



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 31, 2023

Case No. FL-2023-00013

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

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

As we noted in our letter dated April 28, 2023, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State (“Department”) has identified an additional 73 responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all 73 records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Kevin Bell, U.S. Department of Justice Trial Attorney, at kevin.k.bell@usdoj.gov and (202) 305-8613. Please refer to the case number, FL-2023-00013, and the civil action number, 22-cv-03386, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diamonece Hickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Diamonece Hickson
Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

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The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From: Nancy Nussbaum (b)(6)@ap.org>

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

Subject: Reminder: AP Definitive Source - Driving Digital Engagement

Date: Tue, 24 May 2022 09:56:49 -0600



[View in browser](#)



AP Definitive Source: Driving Digital Engagement

Do the words “digital disruption” inspire or intimidate your newsroom? The pandemic accelerated change for the news industry, forcing everyone to reimagine their business models. We have partnered with our customers to redefine how we work together to ensure each organization has a competitive advantage in an increasingly digital space and you will benefit from that work.

Join leaders of our Digital News team **this Thursday** for our **Definitive Source webinar “Driving Digital Engagement.”** We’ll share best practices and tips for growing your audience online. The session includes Q/A.

Please register even if news may prevent you from joining. **We will send a recording link to everyone who registers.**

Who

-**Josh Cornfield**, Deputy Director/New Platforms & Audience Growth @AP

-**Shawn Chen**, Deputy Director/Audience Experience @AP

When

Date: Thursday, May 26

Time: 0900 GMT (5 a.m. Eastern)

[Register here](#)

Date: Thursday, May 26

Time: 2 p.m. Eastern (1800 GMT)

[Register here](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please feel free to share this invitation with anyone from your staff who might be interested in these topics.

Thank you in advance for your participation.



Nancy Nussbaum

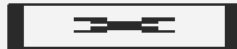
Global Director of Engagement

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Sender: Nancy Nussbaum (b)(6)@ap.org>
Recipient: (b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Register: Inflation, supply chain disruptions and small business survival with Offline Ventures and Brit + Co's Brit Morin and more, 7/13
Date: Tue, 12 Jul 2022 20:09:16 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

11/2023 00013 A 0000589267 "UNCLASSIFIED" 3/29/2023

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sender: Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>
Recipient: (b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Alanna Dvorak (h)(6)@poynter.org>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Reconnecting: State/Poynter
Date: Fri, 17 Jun 2022 13:27:09 +0000

Hi Alanna,

Thank you for an excellent panel presentation at yesterday's IAF event! Just sending a quick note so that you have my contact information again. It would be great to set up something later in July between myself and (b)(6) (from State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of Press and Public Diplomacy) to get a better sense of your footprint in the MENA region.

Separately, I also recommended to (h)(6) that he encourage the U.S. Embassy in Tunis to apply against the internal small grant funding opportunity that I spoke about yesterday. You mentioned that post did not have funding to continue supporting local Tunisian partners - this is at least a potential option for them. That application window closes next Friday at midnight - no action needed from your side since post will need to be the one to submit the proposal.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Foreign Affairs Officer
 Global Engagement Center
 U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)@state.gov

Sender: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient: Alanna Dvorak (h)(6)@poynter.org>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION FROM A DISCOVERY LITIGATION

From: Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>
To: (b)(6) @state.gov>
Subject: Re: WashPost Invite: In-person entrepreneurship event with Isabella Casillas Guzman, Theresia Gouw and more, 9/13 [Response Requested]
Date: Thu, 8 Sep 2022 18:05:38 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sender: Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>

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

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

FL-2023-00013

A-00000599265

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From: Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>

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

Subject: RE: WashPost Invite: In-person entrepreneurship event with Heather Boushey and Steve Case, 6/21 [Response Requested]

Date: Thu, 16 Jun 2022 16:04:18 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

FL-2023-00013

A-00000599265

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

Sender: Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>
Recipient: (b)(6) @state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

FL-2023-00013

A-00000599140

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From: "Thibault, Erica (Tunis)" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 Alan Davis <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis
Date: Wed, 21 Oct 2020 23:52:15 +0000

Hi Baybars

HAICA is considered politically independent and a leader in the space, so we think that it fits the bill.

Is there an issue with Poynter reaching out to HAICA directly in order to gain an understanding of their activities and practices? Ultimately, you need to feel comfortable with the organization's orientation vis a vis Poynter's mission.

Best regards,

Erica Thibault

Counselor for Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy Tunis

(b)(6)@state.gov

Cell (b)(6)

Office (b)(6)

I am currently teleworking

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 3:43 PM

To: Thibault, Erica (Tunis)

Cc: (b)(6) Vonda Wolcott; Alan Davis; (b)(6) Ferdi Ozsoy; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis); (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Erica,

Thanks for the response.

I was wondering if you can elaborate a bit more on your feedback regarding HAICA's independency vis-a-vis their constitutional status given our criteria for membership eligibility seeks fact-checking organizations to be independent of any political influence.

I'm sharing the specific two criterions to provide more context

"If the organization receives funding from a local or foreign state or political sources, it provides a statement on its site setting out to the satisfaction of the IFCN, how it ensures its funders do not influence the findings of its reports"

"The applicant is not as an organization affiliated with nor declares or shows support for any party, any politician or political candidate, nor does it advocate for or against any policy positions on any issues save for transparency and accuracy in public debate."

Given your knowledge on HAICA and our requirements, do you think they would be a good fit?
Thanks a lot
Baybars

On Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 6:26 PM Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:
Hi Baybars

I hope that you are doing well. As Gabby noted, HAICA appears to be a great fit. Is there anything specific that you need from Embassy Tunis in order to move forward? If not, what is your current timeline and your planned next steps, knowing that COVID may require adjustments?

Best regards,

Erica Thibault

Counselor for Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy Tunis

(b)(6)@state.gov

Cell (b)(6)

Office (b)(6)

I am currently teleworking

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 6:44 PM

To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis)

Cc: (b)(6) Vonda Wolcott; Alan Davis; (b)(6); Ferdi Ozsoy; Thibault, Erica (Tunis); Fanous, Mary K (Tunis)

Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Gabrielle,

Thanks for sharing those with me.

Hope you have completed your transition smoothly.

Erica and Mary,

I'd be more than happy to jump on a call and discuss about this to know more about their fitness to our program.

Would that be possible to do it next week?

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best-

Baybars

On Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 1:26 PM Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Baybars,

I am transitioning out of post, so I will leave my colleagues Erica and Mary to respond to this officially. I think the HAICA proposal looks promising and that it is worth serious consideration.

(My only issue with the proposal is that they have the Covid timeline in Tunisia wrong.) It appears to dovetail with another project supported by the Embassy / GEC on Counter disinformation and propaganda on the Covid-19 pandemic in Tunisia. Our grantee is the Grande Ecole de la Communication (GEC) which is working with the Tunisian Ministry of Health.

Best regards,

Gabrielle

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 3:21 PM

To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) <(b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov; Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov; Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; Thibault, Erica (Tunis) <(b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) <(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hello again,

Hope this finds you in a good health.

Just wanted to kindly remind my inquiry about your thoughts on HAICA from Tunisia as a potential local partner for our training engagement in the country.

