

**09/10/21 Friday**

**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.**

Manchester United Only Get £13.1 Million From £187.1 Million in Cristiano Ronaldo Kit Sales  
By - Nevin Brown

Since joining Manchester United, Cristiano Ronaldo's kit sales have dwarfed the competition. His £187.1 million in sales almost double Lionel Messi's £103.8 million. With all the interest he's generating, United should be making a killing. Here's why they're not.

Cristiano Ronaldo has set another record. He now owns the record for the fastest-selling jersey in Premier League history. Since Manchester United announced its no. 7 kit, sales have [already reached £187.1 million](#). While the staggering number shows the enthusiasm surrounding his return, Manchester United has hardly been the benefactors.

As is standard practice, United receive 7% from kit sales in commission. Ronaldo's arrival has led to £187.1 million in kit sales, but that has only translated to £13.1 million for United. When a director of football says a player will pay for themselves in kit sales, they're lying out of their teeth. Using Ronaldo as an example, he cost United £12.9 million in upfront costs to be pried from Juventus, but that leaves out the potential for it [to rise to £19.4 million with add-ons](#), and his [£385,000 a week wages](#). Ronaldo signed for two years at nearly £20 million a year. That, when added with his potential transfer fee, means for Ronaldo to pay for himself in kit sales, he'd need to generate almost £60 million in commissions for United. For United to reach that figure, Ronaldo's jersey would have net £857.1 million in sales over the next two seasons. However, all is not lost for Manchester United. While clubs hardly make any money from kit sales, they make a killing selling the rights to make their kits and be a sponsor. United signed a [10 year £750 million deal with Adidas](#) to be their exclusive kit manufacturer. That, coupled with the [£47 million a year deal that TeamViewer](#) dished out to be the kit sponsor, and United are raking in £122 million a year regardless if a single kit is sold. The TeamViewer deal was signed earlier this year and represents a £17 million decrease a year from their previous sponsor Chevrolet. If United had known that Ronaldo was coming back, they likely could have landed an even more lucrative kit sponsor. Ronaldo won't be paying for himself in kit sales, but his presence makes United much more attractive to sponsors, which is where the real money is.

**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.**

Planned Parenthood Gains Support of 20 States in Their Opposition to South Carolina Abortion Bill  
By - Nevin Brown

The list of opponents to South Carolina's fetal heartbeat abortion bill grew substantially today as a slew of Democratic Attorneys General voiced their opposition to the bill.

20 states and the District of Columbia have [backed Planned Parenthood's challenge](#) to South Carolina's abortion law. Planned Parenthood filed a legal challenge to the [South Carolina Fetal Heartbeat and Protection from Abortion Act](#) back in February when the bill was signed into law. The bill, much like the Texas abortion bill, bans almost all abortions after the detection of a fetal heartbeat. It makes exemptions for medical emergencies and, unlike the Texas bill, in the case of rape or incest.

The Attorneys General of the 20 states and the District of Columbia [argue that the ramifications of the South Carolina law](#), "are not confined to limits on particular procedures in a single state," and that residents of South Carolina will cross state lines to receive abortions, placing a strain on those state's healthcare systems. They continue to argue that the law harms healthcare on a national level.

The Attorneys General of the 20 states and the District of Columbia that backed Planned Parenthood were all won by President Joe Biden in the 2020 election. With a slew of abortion bills cropping up in Republican controlled states, it appears likely that the issue will be front and center in the 2022 election cycle.

**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.**

NY State Rep. Ron Kim Suggests Gov. Hochul Trying to 'Bury' Cuomo's Nursing Home Death Scandal

By - Nevin Brown

Representative Ron Kim of the New York State Assembly has been battling for accountability over the cover-up of 9,000 reported nursing home deaths from the Cuomo administration. Now, he believes Cuomo's successor is trying to do the same.

It appears New York's first female governor Kathy Hochul inherited more than just a [sexual harassment scandal](#) from her predecessor.

According to New York State Rep. Ron Kim believes, Hochul [is attempting to bury](#) former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's nursing home death scandal.

In March, a New York Times report revealed that Cuomo and his administration had allegedly covered up nursing home deaths data from the pandemic. At the height of the pandemic, Cuomo enacted a controversial measure that forced nursing homes to take on Covid positive. The move was incredibly controversial and deadly. To protect his image, Cuomo reportedly had his senior aides rewrite a report from state health officials and remove references to 9,000 nursing home deaths.

Rep. Kim has been fighting for accountability ever since. With the inauguration of a new governor, it looked like those that had seen loved ones die would finally have a chance at accountability.

In Kim's eyes, that hasn't happened yet. He claims that Governor Hochul is too busy power-broking in New York and is looking to "bury" the cover-up.

Hochul became New York's first female governor following Cuomo's resignation in the wake of a sexual harassment investigation. The probe was brought on by accusations from 11 women who claimed the then-governor made inappropriate sexual advances.

She had been Cuomo's lieutenant governor since 2015. With the New York gubernatorial election in 2022, it appears that she is considering her political future carefully. Holding the bad actors of Cuomo's administration accountable would bring untold scrutiny on herself.

**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 to Provide Nearly \$64Mln in New Humanitarian Aid for Afghanistan - Envoy to UN

UNITED NATIONS, September 10 (Sputnik) - The United States will provide nearly \$64 million to support humanitarian work of the United Nation in Afghanistan this year, US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield said on Monday during a ministerial meeting on the humanitarian situation in the country.

"Today, I'm proud to announce that the United States is providing nearly \$64 million in new humanitarian assistance. This new funding will support the work of the United Nations, including the High Commissioner for Refugees and World Health Organization, as well as international NGO actors," Thomas-Greenfield 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.**

UN Chief Announces Resumption of Humanitarian Flights From Islamabad to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) – UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced on Monday the resumption of humanitarian flights from Islamabad to Kabul after they were suspended on the back of the Taliban takeover in mid-August.

"UN Humanitarian Air service established an air bridge from Islamabad into Kandahar, Mazar and Herat with operations running since the end of August. Yesterday, flights were resumed from Islamabad to Kabul, and now fully operational across the country," Guterres said at an international aid conference for Afghanistan in Geneva.

**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.**

Ex-Envoy to UN Says Terrorism Cannot Be Defeated Without Combating Online Radicalization

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik), Barrington M. Salmon - The international community must focus on fighting online radicalization or it will never be able to effectively combat global

terrorism, despite some progress made since 9/11, former Jamaican Ambassador to the UN Curtis Ward told Sputnik.

Saturday marks the 20-year anniversary of September 11 - the day terrorists from al-Qaeda (banned in Russia) hijacked and crashed two planes into the World Trade Center in New York and one into the Pentagon. A fourth jet came down in a field in Pennsylvania after being initially directed toward Washington.

"In 2005, the United Nations adopted a global strategy. They identified places that need to adopt the strategy," Ward, who was a member of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, said. "The military aspect emphasizes that we always maintain that if you don't focus on the roots - radicalization on the Internet - we will never be able to get our arms around it."

As America observes and reflects on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, Ward said he recalls the outrage he felt when he witnessed the second of two planes crashing into the World Trade Center (WTC) in Manhattan, New York. That is coupled with contemplating the job the United States has done to protect the country since then.

Ward said over the years counterterror efforts have significantly degraded terror groups, which have splintered over the years. However, the internet, Ward said, has been a powerful tool for terrorists to globalize movements such as al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS, terror group banned in Russia).

"Terrorism has evolved... many of the groups were in existence around 9/11 but were localized. Many changed loyalties to al-Qaeda and operated in The Magreb, Mali and elsewhere," Ward said. "When ISIS [IS] emerged, some groups switched their allegiance to ISIS working with that sphere."

