

Friday 09/11/20

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Photo: US Army Shows Mysterious 'Blasphemy' Device Attached to Gray Eagle Drone

During a recent symposium, a US Army slide showing a bevy of "integrated capabilities" for the MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) included a mysterious device labeled only as "Blasphemy."

The odd device was noticed by Aviation Week's Steve Trimble, who snapped a photo of the slide. It includes a slew of equipment used by the MQ-1C Gray Eagle, an upgraded version of General Atomics' RQ-1 Predator UAV.

[According to Trimble, the Army host dodged his question](#) about the mysterious device, saying, "I think we're going to skip that one" - an odd answer, given the slide is labeled "unclassified."

The full label says "MFEW & Blasphemy," the first part of which refers to the Multi-Function Electronic Warfare (MFEW) pod. [According to C4ISRNET, the Army's first jamming pod](#) isn't expected to go active until 2022, but when it does, it will support long range precision fires (LRPF), likely by [spotting for a HIMARS multiple rocket launcher](#) from the relative safety from targeting created by the jammer, which could allow the rocket system to then strike the threatening target.

However, MFEW is just one part of a larger program called the Integrated Electronic Warfare System: [the others, according to Defense News](#), are the Electronic Warfare Planning and Management Tool (EWPMT) and the Defensive Electronic Attack capability.

Raytheon has been building the EWPMT, which is an electronic warfare visualization and planning software program, and [began the final stage of development last October](#). However, little has been said about Defensive Electronic Attack since a 2017 request for information - could this be Blasphemy?

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Palestinian Ambassador Recalled From Manama After Bahrain Agrees to Normalize Ties With Israel

Following the normalization of relations between Israel and Bahrain, Palestine's ambassador to Manama was recalled to Ramallah on Friday.

On Friday, just weeks after its Persian Gulf neighbor the United Arab Emirates extended recognition and full diplomatic relations to Israel, [the Kingdom of Bahrain did the same](#). In response, the Palestinian Authority has ordered its diplomatic envoy to the island nation to return home and threatened to do the same to any other Arab nation that recognizes Israel.

Similar to the UAE, Bahrain is a close US ally and hosts large US military bases; both were also encouraged to recognize Israel over the objections of other Arab states by the US, which brokered both deals.

After the Israel-UAE deal, Palestinian leaders [denounced Abu Dhabi's actions as "stabbing them in the back."](#)

Few Muslim nations have been willing to recognize Israel since its creation in 1948, after which it fought a war against Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, as many other Arab nations sent troops or material to support the struggle. Israel triumphed, and in doing so, forced out nearly 700,000 Palestinian Arabs - nearly half the territory's population - in an event Palestinians refer to as "al-Nakba," or "the catastrophe."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Eyeing Greece as 'Alternative' if Erdogan Closes Incirlik Base - US Senator

As relations between Turkey and the United States continue to worsen, US commanders and lawmakers are beginning to look for options for repositioning the substantial military assets at Incirlik Air Base in southern Turkey. One option, a US senator recently said, is the Navy's base at Souda Bay, on the Greek island of Crete.

Although the US and Turkey have been allies since the latter joined the NATO alliance in 1952, tensions between the two nations have grown in recent years as the interests of Washington and Ankara become increasingly contradictory.

Whether in Syria, where Turkish forces [raced past American outposts to attack US-allied Kurdish militias](#) last October, or when Ankara [bought Russian S-400 air defense systems over US objections](#) and was removed from the F-35 program in response, fears have only increased that the fraught relationship could imperil the key Incirlik Air Base, which has served as a military logistical hub for NATO in the region for decades.

"We don't know what's gonna happen to Incirlik," Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's subcommittee for Europe, [told the Washington Examiner for a Friday story](#). "We hope for the best, but we have to plan for the worst."

"We want to maintain our full presence and cooperation in Turkey," Johnson continued. "I don't think we want to make that strategic shift, but I think, from a defensive posture, I think we have to look at the reality of the situation that the path that Erdogan is on is not good."

"We're already looking at Greece as an alternative," Johnson added.

The US naval base on Souda Bay [is the only deep-water port in the eastern Mediterranean](#) capable of docking US aircraft carriers, so the base on Crete's northern coast is already a very busy place. Adjacent to the Souda Bay facility is Chania International Airport, which is also used as an air base by the Hellenic Air Force. However, given that Chania is already Greece's sixth-busiest airport, taking on the increased workload of handling the US planes that would have once flown into Incirlik could be a daunting task.