I'm sharing two documents that I've received about the organization (via UNDP) and kindly asking your feedback on their status and eligibility to be a good partner for this project.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 10:35 AM Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:

Hello everyone,

Just wanted to get a quick feedback on [haica.tn](https://tunisiachecknews.com/) and their collaborative initiative <https://tunisiachecknews.com/>

UNDP and Council of Europe seem to be supporting them

I'm aware that HAICA is a constitutional body set up after the revolution and is not a private organization, however, wondering if they are more independent than similar organizations around the world.

Thanks a lot!

Baybars

On Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 12:42 PM Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:

Hi Gabby,

Hope you had a great weekend!

Just wanted to kindly check in since I have not received an invite yet.

I believe we are still confirmed for tomorrow 11am EDT.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 9:25 AM Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) <(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Super!

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 2:22 PM

To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) <(b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov; Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov; Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Thibault, Erica (LEO) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Gabby,
 Sure thing! Please kindly feel free to send an invite with your preferred method of communication.
 Looking forward to it!
 Best-
 Baybars

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 9:16 AM Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:
 Baybars,

That's great. Would it be possible to push the moving back to 11 am Tampa / 4 pm Tunis? That better suits a key person on our side. We can set the meeting up via Teams or Zoom. Let us know your preference and we'll send a link by Monday am our time.

Thanks again,

Gabby

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 2:07 PM

To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Thibault, Erica (LEO) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Yes, that works for me.

Looking forward to it!

Baybas

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 5:53 AM Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Baybars,

Tuesday morning (Eastern time) works well for us too. Are you available around 10 am Tampa / 3 PM Tunis?

Thanks,

Gabby

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

Thibault, Erica (LEO) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Gabby,

Great to hear from you!

Next week would be very ideal for me!

I'm based in Florida, Eastern Time Zone

My Tuesday morning (EDT) seems flexible. I hope that would work for you given the time difference and your schedule.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 12:31 PM Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) [REDACTED]@state.gov> wrote:

Dear Baybars,

It is a pleasure to meet you. Perhaps we can meet next week over Zoom. Please let me know where you are based so that we can work out a date and time. I would like to include out incoming PAO, Erica Thibault, and our new press officer, Mary Fanous in the call.

Best regards,

Gabby

From: Baybars Orsek [REDACTED]@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 3:52 PM

To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) [REDACTED]@state.gov>; [REDACTED]@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott <[REDACTED]@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis [REDACTED]@iwpr.net>; [REDACTED]@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy <[REDACTED]@poynter.org>

Subject: Fwd: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Dear Gabby Price and all,

Hope this email finds you well.

Thanks a lot for this introduction, [REDACTED] Happy to be connected.

Gaby, we are lacking a trainee organization in Tunisia to kick off the trainings. Dogruluk Payi from Turkey will be our regional partner in those trainings, therefore will be providing guidance and support throughout the implementation of the engagement.

We like to hear your thoughts and guidance on identifying a Tunisian newsroom and/or non-profit organization to engage with and train them to be eligible for the International Fact-Checking Network's Code of Principles.

I'll be more than happy to connect with the colleagues at the embassy to seek help in our search for a partner in the country.

Available for a call at your convenience.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]@state.gov>

Date: Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 5:35 PM

Subject: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

To: [REDACTED]@poynter.org <[REDACTED]@poynter.org>

Cc: Vonda Wolcott <[REDACTED]@iwpr.net>, Alan Davis <[REDACTED]@iwpr.net>, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@state.gov>

Baybars,

I hope you are doing well! I'm touching base with you regarding the Tunisia portion of your IFCN program. I understand from your recent amendment that Poynter still seeks a local Tunisian organization with whom to partner.

May you provide our public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis with an update on where things stand regarding Tunisia **by open of business tomorrow (Thursday)**? Her name is Gabby Price and her email is (b)(6)@state.gov. She is already aware that you and IWPR will reach out with an update and to begin coordinating on potential local implementers. The embassy likely can assist you in your search.

Please cc myself, Vonda, Alan, and (b)(6)@state.gov from our Near Eastern Affairs Bureau on your email. I ask with urgency because Gabby is leaving her position within the next several days. She would like to brief her successor on all pending projects to avoid any disconnect or confusion that the transition may cause. It would also be useful for you to mention that you've identified Doğruluk Payı -- the Turkish fact-checking organization -- as the one who will be connected with the Tunisian organization TBD.

Thank you again, and I do hope you and your family are remaining healthy these days.

Kindly,

(b)(6)

Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)@state.gov

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Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

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[@baybarsorsek](#) / [@factchecknet](#)

Sender:	"Thibault, Erica (Tunis)" <(b)(6)>@state.gov>
Recipient:	Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)>@poynter.org>; <(b)(6)>@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)>@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis <(b)(6)>@iwpr.net>; <(b)(6)>@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)>@poynter.org>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) <(b)(6)>@state.gov>; <(b)(6)>@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: "Nakashima, Ellen" (b)(6)@washpost.com>
To: GECPress@state.gov <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Ukraine's information campaign - request to speak with Daniel Kimmage
Date: Tue, 15 Mar 2022 23:35:11 +0000

Hello,

I understand that Ned Price just approved this request.

Can you acknowledge?

Many thanks!

Ellen

From: Nakashima, Ellen
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 4:05 PM
To: 'GECPress@state.gov' <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: Ukraine's information campaign - request to speak with Daniel Kimmage
Importance: High

Hello,

I'm a national security reporter with The Washington Post and have covered information operations, cyber and intelligence issues.

We're working on a story with a quick turnaround (needs to be edited by tomorrow afternoon) that assesses the strengths and potential pitfalls of Ukraine's remarkable information campaign during its war with Russia.

I understand that Daniel Kimmage is researching a related topic at NDU –on Russian and Soviet disinformation, and he's a noted expert on the subject.

Could you arrange for me to speak with him –even on background—so that our readers may have the benefits of his insights –even if not attributed to him by name?

We would be ever so grateful.

Thank you,
Ellen Nakashima

(b)(6)

Sender: "Nakashima, Ellen" (b)(6)@washpost.com>
Recipient: GECPress@state.gov <GECPress@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

FL-2023-00013

A-00000599122

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From:	"Lee, Matthew" (b)(6)@ap.org>
To:	Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	Re: Response to Taken Questions
Date:	Wed, 4 Nov 2020 22:18:37 +0000

Hey there:

I'm sorry. We're so swamped with election stuff I haven't gotten an answer. Can I get back to you tomorrow morning?

Thanks,
Matt

On Nov 4, 2020, at 5:14 PM, Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Matt,

Off the record, realizing there is a lot going on, we wanted to touch base on this. Are you still looking to put something together? If not, let us know and we will begin to look at other options.

Best,

J.T.

From: Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 11:34 AM

To: Lee, Matthew (b)(6)@ap.org>

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

Subject: Re: Response to Taken Questions

Hi Matt,

I hope that you are at least somewhat recovered from the trip. Bumping this up to the top of your email queue.

Best,

J.T.

From: Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 3:35 PM

To: Lee, Matthew (b)(6)@ap.org>

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

Subject: Response to Taken Questions

Hi Matt,

Following up on the conversation last week, below are GEC's responses to the two taken questions.