Ward said on the day of the 9/11 attacks he attended the Sixteenth Annual International Prayer Breakfast, marking the opening of the 56th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. "My thoughts then [were]: Was this for real or a scene out of Hollywood? Could terrorism hit home in the heart of America with such devastation? Could all of this planning and execution escape the sophistication of US intelligence apparatus?" he said. "These are questions which no doubt crowded the thinking of millions around the world. I also wondered if members of the human race could be so cruel to one another; as to take the lives of so many innocent people to further a political objective, or to avenge an act or perceived wrong."

Two decades later, following the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, the terrorism threat is never far from the ambassador's mind. The military and the Intelligence community, he said, will get a greater understanding of the terrorist-related implications of the withdrawal. He expressed his concerns about the connections between the Taliban (banned in Russia) and the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) as well as Pakistan's military.

"The ISI has been an ally of the Taliban from the origin of the Afghan's emergence out of Pakistan where they were given birth and trained in Saudi Arabian-funded madrassahs," Ward said.

To further complicate matters, he added, former President Donald Trump's negotiated agreement with the Taliban undermined the legitimacy of the Afghan government, "which began an irreversible process leading to the Taliban takeover."

**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.**

RPT - Russian Church in US Celebrates 800-Year Anniversary of St. Alexander Nevsky - Rector

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The Russian Orthodox church St. Alexander Nevsky in Howell, New Jersey, will celebrate the 800-years anniversary of its patron saint by serving hierarchal worships, special Cross procession, liturgical choral concert and a Cossacks presentation, the cathedral's rector father Serge Lukianov told Sputnik on Friday.

"Our services will start on September 11. We are expecting the miraculous Kursk icon of the Mother of God and the miraculous mirth-streaming Hawaiian Iveron icon of Mother of God, which are arriving," Lukianov said. "On Sunday morning, September 12, at the day of feast, we will have a liturgy and a special procession around the church."

First Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) Metropolitan Hilarion (Kapral) will lead both services. Six bishops will co-serve, including bishop Feoktist, who is coming from Pereslavl-Zelessky in Russia, the city where St. Alexander was born.

Alexander Yaroslavich Nevsky is one of the greatest Russian heroes, who served as Prince of Novgorod, Grand Prince of Kiev and Grand Prince of Vladimir during some of the most difficult times in the history of Kievan Rus. He preserved Russian statehood and Russian Orthodox Christianity by reaching an agreement with the Golden Horde in the East and fighting against the Livonian Order in the West.

The Russian Orthodox Church announced 2021 as the year of Alexander Nevsky.

The church in Howell is one of the largest and oldest Russian parishes in the United States, founded in 1936.

Lukianov said the church is also celebrating its own 85th anniversary.

"For this feast, we had commissioned the beautiful icon of Alexander Nevsky icon to be painting," he said.

The icon depicts the Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg, Russia, and two only churches dedicated to him in North America - in the US cities of Howell and in Richmond, Maine, Lukianov said.

Church services will be followed by a special concert of the youth choir, named Osanna, which will present pieces for Alexander Nevsky, as well as traditional "horse dancing" presented by Kuban Cossacks, Lukianov 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.**

Pentagon Says Still Assessing Kabul Drone Strike After New Evidence Contradicts US Claims

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The US military is still assessing the results of a drone strike conducted against an alleged Islamic State-Khorasan terrorist (banned in Russia)

target last month in Kabul which Washington believes prevented an imminent attack, Defense Department spokesperson John Kirby told Sputnik.

Earlier in the day, The New York Times published video evidence showing Zemari Ahmadi, who worked for a US aid group, may have been mistaken for an IS-K terrorist by American forces before a drone strike killed 10 civilians including seven children in Afghanistan on August 29.

"US Central Command continues to assess the results of the airstrike in Kabul on August 29. We won't get ahead of that assessment," Kirby said when asked about the new evidence. "The strike was based on good intelligence, and we still believe that it prevented an imminent threat to the airport and to our men and women that were still serving at the airport."

The New York Times investigation found that Ahmadi, who worked as an electrical engineer for the US non-governmental organization (NGO) Nutrition and Education International, left his home in the morning on August 29 to pick up a colleague and his boss's laptop, which is when the US military suspected a white sedan had left an Islamic State safe house and intercepted communications asking the driver to make several stops.

What the US military saw as suspicious activity was Ahmadi's daily activities, the report said citing his colleagues.

The US military may have mistakenly thought Ahmadi's white Toyota Corolla contained explosives that would be used against American troops at the Kabul international airport after he was seen running work-related errands and loading water containers for his home, the report said.

The United States was on high alert after 13 US service members were killed in a IS-K suicide bombing attack at the Kabul airport on August 26. In response, US President Joe Biden gave US military commanders full authority to conduct operations against IS-K.

**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 Says Still Assessing Kabul Drone Strike After New Evidence Contradicts US Claims**

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The US military is still assessing the results of a drone strike conducted against an alleged Islamic State-Khorasan terrorist (banned in Russia) target last month in Kabul which Washington believes prevented an imminent attack, Defense Department spokesperson John Kirby told Sputnik.

Earlier in the day, The New York Times published video evidence showing Zemari Ahmadi, who worked for a US aid group, may have been mistaken for an IS-K terrorist by American forces before a drone strike killed 10 civilians including seven children in Afghanistan on August 29.

"US Central Command continues to assess the results of the airstrike in Kabul on August 29. We won't get ahead of that assessment," Kirby said when asked about the new evidence. "The strike was based on good intelligence, and we still believe that it prevented an imminent threat to the airport and to our men and women that were still serving at the airport."

**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 Welcomes New Lebanese Government, Urges Parliament to Approve It - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The United States welcomes the forming of a new Lebanese government and is urging the country's parliament to quickly approve them so they can work to address Lebanon's economic crisis, State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a statement.

"The United States welcomes the announcement that Lebanon's leaders have agreed to form a new government under the leadership of Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati, offering hope that urgent action will be taken to address the dire needs and legitimate aspirations of the Lebanese people. We urge quick approval by the parliament so that this new government can get to work on concrete reforms to address Lebanon's deteriorating economic situation," Price said on Friday.

The previous government was disbanded in August of last year, and since Lebanon has faced problems ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic to economic crisis and the collapse of the nation's currency.

Lebanon will hold parliamentary elections on May 8, 2022. Both British and EU leaders have expressed support for the new government, with UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab saying that Lebanon must quickly implement reforms.

**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.**

New Evidence Raises Doubts About US Reason for Drone Strike in Kabul Last Month - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - A New York Times investigation discovered video evidence that raises doubts about the United States' explanation for conducting a drone strike against an alleged Islamic State-Khorasan (banned in Russia) target in Kabul last month that happened to kill an Afghan who worked for a US aid group and seven children.

The video on Friday showed evidence that Zemari Ahmadi worked as an electrical engineer for the US non-governmental organization (NGO) Nutrition and Education International. He is shown delivering food in one of the company's white Toyota Corolla's to Afghans displaced by the war.

The New York Times investigation found that on August 29, Ahmadi left his home in the morning to pick up a colleague and his boss's laptop, which is when the US military suspected a white sedan had left an Islamic State safe house and intercepted communications asking the driver to make several stops.

What the US military saw as suspicious activity was Ahmadi's daily activities, the report said citing his colleagues.

The US military may have mistakenly thought Ahmadi's white Toyota Corolla contained explosives that would be used against American troops at the Kabul international airport after he was seen running work-related errands and loading water containers for his home, the report said.

Ahmadi brought water containers to his home from the NGO office because there was a water shortage in his neighborhood, the report said.

Ten members of Ahmadi's family, including seven children, were killed in the strike. The report said, citing a relative, that the children had a habit of encircling Ahmadi's car when he would arrive home.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark Milley said procedures were correctly followed and called it a "righteous strike." The drone strike took place days after an IS-K suicide attack at the Kabul airport killed 13 US service members.

