**Mule**

Former San Luis, Arizona, mayor Guillermina Fuentes, a major local Democrat operative, pleaded guilty this week to ballot harvesting, the Arizona attorney general’s office [announced](https://www.azag.gov/press-release/guillermina-fuentes-enters-guilty-plea-yuma-county-ballot-harvesting-case).

Fuentes, along with Alma Juarez, was indicted in December 2020, each on one felony count of ballot abuse — also known as ballot harvesting, where political operatives collect ballots from voters and turn them in on their behalf.

Juarez already pleaded guilty in March. This week, Fuentes pleaded guilty as well.

According to prosecutors, Fuentes used her status as a powerful local Democrat operative to run a ballot harvesting scheme that collected ballots from voters in Arizona’s August 2020 primary election.

Prosecutors accused Fuentes of collecting and filling out ballots from voters as part of the scheme. In some cases, prosecutors allege that Fuentes paid voters to let her collect their ballots.

[](https://media.breitbart.com/media/2022/04/Election-2020-Voting-Drop-Boxes.jpg)

*Arizona Central* [reported](https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2022/06/02/former-san-luis-mayor-pleads-guilty-illegally-collecting-early-ballots/7491766001/) the details of the case:

Prosecutors were apparently unable to prove the most serious charges, dropping three felony counts **alleging that Fuentes filled out one voter’s ballot and forged signatures on some of the four ballots she illegally returned for people** who were not family members.

Investigators wrote that it appeared Fuentes used her position as a powerful figure in the heavily Mexican-American community to get people to give her or others their ballots to return to the polls. **Fuentes and her co-defendant were seen with several mail-in envelopes outside a cultural center in San Luis on the day of the 2020 primary election**, the reports show. **The ballots were taken inside and dropped in a ballot box**.

Although Fuentes was charged only with actions that appear on the videotape and involve just a handful of ballots, investigators believe the effort went much farther. Attorney General’s Office Investigator William Kluth wrote in one report that **there was some evidence suggesting Fuentes actively canvassed San Luis neighborhoods and collected ballots, in some cases paying for them**. [Emphasis added]

Fuentes currently sits on the Gadsden Elementary School Board — an elected position that she will lose as a result of the guilty plea. She is facing up to two years in prison; sentencing is set for June 30.

In January 2021, a San Antonio, Texas, woman [was charged](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/01/13/woman-charged-with-operating-massive-ballot-harvesting-scheme-in-texas/) with operating a massive ballot harvesting scheme that involved election fraud, illegal voting, unlawfully assisting people voting by mail, and unlawfully possessing an official ballot.

The woman in that case was caught on video footage claiming to be working with elected state and county officials in coercing voters, harvesting ballots, voting on behalf of other people, and running a cash-for-votes operation.

In October 2020, the Denton County, Texas, Sheriff’s office [arrested](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/10/08/texas-mayoral-candidate-arrested-on-109-counts-of-mail-in-voter-fraud/) 39-year-old Zul Mirza Mohamed for an alleged mail-in voter fraud operation. Mohamed, charged with 109 counts of voter fraud, was allegedly using a fraudulently obtained PO Box to request and deliver a large quantity of absentee ballots that he would then fill out and turn in.

Federal election data reveals that about [28.4 million](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/04/20/federal-data-28-4m-mail-in-ballots-have-gone-missing-since-2012-election/) mail-in ballots have gone missing “in the last four election cycles dating back to 2012.” According to Pew Research Center analysis, there are potentially [24 million](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/04/07/exclusive-eric-eggers-democrat-plan-could-mail-ballots-to-24m-ineligible-voters/) ineligible or inaccurate voter registrations on state voter rolls.

**Gloves Off**

Following on the heels of the Biden administration announcing it would send longer range rocket systems to Ukraine, the Kremlin has issued a veiled threat that if its territory is hit it could strike back directly at the West.

"One of President Putin’s closest allies has warned that **Moscow could target western cities if Ukraine uses rocket systems supplied by the United States to carry out strikes on Russian territory**," the UK [Times](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/russia-will-strike-west-if-us-rockets-hit-us-says-putin-ally-l3gd673lh) is reporting. The dire warning was given by close top Putin ally and former president Dmitry Medvedev, who currently serves as the Russian security council deputy chairman.

[[A picture containing outdoor, ground, plane, airplane

Description automatically generated](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/strikedrillsfile.jpg?itok=HyAIu71s)Illustrative image via AP](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/strikedrillsfile.jpg?itok=HyAIu71s)

**"If, God forbid, these weapons are used against Russian territory then our armed forces will have no other choice but to strike decision-making centers,"** Medvedev warned in the new statements.

That's when he suggested the following for the first time, marking a severe [escalation of rhetoric](https://sg.news.yahoo.com/russia-ukraine-dmitry-medvedev-us-rockets-nuclear-165640289.html):

"Of course, it needs to be understood that the **final decision-making centers in this case, unfortunately,** ***are not located on the territory of Kyiv***" - with the suggesting being that those Western capitals supplying the advanced arms **could come under attack in response**.

Dmitry Medvedev, now Russian security council deputy chairman, sent the warning after America agreed to provide Ukraine with advanced rocket systems that can strike with precision at long-range Russian targets.

[Medvedev told Al Jazeera](https://www.aljazeera.net/news/politics/2022/6/3/%d9%81%d9%8a-%d9%84%d9%82%d8%a7%d8%a1-%d8%ae%d8%a7%d8%b5-%d9%85%d8%b9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%ac%d8%b2%d9%8a%d8%b1%d8%a9-%d9%85%d9%8a%d8%af%d9%81%d9%8a%d8%af%d9%8a%d9%81-%d9%8a%d8%ad%d8%b0%d8%b1): "If, God forbid, these weapons are used against Russian territory then our armed forces will have no other choice but to strike decision-making centres.

"Of course, it needs to be understood that the final decision-making centres in this case, unfortunately, are not located on the territory of Kyiv."

Previously Russia has threatened to hit "decision-making centers" within Ukraine, such as Kiev and Lviv. These cities have been targeted on occasion, but rarely, throughout the war now in its fourth month.

The US confirmed this past week that Ukraine would receive M142 high-mobility artillery rocket systems, which are medium-ranged, capable of striking targets some 50 miles away.

President Biden on Tuesday stressed that **"we're not going to send to Ukraine rocket systems that strike into Russia"**- which the Kremlin acknowledged as a "rational" decision, while stilling condemning the transfer of the systems.

Ukraine's government, meanwhile, has reportedly given Washington "assurances" that it will not uses US-supplied weaponry to target Russian territory, which Moscow has long made clear would mark severe violation of its 'red lines'.

This as [*Yahoo News UK*](https://sg.news.yahoo.com/russia-ukraine-dmitry-medvedev-us-rockets-nuclear-165640289.html) has noted that "The West has been **increasingly willing to give Ukraine longer-range weaponry, including M777 howitzers**, as its forces battle Russians with more success than intelligence officials had predicted."

Likely these fresh warnings from Medvedev serve to further warn and enforce over Russia's red line. While the longer range MLRS missiles are apparently off the table for now, which can reach up to 190 miles away, the shorter-range MLRS systems could easily be updated with the larger, more advanced and longer range systems.

On the sanctions and economic war front, Poland officials have on Saturday said the next, seventh round of anti-Russia sanctions are currently being readied - suggesting that for the time being the ongoing Russian-NATO/EU standoff will only escalate further. Negotiations are at the same time stalled completely, and diplomatic openings and communications are fewer and fewer, making the situation even more dangerous.

Russia could strike targets in the West if the country is hit with US rockets, the former prime minister has said.

Dmitry Medvedev, now Russian security council deputy chairman, sent the warning after America agreed to provide Ukraine with advanced rocket systems that can strike with precision at long-range Russian targets.