These responses are provided on deep background.

Q1. How are people getting to these sites? Google? Etc

The majority of users accessing these four sites go to the site directly. For greater context, we have outlined the traffic for each of the four sites below. This data captures traffic for the full month of September from SimilarWeb, a publicly available tool.

Definitions:

Direct traffic occurs when a visitor arrives directly on a website by typing in the website's URL, without having clicked on a link on another site or using a search engine.

Referral traffic describes the people who come to a domain from other sites, without using a search engine.

Search traffic refers to the visitors who arrive at a website by clicking search results leading to that particular website (mostly after searching keywords or phrases).

Social traffic is traffic from social media outlets.

- **NEO:** 79% direct traffic; 8.5% referral traffic (mostly from other alternative media); 7.7% traffic from search; 3.7% social traffic (43.6% from Facebook)
- **Oriental Review:** 55.5% direct traffic; 13.3% referral traffic (83% from news aggregator Inoreader); 21.4% from search traffic; 9.7% social traffic (56% from Twitter)
- **News Front:** 63.9% direct traffic; 13.5% referral traffic (33% from Russian search engine Yandex; other traffic from news aggregators and websites); 5.9% from search traffic; 9.8% social traffic (56.8% VKontakte)
- **Rebel Inside:** Not available on SimilarWeb.

Q2. Are we seeing lots of Spanish speaking audiences targeted from these sites?

News Front is the only one of the four entities we outlined that directly targets Spanish speaking audiences. News Front has a dedicated Spanish-language proxy site and claims that the site's editorial branch is based in Spain. In addition, we see that News Front targets Spanish speaking audiences on the Russian social media platform VKontakte. The page self identifies as being located in Madrid, Spain and has 1,633 followers. News Front's Spanish-language no longer has any pages on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube because they all have been suspended by the platforms.

Happy to discuss any proposal to move something to "on background."

Finally, could you give some idea about when you are looking to publish?

Best,

J.T.

John T. Ice

Deputy Spokesperson

United States Department of State

Office: (b)(6) | Cell: +(b)(6)

✉: (b)(6)@state.gov

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dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

Sender: "Lee, Matthew" (b)(6)@ap.org>
Ice, John T (b)(6)@state.gov>;
Recipient: (h)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: "Atwood, Kylie" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 NEA-Press <NEA-Press@state.gov>;
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>;
 Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Q on Startlink hardware transfer from GEC
Date: Fri, 30 Sep 2022 17:45:58 +0000

Got it- thanks!

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 at 1:44 PM
To: Atwood, Kylie (b)(6)@cnn.com>, NEA-Press <NEA-Press@state.gov>, GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>, Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Q on Startlink hardware transfer from GEC

EXTERNAL SENDER: Caution opening links or attachments

Hi Kylie, I have the following for you, attributable to a State Department spokesperson:

- As a general matter, we don't comment on Congressional correspondence.
- In general, the U.S. Government is committed to helping the Iranian people freely access information via the internet. In furtherance of this commitment, which the Iranian government has consistently denied to its people, last Friday OFAC issued General License (GL) D-2 to expand the scope of authorized exports to Iran of software and services incident to the exchange of communication over the internet.
- We are holding discussions with a wide range of U.S. technology companies on an urgent basis so that they can understand what the General License means and to take their questions, but we're not able to share details of those conversations at this time.

From: Atwood, Kylie (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:39 PM
To: NEA-Press <NEA-Press@state.gov>; GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>; Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Q on Startlink hardware transfer from GEC

Hi –

Two members of congress are urging the State Department to help “facilitate the transfer” of Starlink satellite internet terminals to Iran in order to get internet up and running in the country amid widespread protests and internet shutdowns by the Iranian government.

"We believe the Global Engagement Center within the Department of State can help facilitate the transfer of their terminals to non-governmental organization partners to ensure the Iranian people have the freedom to communicate with each other and share their concerns to the world," wrote Republican Reps Michael Waltz and Maria Salazar in a joint letter to Secretary of State Tony Blinken this week.

Does State have a response to the letter? Is it possible for the GEC to do this?

Thanks!

Sender: "Atwood, Kylie" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

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

NEA-Press <NEA-Press@state.gov>;

Recipient: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>;
Price, Edward C (h)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

FL-2023-00013

A-00000599097

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
 Atwood, Kylie (h)(6)@cnn.com>;
 NEA-Press <NEA-Press@state.gov>;
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>;
 Price, Edward C (h)(6)@state.gov>;
 (h)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Q on Startlink hardware transfer from GEC
Date: Fri, 30 Sep 2022 17:08:17 +0000

Thanks, Kylie, we'll get back to you.

(b)(6)

From: Atwood, Kylie (h)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:40 PM
To: NEA-Press <NEA-Press@state.gov>; GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>; Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Q on Startlink hardware transfer from GEC

Hi –

Two members of congress are urging the State Department to help “facilitate the transfer” of Starlink satellite internet terminals to Iran in order to get internet up and running in the country amid widespread protests and internet shutdowns by the Iranian government.

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Does State have a response to the letter? Is it possible for the GEC to do this?

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Sender: (b)(6)@state.gov>
 Atwood, Kylie (h)(6)@cnn.com>;
 NEA-Press <NEA-Press@state.gov>;
Recipient: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>;
 Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>

FL-2023-00013

A-00000599247

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Public Diplomacy - Poynter IFCN Connection
Date: Tue, 26 Oct 2021 12:44:22 +0000

Thank you for the introduction, (h)(6)

Hi Baybars,

Great to e-connect with you! My colleague (h)(6) and I were discussing with (b)(6) on possible resources/training that may be available for some of our public affairs posts in East Asia Pacific that work with a small press corp. They are particularly interested in ways to connect local journalists with resources that help in fact checking, combating mis/disinformation, and access to other journalist/news networks.

It would be great to hear some of the projects IFCN is working on and if there may be opportunities we can work together to help some of our smaller posts.

Thanks again for your help.

Best,

(b)(6)

Public Diplomacy Country Coordinator for Maritime Southeast Asia
 Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs

(b)(6)@state.gov

I am teleworking and can be reached at (b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 8:29 AM

To: (h)(6)@state.gov>

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

Subject: Re: Public Diplomacy - Poynter IFCN Connection

Dear (b)(6)

Thanks a lot for the introduction and apologies for the late reply. I was buried down with our annual Global Fact conference last week.

Looking forward to hearing more and discussing how we can help.

All the best-

Baybars

On Tue, Oct 19, 2021 at 1:53 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Dear Baybars,

Hoping this finds you well. A few colleagues from our Office of Public Diplomacy within the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP), (b)(6) cc'd, reached out to our team at GEC on an ongoing discussion to coordinate a potential upcoming November engagement within Southeast Asia.

I wanted to connect you two due to IFCN's leading experience in this space generally, but also, I understand Poynter may have supported a Google News Lab training in Singapore in 2018 that received GEC support -- this seems like a natural nexus and if you might be able to provide some insights to my colleagues and their questions I'd be much obliged.

I hope this connection is fortuitous for you all. I'll leave it to my EAP colleagues to take it from here. (b)(6) over to you.