**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 Orders Hellfire Air-to-Ground Missiles for Greece, Kuwait, UAE - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The US Army has ordered more Hellfire air-to-ground missiles for its own use and for its allies Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia and Greece at a cost of more than \$101 million, the Defense Department said.

"Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Orlando, Florida, was awarded a \$101,332,412 modification to contract for procurement of Hellfire missiles and containers," the Defense Department said in a press release on Friday.

Work on the contract will be performed over the next three years in Orlando in the US state of Florida with an estimated completion date of September 30, 2024, the release said.

"Fiscal 2019, 2020 and 2021 procurement, defense-wide funds; and 2010 Foreign Military Sales (Indonesia, Greece, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait) funds in the amount of \$101,332,412 were obligated at the time of the award," the release said.

The AGM-114 Hellfire was first developed for anti-armor use, but its functions were later expanded to include precision drone and it can be launched from multiple air, sea and ground platforms, including the Predator drone.

**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 Drone Strike in Kabul Killed Afghan Who Worked for American Aid Group - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The US drone strike against an alleged Islamic State-Khorasan (banned in Russia) target in Kabul last month killed an Afghan who worked for a US aid group, the New York Times reported citing video evidence and interviews it conducted with the individual's coworkers and relatives.

The report on Friday identified the target of the US drone strike as Zemari Ahmadi, an electrical engineer for the US non-governmental organization Nutrition and Education International. The US military may have mistakenly thought Ahmadi's vehicle contained a bomb that would be used against American troops at the Kabul international airport after he was scene loading water containers for his home. Although the US military claims only three civilians were killed in the attack, the investigation found that ten members of Ahmadi's family, including seven children, were killed in the strike.

**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.**

**Dow Jones, S&P Suffer Biggest Weekly Loss in 3 Months Based on Economic Worries**

NEW YORK, September 10 (Sputnik) - Wall Street's Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P500 indexes suffered their biggest weekly loss in three months as investors fretted on Friday about unrelenting inflation in a recovering economy saddled with pandemic-related and other costs.

The Dow, the broadest equity barometer on the New York Stock Exchange, as well as the S&P 500, which groups the exchange's top 500 stocks, had their sharpest weekly deficit since mid-June after the US Labor Department reported that producer prices rose their most in over a decade in August.

"Wall Street was grasping for reasons to be optimistic," Ed Moya, analyst at New York-based online trading platform OANDA, said.

The Dow fell 272 points, or 0.8 percent, on the day to settle at 34,608. For the week, it lost 2.2%, its most since the week to June 11.

The S&P 500 closed at 4,460, down 33 points, or 0.7 percent. For the week, the blue-chip indicator lost 1.7%, also its most since the week to June 11.

The Nasdaq Composite Index, which includes stocks of technology giants such as Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google, settled at 15,116, down 133 points, or 0.9 percent. For the week, the tech-heavy index fell 1.6%, its most since the week to July 9.

Stocks sank after the Labor Department's data showed the US Producer Price Index jumped by 8.3 percent for the year in August, its most since 2010. That caused US Treasury yields to spike as investors speculated again on whether the Federal Reserve would step in to tighten its ultra-accommodative monetary policy which has been blamed for fueling inflation since the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Federal Reserve has been buying \$120 billion in bonds and other assets since the COVID-19 outbreak of March 2020 to support the economy. It has also been keeping interest rates at virtually zero levels over the past 18 months.

The question of when the Federal Reserve ought to taper its stimulus and raise interest rates has been hotly debated in recent months as economic recovery conflicts with a resurgence of the coronavirus' Delta variant. The argument for a taper was, however, weakened just a week ago after US jobs growth for August came in at 70 percent below economists' target.

**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 Climate Envoy Kerry to Discuss Green Energy Shift During Visit to India - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry will be visiting India on September 12-14 to bolster the country's green energy transition as well as international efforts to address the climate crisis, the State Department said in a release. "Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry will travel to India from September 12-14, 2021 to engage with international counterparts on efforts to address the climate crisis," the release said on Friday. "Special Presidential Envoy Kerry will meet with Government of India counterparts and private sector leaders to discuss efforts to raise global climate ambition and speed India's clean energy transition."

The visit will become the starting point of the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue that was announced by the US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the climate summit in April, the release added.

Kerry's trip takes place ahead of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which is slated for November in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

**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.**

Police Arrest Ontario Man Charged With Threatening Trudeau - Statement

TORONTO, September 10 (Sputnik) - An Ontario man has been arrested following an investigation into threats made against Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during a campaign stop, the Waterloo Regional Police said.

"On August 31, 2021, Waterloo Regional Police began an investigation into alleged threats made towards Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during a campaign stop in Cambridge," the police force said in a statement on Friday. "As a result, police have arrested a 32-year-old Kitchener resident. He has been charged with two counts of Uttering Threats."

The incident in question occurred August 29 in Cambridge, Ontario.

In recent weeks, inflammatory debate about vaccination against COVID-19 has led to ugly scenes at Trudeau's campaign stops and other settings around the country, including an attack on the Prime Minister during a campaign stop in London, Ontario on Monday.

**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.**

Biden Administration Appeals Federal Judge's Ruling That Found DACA Illegal - Filing

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration has appealed a federal judge's ruling that found the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program unlawful, a court filing revealed.

"Please take notice that the United States and other Federal Defendants hereby appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit from the Court's Memorandum and Order of July 16, 2021," the court filing said on Friday.

In July, US District Judge Andrew Hanen ruled that DACA is unlawful and ordered the Department of Homeland Security to stop approving new applications. However, the order did not affect current DACA recipients.

DACA was launched by the Obama administration in 2012. It permits children of illegal immigrants, who were brought to the United States under the age of 16, to remain in the country, provided they had arrived by 2007. The program does not currently provide permanent lawful status to its recipients but has protected some 700,000 young people from deportation. Former President Donald Trump tried to end the program but the US Supreme Court blocked his administration's effort. After taking office in January, President Joe Biden promised to preserve the program.

**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.**

Ten Canadians Flown Out of Afghanistan on Qatari Flight - Foreign Minister

TORONTO, September 10 (Sputnik) - Ten Canadian citizens were evacuated out of Afghanistan on a Qatar-organized flight, Foreign Minister Marc Garneau said.

"Today, 10 Canadian citizens were on board a flight organized by Qatar, which departed from Kabul, Afghanistan, for Doha," Garneau said in a statement via Twitter on Friday.

The group of evacuees will fly back to Canada "within days," Garneau added.

The Taliban (banned in Russia) entered the Afghan capital of Kabul on August 15, ending a weeks-long offensive and resulting in the collapse of the US-backed government. The seizure of power has forced thousands of Afghans to seek refuge abroad for fears of reprisals.

The Canadian government said it has evacuated some 3,700 people via military flights, however, an estimated 1,250 Canadian nationals remain stranded in Afghanistan and Canada remains well short of its goal to resettle 20,000 Afghan nationals who are most at risk of Taliban reprisals.

More than 40 Canadian citizens were evacuated out of Afghanistan on a Qatar charter flight on Thursday.

**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.**

Russian Church in US Celebrates 800-Year Anniversary of St. Alexander Nevsky - Rector

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The Russian Orthodox church St. Alexander Nevsky in Howell, New Jersey, will celebrate the 800-years anniversary of its patron saint by serving hierarchal worships, special Cross procession, liturgical choral concert and a Cossacks presentation, the cathedral's rector father Serge Lukianov told Sputnik on Friday.

"Our services will start on September 11. We are expecting the miraculous Kursk icon of the Mother of God and the miraculous mirth-streaming Hawaiian Iveron icon of Mother of God, which are arriving," Lukianov said. "On Sunday morning, September 12, at the day of feast, we will have a liturgy and a special procession around the church."

First Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) Metropolitan Hilarion (Kapral) will lead both services. Six bishops will co-serve, including bishop Feoktist, who is coming from Pereslavl-Zelessky in Russia, the city where St. Alexander was born.

Alexander Yaroslavich Nevsky is one of the greatest Russian heroes, who served as Prince of Novgorod, Grand Prince of Kiev and Grand Prince of Vladimir during some of the most difficult times in the history of Kievan Rus. He preserved Russian statehood and Russian Orthodox Christianity by reaching an agreement with the Golden Horde in the East and fighting against the Livonian Order in the West.

The Russian Orthodox Church announced 2021 as the year of Alexander Nevsky.

The church in Howell is one of the largest and oldest Russian parishes in the United States, founded in 1936.

Lukianov said the church is also celebrating its own 85th anniversary.

"For this feast, we had commissioned the beautiful icon of Alexander Nevsky icon to be painting," he said.

The icon depicts the Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg, Russia, and two only churches dedicated to him in North America - in the US cities of Howell and in Richmond, Maine, Lukianov said.

Church services will be followed by a special concert of the youth choir, named Osanna, which will present pieces for Alexander Nevsky, as well as traditional "horse dancing" presented by Kuban Cossacks, Lukianov 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.**

#### SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) -

#### US-RUSSIA RELATIONS

\* US Ambassador in Russia John Sullivan went to the Russian Foreign Ministry after being summoned to appear there, a Sputnik correspondent reported on Friday.

\* Sullivan was summoned because of the United States' interference in the Russian elections, a diplomatic source told Sputnik.

\* The Russian Foreign Ministry said it has irrefutable evidence of US tech giants' violating Russian law ahead of the upcoming parliamentary vote.

\* Sullivan has met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov to discuss a range of bilateral issues, State Department spokesperson Jalina Porter said.

#### BIDEN-XI TALKS

\* US President Joe Biden's phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping lasted for about an hour and a half and the tone of the discussion was candid and respectful, not lecturing, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said on Friday.

#### AFGHANISTAN DEVELOPMENTS

\* The inauguration of the new Afghan government has been canceled and reports claiming it will take place on Saturday are not true, Inamullah Samangani, a member of the Taliban's (banned in Russia) Culture Commission, said on Friday.

\* The United States has halted flights with evacuees from Afghanistan due to four cases of measles, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said.

\* UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said it was not possible to readjust the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) considering the unpredictability of the situation in the country.

\* Russia now sees no reason the situation in Afghanistan will spill over to neighboring countries, but "keeps the powder dry," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

#### INTERNATIONAL TALKS ON UKRAINE

\* The approach of France, Germany and the United Kingdom Normandy Four foreign ministers meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly was unprofessional, given their attitude toward Ukraine's non-compliance with the Minsk Agreements, is "unprofessional" and lacks respect, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

\* The Kremlin regrets the statement by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the possibility of a war between Ukraine and Russia, spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

#### NORD STREAM 2

\* The certification of Nord Stream 2 as an independent gas transmission system operation will continue, German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said on Friday.

\* Nord Stream 2 AG will face punishment if the pipeline is launched before the certification of an independent operator, the German Federal Network Agency (BNA) told Sputnik.

\* The application filed by Nord Stream 2 AG to certify as an independent operator is still under consideration, and there is no deadline for the completion of this procedure, BNA told Sputnik, as the Nord Stream 2 pipeline construction was completed.

\* The completion of the Nord Stream 2 construction will strengthen the energy supply security of Europe, Austrian Economy Minister Margarete Schramböck told Sputnik.

\* Nord Stream 2 pipeline project remains a "bad deal" for Europe in spite of the fact that it has been officially completed, the State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Jalina Porter said.

#### NEW GOVERNMENT IN LEBANON

\* Lebanese Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati will head the new government, Cabinet of Ministers Secretary-General Mahmoud Makiy said on Friday.

\* The new government will cooperate with all the countries, with the exception of Israel, Mikati said.

\* Lebanon will hold parliamentary elections as scheduled on May 8, 2022, Mikati said.

#### RUSSIA-BELARUS RELATIONS

\* The final approval of integration agreements between Russia and Belarus by the presidents is expected to be effectuated in October, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Friday.

\* The development of the Union State of Russia and Belarus is impeded by destructive actions by certain Western nations, therefore the countries have agreed on undertaking joint steps amid economic sanctions imposed on them, according to a joint statement of the two countries' prime ministers.

\* The decisions on deepening the integration within the Union State of Russia and Belarus on the basis on 28 union programs have been approved, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said.

\* Russia and Belarus are considering the possibility of holding a meeting of Presidents Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko on November 4 in Minsk, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov 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.**

#### US Court Backs DeSantis in Letting Parents Decide if Children Should Wear Masks - Ruling

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has won his request to a US District Court of Appeals (DCA) to reinstate his requirement that all school districts in the state must respect parents' rights to decide whether their children should wear masks in schools.

"No surprise here - the 1st DCA has restored the right of parents to make the best decisions for their children," DeSantis said via Twitter. "I will continue to fight for parents' rights."

The DCA's ruling reintroduced a hold, or stay, that was previously removed by Florida Circuit Judge John Cooper, who had ruled that any state government did not have the authority to override or ban such decrees when they were challenged by groups of concerned parents. School boards in 13 Florida districts have defied DeSantis' order, choosing to require masks because of the virus resurgence, and they faced possibly having their salaries withheld.

DeSantis has taken a firm position regarding masks in schools being a parental choice and said earlier this week that he believes it is important that parents are given the ability to opt out of school mandates.

**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.**

UPDATE: Biden's 'Candid' Call With Xi Lasted 90 Minutes, Tone Respectful - White House

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden's phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping lasted for about an hour and a half and the tone of the discussion was candid and respectful, not lecturing, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said on Friday. "It was about 90 minutes, the call," Psaki said during a press briefing. "It was candid, he [Biden] did not avoid areas of disagreement, but the tone was not lecturing, nor was it condescending. It was respectful as 90 minutes."

While the call didn't aim to produce any specific and final outcomes, the two leaders covered a range of issues, including the ongoing fight against the coronavirus pandemic, Psaki said. Earlier in the day, the Chinese media reported that during the call, President Xi told his US counterpart that the recent US political steps toward China had caused significant difficulties in the bilateral relations but the two countries may continue the dialogue on the post-pandemic economic recovery on the basis of mutual respect.

**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 Treasury Restricts Certain Transactions Related to PdVSA Bonds Until January 21, 2022

WASHINGTON, September 10, (Sputnik) - The US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) on Friday issued an updated license delaying the authorization of certain transactions with Petroleum of Venezuela (PdVSA), the state oil and natural gas company of Venezuela.

"Most recently, OFAC issued General License 5H on September 10, 2021, which further delays the effectiveness of the authorization [to allow trade of shares connected to the PdVSA bond] until January 21, 2022," the Treasury Department said on its policy website. "As a result, during such period, transactions related to the sale or transfer of CITGO shares in connection with the PdVSA 2020 8.5 percent bond are prohibited, unless specifically authorized by OFAC." The general license, signed by OFAC Director Andrea Gacki, specified that it does not authorize other transactions and activities prohibited under Venezuela Sanctions Regulations even when enacted. It replaced a July 20 license that restricted trade of the bonds until October 21, 2021. The decision protects Citgo, a US-based oil and gas company majority-owned by PdVSA. So long as the restrictions on bond trading with PdVSA are in place, Citgo is safe from bondholders taking possession of the company's shares.

**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.**

Biden's 'Candid' Call With Xi Lasted 90 Minutes, Tone Respectful - White House

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden's phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping lasted for about an hour and a half and the tone of the discussion was candid and respectful, not lecturing, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said on Friday. "It was about 90 minutes, the call," Psaki said during a press briefing. "It was candid, he [Biden] did not avoid areas of disagreement, but the tone was not lecturing, nor was it condescending, it was respectful as 90 minutes."