[Medvedev told Al Jazeera](https://www.aljazeera.net/news/politics/2022/6/3/%d9%81%d9%8a-%d9%84%d9%82%d8%a7%d8%a1-%d8%ae%d8%a7%d8%b5-%d9%85%d8%b9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%ac%d8%b2%d9%8a%d8%b1%d8%a9-%d9%85%d9%8a%d8%af%d9%81%d9%8a%d8%af%d9%8a%d9%81-%d9%8a%d8%ad%d8%b0%d8%b1): "If, God forbid, these weapons are used against Russian territory then our armed forces will have no other choice but to strike decision-making centres.

"Of course, it needs to be understood that the final decision-making centres in this case, unfortunately, are not located on the territory of Kyiv."

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday told reporters that "we're not going to send to Ukraine rocket systems that strike into Russia", a decision Medvedev called "rational."

Biden did not rule out providing any specific weapons but instead appeared to be placing conditions on how they could be used.

On Wednesday, Biden agreed to provide Kyiv with high mobility artillery rocket systems that can accurately hit targets as far away as 80 km (50 miles) as part of a $700 million (£560m) weapons package.

Senior administration officials said that it agreed to provide the arms after Ukraine gave "assurances" that it would not use the missiles to strike inside Russia.

Ukraine had called for the West to send more long-range weapons as it tried to push back Russian troops in the Donbas region.

A person in a suit and tie

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Scroll back up to restore default view.

The West has been increasingly willing to give Ukraine longer-range weaponry, including M777 howitzers, as its forces battle Russians with more success than intelligence officials had predicted.

But US intelligence has also warned about growing risks, particularly given a mismatch between Russian president Vladimir Putin's apparent ambitions and the performance of his military.

Medvedev warned the world was getting closer to a nuclear war following the Ukraine invasion.

He added: “The Horsemen of the Apocalypse are already on their way and all hope now is with Lord God the Almighty,’

Russian state TV has [previously claimed the war in Ukraine is a "rehearsal" for a larger fight with Nato](https://uk.news.yahoo.com/ukraine-war-rehearsal-possible-war-nato-claims-russian-state-tv-140640777.html) and suggested nuclear weapons could be used.

Thousands of people have been killed in Ukraine and millions more displaced since the Russian invasion on 24 February, which Moscow calls a "special military operation" to "denazify" its neighbour.

Ukraine and its Western allies call this a baseless pretext for a war to seize territory.

**Bilderberg**

Discreetly, as under the radar as a looming virus, the [**68th Bilderberg meeting**](https://bilderbergmeetings.org/press/press-release/press-release)**is currently underway in Washington, D.C.** Nothing to see here. No conspiracy theories about a “secret cabal”, please. This is just a docile, “diverse group of political leaders and experts” having a chat, a laugh, and a bubbly.

Still, one cannot but notice that **the choice of venue speaks more volumes than the entire – burned to the ground – Library of Alexandria**. In the year heralding the explosion of a much-awaited NATO vs. Russia proxy war, discussing its myriad ramifications does suit the capital of the Empire of Lies, much more than Davos a few weeks ago, where one Henry Kissinger sent them into a frenzy by advancing the necessity of a toxic compromise named “diplomacy”.

The list of [Bilderberg 2022 participants](https://bilderbergmeetings.org/press/press-release/participants) is a joy to peruse. Here are just some of the stalwarts:

* James Baker, Consigliere extraordinaire, now a mere Director of the Office of Net Assessment at the Pentagon.
* José Manuel Barroso, former head of the European Commission, later the recipient of a golden parachute in the form of Chairman of Goldman Sachs International.
* Albert Bourla, the Pfizer Big Guy.
* William Burns, CIA director.
* Kurt Campbell, the guy who invented the Obama/Hillary “pivot to Asia”, now White House Coordinator for Indo-Pacific.
* Mark Carney, former Bank of England, one of the designers of the Great Reset, now Vice Chair of Brookfield Asset Management.
* Henry Kissinger, The Establishment’s Voice (or a war criminal: take your pick).
* Charles Michel, President of the European Council.
* Minton Beddoes, Editor-in-Chief of The Economist, which will duly relay all major Bilderberg directives in the magazine’s upcoming cover stories.
* David Petraeus, certified loser of endless surges and Chairman of KKR Global Institute.
* Mark Rutte, hawkish Prime Minister of the Netherlands.
* Jens Stoltenberg, NATO top parrot, sorry, secretary-general.
* Jake Sullivan, Director of the National Security Council.

**The ideological and geopolitical affiliations of these members of the “diverse group” need no further elaboration. It gets positively sexier when we see what they will be discussing.**

Among other issues we find “NATO challenges”; “Indo-Pacific realignment”; “continuity of government and economy” (Conspirationists: continuity in case of nuclear war?); “disruption of global financial system” (already on); “post-pandemic health” (Conspirationists: how to engineer the next pandemic?); “trade and deglobalization”; and of course, the choice wagyu beef steaks: Russia and China.

As Bilderberg follows Chatham House Rules, mere mortals won’t have a clue of what they actually “proposed” or approved, and none of the participants will be allowed to talk about it with anyone else. One of my top New York sources, with direct access to most of the Masters of the Universe, loves to quip that Davos and Bilderberg are just for the messenger boys: the guys who really run the show don’t even bother to show up, ensconced in their uber-private meetings in uber-private clubs, where the real decisions are made.

Still, anyone following in some detail the rotten state of the “rules-based international order” will have a pretty good idea about the 2022 Bilderberg chatter.

**What the Chinese say**

Secretary of State Little Blinken – Sullivan’s sidekick in the ongoing Crash Test Dummy administration’s Dumb and Dumber remake – has recently claimed that China “supports” Russia on Ukraine instead of remaining neutral.

What really matters here is that Little Blinken is implying that Beijing wants to destabilize Asia-Pacific – which is a notorious absurdity. Yet that’s the master narrative that must pave the way for the US to muscle up its “Indo-Pacific” concoction. And that’s the briefing Sullivan and Kurt Campbell will be delivering to the “diverse group”.

Davos – with its new self-billed mantra, “The Great Narrative” – completely excluded Russia. Bilderberg is mostly about containment of China – which after all is the number one existential threat to the Empire of Lies and its satrapies.

**Rather than wait for Bilderberg morsels dispensed by The Economist, it’s much more productive to check out what a cross-section of fact-based Chinese intelligentsia thinks about the new “collective West” racket.**

Let’s start with Justin Lin Yifu, former Chief Economist of the World Bank and now Dean of the Institute of New Structural Economics at Peking University, and Sheng Songcheng, former head of the Financial Survey and Statistic Dept. a the Bank of China.

They [advance](https://readchina.info/en-US/articles/582524134345408617) that if China achieves “dynamic zero infection” on Covid-19 by the end of May (that actually happened: see the end of the Shanghai lockdown), China’s economy may grow by 5.5% in 2022.

**They dismiss the imperial attempt to establish an “Asian version of NATO”: “As long as China continues to grow at a higher rate and to open up, European and ASEAN countries would not participate in the US’s decoupling trap so as to ensure their economic growth and job creation.”**

Three academics from the Shanghai Institute of International Studies and Fudan University [touch](https://readchina.info/en-US/articles/583715462253117441) on the same point: the American-announced “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework”, supposed to be the economic pillar of the Indo-Pacific strategy, is nothing but a cumbersome attempt to “weaken the internal cohesion and regional autonomy of ASEAN.”

Liu Zongyi stresses that China’s position at the heart of the vastly inter-connected Asian supply chains “has been consolidated”, especially now with the onset of the largest trade deal on the planet, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

Chen Wengling, Chief Economist of a think tank under the key National Development and Reform Commission, [notes](https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2022/06/02/ukrainian-official-behind-western-media-reports-of-russian-atrocities-fired-by-ukrainian-parliament/) **the “comprehensive ideological and technological war against China” launched by the Americans.**

But he’s keen to stress how they are “not ready for a hot war as the US and Chinese economies are so closely linked.” The crucial vector is that “the US has not yet made substantial progress in strengthening its supply chain focusing on four key fields including semiconductors.”