V/r,

(b)(6)

Program Analyst

GEC | DOS | Alutiiq Contractor

Cell: 301.312.1805

(b)(6)@state.gov

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network

@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

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

Recipient: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>
To: Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (h)(6)@state.gov>
 Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>;
 (h)(6)@state.gov>;
CC: (h)(6)N@state.gov>;
 (h)(6)@state.gov>;
 (h)(6)@state.gov>;
 Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (h)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Poynter/IFCN call
Date: Thu, 21 Apr 2022 18:43:11 -0400

Much better on my end! I don't think Baybars will be able to join (our advisory board at Poynter is in town) but I'll be able to sneak away.

Best,
 Alanna

On Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 5:48 PM Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Please let me know if this time works better. Thanks.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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(b)(7)(E) United States, Spokane

Phone Conference ID: (b)(7)(E)

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

--
 Alanna Dvorak

International Training Manager/IFCN

The Poynter Institute

ph: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@poynter.org

www.poynter.org

Sender: Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;
Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
Recipient: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>

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FL-2023-00013

A-00000599115

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From: "Kroeker, Scott" (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>

To: 'Goodman, Leslie N' (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>

CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
Joshua Peller (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Opportunity for Cook Islands News & TV Niue to join the New York Times Content Project

Date: Wed, 16 Dec 2020 01:11:30 +0000

Thanks so much Leslie. Looking forward to their responses.

Scott

Scott Kroeker | Senior Program Officer, Professional Development Program, East-West Center |
(b)(6)

From: Goodman, Leslie N (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:01 PM

To: Kroeker, Scott (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Joshua Peller (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Opportunity for Marshall Islands Journal to join the New York Times Content Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use Caution with Links and Attachments.

I believe they might... adding in our Media Lead (b)(6) who will be our POC on this.

Thank you very much!

Leslie

Leslie Núñez Goodman
Country Public Affairs Officer | U.S. Mission New Zealand
(b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov

@usembassynz
@usembassysamoa

From: Kroeker, Scott (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 8:24 AM

To: Goodman, Leslie N (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Joshua Peller (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

Subject: Opportunity for Marshall Islands Journal to join the New York Times Content Project

Aloha Ms. Goodman:

I hope you are keeping healthy and enjoying this holiday season. I am writing to you as the East-West Center is administering a project for the Department of State which provides licensing agreement to use *New York Times* content in select Pacific Islands newsrooms. The funds are drawn from the GEC Information Access Fund which we are accessing through a sub-award with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. We would like to make this opportunity available to the both the *Cook Islands News* and *Television Niue* if you think that these outlets would be open to the opportunity and a worthy recipients of the license. The year-long license (valued at (b)(4)) would allow those media outlets to republish *New York Times* content (in both English and Mandarin languages) in their hardcopy and online presence (if any).

If you think that Cook Islands News & TV Niue would be appropriate would you be willing to make the first approach to introduce their executives to the idea? (b)(6) our GEC contact at INDOPACOM, prefers that approach instead of the EWC directly reaching out, if you are willing. Myself and our contact at the *New York Times* will follow-up your initial query with practical details.

At the end of this email I've included some boilerplate language used by other embassies to contact media outlets. Feel free to use verbatim or customize to your circumstances.

Thanks very much for your help. Stay safe and happy holidays.

Best regards,
Scott Kroeker

My name is XXXXX and I work with the US Embassy in XXXX it's my pleasure to E-meet you.

I'd like to bring your attention to an opportunity to access content for your publication, the XXXXX.

The U.S. Embassy is offering your news outlet the opportunity to be part of our New York Times English & Mandarin content project. We know that many small and medium size news outlets would like to use content from larger outlets, and, that content in Mandarin for occasional Mandarin language supplements is also helpful.

We are pleased to announce a new project for select news outlets in the Pacific:

- 1) free usage license for New York Times English and Mandarin content for at least one year,
- 2) custom training from the New York Times on their website (so you can most easily access the content you want, and on-going technical support),
- 3) quarterly webinars with prominent international journalists on relevant topics to the Pacific facilitated by the East-West Center, and

4) customized training organized by the East-West Center on specific topics you deem most important to your newsroom.

We hope you will join us in this project! If you are interested, we would like to connect you with Scott Kroeker from the East-West Center, who will be organizing logistics."

Scott Kroeker | Senior Program Officer, Professional Development Program | 808.944.7721

East-West Center

1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96848-1601, USA

EastWestCenter.org

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options

Sender:	"Kroeker, Scott" (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>
	'Goodman, Leslie N' (b)(6)@state.gov>;
	(b)(6)@state.gov>;
	(b)(6)@state.gov>;
Recipient:	Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
	Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
	Joshua Peller (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;
	(b)(6)@state.gov>;
	(b)(6)@state.gov>

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FL-2023-00013

A-00000599203

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From: Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Subject: Re: New Poynter Pac Islands kick off call time?
Date: Tue, 8 Dec 2020 13:01:23 -0500

Great! Thanks! I've resent the calendar invite to 9:30/2:30..Thanks!

On Tue, Dec 8, 2020 at 12:57 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

That's not a problem at all. Thank you, Vonda.

Cheers,

(b)(6)

From: Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>

Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 5:08 AM

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

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Subject: New Poynter Pac Islands kick off call time?

Hi (b)(6)

Baybars just requested if we could move the meeting back to 2:30 or 3 pm today (9:30/10 am your time?). He has a last-minute command performance meeting he must attend at 2 pm our time.

Are you able to adjust to the 9:30 or 10 am time? Let me know.

Thanks!

--

Vonda Wolcott

Sr. Program Manager

Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)

1156 15th Street, NW

Suite 329

Washington, DC 20005

Tel: +1 202 393 5641

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1027201, company reg. no: 2744185); the United States under IRS Section 501(c)(3); and The Netherlands as a charitable foundation.

--

Vonda Wolcott
 Sr. Program Manager
 Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)
 1156 15th Street, NW
 Suite 329
 Washington, DC 20005
 Tel: +1 202 393 5641

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Sender: Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>

Recipient: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FUNDING THROUGH LITIGATION

From:	"Kroeker, Scott" (b)(6) @EastWestCenter.org>
To:	(h)(6) @state.gov>; (h)(6) @state.gov>
CC:	'Joshua Peller' (h)(6) @nytimes.com>; Vonda Wolcott (h)(6) @iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (h)(6) @iwpr.net>; (h)(6) @state.gov>; (h)(6) @state.gov>; (h)(6) @state.gov>
Subject:	RE: Media outlets for New York Times Project
Date:	Thu, 19 Nov 2020 19:10:02 +0000

Aloha (b)(6)

Just following up again on this. Any luck shaking the trees to get the planned outlets on-board with this project? If they aren't responsive or interested I think we've done sufficient diligence over the past 6+ weeks. With the multiple unsuccessful outreaches made by your office, the East-West Center and New York Times, perhaps we should move on to some other options. I've previously provided some other possible outlets to DoS/GEC for consideration and would like to proceed with outreach to them starting next week if you're OK with it. Also happy to hear if you have other outlet suggestions in the countries under your purview beyond the Island Sun in the Solomon Islands I mentioned previously. Let us know.

