

**12/25/21 Saturday**

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Infowars Host's Wife Erika Wulff Jones Arrested on Domestic Violence Charge  
By - Gaby Arancibia

Infowars host Alex Jones earlier made headlines after filing a lawsuit against the House panel investigating the events of the deadly January 6 Capitol riot, claiming that a subpoena for his phone records violates his First Amendment rights as a journalist.

Erika Wulff Jones, the wife of Infowars host Alex Jones, was arrested late Friday on a domestic violence charge that her husband suggested was prompted by a recent change in her medication.

Citing jail records, the Associated Press reported Saturday that Jones' wife was booked at an Austin, Texas, facility by the Travis County Sheriff's Office at about 8:45 p.m., local time. She is reportedly facing misdemeanor charges of assault causing bodily injury to a family member and resisting arrest, search or transport.

Wulff Jones remained in custody late Saturday as she had not yet received a bond.

"It's a private family matter that happened on Christmas Eve," Jones [told](#) the outlet in a brief interview on Saturday. "I love my wife and care about her and it appears to be some kind of medication imbalance," he suggested.

He added that the arrest was not related to his personal politics. "It wasn't some kind of personal hateful thing or anything," he claimed.

The Infowars host did not detail whether he was injured in the Friday incident, or offer any other specifics on the event.

The incident took place days after Jones made news over his effort to do away with the House select committee's efforts to obtain documents in its investigation into the deadly January 6 Capitol riot.

Jones has claimed that the committee's subpoena violates his First Amendment rights, and that the panel is not composed properly, in line with the congressional chamber's regulations. He has indicated that he had offered give the panel documents and respond to questions in writing; however, his offer was rejected in favor of in-person testimony.

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Eruption of La Palma Volcano Declared Officially Over After Three Months  
By - Gaby Arancibia

While the 85-day eruption of the La Palma volcano caused severe and costly destruction on the island, it also saw the size of the island increase, as molten rock leaked out onto the ocean.

Authorities from Spain's Canary Islands have declared the devastating volcanic eruption in La Palma over, some three months after seismic activity consumed the region and caused the destruction of thousands of buildings.

Officials made the final ruling after inspectors reported that the region had gone 10 days without any seismic rumblings.

"What I want to say today can be said with just four words: The eruption is over," Canary Islands regional security chief Julio Perez declared on Saturday, adding that the government's focus now shifts to recovery efforts.

Since the volcano's September 19 eruption, some 3,000 buildings have been destroyed, with hundreds of acres of farmland consumed by lava. Farming and tourism account for the islands main industries.

Although no deaths were directly linked to the eruption, the seismic event did prompt mass evacuations.

"It's not joy or satisfaction - how we can define what we feel? It's an emotional relief. And hope," Perez said. "Because now, we can apply ourselves and focus completely on the reconstruction work."

It's estimated that infrastructure losses amount to roughly \$1 billion.

The milestone eruption proved to be the longest on record, after the volcano remained active for approximately 85 days and 8 hours, according to officials. The most recent eruption was recorded on December 13.

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Stuck for the Holidays? Hundreds of Flights Canceled for Second Day in US

By - Evan Craighead

Holiday air travel in the US has been severely disrupted due to the rapid spread of the highly-contagious omicron variant of COVID-19, the dominant strain in the country. As a result of the uptick in cases, airlines have been struggling to find healthy workers and pilots to cover domestic flights during the Christmas rush.

At least 940 Christmas Day flights within or bound to the US have been canceled, and another 1,555 flights have been delayed, according to [live data from FlightAware](#).

United, which called off 189 flights (10% of its schedule) on Friday and more than 230 flights on Saturday, issued a statement to address the stranding of travelers nationwide.

"The nationwide spike in omicron cases this week has had a direct impact on our flight crews and the people who run our operation," United said in a statement. "As a result, we've unfortunately had to cancel some flights and are notifying impacted customers in advance of them coming to the airport."

Delta Air Lines released a similar notice on its cancellations, admitting to customers that it "had exhausted all options and resources—including rerouting and substitutions of aircraft and crews to cover scheduled flying."

Both airlines expressed that they are attempting to rebook passengers for later flights.

American Airlines emphasized that its company took a proactive approach and precancelled some trips.

"[A] number of COVID-related sick calls led us to make the difficult decision to precancel some flights scheduled for today," American Airlines told the Hill in a statement on Saturday, noting that customers were notified the day before their scheduled flight.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) data showed that, despite the ongoing pandemic, travelers are coming out in full force, with more than 1.7 million and 2.1 million air travel passengers logged on Thursday and Friday, respectively. Last year, less than 850,000 passengers traveled each day.

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**Come Again? ITV Host Heckled After Mistakenly Announcing the Death of Pope Francis**  
By - Evan Craighead

On Saturday, Pope Francis delivered a Christmas address from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, urging both individuals and world leaders to not shy away from social relationships and meaningful dialogue. The pontiff also expressed the importance of hearing and seeing victims, rather than becoming numb to tragedy and death.