**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 Pauses Flights of Afghanistan Evacuees After 4 Measles Cases - White House

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The United States has halted flights with evacuees from Afghanistan en route to the US due to four cases of measles, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in a press briefing on Friday.

"Operation Allies Welcome flights into the United States have been temporarily paused at the request of the CDC, and out of an abundance of caution because of four diagnosed cases of measles among Afghans who recently arrived in the United States," Psaki said. "These individuals are being quarantined in accordance with public health guidelines, and the CDC has begun full contact tracing. All arriving Afghans are currently required to be vaccinated for Measles, as a condition of entry into the United States, and critical immunizations, including MMR are being administered for Afghans at military bases in the United States."

**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.**

ECOWAS Delegation Meets With Guinea Coup Leader Doumbouya

MOSCOW, September 10 (Sputnik) - The delegation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has met with overthrown Guinean President Alpha Conde in Guinean capital Conakry, ECOWAS Commission chief Jean Claude Kassi Brou said on Friday.

Earlier in the day, the delegation arrived in Guinea to hold a meeting with the insurgents led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya.

"We had a meeting with the National Rally and Development Committee headed by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, there was a quite positive exchange of views. We had an opportunity to meet with President Alpha Conde, we talked with him as well, he feels good," Kassi Brou said as quoted by the Africa Guinee outlet.

The ECOWAS visit is coming to an end as the delegation has met with the president and the insurgents.

On Sunday, a group of Guinean military led by the colonel stormed the presidential palace and detained 83-years-old President Alpha Conde. Later, Doumbouya declared the dissolution of the government, the abrogation of the constitution and the closure of borders. On

Wednesday, the ECOWAS suspended Guinea's membership in the organization, demanding for Conde's release.

**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.**

Russian Embassy in US Not to Ask for Vaccination, Negative Tests for Duma Vote - Antonov

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The Russian Embassy in the United States will organize the voting for the parliamentary elections next week complete with all the necessary safety measures, but will not require coronavirus vaccination cards or proof of negative tests, Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov said on Friday.

"Unfortunately, we will hold the vote only on one day - on September 19 - because of the unstable pandemic situation and recent spike of COVID-19 cases," Antonov said.

The voting place at the Russian Embassy will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time and all voters would be able to access it by showing requisite documents that they are Russian citizens, the ambassador said.

"There will be no hurdles to accessing the voting place," Antonov said. "We do not plan to ask for vaccination cards or PCR-tests."

Antonov highlighted the importance of an increasing number of Russian citizens living in the United States being able to exercise their right to vote.

Regarding the safety measures, Antonov said voting will take place in strict compliance with recommendations provided by the Russian as well as US authorities.

"We will measure temperature at the entrance to the polling station and provide masks and sanitizers to voters if needed," he said, adding that single-use pens will also be available.

The elections for the State Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, will take place on September 17-19. Duma representatives are elected for a five-year term under a so-called mixed electoral system: 225 representatives are elected from party lists and another 225 from single-mandate constituencies.

**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.**

Nord Stream 2 Pipeline Project Remains Bad For Europe – State Dept After Completion

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) – Nord Stream 2 pipeline project remains a "bad deal" for Europe in spite of the fact that it has been officially completed, the State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Jalina Porter said on Friday.

"We have said it before and we will continue to say it again. We believe that this [Nord Stream 2] is a bad deal and we continue to oppose this pipeline as a Russian geopolitical project. That's a bad deal for Europe and of course that undercuts the energy security for major part of the Euro

Atlantic community," Porter said at a press briefing when asked to comment the announcement about the project completion.

**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 Envoy Met Russian Deputy Foreign Minister to Discuss Bilateral Matters - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - US Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan has met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov to discuss a range of bilateral issues, State Department spokesperson Jalina Porter said on Friday.

"On Friday, September 10, Ambassador Sullivan did meet with deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov to discuss a range of bilateral matters in support of [US President Joe] Biden's desire for a stable and predictable relationship with Russia," Porter said during a press briefing.

**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.**

European Commission Says Nearly \$1Bln State Aid to Alitalia Illegal, Demands Repayment

BRUSSELS, September 10 (Sputnik) - The European Commission declared illegal the state support in the amount of almost \$1 billion allocated to the Italian state-owned airline Alitalia several years ago and decreed that the sum plus interest must be paid back.

"The European Commission has concluded that two State loans for an amount of €900 million, granted by Italy to Alitalia in 2017, are illegal under EU State aid rules. Italy must therefore recover the illegal State aid, plus interest, from Alitalia," the statement, released on Friday, said. The state funding gave the company an unfair advantage over its competitors in violation of the EU rules, according to the commission. At the same time, the Italian government failed to assess the risks and prospects of loan repayment when making the decision, acting differently from a private investor, the EC noted.

Alitalia, which has been on the verge of bankruptcy since the 2008 financial crisis, is set to cease operation and be replaced by the debt-free Italia Trasporto Aereo (ITA), which will take over its assets and become an independent entity.

"The European Commission has found that Italia Trasporto Aereo S.p.A. ("ITA") is not the economic successor of Alitalia and, hence, it is not liable to repay illegal State aid received by Alitalia," the commission said in a separate release.

Alitalia will discontinue all operations starting October 15, while ITA is expected to launch flights early next month.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of Alitalia employees rallied in central Rome, demanding that the government cancels re-certification of the company's staff and extends the emergency payment funding as the new air carrier plans to employ only a quarter of its predecessor's personnel.

**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.**

#### Gaddafi's Son Moves to Turkey After Release From Prison - Family Member

ANKARA, September 10 (Sputnik) - The son of the former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, Saadi Gaddafi, moved for Turkey after his release from prison in Tripoli, Moussa Ibrahim, the Gaddafi family representative and former information minister, said Friday.

On Monday, Gaddafi was released from prison in Tripoli and immediately left for Turkey.

"Egypt said it would welcome Saadi, just as Saudi Arabia and Turkey did. The parties' jointly opted for Turkey as it was easier in terms of logistics. Saadi also was in favour of moving to Turkey, and that was done," Ibrahim said as quoted by Haberler.com. news portal.

Saadi's family also moved to Turkey. The Turkish Foreign Ministry gave no official comments on the issue.

The overthrow and killing of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 launched a period of political instability in Libya and insecurity for his family members. Three of his sons were killed, while Saadi managed to flee to Niger. In 2014, he was arrested and handed over to the new Libyan authorities.

Saadi Gaddafi used to be a professional football player during his father's rule. Following extradition, he was accused of various crimes committed against protesters during the 2011 uprising and the murder of Libyan football player Bashir Rayani in 2005. The latter charge was lifted in 2018.

**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 Facilitates Additional Departure of People From Afghanistan - Nat'l. Security Council

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The US government facilitated the evacuation of 21 Americans and 11 lawful permanent residents (LPR) both from the Kabul airport and overland to a neighboring country, National Security Council Spokesperson Emily Horne said on Friday.

"Today the United States government facilitated the additional departures of US citizens and lawful permanent residents both on a chartered Qatar Airways flight from Kabul and via overland passage to a neighboring country. The Qatar Airways flight held 19 US citizens and the party traveling overland included two US citizens and 11 lawful permanent residents," Horne said in a statement.

Horne reiterated the Biden administration's continued work to provide safe transit for US citizens and Afghans from the country. Details of the operations will not be shared due to the ongoing threat of terrorism, she added.

Horne also said that the United States is deeply grateful to Qatar for its continued efforts to facilitate operations and ensure the safety of charter flights at the Kabul airport.

**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 Envoy for N. Korea to Discuss Korean Peninsula Denuclearization in Tokyo - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - US Special Envoy for the North Korea Sung Kim will be visiting Tokyo, Japan, on September 13-15 to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the State Department said in a release on Friday.