Best regards,
Scott

Scott Kroeker | Senior Program Officer, Professional Development Program, East-West Center |
(b)(6)

From: (h)(6) @state.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 7:09 AM

To: Kroeker, Scott (h)(6) @EastWestCenter.org>; (b)(6)

(h)(6) @state.gov>

Cc: 'Joshua Peller' (h)(6) @nytimes.com>; Vonda Wolcott (h)(6) @iwpr.net>; Alan Davis

(h)(6) @iwpr.net>; (b)(6) @state.gov>; (h)(6) (Port Moresby)

(h)(6) @state.gov>

Subject: Re: Media outlets for New York Times Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Use Caution with Links and Attachments.

Scott:

Sorry this has been such a struggle.

(b)(6) Would you make another round of outreach to our contacts to see if can get some movement? Perhaps they think it's something they need to pay for? Please reiterate that this is a service we are providing at no cost to them.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: Kroeker, Scott <(b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 12:24 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) Port Moresby
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: 'Joshua Peller' (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis
 (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Media outlets for New York Times Project

Aloha (b)(6)

I wanted to update you on our outreach efforts to media outlets in PNG, Solomons and Vanuatu since it's been a struggle to get people to respond to our offer of New York Times content licenses.

Of the 9 media outlets originally proposed for the project by your Embassy we have been able to bring on-board only 4. These are:

- The Bougainvillean
- EMTV
- Solomon Star
- Vanuatu Daily Post

At least we've gone one in each country. Of the other 5 here are the results of our outreach:

- PNG Loop – Referred us to their parent organization in Fiji who we hoped would sign on but they eventually declined the offer.
- Post Courier – Contact provided, Todagia Kelola, responded that he was no longer in charge of full editorial duties and referred the offer to Managing Director, Kevin Smith and acting Editor and General Manager Frank Genaia. Repeated outreach to both of them has produced no response at all.
- SIBC – Contact provided, Fred Osifelo, responded that he had forwarded the offer to the GM and that he didn't hear back. After repeated efforts, including using personal contacts to find out the correct email address for the GM Ronald Buaoka (all website emails bounce back) we have received no response.
- FM100 & The National – No response at all. I activated East-West Center media alum Belinda Kora from the PNG Media Council--she used to run the newsroom at FM100 and is still very well connected--who tried to get them to respond to no avail.

A similar thing happened with outlets in Fiji and Post was able to identify a couple of other outlets that were ready and willing to take this on board. Since we still have funding for 4 licenses and our funder

the GEC is potentially open to alternatives IF the preferred outlets just don't come on-board do you have any suggestions for different outlets in your 3 countries? How about the Island Sun in Solomons which is run by an EWC media alum Priestly Habru. Or would you prefer to take another stab at squeezing answers out of the original outlet? Let me know.

Thanks
Scott

Scott Kroeker | Senior Program Officer, Professional Development Program | (b)(6)

East-West Center

1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96848-1601, USA
EastWestCenter.org

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Sender: "Kroeker, Scott" (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>

(b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 'Joshua Peller' (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;
Recipient: Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>

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FL-2023-00013

A-00000599113

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From:	Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>
To:	Maria Adelma Montejo (b)(6)@iwpr.net>
CC:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (h)(6)@iwpr.net>; Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>; Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Subject:	Re: M&E for Balkans and Pacific Islands
Date:	Mon, 8 Mar 2021 10:21:25 -0500

Hi Maria,

Thank you for reaching out. @Alanna Dvorak and I have started to work on it and we wanted to complete as much of it as we can before actually asking for clarifications on certain sections of the M&E. We are going to sit down today to take a final look.

We were wondering if it would be easier to just set up a call and ask those questions or emailing the questions would be a better way to answer them? What is your experience approaching this?

If a call is a way to go then can we set up something this week?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best,
Ferdi

On Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 12:15 AM Maria Adelma Montejo (b)(6)@iwpr.net> wrote:
Hi Ferdi,

I would like to follow up if you have submitted the M&E Work Books (Balkans and Pacific Islands) to the GEC. If yes, may I have a copy? If not yet, the IWPR is available if you need support.

Thank you.

Madel

On Thu, Feb 11, 2021 at 2:58 AM Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:
Hi (b)(6)

We will take look at this before our meeting. Thank you for sharing this with us.

Looking forward to our meeting on Tuesday.

Best,

Ferdi

On Wed, Feb 10, 2021 at 11:35 AM (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Hi all,

The workbook template we will review is attached. I recommend the 'Intro' tab as pre-reading before our meeting.

I look forward to talking with you all.

Best,

(b)(6)

M&E Specialist
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
Contractor - Alutiq Information Management, LLC

(b)(6)@state.gov



From: Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 4:39 PM

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

Cc: Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Maria Adelma Montejo (b)(6)@iwpr.net>

Subject: Re: M&E for Balkans and Pacific Islands

I didn't realize, it was Presidents Day. We are free on Tuesday as well.

We will wait for the calendar invite from your end then.

Have a great three day weekend.

Best,
Ferd

On Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 4:35 PM (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Thank you, Ferdi. We actually are not working Monday because it is a federal holiday, but I am free all day Tuesday. Will that work for you?

I will send the M&E Workbook/Performance Monitoring Plan shortly.

Best,

(b)(6)

M&E Specialist
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
Contractor - Alutiiq Information Management, LLC

(b)(6)@state.gov



From: Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 4:04 PM

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

Cc: Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Maria Adelma Montejo (b)(6)@iwpr.net>

Subject: Re: M&E for Balkans and Pacific Islands

Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for reaching out regarding M&E for the Balkans and Pacific Islands. Sorry for the late reply. We were just waiting for some internal updates regarding a meeting with our National Board of Advisors. My colleagues and I were tasked in running a few of the meetings that are set through this Thursday and Friday.

We were wondering if we can set a date early next week. We can for sure move things around for Monday need be.

As for activities for the two regions :

We have made some headway with the Pacific Island Grant. We have identified the local partner that will be partnering up with and they are currently underway preparing the localized materials for the training sessions.

As for the Balkans, we are still at the very beginning. We have identified potential partners and have had our introduction meetings and will more to work off of at the end of this month.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all the support.

Best,

Ferdi

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 2:28 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi! Thank you for reaching out!

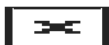
Would next Friday work? I'm free anytime after 11am except 3-4pm EST.

Before we meet, can you tell me where your projects are at and what M&E work you've done so far? Also, are you just looking for a walk through of the M&E Workbook/Performance Monitoring Plan? Is there anything else you'd like to accomplish during our call?

Thanks!

(b)(6)

M&E Specialist
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
Contractor - Alutiiq Information Management, LLC
(b)(6)@state.gov



From: Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 10:51 AM

To: Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>

Cc: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; Maria Adelma Montejo (b)(6)@iwpr.net>

Subject: Re: M&E for Balkans and Pacific Islands

Hi All,

Vonda, thank you for the introductions.

(b)(6), When would be the best time and date for us to set up a call to go over the documents?

The only day that would not work for us is Monday, we will be filming that day for the projects.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Ferdi

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 4:47 PM Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net> wrote:

Hi everyone.

Per our discussion, I wanted to put Poynter folks in touch with (b)(6) the M&E expert from GEC. (b)(6) has kindly offered to walk you through the GEC's new M&E workbook.