"It's very unfortunate the path that Erdogan is taking Turkey, or has put Turkey on," Johnson said. "It's disturbing. It's very concerning, which is one of the reasons we certainly are increasing

and improving our military cooperation with Greece ... beefing up our presence in Souda Bay, because our presence, quite honestly, in Turkey is certainly threatened.”

However, Johnson said nothing about the [roughly 150 nuclear weapons the US stores at Incirlik](#).

Aykan Erdemir, the senior Turkey analyst at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank and a former Turkish lawmaker, told the Examiner that “Washington is not necessarily thinking of one alternative to Incirlik, but a number of rebasing options which are complementary as a contingency plan to Incirlik.”

“This has been going on for quite some time, in steps. I would definitely argue that it’s nothing new, but it might be changing qualitatively in terms of the nature and the extent of US presence and investments in that,” he said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Eyeing Greece as ‘Alternative’ if Erdogan Closes Incirlik Base - US Senator

As relations between Turkey and the United States continue to worsen, US commanders and lawmakers are beginning to look for options for repositioning the substantial military assets at Incirlik Air Base in southern Turkey. One option, a US senator recently said, is the Navy’s base at Souda Bay, on the Greek island of Crete.

Although the US and Turkey have been allies since the latter joined the NATO alliance in 1952, tensions between the two nations have grown in recent years as the interests of Washington and Ankara become increasingly contradictory.

Whether in Syria, where Turkish forces [raced past American outposts to attack US-allied Kurdish militias](#) last October, or when Ankara [bought Russian S-400 air defense systems over US objections](#) and was removed from the F-35 program in response, fears have only increased that the fraught relationship could imperil the key Incirlik Air Base, which has served as a military logistical hub for NATO in the region for decades.

“We don’t know what’s gonna happen to Incirlik,” Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee’s subcommittee for Europe, [told the Washington Examiner for a Friday story](#). “We hope for the best, but we have to plan for the worst.”

“We want to maintain our full presence and cooperation in Turkey,” Johnson continued. “I don’t think we want to make that strategic shift, but I think, from a defensive posture, I think we have to look at the reality of the situation that the path that Erdogan is on is not good.”

“We’re already looking at Greece as an alternative,” Johnson added.

The US naval base on Souda Bay [is the only deep-water port in the eastern Mediterranean](#) capable of docking US aircraft carriers, so the base on Crete’s northern coast is already a very busy place. Adjacent to the Souda Bay facility is Chania International Airport, which is also used as an air base by the Hellenic Air Force. However, given that Chania is already Greece’s sixth-busiest airport, taking on the increased workload of handling the US planes that would have once flown into Incirlik could be a daunting task.

"It's very unfortunate the path that Erdogan is taking Turkey, or has put Turkey on," Johnson said. "It's disturbing. It's very concerning, which is one of the reasons we certainly are increasing and improving our military cooperation with Greece ... beefing up our presence in Souda Bay, because our presence, quite honestly, in Turkey is certainly threatened."

However, Johnson said nothing about the [roughly 150 nuclear weapons the US stores at Incirlik](#).

Aykan Erdemir, the senior Turkey analyst at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank and a former Turkish lawmaker, told the Examiner that "Washington is not necessarily thinking of one alternative to Incirlik, but a number of rebasing options which are complementary as a contingency plan to Incirlik."

"This has been going on for quite some time, in steps. I would definitely argue that it's nothing new, but it might be changing qualitatively in terms of the nature and the extent of US presence and investments in that," he said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Venezuela's Maduro Announces Capture of Alleged US Spy Planning Explosion

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced on Friday that a US spy who had been targeting the country's oil refineries for an attack has been captured.

According to Maduro, the spy was captured in the state of Falcón on the northwestern coast near the Colombian border.

The spy, reportedly a former US Marine who worked for the CIA in Iraq, was captured with heavy weapons and a "large amount" of US dollars, [according to Monitoreamos](#). He was reportedly targeting oil facilities in Amuay and Cardón for some kind of an attack.