"US Special Representative for the DPRK Ambassador Sung Kim will travel to Tokyo, Japan from September 13-15, 2021," the release said. "Special Representative Kim will also meet with other senior Japanese officials to discuss cooperation on a broad range of issues, including the US commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the immediate resolution of the abductions issue."

Kim is planning to attend a trilateral meeting with Japanese Director-General for Asian and Oceanian Affairs Funakoshi Takehiro and South Korea Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Noh Kyu-duk, the release said.

In August, Kim visited South Korea to meet with Kyu-duk to discuss humanitarian aid to North Korea and military exercises by the allies.

The Biden administration and South Korea remain committed to ongoing close collaboration on North Korea issues as they seek to advance complete denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, according to the State Department.

9/10/2021 1:45:51 PM -04:00

US Condemns Reported Human Rights Abuses in Ethiopia - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The United States remains concerned about reports of human rights abuses in Ethiopia and has condemned them in the strongest possible terms, US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said on Friday.

"The United States remains gravely concerned by ongoing conflict in multiple regions of Ethiopia. Reports of continued human rights abuses and atrocities... including the reported attack on civilians in one village in Amhara region this week, are deeply disturbing. We condemn all such abuses against civilians in the strongest possible terms and call on all parties to the conflict to respect human rights and comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law," Price said in a statement.

The abuses are reportedly being carried out by a number of entities, including the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, the Eritrean Defense Forces, Amhara regional and irregular forces, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and other armed groups.

Price said the United States agrees with the United Nations Secretary-General and the African Union leadership that there is not a military solution to the conflict in northern Ethiopia, and that the parties must enter negotiations without preconditions in order to achieve a sustainable ceasefire.

Ethiopian media reported on Wednesday that members of the TPLF killed over 100 civilians in the Amhara region of northeastern Ethiopia. However, TPLF representative Getachew Reda denied the reports in a statement.

**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.**

Canada Economy Adds 90,000 Jobs in August, Slashing Unemployment Rate - Statistics Agency

TORONTO, September 10 (Sputnik) - Canada's economy added 90,000 jobs in August, lowering the unemployment rate by 0.4 percent, the state statistics agency said on Friday. "Employment rose by 90,000 (+0.5%) in August, the third consecutive monthly increase," Statistics Canada said in its monthly Labor Force Survey.

The unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percent to 7.1 percent, Statistics Canada also said. The private sector led job creation in August, the report said. The majority of new jobs were full-time positions.

However, the number of employed Canadian remains 156,000 - 0.8 percent below pre-pandemic levels observed in February 2020 - which means that the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau again missed its target to restore the employment levels by June.

**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.**

NASA Briefly Evacuates Kennedy Space Center Building After Telephone Threat - Spokesperson

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - NASA on Friday briefly evacuated staff from a Kennedy Space Center administrative building because of a threat received over the telephone, a spokesperson told Sputnik.

"Earlier today, Kennedy Space Center's security force issued an alert to evacuate an administrative building on center because of a telephone threat," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Security personnel determined there was no credible threat and issued an all clear, the spokesperson said.

The Kennedy Space Center is investigating the incident, the spokesperson 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.**

US Envoy for N. Korea to Discuss Korean Peninsula Denuclearization in Tokyo - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - US Special Envoy for the North Korea Sung Kim will be visiting Tokyo, Japan, on September 13-15 to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the State Department said in a release on Friday.

"US Special Representative for the DPRK Ambassador Sung Kim will travel to Tokyo, Japan from September 13-15, 2021," the release said. "Special Representative Kim will also meet with other senior Japanese officials to discuss cooperation on a broad range of issues, including the US commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.

**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.**

**Guterres Says New UN Mandate for Afghanistan Not Possible Amid Lack of Predictability**

UNITED NATIONS, September 10 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Friday it was not possible to readjust the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) considering the unpredictability of the situation in the country. On Thursday, Estonia and Norway introduced a draft resolution aiming to renew UNAMA's mandate for another six months ahead of its expiring on September 17. Guterres said he hoped that such extension of the mission, present in Afghanistan since 2002, would allow to reassess what role it should play with the Taliban now in control.

"I do believe that it is not possible with the level of unpredictability that exists to do a new mandate for UNAMA, an entirely new mandate," Guterres said. "I hope that the consensus will be on a technical rollover for short period, allowing time for a more clear perspective about what the situation is in Afghanistan, and what the role of the UN should be... taking into account the new realities."

**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.**

**UPDATE - First Rock Cores Drilled on Mars Offer Clues to Water, Ancient Life on Planet - NASA**

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The first two rock cores drilled out of the surface environment of Mars by the Perseverance Rover will give clues to the existence of ancient life on the Red Planet, NASA scientists said on Friday.

"The presence of salts indicates that this rock was subject to water," Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) return sample scientist Yulia Goreva told a podcast press conference. "The science team is excited because this rock can be interrogated for its chemistry and salt: Within it, we can look for tiny inclusions of fluids."

The two drilled core samples are 5.9 and 6.1 centimeters long. Eventually, up to 35 more samples are planned to be collected and they will be returned to Earth no sooner than 2031, scientists said.

The Perseverance Rover vehicle continues to be healthy and it has traveled 2.2 kilometers or 1.4 miles so far on its mission, JPL Perseverance surface emission manager Jessica Samuels told the briefing.

The vehicle's continued exploration of the Jezero Crater will give NASA scientists a glimpse of the location billions of years ago when it was ancient and wet and was capable of sustaining life, Samuels added.

NASA's Perseverance Mars rover successfully collected its first sample named "Montdenier," on September 6 and the second called "Montagnac," from the same rock September 8.

Earlier this week a member of the mission tweeted: "I've now captured, sealed, and stored the first core sample ever drilled on another planet, in a quest to return samples to Earth. It's the first in a one-of-a-kind Martian rock collection."

**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.**

### Court Rules Apple Cannot Force Developers to Use In-Store Payment for Its Apps

NEW YORK, September 9 (Sputnik) - Apple can no longer restrict developers who make applications for its iPhones and other gadgets to use only its internal payment system, a US court ruled on Friday.

"The Court concludes that Apple's anti-steering provisions hide critical information from consumers and illegally stifle consumer choice," US District Court Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers wrote in her ruling in a suit brought against Apple by developer Epic Games. "When coupled with Apple's incipient antitrust violations, these anti-steering provisions are anticompetitive and a nationwide remedy to eliminate those provisions is warranted."

The ruling addresses a longstanding issue between Apple and application developers who have complained about the technology giant's practice of prohibiting outside payment systems such as Paypal to pay for products purchased within its App Store. Apple, which has Apple Pay as a payment model, relies on that and revenue from its App Store to fuel its expansive profits. With the ruling, Apple will be forced to change its App Store policies and loosen its grip over in-store app purchases. Unless the company appeals the ruling, which it is expected to, Judge Rogers' order will come into effect in December.

The judgment wasn't entirely against Apple, with Rogers disagreeing with Epic that Apple's actions were "monopolistic".

"Success is not illegal," the judge wrote, referring to Apple's ability to grow its business via the App Store even as its rivals had competing models. "Given the trial record, the Court cannot ultimately conclude that Apple is a monopolist under either federal or state antitrust laws."

The Apple-Epic Games spat over payment models has been ongoing since 2015 but came to a head in August last year, after Apple removed the developer's popular Fortnite game from its App Store. The action effectively prevented users of Apple devices from downloading Fortnite, while those who already had the game on their Apple gadgets could not use it beyond the update limitations set by Epic.

**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.**

## First Rock Cores Drilled on Mars Offer Clues to Water, Ancient Life on Planet - NASA

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) – The first two rock cores drilled out of the surface environment of Mars by the Perseverance Rover will give clues to the existence of ancient life on the Red Planet, NASA scientists said on Friday.