This Workbook uses the M&E from your GEC-approved proposals, which I've attached for everyone's convenience.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

--
Vonda Wolcott

Sr. Program Manager

Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)

FL-2023-00013

A-00000599113

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5/25/2023

1156 15th Street, NW

Suite 329

Washington, DC 20005

Tel: +1 202 393 5641

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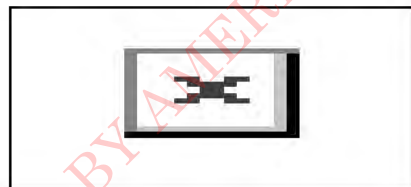
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--

Ferdi Ferhat Özsoy

Program Manager | *International Fact-Checking Network*

[@ferdi_ozsoy](#) | [@factchecknet](#)



FL-2023-00013

A-00000599113

"UNCLASSIFIED"

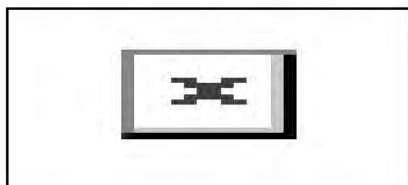
5/25/2023

--

Ferdi Ferhat Özsoy

Program Manager | *International Fact-Checking Network*

[@ferdi_Ozsoy](#) | [@factchecknet](#)

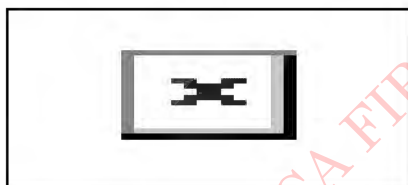


--

Ferdi Ferhat Özsoy

Program Manager | *International Fact-Checking Network*

[@ferdi_Ozsoy](#) | [@factchecknet](#)



SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

--

Ferdi Ferhat Özsoy

Program Manager | *International Fact-Checking Network*

[@ferdi_Ozsoy](#) | [@factchecknet](#)

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--

Maria Adelma Montejo
Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant
Institute for War and Peace Reporting
Email: (b)(6)@iwpr.net
Tel: (b)(6)

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--

Ferdi Ferhat Özsoy
Program Manager | *International Fact-Checking Network*
[@ferdi_ozsoy](#) | [@factchecknet](#)



Sender:	Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>
	Maria Adelma Montejo (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
	(b)(6)@state.gov>;
Recipient:	Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
	Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
	Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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FL-2023-00013

A-00000599275

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5/25/2023

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
 Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Subject: Re: IFCN Nobel Prize Nomination
Date: Thu, 21 Jan 2021 23:09:05 -0500

Thank you, (b)(6)

We are truly excited about this news!

Grateful for the support and hope to keep sharing such good news in the future as well!

All the best

Baybars

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:36 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:
 Adding in leadership — this is fantastic news! Congratulations to IFCN and their global team!
 Best,
 (b)(6)

On January 21, 2021 at 15:22:40 EST, Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net> wrote:

Good afternoon GEC folks:

I wanted to pass on the exciting news that IFCN has been nominated for the Peace Prize. Below is a link to their press release.

<https://www.poynter.org/fact-checking/2021/ifcn-is-heartened-by-a-nobel-peace-prize-nomination-for-the-work-of-the-global-fact-checking-community/>

Congratulations again to them!

Thanks!

--

Vonda Wolcott
 Sr. Program Manager
 Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)
 1156 15th Street, NW

Suite 329
 Washington, DC 20005
 Tel: +1 202 393 5641

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--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
 @baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

Sender:	Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Lara Jakes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Subject: Re: Hi (b)(6)
Date: Fri, 12 Mar 2021 13:10:44 +0000

Working propaganda and disinfo issues related to China, it is a great team working on interesting issues, totally enjoying it.

Mark Cameron (b)(6)@state.gov) is the spokesperson for SCA these days and Stephanie Newman is the deputy (b)(6)@state.gov) I am sure one of them can help out.

Take care,

(b)(6)

From: Lara Jakes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:03 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Hi (b)(6)

Adorbs! you adopted 2? twice the cuteness.....

sorry you're not doing Afgh anymore. What are you working on in the GEC? do you like it?

and who is doing Afgh press these days?

all the best

Lara Jakes | Diplomatic Correspondent
 Washington Bureau | The New York Times
 Mobile/Signal/WhatsApp: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)@nytimes.com | @jakesNYT

On Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 1:09 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:
 Alas not working Afghanistan these days. My FSO ways keep me moving about. I am currently working Chinese propaganda and disinformation in the Global Engagement Center.
 To brighten your day here are some gratuitously cute puppy photos.



From: Lara Jakes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 12:34 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Hi (b)(6)

Hi, thanks for circling back -- and congrats on the puppy! Exciting. Would love to see pix!

I got what I needed, thanks, although wanted to make sure -- you're still doing Afgh policy right/ If so, we shld probably chat given that things are heating up...

cheers

Lara Jakes | Diplomatic Correspondent
Washington Bureau | The New York Times
Mobile/Signal/WhatsApp: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@nytimes.com | @jakesNYT

On Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 12:30 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Lara-

Sorry I was offline yesterday (we got a new puppy and that was quite consuming!). Playing catchup today.

Let me know if you still want to connect or if you were able to get what you needed.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Lara Jakes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 1:08 PM

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

Subject: Hi (b)(6)

Got a sec to chat today? Thanks --

Lara Jakes | Diplomatic Correspondent
Washington Bureau | The New York Times

o: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@nytimes.com | @jakesNYT

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

Recipient: Lara Jakes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

53

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

54

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From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
To: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?
Date: Thu, 23 Jun 2022 20:31:21 +0000

Thanks, Amanda. Let me chat internally with colleagues and get back to you on the format plus some options for next week to speak with our Russia Director. I hope to get back to you by EOD tomorrow.

All the best,

(b)(6)

From: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 3:16 PM
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

Great. I think it would be wonderful if we could have an off the record conversation, to be candid, and perhaps have a portion of the conversation on the record or on background. Let me know what you think.

On Jun 23, 2022, at 1:56 PM, GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov> wrote:

[EXTERNAL]

That is doable! I will coordinate with my colleagues and share some options with you to decide. Would this conversation be on deep background, OTR, do you need quotes, etc? Want to also square away logistics internally as well.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 1:32 PM
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: RE: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi, (b)(6) -

So great to hear from you. I'd love to set up a time next week, if possible?

Thank you,

Amanda

Amanda Seitz
Newsperson
The Associated Press

(b)(6)@ap.org

(b)(6)

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Seitz, Amanda <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

[EXTERNAL]

Thanks (b)(6) Moving you to bcc.

Hi Amanda -- happy to assist you with this. Let me connect with my team and see if we can schedule a chat in the coming days. Kindly let me know what your timeline is in the meantime.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 12:46 PM
To: Seitz, Amanda <(b)(6)@ap.org>; GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi Amanda,

Adding GEC Press to help you with this inquiry

From: Seitz, Amanda <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 12:17 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi, Megan –

I am working on a story looking at how Russian propaganda and disinformation around the Ukraine war is thriving in eastern European countries like Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovakia, etc. I was hoping to touch base with someone at the GEC to talk a little bit about the efforts there to combat this, and which countries GEC might be most concerned about. Would love to chat with someone on this, and I also haven't really had the chance to introduce myself to the folks now leading the GEC since the administration change. Do you know who I could connect with on this?