While covering Pope Francis' Christmas address during a live broadcast, ITV's Kylie Pentelow unintentionally went viral by mistakenly announcing that the pontiff had passed away.

"Meanwhile the pope's festive address focused on his prayers for the pandemic to come to an end," Pentelow said as b-roll footage of Pope Francis played. "He said vaccines should be made available to those most in need."

To the surprise of viewers, Pentelow went on to say "his death was announced... Excuse me." While the blunder was brief and the host immediately went to the next segment, netizens did not miss a beat, but were forgiving of the morbid faux pas.

To be clear: the pontiff is alive and well.

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**More Than 30 People Dead in Myanmar's Kayah State as Blame Falls to Military Junta**  
By - Nevin Brown

More than 30 people are said to have been killed and burned in Myanmar's Kayah state. It is believed women, children, and the elderly are among the victims, according to reports.

The Karenni Human Rights Group, local media reporting and at least one resident have together asserted that the violence was carried out by members of Myanmar's ruling military junta.

A village resident said, "I went to see this morning. I saw bodies that had been burned, and also the clothes of children and women spread around."

State media reported that on Saturday seven vehicles had not stopped for a military checkpoint. Myanmar's military later released a statement saying it had shot and killed individuals it deemed "terrorists with weapons."

The military added that those killed were armed forces from the nearby Mo So village of Hpruso town, and did not specify the number of those killed.

NGO Save the Children has revealed that two of its staffers in Myanmar had been "caught up" in the incident and were presently considered missing. It was also detailed that the organization had in its possession confirmation that the vehicle used by staffers had been "attacked and burned out."

"We are horrified at the violence carried out against innocent civilians and our staff, who are dedicated humanitarians, supporting millions of children in need across Myanmar," chief executive Inger Ashing said in a statement.

Kayah state has been conflict-torn since the Myanmar military led a coup d'etat nearly 11 months ago. Amid global condemnation, the junta has led to local protests and some have taken up arms.

The Karenni Nationalities Defence Force, a civilian-military force in opposition to the military junta, said the dead were civilians seeking refuge, and were not members of their ranks.

A commander in the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force said they were "shocked" by the indiscriminate killing.

The military has labeled its opponents "traitors" and "terrorists."

#### Over 60% of Unvaccinated Americans Have No Plans of Ever Getting Covid Shot, Poll Finds By - Nevin Brown

A poll conducted by The Economist and YouGov found that nearly two-thirds of unvaccinated participants had no plans to ever receive a covid shot. The poll, of 1,500 Americans, touched on a multitude of subjects and broke down respondents by age, race, education, and socio-economic status.

[Of the 1,500 respondents](#), 69% reported that they had received at least one covid shot.

[According to the Mayo Clinic](#), 72.8% of Americans have had at least one covid shot, and 31% have said they have had no covid shot.

Of 391 polled individuals who say they have not had a covid shot, 62% said they had no plans of ever getting a shot, 18% said they might get a covid shot, and 10% said they would definitely get the shot or preferred not to say.

The non-vaccinated subset showed interesting trends across different demographics, with 64% of male respondents saying they had no plans to get a covid shot, compared to 59% of female respondents. Only 9% of the female respondents said they would definitely get a covid shot, compared to 13% of male respondents.

Sixty-six percent of white women in the poll without a college degree said they have no plans to get a covid shot, while 74% of white women with a college degree said they have no plans to

get a covid shot. Those responses are in contrast to a national trend of individuals with college degrees being more likely to be vaccinated. The data, however, was from just 163 individuals. Forty-three percent of those polled who identify as Hispanic, a total of only 32 respondents, said they had no plans to get a covid shot, 19% said they might get a covid shot, 17% said they would definitely get a shot, and 21% preferred not to say.

Age also had a significant impact in the survey on non-vaccinated respondents - 74% of individuals between the ages of 45-64 (175 respondents) said they had no plans to get a covid shot, compared to 68% of individuals over the age of 65 (55), 59% of individuals between the ages of 30-44 (90), and 46% of individuals between the ages of 18-29 (71).

Levels of income did not appear to be a significant factor. Some 62% of respondents who earn under \$50,000 a year said they had no plans to receive a covid shot, 63% of respondents who earn between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually said they had no plans to receive a shot, and 58% of respondents who earn over \$100,000 said they had no plans to get a covid shot.

With the spread of the omicron variant and the increased availability of boosters to those who are fully vaccinated, there appears to be a small group of Americans who have no plans to receive a covid vaccination.

If the data can be extrapolated for the entire population of the US, approximately 19.2% of Americans may have no plans to become vaccinated.

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**Bomb Explodes at Restaurant in DR Congo, Leaves at Least Six Dead**  
By - Nevin Brown

On Saturday, at around 7 p.m., local time, a bomb exploded inside a restaurant in Beni, a city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Officials have stated that the death toll has since risen to at least six individuals.

Local reports revealed the bomb went off directly after Catholic mass was held and gunshots followed.