Venezuela was forced to shut down the two refineries after strangling US sanctions deprived them of the necessary parts. However, the 310,000-barrels-per-day Cardón refinery was [successfully restarted in April after Iran provided vital material](#) to restart its catalytic cracking unit. The aid was followed shortly thereafter by [five fuel tankers full of gasoline](#) to help offset the acute shortages created by the refineries' shutdown - something that infuriated Washington leaders, who are trying to force Maduro from power as well as deny Iran trading partners. Oil is vital to the South American country, as it forms most of the country's exports and thus the foundation of its economy. The US has placed economic sanctions against Venezuela, claiming Maduro's 2018 re-election was illegitimate and promising punishment for any nation or entity that buys Venezuelan petroleum.

The alleged spy's arrest also comes just months after [US-based mercenary outfit Silvercorp made an ill-fated attempt](#) to sail to Venezuela from Colombia and kidnap Maduro for a hefty bounty. However, eight of the mercenaries were killed and the rest promptly arrested by several Venezuelan fishermen who are part of the local militia, and Washington disavowed knowledge and responsibility for the incursion.

Last month, two of the Silvercorp mercenaries, Luke Denman and Airan Berry, both of whom are also US veterans, [were sentenced to 20 years in prison](#) after admitting to the crimes of conspiracy, association, illicit trafficking of weapons of war and terrorism.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Jealous Emu Keeps Trespassing Human Away From Donkey - Video Club

Karen, a jealous emu living it up in Verona, a small town in Canada's Ontario province, recently showed viewers that she's not one to mess with when it comes to her man - er, mini donkey. Video footage shared with video licensor Storyful captures the sassy emu repeatedly hissing at her owner Amanda Kendall after she had the audacity to pet Doug, Karen's companion. [Kendall told Storyful](#) that Karen is completely "in love" with Doug and that she's no fan of anyone showing any type of affection toward the donkey. "Karen is a hateful, jealous emu, so this is how she treats me about 94% of the time," the Canadian farmer said. Guess it's time to find another donkey to love on, eh?

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Video: US Man Arrested After Allegedly Being Disrespectful Toward Cop

An officer with Pennsylvania's Pittsburgh Bureau of Police was recently placed under investigation after cellphone footage captured the law enforcement official arresting a resident because he critiqued the cop's face mask and reportedly failed to follow orders and leave the area.

The incident unfolded at the Squirrel Hill Farmers' Market on September 6 and involved Pittsburgh Police Officer Paul Abel and local resident Daniel Holc, who initially approached the officer to inform him that his mask was disrespectful to the American flag. Video shows that the front of Abel's mask featured the American flag, but with a blue line - an image used as a part of a pro-police movement in response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

A [release issued by Pittsburgh Public Safety explains](#) that Holc had repeatedly tried to engage with Abel about his mask and that the officer eventually used force to arrest Holc. Cellphone footage of the tense altercation picks up with Abel pointing a department-issued stun gun and yelling at Holc to turn around and place his hands behind his back.

"I don't care. You didn't listen. When I told you to go away, you didn't want to listen," Abel says in a raised voice. Holc in turn questions Abel's actions and asks whether he has actually committed a crime, to which Abel doesn't answer.

After Holc asks whether or not he's officially under arrest, Abel appears to lose his temper even further, yanking Holc on the sidewalk and yelling out, "Yes." The officer is briefly heard saying, "Dude, I've had it."

With Holc eventually sitting on the ground, it's only then that Abel informs him he is under arrest for failure to disperse. At this point in the recording, a crowd of onlookers begins to form near the pair, with many off-camera remarking that the situation is "ridiculous" and "out of hand," and that the "officer needs to be careful" with how he proceeds with the arrest.

With many residents expressing their opinions on the sideline, Abel eventually states that he opted to place Holc in restraints because "he decided to be disrespectful to me," a response that was not warmly accepted by some in the crowd.

"All I said to you was that it was disrespectful to have a different color on the flag," Holc later clarifies. "You can't manipulate ... you cannot manipulate the colors of the flag - that's disrespectful. That's all I said. And then you said, 'That's your opinion,' and I said 'No it's not, there's an order on the flag, there's a code of the flag.'"

Holc continues by explaining that he was preparing to leave Abel alone prior to the escalation, but was waiting for a blind couple to walk past him first at the market. "I made sure the blind man could get through, and I was starting to walk away, and then you grabbed my arm and threw me up on this roadblock," he said.

The remainder of the recording captures more complaints from nearby onlookers as Holc explains that he has a right to free speech. It ultimately cuts off when tensions appear to spike back up as Abel begins to search Holc's backpack.