Thanks,

Amanda Seitz
Newsperson

The Associated Press

(b)(6)@ap.org

(b)(6)

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Sender: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Recipient: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org

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5/25/2023

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
To: Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
CC: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Foreign misinformation about elections
Date: Fri, 7 Oct 2022 19:55:25 +0000

Good afternoon Steven,

Thanks for reaching out to us.

Could you please share some more detail on the topic(s) you would like to discuss? Also, what kind of a deadline are you looking at?

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer
 Global Engagement Center
 U.S. Department of State
 All Native Group Contractor



From: Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 2:43 PM
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: Foreign misinformation about elections

Hello,

Following up on our last conversation, I was hoping to speak about foreign influence operations following the recent takedown by Facebook and this AP story.

<https://hosted.ap.org/thetimes-tribune/article/ea913f2b3b818651a9db1327adaa330a/us-warns-about-foreign-efforts-sway-american-voters>.

Would it be possible to set something up?

Many thanks

Steven Lee Myers
 The New York Times
 Twitter: @stevenleemyers
 Facebook: StevenLeeMyersNYT
 What'sApp and Signal, (b)(6)

Sender: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Recipient: Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;
 GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

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5/25/2023

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
To: Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
 (h)(6)@state.gov>;
CC: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Foreign disinformation operations
Date: Fri, 2 Dec 2022 19:26:40 +0000

Hi Steven,

Flagging your schedule next week to our Senior Advisor (b)(6)

She's been in and out of the office this past week and will be in touch with you soon.

Thanks,

(h)(6)

From: Steven Lee Myers (h)(6)@nytimes.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 5:48 PM

To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Foreign disinformation operations

Thank you.

I will arrive in DC on Monday evening and be through Friday. I have appointments on Tuesday evening, Wednesday at 2 and Friday morning, but otherwise free at the moment.

Best

Steve

The New York Times

Twitter: @stevenleemyers

Facebook: StevenLeeMyersNYT

What'sApp and Signal, (h)(6)

On Wed, Nov 30, 2022 at 8:57 AM GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Steven,

We haven't forgotten about you. There is currently much activity and we are looking for the right way to move forward.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 4:57 PM

To: Steven Lee Myers (h)(6)@nytimes.com>

Cc: (h)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Foreign disinformation operations

Hi Steven,

Apologies for the late reply as we were swamped after the Thanksgiving holiday.

We will circle back to you tomorrow with a response and appreciate your patience.

Thanks!

(b)(6)

From: Steven Lee Myers <(b)(6)@nytimes.com>

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 12:13 PM

To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

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

Subject: Foreign disinformation operations

Hello again,

I'm am reaching out in hopes of setting up an interview with the Global Engagement Center -- in person. I will be in Washington next week and thought I'd see it it would be possible to sit down (post midterms) to talk a bit about what we've been seeing from Russia and China, among others.

Many thanks

Steve

The New York Times

Twitter: @stevenleemyers

Facebook: StevenLeeMyersNYT

What'sApp and Signal, +(b)(6)

Sender: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;

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

Recipient: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>

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5/25/2023

From: "Fanous, Mary K (Tunis)" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Connecting - Poynter/IFCN and U.S. Embassy Tunis
Date: Tue, 19 Apr 2022 20:50:24 +0000

Apologies for the delay Alanna. I'm trying to coordinate a call on Friday morning. If you are available, I will circle back with the proposed time. Thanks.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 9:41:23 PM
To: Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) Tunis (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Connecting - Poynter/IFCN and U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi all,

Just following up on this to see if we can get a call scheduled.

Best,

Alanna

On Sat, Apr 9, 2022 at 3:48 AM Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Alanna

Thanks for getting back to us so quickly. Mary Fanous who leads our press efforts will work with you on a time next week for a call.

Best regards,

Erica Thibault

Counselor for Public Affairs

US Embassy Tunis

(b)(6)@state.gov

From: Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 7:33 PM

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

Cc: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Connecting - Poynter/IFCN and U.S. Embassy Tunis

Thanks for the connection, (b)(6)

Yes, we do think supplemental mentorship could help both those organizations. What has been helpful is both Fatabyyano's desire to help them cross the finish line and the fact that both organizations are highly motivated and really want to be both effective fact-check units and signatories.

I'd love to hop on a call next week to discuss potential next steps, if that's something you all are amenable to?

Best,
Alanna

On Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 7:36 AM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Baybars and Alanna,

I oversaw the *Empowering Fact-Checking in the Global South* sub-award from the State Department's Global Engagement Center, working through IWPR. I re-read your final report and the Tunisia portions had some fantastic findings.

I'm connecting you directly with Erica Thibault, the Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, to explore what additional mentorship through Poynter/IFCN might look like in Tunisia. Also cc'd is (b)(6) from the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of Press and Public Diplomacy. The report had recommended that the two organizations in Tunisia – Les Grandes Ecoles de la Communication and Business News/BN Check – would benefit from additional mentorship to absorb the fact-checking skills.

Erica and (b)(6) – Baybars Örsek is the director of international programming at the Poynter Institute and director of the International Fact-Checking Network. Alanna Dvorak is Poynter's International Training Manager.

Please feel free to keep me cc'd but I'm glad to be connecting you all.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Foreign Affairs Officer

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)@state.gov

--
Alanna Dvorak
International Training Manager/IFCN
The Poynter Institute
ph: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@poynter.org
www.poynter.org

--
Alanna Dvorak
International Training Manager/IFCN
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ph: (b)(6)
(b)(6)@poynter.org
www.poynter.org

Sender: "Fanous, Mary K (Tunis)" (b)(6)@state.gov>
Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
Recipient: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>

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From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC: Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Concerns about Thailand Grant
Date: Thu, 4 Mar 2021 22:19:20 -0500

Hi (b)(6)

Hope this email finds you well.

Just wanted to provide you with a quick update on our plans in Thailand.

The embassy is connecting us with CoFact, a new fact-checking initiative in Thailand, inspired by Taiwanese CoFacts.

It's a great match since we know CoFacts of Taiwan very well, including spending time with its founder Lee Bi-Ling, aka Billion, at Poynter for a few weeks during her National Committee on U.S.-China Relations - Professional Fellows Program visit to the United States.

I also had a chance to meet with her team members in Taiwan during a workshop in late 2019 (pre-COVID world!) and really impressed by their efforts.

Our plan with CoFact (Thailand) is to do a public-facing event on the International Fact-Checking Day on April 2nd and provide our 8 hours long self-directed and self-paced training afterward. Our training material will be sent to Thai translators after we have our first meeting with CoFact next week (she is on a leave this week) and confirm the scope of the training based on their team's background and experience.

The goal is to complete the localization and translation of the training material by the end of this month and release the material to them so their team can complete them in 2-3 weeks. Once the self-directed course will be completed by them, we will organize one or two live webinars with them to provide more guidance and tips to apply to IFCN's Code of Principles.

I'll share more in the next few weeks as the program moves forward.

All the best-

Baybars

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 12:52 PM Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:
Absolutely!

Actually, he must have received that update yesterday but I can see that the communication takes longer given the time difference between us and him in Bangkok.

