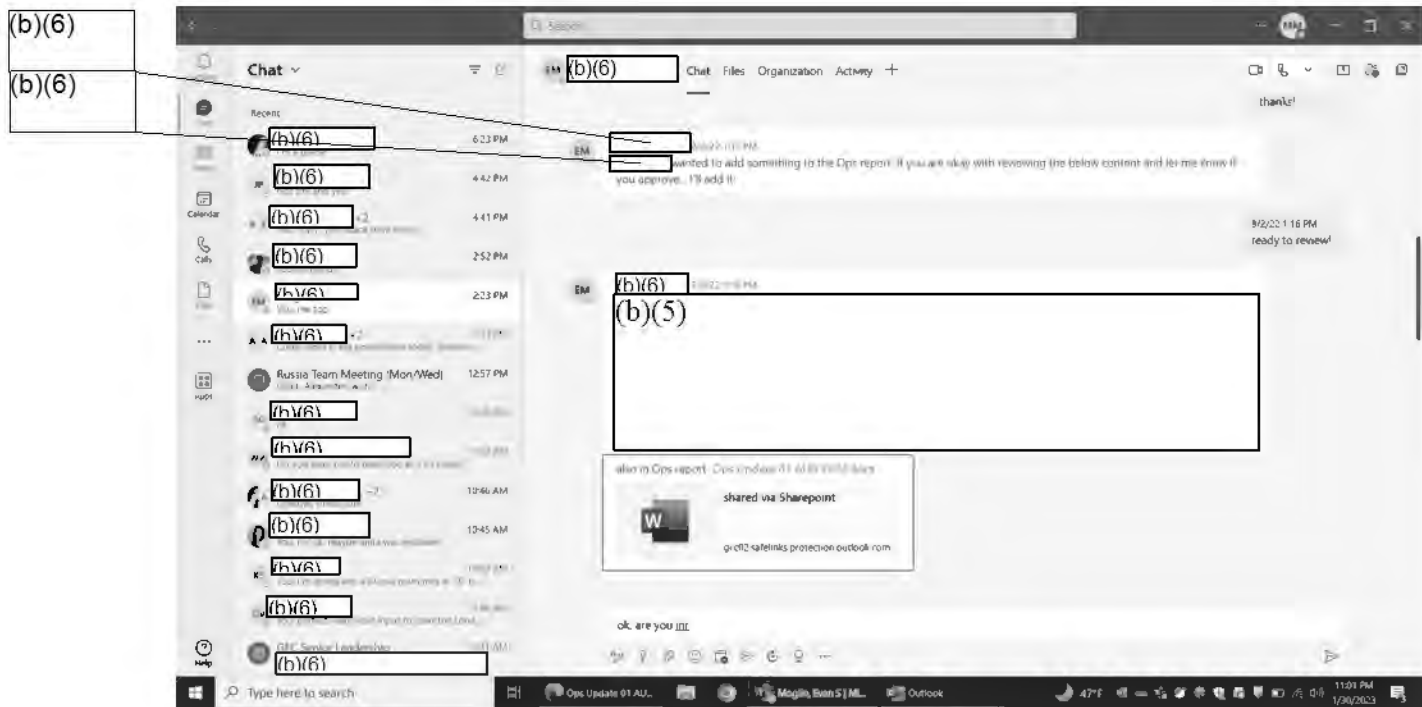
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL)

Office of Global Programs (GP)

(b)(6) state.gov | + (b)(6)

(b)(6) (WhatsApp and Signal)

*Contractor with Contracting Resources Group, Inc.*



Re: GEC FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe

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(b)(6) state.gov>

Tue 1/24/2023 12:30 PM

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

For FOIA request.

From (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2020 2:54 AM

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

(b)(6) [redacted]@state.gov> (b)(6)

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

@state.gov>; Corina Rebegea <(b)(6)>@cepa.org>; Sarah Cook

(b)(6) FreedomHouse.org>; Danielle Cave (b)(6) @aspi.org.au>; Rachael Owen

(b)(6) aspi.org.au>; Alex Joske (b)(6) aspi.org.au>; Tom Baker (b)(6) @iwpr.net>.

Alan Davis (b)(6) iwpr.net> Vonda Wolcott (b)(6) iwpr.net> elud (b)(6) @me.com>

martin.hala@ff.cuni.cz (b)(6); Baybars Orsek (h)(6) @poynter.org>

ferdi@poynter.org (b)(6); ebrattberg@ceip.org (b)(6) Young,

b)(6) [REDACTED]@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6) <[REDACTED]>@state.gov>; (b)(6) <[REDACTED]>@state.gov>; Alan Davis

(b)(6) iwpr.net; fozsoy@poynter.org (b)(6) borsek@poynter.org

(6)

**Subject:** GEC FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe

**When:** Friday, November 6, 2020 6:00 AM-7:00 AM.

**Where:**

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

(b)(7)(E) [redacted] 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)

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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)</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)</li> </ul>

Re: Catch up - Poynter fact-checking program in the Pacific [SEC=OFFICIAL] Page 100

(b)(6) state.gov>

Tue 1/24/2023 12:32 PM

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

**From:** Sam Meyerson

**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 10:05 AM

**To:** Sam Meyerson <Sam.Meyerson@dfat.gov.au>; Richard Salmons

(b)(6) @dfat.gov.au>; Stephen Clark (b)(6) dfat.gov.au> (b)(6)

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

(b)(6) state.gov>; advorak (b)(6) <advorak (b)(6)>; fozsoy (b)(6)

(b)(6); vonda (b)(6); Peta Donald

(b)(6) dfat.gov.au>; Sophie Gordon (b)(6) @dfat.gov.au>

**Subject:** Catch up - Poynter fact-checking program in the Pacific [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**When:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:00 AM-10:00 AM.

**Where:** Webex

## OFFICIAL

Hi All,

This is an opportunity to discuss the Poynter program in more detail and the feasibility of DFAT funding an extension of the existing program and possibly including a new business model sustainability component.

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Kind regards,

**Sam Meyerson**

Policy Officer

Disinformation Policy and Resilience Section

Counter Disinformation Branch

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Phone: (b)(6)

*(Please note I work Mon-Tues and am based in Melbourne)*

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**~~(SBU)~~ PDAS Peterson's Participation in the Breakout Session on**  
**"Public Discourse and Disinformation"**  
**1 hour 30 minutes**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

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