The city's release on the altercation notes that Abel recovered marijuana, THC edibles and drug paraphernalia from Holc's bag, noting that the arrestee did not have a medical marijuana card in his possession. Holc was eventually charged with resisting arrest, defiant trespass, disorderly conduct and three counts of possession.

It's worth noting that the city of Pittsburgh decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana in December 2015; however, the Pittsburgh City Paper has reported that despite the legislation, [such arrests have continued](#).

A preliminary hearing for Holc is scheduled for October 5.

As for Abel, local media outlets have reported that the law enforcement official is no stranger to a little bit of controversy. The [Pittsburgh Post Gazette reported](#) that in 2008, Abel was charged with aggravated assault, reckless endangerment and driving under the influence after he allegedly pistol-whipped a man near a bar when he was off-duty.

Although Abel was suspended without pay from the force for the incident, he was later cleared of all charges in June 2009 and reinstated after arbitration.

The weekend altercation will be reviewed by Pittsburgh's Office of Municipal Investigation. It's unclear if Abel is on administrative leave pending the probe.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

COVID-19 May Have Spread Silently in Los Angeles in December, Study Says

A new analysis of medical records from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) hospitals and clinics suggests that COVID-19 may have been silently spreading in Los Angeles back in

December 2019, before the World Health Organization was even aware that there was an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Researchers at UCLA and their colleagues at the University of Washington noticed a surge in patients seeking treatment at UCLA medical facilities for coughs starting the week of December 22. The uptick continued through the end of February. Some of the patients were treated in outpatient centers, while others were admitted to hospitals operated by UCLA. The researchers published [their findings](#) this month in the Journal of Medical Internet Research.

“The percentage of patients presenting with an EHR [electronic health record] reason for visit containing the word ‘cough’ to clinics exceeded the 95% prediction interval the week of December 22, 2019, and was consistently above the 95% prediction interval all 10 weeks through the end of February 2020,” the researchers reported.

The researchers sifted through more than 9.5 million outpatient visits, almost 575,000 emergency room visits and around 250,000 hospital admissions over a period of more than five years to determine whether more patients complained of a cough than normal in the most recent winter, [the Los Angeles Times reported](#).

The researchers noted that there were 2,938 patients who went to clinics between December 1, 2019, and February 29, 2020, and complained of a cough, which is around 1,047 more cough patients than the average number seen during the equivalent three-month period in the previous five years. There were 739 more cough patients than the number seen in the winter of 2016 to 2017, which was previously the season that saw the most cough complaints since 2014.

The medical records also revealed there were 1,138 patients treated for acute respiratory failure in UCLA hospitals and clinics in December, January and February, which is about 387 more patients than the average number hospitalized for that condition each winter during the previous five years.

“A significantly higher number of patients with respiratory complaints and diseases starting in late December 2019 and continuing through February 2020 suggests community spread of SARS-CoV-2 prior to established clinical awareness and testing capabilities,” the researchers concluded in the report.

“It is possible that some of this excess represents early COVID-19 disease before clinical recognition and testing,” the researchers added.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention first recorded a COVID-19 case on US soil in mid-January, when a man in Washington state who had traveled to China tested positive for the virus.

However, UCLA doctors may have unknowingly treated dozens of other COVID-19 patients before then. Given the fact that the researchers didn’t complete any diagnostic tests for the disease among patients in the study, they could not conclude whether US medical professionals did indeed treat patients for COVID-19 as early as December.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Video: NYC Living Statue Depicts Trump Trampling Graves of Soldiers, COVID-19 Victims With Golf Cart

A living statue, showing US President Donald Trump desecrating the graves of COVID-19 victims and fallen soldiers, was displayed in New York City's Manhattan on Tuesday.

The living statue was performed by actors covered in gold paint and depicts Trump driving a golf cart over the graves, along with Fox News hosts Laura Ingraham and Sean Hannity in the backseat, appearing to celebrate the president's actions.

The group behind the performance is the [Trump Statue Initiative \(TSI\)](#), an organization that aims to "share their point of view on our 45th President's most notoriously self-serving, narcissistic, and racist moments."

Some of the tombstones depicted in the statue read: "In Tragic Memory Of: 'It Is What It Is,'" a reference to Trump's [comment last month](#) in response to the increasing US COVID-19 death toll, which is nearing 200,000, [according to the latest data by Worldometer](#). One of the tombstones also reads "In Tragic Memory Of: 'Loser,'" a reference to a remark Trump allegedly made about fallen US soldiers.