Chen worries about “China’s energy security”; “China’s silence” on US sanctions on Russia, which “may result in US retaliation”; and crucially, how “China’s plan of building the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with Ukraine and EU countries will be affected.” What will happen in practice is BRI will be privileging economic corridors across Iran and West Asia, as well as the Maritime Silk Road, instead of the Trans-Siberian corridor across Russia.

It’s up to Yu Yongding, from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and a former member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank, to go for the jugular, noting how” the global financial system and the US dollar have been weaponized into geopolitical tools. The nefarious behavior of the US in freezing foreign exchange reserves has not only seriously damaged the international credibility of the US but has also shaken the credit foundation of the dominant international financial system in the West.”

He expresses the consensus among Chinese intel, that ***“if there is a geopolitical conflict between the US and China, then China’s overseas assets will be seriously threatened, especially its huge reserves. Therefore, the composition of China’s external financial assets and liabilities urgently needs to be adjusted and the portion of US dollar denominated assets in its reserves portfolio should be reduced.”***

**This chessboard sucks**

**A serious debate is raging across virtually all sectors of Chinese society on the American weaponization of the world financial casino.** The conclusions are inevitable: get rid of US Treasuries, fast, by any means necessary; more imports of commodities and strategic materials (thus the importance of the Russia-China strategic partnership); and firmly secure overseas assets, especially those foreign currency reserves.

Meanwhile Bilderberg’s “diverse group”, on the other side of the pond, is discussing, among other things, what will really happen in case they force the IMF racket to blow up (a key plan to implement The Great Reset, or “Great Narrative”).

**They are starting to literally freak out with the slowly but surely emergence of an alternative, resource-based monetary/financial system: exactly what the Eurasia Economic Union (EAEU) is currently discussing and designing, with Chinese input.**

Imagine a counter-Bilderberg system where a basket of Global South actors, resource-rich but economically poor, are able to issue their own currencies backed by commodities, and finally get rid of their status of IMF hostages. They are all paying close attention to the Russia gas-for-rubles experiment.

And in China’s particular case, what will always matter is loads of productive capital underpinning a massive, extremely deep industrial and civil infrastructure.

**No wonder Davos and Bilderberg messenger boys, when they look at The Grand Chessboard, are filled with dread: their era of perpetual free lunch is over. What would delight cynics, skeptics, neoplatonists and Taoists galore is that it was Davos-Bilderberg Men (and Women) who actually boxed themselves into *zugzwang*.**

All dressed up – with nowhere to go. Even JP Morgan’s Jamie Dimon – who didn’t even bother to go to Bilderberg – is scared, saying an economic “hurricane” is coming. And overturning the chessboard is no remedy: at best that may invite a ceremonious tuxedo visit by Mr. Sarmat and Mr. Zircon carrying some hypersonic bubbly.

**Dictators Disarm**

**In his recent address on gun violence, Joe Biden called for a number of new measures to limit 2nd Amendment rights, but**[**two of them stood out**](https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/06/02/us/biden-gun-control-speech)**as starkly unconstitutional – The issuance of an “assault weapons” ban and the institution of national Red Flag gun laws.**

Both are egregious in their violations of the Bill of Rights, but Red Flag laws set an Orwellian standard that will likely be used against conservatives as a whole.

How? We have to examine the situation within the context of Joe Biden's domestic terrorism policies, but first lets explain what Red Flag laws are.

[A group of kites flying in the sky

Description automatically generated with low confidence](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/2022-06-04_07-56-14.jpg?itok=FUHdagBR)

**Red Flag laws, also known as “Extreme Protection Orders,” are generally associated with assumptions of mental health and instability (remember the word “assumptions”).**The parameters of such laws tend to be incredibly broad and ambiguous, and allow for almost anyone in regular proximity to a person to accuse them of being psychologically unstable. The accusation can come from a family member, a significant other, a work associate, etc.

**Once the accusation is made, authorities can confiscate the target person's firearms without due process** under the law on the grounds that they present a danger to themselves and others. No jury, no testing, no proof is required to get a court order. It is then up to the accused to prove they are NOT unstable and that they deserve to have their firearms returned. This process could take years, if the guns are ever returned at all.

Some versions of Red Flag bills even allow police to declare you dangerous on their own accord, even without direct contact or a witness. In other words, it's a pre-crime system open for massive abuse. And keep in mind, we live in a digital era in which social media is carefully monitored, often by people that do not have our best interests at heart. Red Flag laws could even extend to comments made and taken out of context on social media platforms.

**But why should this be dangerous to conservatives in particular?**

Biden's White House has made it abundantly clear that he intends to conflate many conservative positions [with “extremism.”](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/National-Strategy-for-Countering-Domestic-Terrorism.pdf) In his policies on domestic terrorism, Biden and his handlers insinuate that the majority of terrorist concerns come from [right leaning Americans](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/fact-sheet-national-strategy-for-countering-domestic-terrorism/), even though the White House is unable to produce more than a few examples of “right leaning” people committing terrorist acts and is rather loose with their definitions of terrorism. Remember, they continue to call the protests of January 6th an “insurrection” despite the fact that there was no insurrection and no one was even armed.

The White House blatantly ignores terrorist acts by people associated with the political left and makes no mention of the “Summer of Love” in which BLM and ANTIFA attempted to burn the country to the ground.

**As with all leftist propaganda, Biden and the Democrats have sought to associate normal political and social concerns as well as constitutional concerns with nefarious behaviors such as racism and treason.** If you oppose illegal immigration, want proof of citizenship for voting, support gun rights and the constitutional right to a militia, believe the government is corrupt and has overstepped its constitutional mandate, oppose globalism and corporate monopoly, etc. then you are an extremist in the eyes of the Biden Administration. Not only that, but you are comparable to groups like the KKK and individual terrorists like the Oklahoma City Bomber.

The message is clear within White House policy papers – Domestic terrorist concerns will revolve around conservatives and patriots. They will be pigeon holed as the worst humans imaginable, while any other potential threats will be dismissed.

Red Flag laws open the door for punishment of political opposition by associating contrary views with “extremism” and then extremism with mental instability. Biden's policies specifically mention people who are hostile to government authority, which falls right in line with rhetoric used by the DHS and other alphabet agencies over the past several years relating to something called “Oppositional Defiant Disorder.”

When gun control laws were initiated by the Third Reich [in Germany in 1938](http://jpfo.org/filegen-n-z/NaziLawEnglish.htm), guns were confiscated from political enemies and the Jews while gun rights were granted to loyal party members. This standard of selective confiscation helped to strengthen the Nazi Party through a system of rights as rewards; if you said the correct things and virtue signaled your love of the state, you got to keep certain freedoms. If you spoke out of line, your freedoms were immediately forfeit. This included access to firearms.

**Red Flag laws create an environment where political opposition to the prevailing order can be legally punished as psychological instability.** Under the Biden Admin, leftists may feel emboldened to take advantage of the open ended nature of the laws to threaten individual conservative and patriot activists, or, the government could simply declare all conservatives dangerous by default. Leftists would remain happy and secure in their ability to hold onto their weapons while incrementally depriving their enemies of a means of defense.

This attack should be taken seriously by all gun rights advocates and anyone outside of the far left cult, but the leftists are not the biggest danger. It's perhaps not surprising that some members of the GOP have expressed support for Red Flag laws as a [“bipartisan compromise”](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gun-congrol-red-flag-laws-bipartisan-progress-graham-blumenthal/) to outright gun bans. These politicians are either too stupid to see the long term consequences of Red Flags, or they are well away and don't care because they are fake conservatives.

Any Republican that throws their weight behind Red Flag laws should be treated as hostile to the constitution and the 2nd Amendment in particular. Red flag laws are not a “compromise,” they are the Holy Grail of gun control. They are the ultimate Trojan Horse. They are the means to deprive anyone of their firearms for any fabricated reason, and they will create an automatic culture of self censorship in which all anti-establishment voices live in terror of speaking out.