"The presence of salts indicates that this rock was subject to water," Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) return sample scientist Yulia Goreva told a podcast press conference. "The science team is excited because this rock can be interrogated for its chemistry and salt: Within it, we can look for tiny inclusions of fluids."

The two drilled core samples are 5.9 and 6.1 centimeters long. Eventually, up to 35 more samples are planned to be collected and they will be returned to Earth no sooner than 2031, scientists said.

The Perseverance Rover vehicle continues to be healthy and it has traveled 2.2 kilometers or 1.4 miles so far on its mission, JPL Perseverance surface emission manager Jessica Samuels told the briefing.

The vehicle's continued exploration of the Jezero Crater will give NASA scientists a glimpse of the location billions of years ago when it was ancient and wet and was capable of sustaining life, Samuels 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.**

## Fauci Says COVID-19 Mu Variant 'Not Matter of Alarm' in US at Present

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - The coronavirus Mu variant is not a matter of alarm in the United States at present, Anthony Fauci, chief medical advisor to the US president, said during a COVID-19 Response Team press briefing on Friday.

"The reason [the Mu variant] was brought to attention, was that it had a number of mutations that were of interest, but when you look at the effect of antibodies against these mutations, it is not a matter of alarm, in that although it diminishes somewhat the protection, it falls well within the range of Delta and Beta," Fauci said.

Fauci said that about 0.5 percent of COVID-19 isolates in the United States are of the Mu variant, and the Delta variant continues to be the dominant strain among new cases. By contrast, the Mu variant in Colombia has accounted for about 72 percent of cases in the last 60 days.

Fauci reiterated that the Delta variant remains of the primary concern, having increased the share of new cases in the United States from 13.5 percent in June to about 98.9 percent now. The currently unnamed C.1.2 variant, which originated in South Africa in May, has yet to be seen in the United States, he added. Nine countries have detected the C.1.2. so far and In South Africa it has come to comprise about 2 percent of cases in the past 60 days.

**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.**

#### ECOWAS Delegation Arrives in Guinea to Meet With Insurgents – Reports

MOSCOW, September 10 (Sputnik) - A delegation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has arrived in Guinea to hold a meeting with the insurgents that toppled the country's government, Guinean media reported on Friday.

The Mosaique Guinee news website said that the delegation will meet with Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, the rebel leader, in hotel Riviera Royal in capital city Conakry.

According to media reports, Doumbouya has already arrived at the hotel.

On Sunday, a group of Guinean military led by the colonel stormed the presidential palace and detained 83-years-old President Alpha Conde Conde. Later, Doumbouya declared the dissolution of the government, the abrogation of the constitution and the closure of borders. On Wednesday, the ECOWAS suspended Guinea's membership in the organization, demanding for Conde's release.

**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 Producer Prices Hit Decade Highs in August Amid Unrelenting Inflation - Labor Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - US producer prices rose by 8.3 percent in August from a year ago, marking a greatest increase in more than a decade, the Labor Department reported on Friday.

"On an unadjusted basis, the final demand index rose 8.3 percent for the 12 months ended in August, the largest advance since 12-month data were first calculated in November 2010," the Labor Department said in a statement about the Producer Price Index (PPI).

The PPI measures the average changes in prices received by domestic producers for their output. For the month of August, the index increased by 0.7 percent.

Economists polled by US media had forecast a 8.2 percent growth in the annual index and 0.6 percent for the monthly calculation, putting what the Labor Department reported at just above their targets.

After declining 3.5 percent in 2020 from business shutdowns owing to the COVID-19, the US economy expanded robustly this year, expanding 6.5 percent in the second quarter, in line with the Federal Reserve's forecast. However, inflation has been outpacing economic growth.

The Federal Reserve has been buying \$120 billion in bonds and other assets since the COVID-19 outbreak of March 2020 to support the US economy. It has also been keeping interest rates at virtually zero for the past 18 months.

The central bank's stimulus program and other monetary accommodation have been blamed for aggravating price pressures in the United States.

The Federal Reserve's preferred gauge for inflation - the core Personal Consumption Expenditures Index, which excludes volatile food and energy prices - rose 3.6 percent in the year through July, its most since 1991. The PCE Index including energy and food rose 4.2 percent year-on-year.

The Federal Reserve's own target for inflation is 2 percent per year.

**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 Charges Ex-Venezuela Official With 5.5 Ton Cocaine Smuggling – Justice Department**

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) – The United States is charging Hugo Armando Carvajal Barrios, a former Venezuelan government official, with smuggling over five and a half tons of cocaine from his country to Mexico, a day after he was arrested in Madrid, Spain, the Department of Justice said on Friday.

"The indictment charges Carvajal Barrios with participating in a narco-terrorism conspiracy and a conspiracy to import cocaine into the United States, including a 5.6-ton shipment of cocaine transported from Venezuela to Mexico in April 2006, along with related firearms offenses," the department said in a press release.

Carvajal Barrios, also known as "El Pollo," is also charged with using and possessing machine guns and other destructive devices in furtherance of his alleged narco-terrorism and cocaine importation conspiracies, the release continued. The charges carry a maximum sentence of life, the Justice Department said.

Carvajal Barrios, 61, now a Venezuelan national residing in Spain, among other places, is charged with participating in a narco-terrorism conspiracy, which carries a 20-year mandatory minimum sentence and a maximum of life and of conspiring to import cocaine into the United States, the release 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.**

**Terror Groups Like IS Still Seek to Carry Out Large-Scale Attacks Against US - FBI Director**

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - Foreign terrorist organizations, including the Islamic State (banned in Russia), still seek to carry out large-scale attacks against the United States, FBI Director Christopher Wray said on Friday.

Wray was speaking at a ceremony at the FBI Terrorist Screening Center in Vienna, Virginia, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks against the United States.

"As the tragic loss of 13 brave American service members and nearly 200 Afghans in Kabul painfully reminds us, foreign terrorist groups like ISIS [Islamic State] still seek to carry out

large-scale attacks against us," Wray said, referring to the recent terrorist attack at the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Wray said FBI today is stronger, smarter and is better able to confront the security threats facing the nation.

"While those threats have evolved a lot in 20 years, the men and women of the FBI - and our scores of law enforcement and intelligence partners - have never stopped working to keep the American people safe from another attack. And I can't thank all of you for that enough. I go to sleep at night much easier knowing you're on the job, keeping watch over the citizens we serve," he said.

Wray pointed out that the FBI transformed after September 11, 2001 to better carry out its mission to protect the American people.

"We became an intelligence-based national security and law enforcement organization -one that collects, uses, and shares intelligence in everything we do, not just in counterterrorism. We developed new capabilities to combat the terrorist threat, and we changed our focus from investigating terrorist plots and attacks after the fact, to stopping them before they occur," Wray said.

In addition, the FBI forged deeper, stronger partnerships with its colleagues in law enforcement and the intelligence community as well as with international counterparts," he also said.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists belonging to al-Qaeda (banned in Russia) crashed two hijacked commercial airplanes in the World Trade Center in New York and another in the Pentagon near Washington, DC. A fourth hijacked airplane crashed in the ground in the state of Pennsylvania without reaching its presumed target.

**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.**

#### Ex-Giuliani Associate Fruman Pleads Guilty in Campaign Finance Case - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - Igor Fruman, a former associate of Rudy Giuliani, agreed in court on Friday to plead guilty to one count of soliciting US campaign contributions from a foreign national, media reported.

CNBC reported that Fruman is not expected to cooperate with federal prosecutors in any ongoing investigation as part of his decision to plead guilty.

The Ukraine-born businessman Fruman and his business partner Lev Parnas previously pled not guilty to charges accusing them of funneling \$1 million in donations from foreign nationals to unspecified political campaigns in the United States.