In an [interview with the New York Daily News](#), Bryan Buckley, the project's curator, said that the TSI exhibited similar installations in Washington, DC, and Portland, Oregon, earlier this summer. "The news cycle is so fast right now. Even the 'loser' thing - three, four days later it was pushed out of the headlines. I see this as an opportunity to slow down and get voters to think about this moment and really think about 'Am I okay with this moment?' If not, then you should help vote this president out of office," Buckley said.

In recent weeks, Trump has made headlines several times for negative reasons, which were referenced in the living statue performance. In his upcoming book "Rage," journalist Bob Woodward reveals that Trump knowingly downplayed the danger posed by COVID-19 in the early days of the outbreak.

"You just breathe the air, and that's how it's passed," the president told Woodward in audio recordings [available to listen to on the Washington Post's website](#). "And so that's a very tricky one. That's a very delicate one. It's also more deadly than even your strenuous flus."

In an article published in [The Atlantic](#) on September 3, the outlet's editor-in-chief, Jeffrey Goldberg, quotes various anonymous sources claiming that the president had repeatedly disparaged service members.

Goldberg claims that Trump canceled a visit to the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery near Paris in 2018 and had said: "Why should I go to that cemetery? It's filled with losers." In another instance, Trump allegedly referred to the more than 1,800 US Marines who died at Belleau Wood in World War I as "suckers."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Photo: 62-Year-Old Python Lays Seven Eggs in US Zoo Without Male Help

Experts at the St. Louis Zoo in Missouri are surprised that a 62-year-old ball python recently laid seven eggs despite not having been near a male python for at least 20 years.

According to Mark Wanner, manager of herpetology at the zoo, it's rare for ball pythons, a species native to West and Central Africa, to reproduce asexually, although the snakes do sometimes store sperm for fertilization at a later point in time. Facultative parthenogenesis is the scientific term used to describe the ability of sexually reproducing species to produce offspring asexually.

The event is also unusual because ball pythons usually stop laying eggs before they reach their 60s.

"She'd definitely be the oldest snake we know of in history [to lay eggs]," Wanner [told the Associated Press](#).

The python laid the eggs on July 23. Three of the eggs are currently in an incubator, while two were used for genetic sampling to determine if the snake reproduced sexually or asexually.

The snakes in the other two eggs did not survive, according to a report by the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#). The eggs in the incubator are expected to hatch in about a month.

The only other ball python in the zoo is a male that's 31 years old.

The female python was given to the zoo in 1961 and laid a clutch in 1990, but those eggs are believed to have been conceived with a male, since the snakes were placed together in buckets while their cages were cleaned. In 2009, she laid a clutch of eggs that didn't survive.

A US woman mysteriously received a postcard this week that was postmarked in 1920.

Brittany Keech, who lives in Belding, Michigan, found the old, Halloween-themed postcard in her mail on Tuesday.

"It was sitting right on top of the mail," she told [local outlet WXMI](#), adding that it featured a George Washington one-cent stamp in the corner and a postmark of October 29, 1920.

"I start looking at it and I'm like, 'Okay, it's been through some wear and tear,'" she added.

"It shows a witch with a cat and and a goose and an owl and says, 'Halloween greetings. Which would you rather be? A goose or a pumpkin head?'" Keech told the outlet.

The postcard is addressed to "Dear Cousins" and signed by an individual named Flossie Burgess.

"Dear Cousins, Hope this will find you all well. We are quite well but mother has awful lame knees. It is awful cold here. I just finished my history lesson and am going to bed pretty soon. My father is shaving and my mother is telling me your address. I will have to close for a night. Hope grandma and grandpa are well. Don't forget to write us - Roy get his pants fixed yet," the note reads.

Keech has [posted information](#) about the letter to the ["Positively Belding"](#) Facebook page to help her locate the family the note was addressed to.

"This might be something that their parents can say, 'Yeah, I remember when your great-great grandma would tell me stories,'" Keech explained, adding that if she can't locate the family, she's going to hand over the letter to a museum in Belding.

"Yea, that's a little too slow," Keech said of the United States Postal Service's (USPS) delivery of the note.

In a statement to WXMI, a USPS spokesperson said: "In most cases these incidents do not involve mail that had been lost in our network and later found. What we typically find is that old letters and postcards – sometimes purchased at flea markets, antique shops and even online – are re-entered into our system. The end result is what we do best – as long as there is a deliverable address and postage, the card or letter gets delivered."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Peru's Congress Votes to Begin Process of Removing President Vizcarra for Corruption

Peru's Congress on Friday voted to begin the process of removing Peruvian President Martín Vizcarra after accusing the president of "moral incapacity."