**Anti-gun authoritarians are fearful of direct confrontation and direct confiscation. Going door-to-door is not their idea of a good time. Instead, they prefer the use of backdoor confiscation, going after a handful of people and then moving on to the next group.**Slowly at first, until it is too late for people to organize effectively against it. The 2nd Amendment is not a privilege granted for loyalty to a particular regime or ideology and it is not dependent on the crime rate; it is sacrosanct and stands outside of the conditions of the times we live. Shootings may rise and fall, but none of this matters – **once gun rights are taken away, it is unlikely they will ever be returned.**

**This is How They Do It**

When a black woman was shot Sunday by police officers in Kansas City, Missouri, leftists immediately jumped at the opportunity to use the incident for political gain.

However, it now appears the facts of the case contradict the left’s narrative.

On Sunday, an outlet called [The Kansas City Defender](https://www.kansascitydefender.com/justice/kcpd-shoot-unarmed-woman-five-times/), which describes itself as “fearless, radical Black media,” posted an article with the headline, “KCPD Shot An Unarmed Black Woman 5 Times. The Woman Had Her Hands Up.”

The outlet reported 26-year-old Leonna Hale was shot after [police](https://www.westernjournal.com/dem-city-rotting-away-police-make-bombshell-announcement-new-sexual-assault-cases/) apprehended her and another man in connection with a suspected stolen vehicle.

[The Kansas City Star](https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/crime/article261902330.html) quoted a supposed eyewitness named Shédanja who refused to provide her last name.

Shédanja said she witnessed police stopping Hale and telling her to get out of the car she was in. She said Hale did so with her hands up, and the officers asked her to get on the ground.

Hale refused to comply because she said she was pregnant, according to the witness. She eventually backed away and then turned to run, at which point police [shot](https://www.westernjournal.com/violence-breaks-funeral-man-killed-confrontation-police-multiple-people-shot/) her five times, Shédanja said.

“She did not pull out a weapon on them,” Shédanja said. “She did not even have a stick in her hand.”

If this account were true, it would certainly seem to be a gross misuse of force by the Kansas City Police Department. But by all available evidence, the witness was categorically incorrect about key details.

Bottom of Form

According to [KMBC](https://www.kmbc.com/article/kansas-city-kansas-woman-leonna-m-hale-shot-by-kansas-city-police-friday-now-charged/40170462), footage from body cameras showed Hale holding a [firearm](https://www.westernjournal.com/red-alert-breaking-dem-legislation-end-gun-sales-current-firearm-owners-forever-require-doj-license/) and pointing it at the officers, who told her to drop it before shooting her three times.

Hale was transported to a local hospital, where she was listed in stable condition as of Wednesday.

“Some false narratives about what happened last Friday night at 6th and Prospect Avenue, unfortunately, were relied upon by some media and other sources,” Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker said in a statement according to KMBC. “Our job, as prosecutors, is to remain neutral and review all evidence. Our review of body cam videos provided the actual accounting of events that night.”

Baker said that, contrary to Shédanja’s testimony, Hale was clearly wielding a [weapon](https://www.westernjournal.com/biden-recklessly-giving-ukraine-weapons-start-ww3/) during the encounter.

“Our review of the investigation revealed the defendant, although she denied having a weapon at the time of the encounter with law enforcement officers, continually displayed a weapon during her encounter with police officers and also appeared to be attempting to flee,” Baker said.

“The two officers stated that she was armed with what they believed to be a handgun. Body camera footage confirms the officers’ statements that Hale was holding a handgun. Still photos, taken from body cam footage, of this encounter also demonstrate a weapon was present and in the hands of the defendant.”

The Post Millennial editor Andy Ngo also shared a still image on Twitter that appeared to show Hale holding a firearm.

KMBC shared the same image on its website, and the outlet reported Hale was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm as a result of the incident. Hale is also facing charges of unlawful use of a weapon and resisting lawful detention.

Unsurprisingly, many [leftists](https://www.westernjournal.com/lib-says-regulated-militia-asserts-gun-control-supreme-court-ruling-demolishes-argument/) did not wait for the facts of the case to come out before making a judgement on it. Women’s March co-founder Linda Sarsour and The Frontline communications director Leslie Mac were among the verified Twitter users who spread the apparent lie that Hale was unarmed.

Cops can apprehend white mass murderers without a scratch but will shoot unarmed Black people that pose no threat to them.

Moreover, the Kansas City Defender had not amended its headline calling Hale “unarmed,” though it did add a disclaimer to the top of its article debunking its own headline.

“The Jackson County Prosecutors Office said that Leonna Hale had a firearm,” the disclaimer said. “Hale was charged on June 1st. The Prosecutor’s Office released a still image which contradicts The Kansas City Star’s eyewitness testimony.”

Leftists are so concerned with forwarding their preferred [narratives](https://www.westernjournal.com/blistering-new-report-takes-medias-gas-price-narrative-reveals-81-ways-biden-sent-prices-sky-high/) that they cannot even be bothered to investigate the facts of a case by spewing off inaccuracies about it.

This sort of rhetoric is both dishonest and dangerous, and only furthers the deepening political divide by fueling activists with information that is untrue.

**The War on Guns**

resident Joe Biden is overzealously targeting firearm retailers to drive them out of business. Federal firearm license revocations for retailers have increased 500 from previous years. That’s got gun control groups excited, but it is casting a pall over the cooperative relationship firearm retailers maintain with law enforcement.

President Biden never hid the fact that he intended to use the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to drive his gun control agenda. He campaigned on a platform of targeting the firearm industry instead of focusing on criminals.

“Our enemy is the gun manufacturers, not the NRA, the gun manufacturers,” President Biden [said](https://www.nssf.org/articles/called-industry-enemy/) from the presidential campaign debate stage.

That hostility produced a platform that turned the ATF from the bureau that regulates the firearm industry and enforces federal gun laws into the hammer and anvil by which the Biden administration is pummeling flat firearm retailers. Instead of compliance inspections by ATF Industry Operations Investigators to work to ensure firearm retailers remain within federal firearm regulations, those inspections are now driving firearm retailers out of business.

**Revocations**

Lee Williams, an independent investigative reporter specializing in covering firearms, revealed that ATF once revoked the licenses of federal firearms licensees (FFLs) at a rate of about 40 each year. “But, in the 11 months since Joe Biden declared war on ‘rogue gun dealers,’ the ATF has revoked 273 FFLs — an increase of more than 500%,” Williams [reported](https://thegunwriter.substack.com/p/special-report-atf-federal-firearm?s=r). “However, rather than targeting the true rogues, Biden’s ATF is revoking FFLs for the most minor of paperwork errors, which were never a concern for the ATF until Biden weaponized the agency.”

That’s due to the Biden administration’s “zero tolerance” [inspection policy](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/). That means inspectors are revoking federal firearms licenses for even minor clerical errors that previously would warrant a warning letter.

ATF has the authority to revoke licenses for even these minor clerical errors but used to be more interested in compliance. That changed under the Biden administration and the Department of Justice (DOJ) led by Attorney General Merrick Garland. National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) is providing retailers with [guidance](https://www.pathlms.com/nssf/courses/41330/video_presentations/234317) to be prepared for these inspections.

**Misplaced Priorities**

The White House budget request clearly identified that driving gun stores out of business was a higher priority than pursuing criminals. President Biden [proposed](https://www.nssf.org/articles/president-bidens-budget-request-targets-firearm-industry/) earlier this year to spend $20.6 billion on the Justice Department for federal law enforcement, crime prevention, and intervention.

Tucked into that spending proposal were plans for the ATF to hire 140 special agents and another 160 Industry Operations Investigators. That’s more inspectors to revoke licenses than special agents to actually lock up criminals. The Biden administration refuses to get tough on crime but is zealous in targeting the firearm industry.