Fruman and Parnas worked with Giuliani to find damaging information on then-Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's dealings with Ukraine when he was vice president.

In October 2019, Fruman, Parnas, Andrey Kukushkin, and David Correia were charged for funneling \$1 million in donations from foreign nationals to unspecified political campaigns in the United States, including making false statements and falsifying records to the Federal Election Commission.

Parnas and Kukshkin are scheduled to go on trial on October 12.

**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.**

#### Spain Arrests Former Venezuelan Intelligence Chief Wanted by US - Police

MADRID, September 10 (Sputnik) - Spanish police arrested on Thursday the former head of Venezuela's military intelligence, Hugo Carvajal, who had escaped before being extradited to the United States in 2019.

"Fugitive 'Pollo Carvajal' wanted for extradition to the United States was arrested tonight in Madrid. He lived in total isolation, without going outside or looking out of the window, and always protected by trusted people," Spanish police announced in a tweet, which included a video of the detention.

According to the press statement, the police received information on the whereabouts of Carvajal from the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which suggested that he could have changed his appearance.

Spanish newspaper El Mundo published a letter from the American Embassy to the Spanish police, in which the US set out the information obtained by the DEA. The letter was dated June 17, 2021.

Washington warned that Carvajal lived "in a department in the Arturo Soria area" with the Venezuelan citizen Carolina Vilorio Palacios.

"It is known that Carvajal uses wigs, mustaches, beards and costumes to go unnoticed. There are also indications that he got plastic surgery to disguise himself," the letter stated.

Carvajal was detained in Madrid in April 2019 at the request of the United States. On November 8 of the same year, the National Court ordered the extradition of the suspect. A few days later, the police failed to ascertain his whereabouts. In spite of that, in March 2020, the Spanish Council of Ministers approved his extradition. Carvajal was finally arrested on September 9, 2021.

US officials have been interested in the capture of Carvajal, since they believe that he can provide valuable information on the alleged drug activities of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. Carvajal was a trusted adviser to late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez and served as military intelligence chief from 2004-2011 and 2013-2014.

**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.**

#### Biden Proclaims September 11 'Patriot Day,' Orders Flags to Be Flown at Half-Staff

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - September 11 has been designated as a Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance and all government entities should display the US flag at half staff on this day, President Joe Biden said in a proclamation issued on Friday.

"Now, therefore, I, Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2021, as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. I

call upon all departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the United States to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001," Biden said.

Biden called on the American people to participate in community service on Patriot Day in honor of those lives lost during the September 11 terrorist attacks against the United States. The US president also called that a moment of silence is observed beginning at 8:46 a.m. EDT. September 11 was initially designated as Patriot Day by a joint resolution of Congress approved in December 2001, with the National Day of Service and Remembrance being officialized in April 2009.

**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 Flags 44 Afghan Evacuees as Potential Security Threats – Reports

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) – The United States suspects that more than four dozen Afghan evacuees could pose a national security threat, the Washington Post reported on Friday, citing Department of Homeland Security (DHS) records.

The department has been vetting the more than 60,000 evacuees who have arrived the United States over the two past weeks, and has flagged 44 of them due to their suspicious backgrounds, the report said.

The records show that 13 of those people remain in custody awaiting additional screening procedures, including interviews with the FBI and other counterterrorism experts. Another 15 of the evacuees have been sent back to transit sites in Europe and the Middle East because of security concerns.

Another 16 individuals have not yet been cleared to travel to the US and remain at special transit sites overseas, the report said.

Several of the Afghans were flagged for potential links with extremists or other suspicious information that raised the concerns of US law enforcement agencies, it added.

Apart from the 44 individuals, two other Afghan evacuees were previously deported from the US after they were found to have had felony convictions, while another one was charged with grand larceny this week and is now facing deportation, the report said.

Last week, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the United States has so far admitted more than 40,000 Afghan evacuees. The Afghans are being temporarily housed at eight military facilities across the country.

**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.**

#### Biden Proclaims September 12-18 National Small Business Week

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden announced in a proclamation published Friday that September 12-18 will be celebrated as National Small Business Week in honor of the more than 30 million small businesses in the country.

"Now, therefore, I, Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 12 to September 18 as National Small Business Week. I call upon all Americans to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the American economy, continue supporting them, and honor the occasion with programs and activities that highlight these important businesses," Biden said.

He highlighted the administration's recent efforts to provide support to the US' small businesses through the American Rescue Plan, which targeted hard-hit industries in particular such as restaurants and performing arts venues.

Biden added that one of the benefits of the push to get Americans vaccinated is to allow small businesses to reopen their doors to customers. He also mentioned the administration's policy of providing a tax credit so businesses can allow their employees paid time off to get vaccinated.

**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.**

Guterres Calls For High-Level Summit to Develop New Agenda For Peace and Global Security

UNITED NATIONS, September 10 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday called to convene a high-level Summit of the Future to develop a new agenda for peace and global security.

"One of the central recommendations of my report on Our Common Agenda is that the world should come together to consider all these issues and more at a high-level Summit of the Future," Guterres said in remarks at the UN headquarters. "This summit will aim to forge a new global consensus on what our future should look like, and how we can secure it. The summit should include a New Agenda for Peace, that takes a more comprehensive, holistic view of global security."

**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 Lawmakers Call for Review of Causes of Afghan Government Collapse - Letter

WASHINGTON, September 10 (Sputnik) - Four members of the US House Committee on Oversight and Reform issued a letter on Friday asking Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) John Sopko to conduct a thorough review of the causes of the Afghan government rapid collapse in August and the consequences to US national security. "We write today to request that you conduct a review to examine the underlying causes that may have contributed to the rapid collapse last month of the government of Afghanistan and the

Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), any potential loss or compromise of US reconstruction assistance resulting from the Taliban's return to power, and the ramifications of the US military and diplomatic withdrawal for US national security and the people of Afghanistan," the letter said.

The lawmakers asked Sopko to provide a detailed account of all US assistance allocated to build, train, advise and equip the ANDSF since 2002, including details as to the total number of the Afghan military personnel trained and equipped by the US government during this period. The letter was signed by Oversight and Reform Committee chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, Subcommittee on National Security Chairman Stephen Lynch, Oversight and Reform Committee ranking member James Comer and Subcommittee on National Security ranking member Glenn Grothman.

The Taliban (designated as a terrorist organization and banned in Russia) entered the Afghan capital of Kabul on August 15, ending the weeks-long offensive that resulted in retaking Afghanistan as the US-backed government and the Afghan military collapsed. The seizure of power has forced thousands of Afghans to seek refuge abroad for fear of reprisals.

9/10/2021 10:32:27 AM -04:00

Biden Proclaims September 11 'Patriot Day,' Orders Flags to Be Flown at Half-Staff  
Sputnik

**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.**

German Social Democrats Maintain Leadership 16 Days Before Federal Elections – Poll

BERLIN, September 10 (Sputnik) - The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) maintains a slim leadership more than two weeks before the federal elections, a survey published by Forschungsgruppe Wahlen on Friday said.

The poll said that 25% of respondents support the SPD followed by the ruling conservative bloc of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Christian Social Union (CSU) with 22%. As many as 17% of people seek to vote for The Greens, with 11% for each of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party and the Free Democratic Party (FDP).

As for candidates for chancellor, 48% of respondents support SPD's Olaf Scholz, however, he lost 5% in comparison with the last week. Although the rating of Armin Laschet from the CDU/CSU increased by 3%, only 21% are ready to vote for him. The Greens' Annalena Baerbock comes third with 16% (+2%).

The survey was conducted from September 7-9 via a phone interview. There is no information on the number of respondents and the margin of error.

Germany will hold the federal elections on September 26, after which the winning party will appoint the federal chancellor to head the government and replace incumbent Angela Merkel.