"With 65 votes in favor, 36 against and 24 abstentions, Congress admitted the motion of presidential vacancy (dismissal) against Martín Vizcarra," the Peruvian Congress declared Friday, according to local radio station RPP.

Lawmakers called for Vizcarra to be impeached after audio recordings of him telling other government officials about meetings with Richard Cisneros, a singer embroiled in a fraud case, were leaked.

In two of the three recordings, Vizcarra is allegedly heard talking to his advisers about trying to hide his meetings with Cisneros, an apparent friend of the president, [EFE Agency reported](#). According to [Reuters](#), Cisneros, who also goes by the name Richard Swing, was awarded government contracts with the Ministry of Culture in exchange for presenting motivational talks worth around \$49,500. Cisneros is accused of duping the Ministry of Culture by charging them to hold conferences and consultancies he is untrained for.

The exchange - as well as Cisneros' alleged connections to the president - are now being investigated by Congress.

Lawmakers have accused Vizcarra of trying to downplay his meetings with Cisneros in the recordings. In one of the tapes, Vizcarra reportedly reveals that Cisneros visited the Government Palace a total of six times, and that four of those visits were completed discreetly. "We are all involved in this investigation, and the strategy is to all get out together," Vizcarra allegedly said, referring to the investigation into Cisneros' activities, EFE Agency reported. Vizcarra on Friday told reporters that he would not resign.

"I am not going to resign. I have a commitment to Peru, and I will fulfill it until the last day of my mandate," he said, calling the attempts to impeach him a "plot to destabilize the government," Reuters reported.

The recordings were released in Congress by opposition legislator Edgar Alarcón.

"The lie has short legs, and the truth, like the light, always prevails over the lie and the darkness," Alarcón told Congress Friday, EFE Agency reported.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'They All Plan Ahead': Catastrophic Wildfire Response Shows US Must Learn Disaster Relief From Cuba

Tina Landis, organizer and author of the new book "Climate Solutions: Beyond Capitalism," joined Radio Sputnik Friday to discuss the devastating wildfires consuming much of the US West Coast and the inextricable links between capitalism and the climate crisis.

"So just overnight, one of the fires, the August Complex Fire that is north of the San Francisco Bay Area in Mendocino County, nearly doubled in size, and it's now over 700,000 acres. The biggest fire in California history was 459,000 acres. That gives you some perspective on how huge these fires are and how fast they can grow," Landis told [By Any Means Necessary hosts Sean Blackmon and Jacquie Lugman](#).

"It's really taking a toll. We're at, I believe today is day 25 of bad, smoky air that people have been living through - and some of us are fortunate enough to have air purifiers in our houses and not have to go outside to work. But like the super exploited immigrant farm workers are being forced to go out into the fields during this, and they don't really have a choice, because they need those wages to survive," Landis added.

In recent weeks, there have been at least 102 major fires burning across 12 western states in the country including California, Oregon and Washington. At least 19 people in California have died because of the blazes. Dozens of others are missing, and thousands of people are being evacuated, including an estimated one-tenth of all Oregon residents. In addition, the fires have greatly impacted air quality, with the infamously polluted Los Angeles experiencing its worst air quality in over 25 years.

"The government's doing very little as far as talking about taking any real action to mitigate climate change. These fires are getting worse and worse every year. This is by far the worst we've ever seen, but the last decade, they've been growing in frequency and size and severity, and we're constantly in a drought," Landis explained.

"Nothing significant has come from the government. There's evacuation centers ... but those are risky with COVID. They're saying they're socially distancing people in these centers, but there's not really enforcement of people wearing masks ... The working class and poor, a lot of them are sleeping in their cars, because they feel that's safer than the shelters," she added.

The wildfire crisis in the western part of the US has illuminated the class divide in the country, she said.

"It really is highlighting the class divide, which will play out with climate change. The rich will be able to move around and find a safe place and rebuild their house when it burns down and things like that, and the working class won't be able to. There's still people from the 2017 fires that were up north in Napa County that are still living in tents," Landis noted.