Thomas Brandon, former ATF acting director, [told USA Today](https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/investigations/2021/05/26/gun-dealers-let-off-hook-when-atf-inspections-find-violations/7210266002/) that the goal of inspections is to get dealers compliant, not to penalize them. “The high majority of FFLs are good hardworking people running businesses, and they’re our front-line of defense for intelligence for diversion of firearms with straw purchases,” Brandon said, referring to when someone attempts to purchase a firearm for someone else who can’t.

The firearm industry absolutely wants firearm retailers that flout the law to be held accountable, but addressing the rare instances of criminal activity at the gun counter neglects the larger problem of criminal misuse of firearms. Indeed, that policy of targeting “rogue gun dealers” could have unintended consequences.

**Unintended Consequences**

Firearm retailers willingly cooperate with ATF special agents on suspect attempts to purchase firearms. They are often the ones providing tips to special agents on suspected straw purchases. Now, those same retailers are forced to consider the consequences of inviting ATF into their retail locations. When a potential tip to criminal activity by a random person wandering into their store could result in a business owner losing a license and income, that threatens the ability of the ATF to enforce the law.

That’s got special agents in the field concerned. Agents in ATF field offices who chose to remain anonymous have told NSSF the “zero tolerance” policy will do more harm than good. It will dry up their most valuable source of intelligence on criminal activity — the local gun store owner who wants criminals to be locked up.

Now, owners are forced to consider the unintended consequences of trying to do the right thing. Tips of suspect activity could lead to an inspection and a misplaced entry in a record book could put that gun store owner out of business.

There’s little reason to believe the policies will be reversed. The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee questioned President Biden’s nominee to become ATF director, Steve Dettelbach, in a confirmation hearing last week. Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) [confronted](https://www.c-span.org/video/?520566-1/threats-public-safety-rise-atf-nominee-warns-lawmakers) Dettelbach about the “zero tolerance” policy and the Biden administration’s policy of rooting out “rogue dealers.” Dettelbach demurred on defining a “rogue dealer,” adding only that federal firearm license revocations should be reserved for “willful violations” and not “inadvertent errors.”

“The key to enforcement programs, it has to be fair, it has to be consistent, and it has to be effective,” Dettelbach told Sen. Grassley. The Biden administration’s “zero tolerance” policy to decimate firearm retailers is proving to be counterproductive.

**Evergrand is Now Dead**

At Midnight U.S. east coast time Friday night-into-Saturday, China's second largest Real Estate developer, EVERGRANDE, officially entered "DEFAULT" status on its massive global debt.  This is the first Domino in the coming financial collapse, and it has just fallen, hard.

The China Evergrande Group is the second largest property developer in China by sales.

It is ranked 122nd on the Fortune Global 500.

It is incorporated in the Cayman Islands, a British Overseas Territory, and headquartered in the Houhai Financial Center in Nanshan District, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China.

According to Citibank as of Saturday June 4th, EVERGRANDE is more than 30 days past due on interest payments.

**This means that hundreds of billions of Dollars will get removed from market makers and banks on Monday  6th June.**

Most G20 nation banks, Money Market  funds, some State pension funds will have direct or secondary counterparty exposure to this.  
  
China Will only bail out China...by CCP takeover of Evergrande companies.  
  
Foreigners are left holding the bag.

More or less the same thing happened in Ireland not too long ago and MANY Irish banks went bust *overnight* because of it.    
  
A full 2/3rds of China's domestic wealth and economy is tied up in residential and commercial real estate.  It is the largest single asset class of any nation in the world.

As China Evergrande reportedly begins negotiating creative ways to repay billions owed to offshore bondholders, a paying agent of one of the embattled property giant’s USD-denominated bonds has sent a letter to investors officially confirming default.

Dr Marco Meltzer, a respected German financial analysts and outspoken critic of the handling of Evergrande’s debt crisis, says he received a letter from Citi earlier this week all but confirming the company is broke.

Citigroup serves as a paying agent for a number of Evergrande’s offshore bonds. Paying agents are intermediaries which accept payments from bond issuers and distribute the funds among the bond holders.

“Just this week, I received an official letter from the agent Citibank that Evergrande has defaulted on our bond and I will never see my money again,” said Dr Meltzer.

“I had bought bonds last year in November to see if the media coverage of the real estate giant was accurate, as they repeatedly reported that Evergrande was doing well.

“Unfortunately, it appears this media coverage is taking its course.”

Meltzer shared a copy of the letter (published in the feature image of this article) which states Evergrande and its Subsidiaries “have not made payment of interest that was due and payable on April 11, 2022”.

Last year, an [Asia Markets’ investigation](https://www.asiamarkets.com/evergrande-bankruptcy-cover-up-claims-as-more-debt-deadlines-loom/) highlighted a litany of examples in which missed Evergrande offshore bond payments were sugar-coated in the financial press through anonymous sources claiming that default had been avoided, thus leading to many investors overlooking the risk the crisis poses to global financial markets.

 Fitch Ratings said on Thursday it has decided to withdraw its rating on embattled property developer China Evergrande Group [(3333.HK)](https://www.reuters.com/companies/3333.HK) and two of its subsidiaries as the firms have stopped participating in the process.

The rating agency in December downgraded Evergrande and its subsidiaries, Hengda Real Estate Group Co Ltd and Tianji Holding Ltd, to so-called "restricted default" status, saying the firms had defaulted on their offshore bond obligations. [read more](https://www.reuters.com/business/chinas-kaisa-kicks-off-12-bln-debt-restructuring-after-missing-pay-date-source-2021-12-09/)

In its statement on Thursday, Fitch said that it would no longer have sufficient information to maintain the ratings on Evergrande, the world's most indebted developer with more than $300 billion in debt, and two of its subsidiaries.

"Accordingly, Fitch will no longer provide ratings or analytical coverage for Evergrande and its subsidiaries," it said.

Evergrande, which has struggled to repay suppliers and complete housing projects, has become the poster child of China's property sector crisis as it lurched from one missed offshore debt payment deadline to another. [read more](https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/exclusive-evergrande-discussing-staggered-payments-debt-to-equity-swaps-19-bln-2022-05-27/)

The firm is considering repaying offshore public bondholders owed around $19 billion with cash instalments and equity in two of its Hong Kong-listed units, Reuters reported last month, as the developer struggles to get back on better footing.

Its $22.7 billion worth of offshore debt including loans and private bonds is deemed to be in default after missing payment obligations late last year. It said in March that it will unveil a preliminary debt restructuring proposal by the end of July.

**Crush the Zuckerboxes**

Another Georgia election and another example of voting machines causing problems to the tune of thousands of votes.

[The Atlanta Journal-Constitution](https://www.ajc.com/neighborhoods/dekalb/dekalb-commission-candidate-asks-elections-board-not-to-certify-results/XR4DQX5R5RD2RCEQO4MKF3LS6I/) reported that, based on the initial results posted on May 24, Democratic Dekalb County commission candidate Michelle Long Spears came in third place, and therefore did not qualify for a runoff.

“Spears and her team, though, noticed that initial results showed her receiving zero election votes at most precincts in the district,” according to the news outlet.

After a hand count was conducted over Memorial Day weekend, Spears picked up over [3,600 votes](https://www.ajc.com/politics/miscount-in-dekalb-caused-by-voting-computer-programming-errors/Z5WPVW5UKVBRTMN4TUZGZW2LLM/) and went from being in third place to first.

She will now advance to the June 21 runoff, assuming the results are certified.

Unfortunately for candidate Marshall Orson, who was in first place after the machine count, he is now in third.

In a Thursday [letter](https://decaturish.com/2022/06/marshall-orson-asks-for-investigation-delayed-certification-of-may-24-results/) to the local election board Orson wrote, “There is no rational basis for believing that there are not continuing issues with the results, and the results should not be certified with the continuing existence of multiple substantive issues and concerns.”

“Doing so would pose a substantial risk not only to the confidence the public will have in the overall election results from this race but could extend to the entire primary as well as the general election,” he added.

**Do you think elections should be conducted by hand count?**

Top of Form

Yes No  
 

Completing this poll entitles you to The Western Journal news updates free of charge. You may opt out at anytime. You also agree to our [Privacy Policy](https://www.westernjournal.com/about/privacy-policy/) and [Terms of Use](https://www.westernjournal.com/about/terms-service/).