Narcisse Muteba Kashale, who serves as Beni's mayor, issued a statement shortly after reports emerged, urging the public to stay away from the area as investigators were called to the scene. "There is a bomb that just exploded in the city centre. For safety, I'm asking the population to stay home," he said.

A subsequent statement by government spokesperson Patrick Muyaya underscored the government's condemnation of the incident and detailed that the event was the work of a suicide bomber.

"The Government condemns the explosion, on this Christmas evening, of a bomb in a Bar in Beni, the work of a suicide bomber," a translation of the spokesperson's tweet reads. "Loss of human life has been reported. The security services are already deployed and the first steps have been taken. We will come back to this in detail."

[Graphic footage](#) has surfaced on social media documenting the aftermath of the blast, showing at least three bodies among the wreckage.

Beni is in the northwest of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the North Kivu Province. The city of some 230,000 has been the site of multiple attacks from Islamist groups. The Beni Massacre, an attack attributed to Ugandan Islamist rebels, led to at least 64 deaths in 2016. In 2019, an attack claimed by ISIL\* led to 25 people being wounded or killed. It has not been reported if any group has claimed responsibility for the Christmas attack. Investigation into the incident is ongoing.

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Christmas is Cancelled: Omicron Prompts Airlines to Call Off Thousands of Flights  
By - Nevin Brown

The spread of the Omicron variant has sparked a mass of flight cancellations and delays just as holiday travel peaks. Thousands of flights were cancelled on Thursday and Friday, with further delays and cancellations expected on Saturday and Sunday.

The spread of the highly-contagious Omicron variant has left airlines scrambling, as staff are forced to call out sick or quarantine. From Thursday, December 23rd, to Sunday, December 26th, 6,267 flights have been cancelled globally - 1,328 of which occurred in the United States, [according to Flightaware.com](#).

The string of cancellations has resulted in a rash of additional delays. Over the same time period, 25,029 flights have been delayed worldwide, with 7,677 in the United States alone. While delays and cancellations are an occupational hazard in the airline industry, crews suffering from the Omicron variant and mandated quarantine periods have seen those numbers tick up well beyond normal levels.

[A United Airlines spokesperson said in a statement](#): "The nationwide spike in Omicron cases this week has had a direct impact on our flight crews and the people who run our operation. As a result, we've unfortunately had to cancel some flights and are notifying impacted customers in advance of them coming to the airport".

Delta Airlines said it "exhausted all options and resources" to try and get its customers to their destination on time, but was still forced to cancel 150 flights on Friday, December 24th.

While some passengers became irate over the cancellations and subsequent delays, it is the airlines who are forced to pay the financial toll. According to the US Federal Aviation Administration, flight delays annually cost airlines an estimated \$22 billion.

The disruption caused by Omicron has airlines turning to the federal government to roll back COVID isolation rules, as they did for healthcare workers on Thursday.

The disruption has been compounded by the holiday travel season that was said by some to be approaching pre-pandemic levels.

Robert Sinclair, a senior manager of public affairs at AAA Northeast, said: "We're 27% ahead of where we were last year", adding, "people have more confidence with the vaccines and the boosters".

As of Friday, there are 1,387 flight cancellations for December 25th, and 337 for December 26th globally, a significant step back from the 2,732 flight cancellations on December 23rd and 2,311 on December 24th.

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'It Was a Wall': Premier League Managers Lament Meeting Over COVID-19 Concerns  
By - Nevin Brown

Tottenham manager Antonio Conte called a Thursday meeting between Premier League managers with league officials over the concerns of fixture congestion a "waste of time". The special meeting was held virtually and each of the Premier League's 20 managers was in attendance. The league and its managers were brought together to discuss player welfare as mounting coronavirus cases in squads have led to game postponements.

According to sources, managers asked for solutions to help ease the burden on their players, such as bringing back five substitutions as the league featured over the course of the previous season.

Antonio Conte, candidly, did not feel that managers were being heard by the league.

"Some coaches tried to speak to ask about a solution but I think everything was decided", he said of the meeting during a recent news conference. "Yesterday, it was a wall".

When asked if the meeting was a waste of time, Conte agreed: "I think so. Because as I said before, when you have a wall in front of you, you can speak or ask what you want. But every decision was taken".

Conte is not the only manager to have voiced his frustration with the Premier League. On Thursday, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola suggested that players and coaches could band together in a strike.

"Should the players and the managers be all together and make a strike, or something, because just through words it's not going to be solved?", [said Guardiola](#).

He elaborated that a strike is not imminent, but added, "[there are] more games and more games and less holidays. It's a problem".

On Thursday, the Premier League met with team captains and senior players to discuss their concerns over the increasing fixture congestion.

Since 12 December, there have been 12 matches postponed due to COVID outbreaks, with a possibility for more as the Omicron variant runs rampant through England.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put players under extreme conditions. The 2020-21 season was tightly packed, and many top players in the Premier League went on to play in the European Cup and Copa America in the summer before returning to regular-season club play.

With the 2022 Qatar World Cup set for November and December of next year, players have been subjected to the longest and most compressed schedule in modern history.