"I want to point out how Cuba deals with hurricanes. I mean, they get hit often but not that much differently than the Gulf Coast in the southeast of the US. And they have intricate evacuation plans every citizen knows about, and they go through drills, and they all plan ahead of time how to get people out of harm's way and how to rebuild houses when they're destroyed. And they take care of people, and there's rarely deaths from hurricanes in Cuba, despite the fact that they get hit by major, major storms. And that's because of the socialist government that actually

plans ahead of time and prepares people. And that's what we need here in the US," Landis added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Double D'oh!: Trump Campaign Ad Mistakenly Touts 45's 'Noble Peace Prize' Nomination - Photo

News of US President Donald Trump's two-fold nomination for a 2021 Nobel Peace Prize was overshadowed on Friday by his own reelection campaign team's paid promotion of a Facebook-based advertisement that announced: "President Trump was nominated for the Noble Peace Prize."

While many US-based netizens issued posts honoring the 2,997 lives lost on September 11, 2001, the Trump-Pence reelection team was presented with news so urgent that the ad's text, which reads "Noble" rather than "Nobel" Peace Prize, apparently had to bypass an editor - or even a once-over.

Though the ad has since been pulled from Facebook and Instagram, screenshots of the botched brag are still circulating on various platforms. [The Daily Beast also confirmed](#) the existence of the since-deleted ad.

At the same time, Trump's [embattled campaign team](#) could argue that they were taking cues from their boss, who made the same spelling error in an April tweet. [He later claimed](#) his apparent mistake was actually an example of his sarcasm.

Norwegian Progress Party lawmaker Christian Tybring-Gjedde [revealed to the Associated Press](#) on Wednesday that he filed one of the two nominations Trump received. He claimed to have reached his decision based on the president's work on the "peace agreement between the United Arab Emirates and Israel which opens up for possible peace in the Middle East."

"As it is expected other Middle Eastern countries will follow in the footsteps of the UAE, this agreement could be a game changer that will turn the Middle East into a region of cooperation and prosperity," he wrote in his nomination letter for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, [Fox News reported](#). He went on to praise Trump breaking a "39-year-old streak of American Presidents either starting a war or bringing the United States into an international armed conflict."

Swedish lawmaker Magnus Jacobsson announced on Friday that he had also nominated the "US government" for the prize, presumably translating to another bid for Trump to receive the award.

At the same time, the US president's nominations come alongside more than 192,448 novel coronavirus-related deaths in the US, [according to data](#) from Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 dashboard. [Experts have suggested](#) that the pandemic's spread could have been lessened, if not for Trump's public rejection of the contagious disease's predicted impact. It's worth noting that a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize "may be submitted by any person who meets the nomination criteria" [detailed on the award's website](#). Furthermore, the final recipient is determined by the Norwegian Nobel Committee. The six-member group is made up of five individuals appointed to six-year terms by the Storting - the Norwegian parliament - and

headed by the secretariat of the Norwegian Nobel Institute. Olav Njølstad has held this role since 2015.

Tybring-Gjedde, who has been a member of parliament since 2005 and presently serves as chairman of the Norwegian delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, continued to express his support for Trump in an exclusive Friday interview with Fox News.

“For his merit, I think he has done more trying to create peace between nations than most other Peace Prize nominees,” he argued.

The lawmaker’s political career has been framed by his repeated rejection of the global scientific consensus on climate change, as well as his opposition to immigration in Norway.

Tybring-Gjedde previously [released an anti-immigration book](#) that argued extending asylum to too many migrants would bring about cultural ruin and economic disaster.

The finalized list of 2021 Nobel Peace Prize recipients will be announced in October 2021.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Navy Veteran Sues VA After Agency Allegedly Withheld 1995 HIV-Positive Diagnosis

A US Navy veteran has filed a federal lawsuit alleging that the failure to return his HIV-positive test results from a November 1995 checkup ultimately left him, and possibly past sexual partners, with HIV that went untreated for the past 25 years and developed into AIDS.

The suit, filed in a federal court on Tuesday, detailed that the South Carolina-based veteran dubbed “John Doe” was not officially diagnosed as HIV-positive until he was hospitalized in 2018 and told by New York doctors that the virus had advanced to “full-blown AIDS.”

The veteran’s HIV-positive status was hinted at by a doctor who was reviewing the retired sailor’s case notes in December 2015. However, the doctor did not diagnose Doe with HIV, only suggesting that he have another test done. It’s not clear whether he did.

“I looked at the patient and ask [sic] him who was his infectious disease doctor, and patient states [he] did not have one and [I] ask [sic] him if he knew that his HIV test was positive, and he stated [he] never was told it was positive,” the unnamed doctor claimed in [court documents observed](#) by major South Carolina newspaper The State.