Bottom of Form

The Georgia secretary of state’s office admitted to making several programming mistakes in their [Dominion Voting Systems](https://www.westernjournal.com/maricopa-county-dominion-voting-systems-refuse-comply-az-senate-subpoenas/) machines.

A hand count conducted in the entire state of Georgia following the 2020 general election also revealed that [thousands of ballots](https://www.westernjournal.com/thousands-votes-discovered-another-georgia-county/) had not been counted.

These discrepancies were also attributed to human error in the uploading of ballots to the machines.

Then-President Donald Trump ended up [netting more than 1,200 votes](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/11/19/us/elections/georgia-recount.html) over Democratic challenger Joe Biden, but it was not enough to change the overall result.

The most significant recorded discrepancy in the 2020 election occurred in [Antrim County, Michigan](https://www.westernjournal.com/gop-candidate-declared-rightful-winner-computer-glitch-wrongfully-dem-won/), which also used [Dominion Voting](https://www.westernjournal.com/hiding-joe-biden-admin-begs-court-bury-bombshell-report-dominion-voting-machines/) machines.

Initially, Biden had a 3,000 vote lead in the northwest Michigan county, which Trump had carried by [30 percentage points](https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/michigan) in 2016 over Democrat Hilary Clinton.

**Related:**

[**Tinder-Gate: Dem Candidate Caught in Online Dating Scandal**](https://www.westernjournal.com/tinder-gate-dem-candidate-caught-online-dating-scandal/)

After a hand recount was conducted, Trump carried the county by over [3,700 votes](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/11/03/us/elections/results-michigan.html), so nearly a 7,000 vote swing.

A spokesperson for Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson attributed the discrepancy to “county user error,” [WLNS-TV](https://www.wlns.com/news/michigan/voting-software-used-in-mi-county-with-skewed-results-also-used-in-mid-michigan/) reported at the time.

It makes you wonder how many other “user errors” were out there.

In both the recent example in Dekalb County and in Antrim County, a hand recount was spurred by initial results completely lacking credulity.

What about races where the results are much closer and seemingly credible? Are little sample audits enough to satisfy voters that they’re seeing accurate results?

I guess there’s some reassurance that full hand recounts of the 2020 general election in Georgia and [Maricopa County](https://www.azmirror.com/2021/09/23/arizona-audit-finds-biden-won-by-more-votes-and-no-evidence-of-fraud/), Arizona, more or less produced the same raw results.

Whether all those ballots were[legally cast](https://www.westernjournal.com/ap-refers-election-integrity-experts-conspiracy-theorists-report-az-senate-hearing/) is another issue entirely.

The greatest step that could be taken to reassure voters is to go back to full hand counts using paper ballots that are all but impossible to counterfeit.

Nations like [France](https://apnews.com/article/covid-health-business-elections-france-e06fab5cde84f23d682013e1661caf35) and [Germany](https://www.westernjournal.com/germany-refuses-use-voting-machines-like-us-fears-fraud-will-use-paper-ballots/) conduct their elections old school — hand counts, paper ballots — avoiding all the drama and doubt created by machines.

We should do the same. Some processes simply cannot be improved upon.

We’ve got to be able to trust the vote.

**Ukraine is a Money Pit**

ince its inception, the United States has been required to strike a balance between its role in global affairs and its interests at home. In a letter to New Hampshire senator and Federalist William Plumer, Thomas Jefferson noted that “I, however, place economy among the first and most important republican virtues, and public debt as the greatest of the dangers to be feared.”

Jefferson’s assessment is apt and is as relevant today as it was when it was penned in 1816. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has offered a stark reminder of the cruelties of war.

Although we sympathize with the resistance to Vladimir Putin’s invasion, we cannot bankrupt our country by becoming a belligerent in another foreign war. With a national debt exceeding 120 percent of gross national product, rampant inflation not seen since the 1980s, and significant supply chain disruptions, the United States must first secure its own economy before assisting foreign states.

The United States spent nearly $5 trillion in response to the outbreak of Covid-19, leading to some of the highest sustained levels of inflation in U.S. history. In March, inflation [hit](https://www.bls.gov/cpi/) a 40-year high, with gasoline prices up 48 percent year-over-year and energy prices spiking by approximately 32 percent in the same span of time.

Food prices have increased by nearly 9 percent. Used vehicle prices are up 35 percent. One would be hard-pressed to find an American consumer who has not felt the pain of a deteriorating economy caused by massive federal spending.

Thoughtless government spending has not only jeopardized the economic well-being of individual Americans but has also exacerbated the existing threat of our exorbitant national debt. I have repeatedly stated that the biggest threat to our national security is our national debt. In the last two years alone, the United States has borrowed more money than at any time in its history.

When the Ukraine Supplement Appropriations Act of 2022 was introduced in the Senate, I offered an amendment requiring a known, effective, and independent inspector general to oversee how funds were spent. If the Senate were to adopt a measure borrowing $40 billion to support a foreign nation, then the American people at least deserve to know that their hard-earned dollars were put to good use. If there is one thing that we should learn from the war in Afghanistan, it is that the chaos of war provides excellent cover for those seeking to defraud American taxpayers.

If the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2022 is adopted, the United States will have sent $60 billion to Ukraine since 2014. This amount is nearly ten times the $6.4 billion we spend on cancer research every year.

Prioritizing the interest of other nations over our own will not end well. The present assault on monetary discipline is untenable, and unless we end this fiscal insanity, a day of reckoning awaits us. Not only are we flirting with financial ruin, but we also risk inadvertently entering a war with another major power. President Biden’s call for regime change in Russia, coupled with Congress’s willingness to provide seemingly limitless aid to Ukraine, has made our final objective unclear.

Congress recently approved more than $14 billion in aid to Ukraine, and the United States has [nearly emptied](https://www.defensenews.com/industry/2022/05/02/bidens-javelin-factory-tour-spotlights-struggle-to-backfill-ukraine-munitions/) our armories of critical and costly weaponry to support Ukraine. If the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2022, as currently drafted, is adopted, our total aid to Ukraine will [almost equal](https://www.statista.com/statistics/1203160/military-expenditure-russia/) Russia’s annual military spending. Most Americans, [especially our veterans](https://cv4a.org/news-media/new-poll-majority-of-veterans-support-less-us-military-engagement-abroad-oppose-war-with-russia-over-ukraine-and-want-more-va-health-care-options/) who have seen firsthand the consequences of endless wars and regime changes, oppose war with Russia and support a reduction in U.S military engagement.

In times like these, we would be well-advised to heed Jefferson’s wisdom and pursue a course of “peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none.”

A barrage of Russian cruise missiles shattered five weeks of eerie calm in Ukraine’s capital early Sunday, with plumes of smoke billowing into the skies as railway facilities and other infrastructure were hit. Authorities said one person was hospitalized with injuries.

Kyiv hadn’t faced any such strikes since the April 28 visit of U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres. The early morning attack triggered air raid alarms and showed that Russia still had the capability and willingness to hit at Ukraine’s heart since abandoning its wider offensive across the country to instead focus its efforts in the east.

The strikes appeared aimed at thwarting the resupplying of Ukrainian fighters, a rising concern in Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin used a televised interview on Sunday to make a veiled warning to Western nations who have supplied weapons to Ukraine, saying Russia would use ”our means of destruction” to hit "objects that we have not yet struck” if Ukraine gets longer-range rocket systems.

It wasn’t immediately clear if Putin was referring to new targets within or outside Ukraine’s borders.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 has led to untold tens of thousands of civilian and troop deaths, driven millions from their homes, sparked vast sanctions against Putin's government and allies, and strangled exports of critical wheat and other grains from Ukraine through Black Sea ports — limiting access to bread and other products in Africa, the Middle East and beyond.

The missiles hit Kyiv’s Darnytski and Dniprovski districts, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on the Telegram messaging app, punctuating the Kremlin’s recently reduced goal of seizing the entire Donbas region in the east. Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces for eight years in the Donbas and established self-proclaimed republics. In recent days, Russian forces have focused on capturing the city of Sievierodonetsk.

A billowing pillar of smoke filled the air with an acrid odor in Kyiv's eastern Darnystki district, and the charred, blackened wreckage of a warehouse-type structure was smoldering. Police near the site told an Associated Press reporter that military authorities had banned the taking of images. Soldiers also blocked off a road in a nearby area leading toward a large railway yard.

The sites struck included facilities for the state rail company, Ukrzaliznytsia, said Serhiy Leshchenko, an adviser in President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s office, on Telegram.

Russian strikes have repeatedly targeted railway facilities, seemingly aimed at slowing the provision of weapons to Ukrainian forces on the front lines. The cruise missiles appeared to have been launched from a Tu-95 bomber flying over the Caspian Sea, the Air Force Command said on Facebook. It said air defense units shot down one missile.

In a television interview on Sunday, Putin lashed out at Western deliveries of weapons to Ukraine, saying they aim to prolong the conflict.

“All this fuss around additional deliveries of weapons, in my opinion, has only one goal: To drag out the armed conflict as much as possible,” Putin said, alluding to U.S. plans to supply multiple launch rocket systems to Kyiv. He insisted such supplies were unlikely to change much for the Ukrainian government, which he said was merely making up for losses of rockets of similar range that they already had.

If Kyiv gets longer-range rockets, he added, Moscow will “draw appropriate conclusions and use our means of destruction, which we have plenty of, in order to strike at those objects that we have not yet struck.”

Elsewhere, Russian forces continued their push to take ground in eastern Ukraine, with missile and airstrikes carried out on cities and villages of the Luhansk region, with the war now past the 100-day mark.

Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai said on Telegram that “airstrikes by Russian Ka-52 helicopters were carried out in the areas of Girske and Myrna Dolyna, by Su-25 aircraft - on Ustynivka,” while Lysychansk was hit by a missile from the Tochka-U complex.

A total of 13 houses were damaged in Girske, and five in Lysychansk. Another airstrike was reported in the eastern city of Kramatorsk by its mayor Oleksandr Goncharenko. No one was killed in the attack, he said, but two of the city’s enterprises sustained “significant damage.”

On Sunday morning, Ukraine’s General Staff accused Russian forces of using phosphorus munitions in the village of Cherkaski Tyshky in the Kharkiv region. The claim couldn’t be independently verified.

The update also confirmed strikes on Kyiv, which occurred in the early hours of Sunday. It wasn’t immediately clear from the statement which infrastructure facilities in Kyiv were hit.

The General Staff said Russian forces continue assault operations in Sievierodonetsk, one of two key cities left to be captured in the Luhansk region of the Donbas. The Russians control the eastern part of the city, the update said, and are focusing on trying to encircle Ukrainian forces in the area and “blocking off main logistical routes.”

The U.K. military said in its daily intelligence update that Ukrainian counterattacks in Sieverodonetsk were “likely blunting the operational momentum Russian forces previously gained through concentrating combat units and firepower.” Russian forces previously had been making a string of advances in the city, but Ukrainian fighters have pushed back in recent days.

The statement also said Russia’s military was partly relying on reserve forces of the Luhansk region.

“These troops are poorly equipped and trained, and lack heavy equipment in comparison to regular Russian units,” the intelligence update said, adding that “this approach likely indicates a desire to limit casualties suffered by regular Russian forces.”

**And then….**

The German parliament this week voted overwhelmingly in favor of a 100 billion-euro ($107.2 billion) special defense fund, a move that comes three months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The special fund is in addition to the nation's regular defense spending of roughly 50 billion euros per year.

With the special funding, which is to be spent over several years, German defense spending is expected to reach the NATO target of 2% of GDP.

The special fund for the military was announced in February shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht told parliament this week that the vote in favor of the fund represented "a historic day."

"This is a lot of money, but it is well invested — in the security and peace of our country," she said.

Analysts have long noted that Germany has neglected its military for years, particularly in the area of equipment. Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told members of parliament this week that "the shortcomings of the Bundeswehr can't be sustained for a second longer."

**Artemis 1**

Beginning just after midnight Monday (June 6), technicians at NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida are scheduled to begin transporting the agency's huge Artemis 1 moon rocket to its launch pad for a crucial countdown rehearsal.

[Artemis 1](https://www.space.com/artemis-1-going-back-to-the-moon), the first launch for NASA's new [Space Launch System](https://www.space.com/33908-space-launch-system.html) (SLS) megarocket, will send an uncrewed Orion capsule around the moon and back. NASA officials have voiced hope that Artemis 1 will lift off as soon as August, but the SLS and [Orion](https://www.space.com/27824-orion-spacecraft.html) must first complete a series of fueling and simulated launch countdown tests known as a wet dress rehearsal, which is scheduled to begin at KSC's Pad 39B on June 19.

The rollout will start Monday at 12:01 a.m. EDT (0401 GMT) and take the Artemis 1 stack on a 4-mile (6.4 kilometers), 8-to-12-hour trek from KSC's Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) to Pad 39B. You can watch parts of it live here at Space.com, [courtesy of NASA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZ51X3a60WM); the agency will apparently livestream views from the VAB when rollout begins and from Pad 39B when the SLS and Orion get there.

This will be the second rollout for Artemis 1. The first occurred in mid-March, when SLS and Orion emerged from the VAB around sunset before an audience of hundreds, backdropped by a rising full [moon](https://www.space.com/55-earths-moon-formation-composition-and-orbit.html). It was quite the sight. The timing for this rollout is geared more toward utility than spectacle; an overnight rollout allows for more temperate and more predictable weather during Florida's hot and humid summer months.

Artemis 1's first wet dress rehearsal attempt began April 1 and was supposed to wrap up 48 hours later. It was delayed several times and then ultimately scrubbed after three different tries to fuel the SLS were cut short. A [stuck valve](https://www.space.com/nasa-artemis-1-moon-rocket-test-stuck-valve) and a hydrogen leak in connections between the rocket and its launch tower halted operations during the process of loading cryogenic fuel into the rocket, and Artemis 1 was [returned to the VAB on April 25](https://www.space.com/nasa-artemis-1-moon-rocket-rolling-off-launch-pad).

The decision to roll the rocket stack back gave NASA the opportunity to fix those issues, as well as get a head start on other scheduled upgrades. For example, in a press call on May 27, Cliff Lanham, senior vehicle operations manager for KSC's exploration ground systems, revealed that teams have begun installing payloads for the Artemis 1 mission inside the Orion capsule.

Upgrades were also made to the vehicle's exterior instrumentation covers to better protect against the heat and potential storms during the rocket's two weeks awaiting testing at the pad. Infrastructure at Pad 39B also received some ahead-of-schedule maintenance in the form of increased storage capabilities for gaseous nitrogen, which the Artemis 1 team uses to purge liquid oxygen from the SLS prior to fueling operations, for safety purposes.

If all goes according to plan, the June 19 wet dress rehearsal will last about 48 hours. NASA has published a [list of launch windows for Artemis 1](https://www.space.com/artemis-1-moon-mission-launch-dates-nasa), and agency officials have voiced cautious optimism for an August liftoff, but an official target won't be finalized until the data from the dress rehearsal has been fully analyzed. Pending no further snags in the vehicle and ground systems, that launch opportunity lasts from Aug. 23 to Sept. 6, in case you were thinking of making any plans for Labor Day weekend.

**Biden’s Invasion Strategy is Working**

The policies of Virtual Joe and his gang of criminals are resulting in large boosts in foreign-born populations across a number of swing states critical to both political parties in the 2024 presidential election.

Analysis from the Center for Immigration Studies reveals that the foreign-born population has grown to a record-breaking [47 million,](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2022/06/01/analysis-biden-drives-foreign-born-population-to-47m-largest-in-history/) with about two million illegal and legal immigrants added to the United States population in Biden’s first 15 months in office.