While the veteran was long unaware of his positive status, his legal team asserts medical staff at the Department of Veteran Affairs’ (VA) William Jennings Bryan Dorn Medical Center knew Doe was HIV-positive since November 1995, but failed to provide him with this life-changing information.

“The VA had actual knowledge beginning in November 1995 that Mr. Doe was HIV positive and the standard of care required he be informed of the positive test and proper treatment begin in 1995,” read the filing.

“In clear contravention of the standard of care, Mr. Doe was not informed of the positive HIV test until decades later.”

“The treatment he’s getting now is effective, but he’s had essentially 25 years of wear and tear for having no treatment,” Chad McGowan, the veteran’s lawyer, [explained to the Associated](#)

[Press](#). “He feels extremely guilty about the girlfriends he’s had over the last 25 years because he didn’t know.”

The veteran has reportedly developed post-traumatic stress disorder over the situation. This diagnosis comes alongside a brain infection and weakened immune system, placing the veteran in the “high risk” category for the COVID-19 novel coronavirus.

McGowan expressed that delays in biopsies are somewhat common upon detection of a disease, “but nothing where there’s a 25-year delay.”

“In my experience working with patients like Mr. Doe, the VA has so many providers that come and go, that they try to have some continuity of care, but stuff falls through the cracks all time,” he said. “Communication issues, I believe. Sort of like it gets pushed down in the file and nobody looks.”

The lawsuit seeks punitive damages, but requests that the total be dependent on a jury decision. The VA has not yet commented on the allegations, but agency spokesperson Marlous Black confirmed via email to AP the matter was associated with “pending litigation.”

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Navy Veteran Sues VA After Agency Allegedly Withheld 1995 HIV-Positive Diagnosis

A US Navy veteran has filed a federal lawsuit alleging that the failure to return his HIV-positive test results from a November 1995 checkup ultimately left him, and possibly past sexual partners, with HIV that went untreated for the past 25 years and developed into AIDS.

The suit, filed in a federal court on Tuesday, detailed that the South Carolina-based veteran dubbed “John Doe” was not officially diagnosed as HIV-positive until he was hospitalized in 2018 and told by New York doctors that the virus had advanced to “full-blown AIDS.”

The veteran’s HIV-positive status was hinted at by a doctor who was reviewing the retired sailor’s case notes in December 2015. However, the doctor did not diagnose Doe with HIV, only suggesting that he have another test done. It’s not clear whether he did.

“I looked at the patient and ask [sic] him who was his infectious disease doctor, and patient states [he] did not have one and [I] ask [sic] him if he knew that his HIV test was positive, and he stated [he] never was told it was positive,” the unnamed doctor claimed in [court documents observed](#) by major South Carolina newspaper The State.

While the veteran was long unaware of his positive status, his legal team asserts medical staff at the Department of Veteran Affairs’ (VA) William Jennings Bryan Dorn Medical Center knew Doe was HIV-positive since November 1995, but failed to provide him with this life-changing information.

“The VA had actual knowledge beginning in November 1995 that Mr. Doe was HIV positive and the standard of care required he be informed of the positive test and proper treatment begin in 1995,” read the filing.

“In clear contravention of the standard of care, Mr. Doe was not informed of the positive HIV test until decades later.”

"The treatment he's getting now is effective, but he's had essentially 25 years of wear and tear for having no treatment," Chad McGowan, the veteran's lawyer, [explained to the Associated Press](#). "He feels extremely guilty about the girlfriends he's had over the last 25 years because he didn't know."

The veteran has reportedly developed post-traumatic stress disorder over the situation. This diagnosis comes alongside a brain infection and weakened immune system, placing the veteran in the "high risk" category for the COVID-19 novel coronavirus.

McGowan expressed that delays in biopsies are somewhat common upon detection of a disease, "but nothing where there's a 25-year delay."

"In my experience working with patients like Mr. Doe, the VA has so many providers that come and go, that they try to have some continuity of care, but stuff falls through the cracks all time," he said. "Communication issues, I believe. Sort of like it gets pushed down in the file and nobody looks."

The lawsuit seeks punitive damages, but requests that the total be dependent on a jury decision. The VA has not yet commented on the allegations, but agency spokesperson Marlous Black confirmed via email to AP the matter was associated with "pending litigation."