Much of the growth in the nation’s foreign-born population is settling in swing states, the analysis finds. Florida, for instance, added 390,000 foreign-born residents in the last 15 months, while Pennsylvania added 375,000.

Likewise, Michigan added 247,000 foreign-born residents, Georgia added 152,000, and Arizona added 148,000. The red states of Tennessee and South Carolina each added about 130,000 foreign-born residents, the analysis states.

In swing states, newly registered foreign-born voters [often outpace](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/09/02/data-new-foreign-born-voters-in-swing-states-exceed-2016-margins-of-victory/) electoral margins, suggesting their significance in swaying state and federal elections.

The figures are vital to electoral politicking as research has consistently shown that the larger a region’s foreign-born population, the more likely that region is to vote for Democrats over Republicans.

In 2019, for example, *The Atlantic*‘s Ronald Brownstein found that [nearly 90 percent](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/02/07/democrats-winning-90-congressional-districts-with-large-foreign-born-populations/) of House congressional districts with a foreign-born population above the national average are won by Democrats. This means every congressional district with a foreign-born population exceeding 15 percent has a 90 percent chance of electing Democrats and only a ten percent chance of electing a Republican.

The [*Washington Post*](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/how-did-deeply-red-virginia-become-such-a-challenge-for-the-gop-in-a-single-decade/2016/08/13/36b2014e-5f21-11e6-9d2f-b1a3564181a1_story.html), the [*New York Times*](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/11/10/ny-times-tidal-wave-mass-immigration-hands-virginia-democrats/), the [*Atlantic*](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/02/07/democrats-winning-90-congressional-districts-with-large-foreign-born-populations/), [Axios](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2018/02/06/report-booming-foreign-born-population-handing-over-electoral-dominance-to-democrats/), the [*Los Angeles Times*](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/08/07/la-times-democrats-now-outnumber-republicans-in-orange-county-due-to-changing-demographics/), and the [*Wall Street Journal*](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/01/03/wall-street-journal-demographic-shift-replace-trump-base/) have all admitted that rapid demographic changes spurred by mass immigration are tilting the nation toward a permanent Democrat political majority.

“The single biggest threat to Republicans’ long-term viability is demographics,” Axios [acknowledged](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/07/21/axios-not-single-demographic-trend-favors-republicans/) in 2019. “The numbers simply do not lie … there’s not a single demographic megatrend that favors Republicans.”

Already, the U.S. has the most generous immigration system in the world — [expected](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2018/01/29/chain-migration-to-add-foreign-born-voting-population-double-the-size-of-annual-american-births-by-2038/) to bring in 15 million new foreign-born voters by 2042. About eight million of those voters will have [arrived](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2018/01/14/chain-migration-expected-add-8m-potential-foreign-born-voters-electorate-two-decades/) entirely due to the process known as “chain migration” whereby newly naturalized citizens can bring an unlimited number of foreign relatives to the U.S.

**Biden’s Corrupt DOJ is Having Sex with the Media**

On Saturday, the Tesla CEO brought up the Jeffrey Epstein scandal - tweeting of the "Epstein/Maxwell client list" that "Only thing more remarkable than DOJ not leaking the list is that no one in the media cares," before adding "Sometimes I think my list of enemies is too short, so …"

Then, when someone inevitably replied with the infamous picture of Ghislaine Maxwell standing next to Elon, he replied: "Ah yes, Maxwell photobombing me at a @VanityFair Oscars party – you should them why they invited her," adding "The same people who push this photo say nothing about prominent people who actually went to his island a dozen times. Also very strange …"

They cannot show the client list or all of Mossad’s hard work in compromising powerful people in the USA and Europe will be wasted. Scary part is these people which were compromised by these events are still in power and still compromised...

Maxwell, Epstein's former "madam" and lover, was convicted on December 29, 2021 **of recruiting underage girls for sexual abuse by Epstein and his network of friends**. Her sentencing hearing is scheduled for June 28.

Epstein, of course, died after an alleged suicide in a Manhattan holding cell - of which security footage was erased due to "[technical errors](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-51053205)" and the guards were distracted with sleeping and ordering crap online.

**Austria: Where is Our Gold?**

Since 2007 the Austrian central bank (*Oesterreichische Nationalbank*, hereafter "OeNB") owns a few kilograms short of 280 tonnes of gold. In a [report released by the Austrian “court of audits”](https://web.archive.org/web/20201031191409/https:/static.bullionstar.com/blogs/uploads/2015/02/Gold-Auditing-2015-Feb.pdf) (*Rechnungshof*, RH) from February 2015 it stated Austria was holding too much of its metal (82%) in London at the Bank of England (BOE). The court of audits concluded that all contracts between OeNB and its external depositories, but mainly the one in England, contained deficiencies and auditing measures were lacking.

Soon after the Austrian central bank announced a new storage concept. Contracts with external depositories would be reviewed and amended, 90 tonnes stored at BOE would be repatriated, and 50 tonnes would be transferred from London to Switzerland. Within five years (by 2020) the new storage concept should have been completed.

In 2018 [OeNB announced to have repatriated 90 tonnes from London](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBqAiILQzR8)—ahead of schedule. Up to fifty percent of OeNB’s gold was brought home, divided between OeNB’s own vaults (90 tonnes) and the vaults of the Austrian Mint (50 tonnes). The transfer of gold from London to Switzerland, however, wasn’t done yet.

From [January 2020](https://web.archive.org/web/20200102224304/https:/www.oenb.at/en/About-Us/Tasks/gold-reserves.html) up until [January 2022](https://web.archive.org/web/20220121112552/https:/www.oenb.at/en/About-Us/Tasks/gold-reserves.html) there was a graph on OeNB’s website suggesting all metal that was supposed to be located in Switzerland had arrived, though in the fine print it read: *“By 2020 at the latest, the OeNB will have completed the implementation of its gold storage policy in Switzerland.”*

It’s very likely that up until today none of the gold that was planned to be transferred from London to Switzerland has arrived. Somewhere after January 2022, the graph above disappeared from [OeNB’s website](https://www.oenb.at/en/About-Us/Tasks/gold-reserves.html). Now the webpage reads:

*The relocation [from London to Switzerland] has been postponed until organizational and logistical obstacles have been resolved.*

In an email OeNB wrote me:

*We can confirm that the relocation has been postponed. However, we are not allowed to disclose any details in order to comply with contractual obligations to keep business secrets of external partners involved.*

For a fact OeNB knew the transfer would be delayed long before 2022. In [OeNB’s Annual Report 2015](https://www.oenb.at/en/Publications/Oesterreichische-Nationalbank/Annual-Report.html) the original plan is shown: 90 tonnes would be repatriated from BOE and 50 tonnes would be transferred from the U.K. to Switzerland by 2020 (to store 50% in Austria, 30% in the U.K., and 20% in Switzerland). The same deadline was disclosed in the [OeNB’s Annual Report 2016](https://www.oenb.at/en/Publications/Oesterreichische-Nationalbank/Annual-Report.html).

The original plan was first adapted in [OeNB’s Annual Report 2017](https://www.oenb.at/en/Publications/Oesterreichische-Nationalbank/Annual-Report.html). The deadline was dropped and replaced by: “New gold storage policy.” Meanwhile zero gold had arrived in Switzerland by then. Still 3% was stored in Switzerland, the same as prior to the new gold storage concept.

Based on the publication dates of the reports OeNB must have concluded the shipment towards Switzerland would be postponed in between May 2017 and May 2018. Repatriating gold from London went as scheduled.

What could possibly have happened in between May 2017 and May 2018 that made OeNB have to wait for more than six years to move its gold from London to Switzerland?

Due to the complexity of this investigation, I have decided to publish my analysis in multiple parts—at least three as I see it now. In forthcoming articles, we will zoom in on the role of BOE, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and the vaults of the Swiss central bank—where the gold was supposed to be by now.