We will share our updates with him and his team with you.

Have a great weekend!

Baybars

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 12:45 PM (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Baybars, Ferdi,

Thank you so much for the quick response.

Can you please share that update with (b)(6) in Bangkok and reassure him that you are confident things will be executed on time since he reached out with concerns?

Thank you!

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 12:41 PM

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

Cc: Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)

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

Subject: Re: Concerns about Thailand Grant

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for checking in.

As of today, the DS1909 form has been sent to our VP of Finance and Business for her signature and will be sent back to the Embassy in Bangkok for execution.

That will officially extend the project to July 31st of this year.

The course material has been prepared and currently it's currently in the translation process.

The materials will be shared with the embassy for confirmation and they can be delivered as early as the first week of March.

Thank you for your understanding and happy to have a call to discuss if you have any questions.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 12:34 PM (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Ferdi, Baybars,

I want to reach out to see if we could resolve some concerns that have been raised over the Thailand project. I know you have been swamped but post is concerned it is falling behind planned timelines and has voiced concern that it has been hard to keep thing moving. Would you have a moment to touch base so we can make sure things stay on track?

Best, (b)(6)

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

Sender: Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>
 (h)(6)@state.gov>;
 Ferdi Ozsoy (h)(6)@poynter.org>;

Recipient: (h)(6)@state.gov>;
 (h)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: (b)(6)
 Feist, Sam (b)(6)@cnn.com>;
To: (b)(6)
 AfghanistanLogisticsTF@groups.state.gov
 <AfghanistanLogisticsTF@groups.state.gov>
CC: Norgaard, Kim (b)(6)@warnermedia.com>;
 (b)(6)
Subject: RE: CNN team heading to airport
Date: Tue, 17 Aug 2021 12:23:53 +0000

And AFGH Logistics Task Force re movement at airport.

From: Feist, Sam (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 7:35 AM
To: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Cc: Norgaard, Kim (b)(6)@warnermedia.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: CNN team heading to airport

Hi (b)(6) We have two cnn staffers that are likely to make it inside the airport shortly. If a US plane does take out journalists from US news organizations, We are hoping these two can join. They are both UK nationals but work for CNN. Names are below. And incidentally, (b)(6) Kim Norgaard says hello!

Thanks again.

Sam

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Norgaard, Kim" (b)(6)@warnermedia.com>
Date: August 17, 2021 at 7:22:10 AM EDT
To: "Feist, Sam" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Subject: CNN team heading to airport

(b)(6)

Sender: (b)(6)

Feist, Sam (b)(6)@cnn.com>;

(b)(6)

AfghanistanLogisticsTF@groups.state.gov

Recipient: <AfghanistanLogisticsTF@groups.state.gov>;

Norgaard, Kim (b)(6)@warnermedia.com>;

(b)(6)

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FL-2023-00013

A-00000599151

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From: "Alvarez, Priscilla" <(b)(6)>@cnn.com>
To: (b)(6)>@state.gov>
CC: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>;
 (b)(6)>@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads
Date: Fri, 2 Apr 2021 18:27:24 +0000

Thanks so much.

From: (b)(6)>@state.gov>
Date: Friday, April 2, 2021 at 2:27 PM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" <(b)(6)>@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (b)(6)>@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

On Background, attributable to a State Department Spokesperson: The US government is paying for these radio ads I shared with you through contracted vendors. I confirm the numbers I supplied to you in my prior response are the most up to date.

Regards,

(b)(6)

Press Officer
 Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: (b)(6)>@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 11:40 AM
To: Alvarez, Priscilla <(b)(6)>@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)>@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: Working right now to get answers to you soonest. Will get back to you asap.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer
 Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla <(b)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 10:07 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi (b)(6)

Happy Friday. I just wanted to quickly clarify: The ads are paid for by the US government, is that right?

Also, have any of the numbers below changed?

Thanks,

Priscilla

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 at 4:11 PM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: I've supplied all the information and ads I have on file. I recommend looking at the Facebook and Instagram accounts of our U.S. embassies and consulates overseas for further content.

Regards,

(b)(6)
Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla <(b)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 4:07 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Thanks, (b)(6) This is helpful. Right now, I only have the Spanish-language ad in Guatemala to point to. Would it be possible to get one more example to show the different messages?

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 at 3:54 PM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

I can supply the following information below. This is all the information I have at this time:

On Background, attributable to a State Department Spokesperson:

- We have long leveraged targeted messages in the region on migration, but we have ramped up the scope of messaging since January 20 when this Administration took office.
- We are using digital, video, and radio messages in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to provide potential migrants with factual information about the ongoing closure of the border to counteract the lies and disinformation spread by coyotes and traffickers.
- Our messages also focus on generating hope for those considering migrating that they can build a better life in their home countries as in the U.S., as partner governments, NGOs, international organizations and the private sector are working to improve governance, economic prosperity, and security in the region.
- We utilize multiple social media platforms to communicate these messages, taking into account the multiple streams of information used to find factual information about migration. All digital ads are compatible with mobile devices, as data shows mobile is the dominant source of media consumption in the region
- We use the same means to share with audiences in those four countries the U.S. commitment and actions to generate economic opportunities, improve economic well-being, and combat corruption.
- Radio ad scripts are derived from real-life testimonials.
- Since January 2021, we have run an estimated 28K radio ads in Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in Spanish, Portuguese, and six indigenous languages. The current Central America radio campaign includes nationwide coverage in all regions, including both urban hubs and targeted rural areas where migrants are more likely to come from.
- These ads played on 133 radio stations, reaching at least 7 million Central American radio listeners and potentially as many as 22.8 million listeners each month. From October 2019 to December 2020, we ran an estimated 7,500 radio ads per month on 30 radio stations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Radio impressions data is pulled from listenership estimates, meaning the potential reach numbers indicated are likely significantly lower than the actual number of listeners reached.
- The Department takes a data-informed approach to deploying digital and traditional modes of advertising. We use message testing and audience research to make content more engaging and persuasive to target audiences, including potential irregular

migrants. This data-driven approach allows the Department to communicate in complex information environments overseas to reach target audiences with credible, resonant messages, on platforms they use, and at times these audiences are most engaged.

Regards,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 3:33 PM

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

Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi all,

I'm working on a follow up on the LatAm digital/ radio ads and was wondering if there were more you could share as examples of the messages the US is sending.

I'd also love to connect with someone about the effort overall. How many ads are running? And what other messaging initiatives have been launched?

Feel free to also reach me at (b)(6)

Thanks so much,

Priscilla

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

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 2:28 PM

To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Below is my updated response.

Off the record: We have run targeted messaging on migration for a long time. It's a continued process of writing, production, and implementation. The content of the ads I provided to you were developed and implemented during this administration. That's all the information I could find.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: Correction, let me confirm what I just sent you in my last email. I'll get back to you soon.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:22 PM
To: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: Apologies for the confusion. The ads I provided to you were developed and implemented during this administration, but for a long time we have run targeted messaging on migration.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla [(b)(6)]@cnn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:15 PM
To: [(b)(6)]@state.gov>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; [(b)(6)]@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

What do you mean by a true shift? I'm at [(b)(6)] if it's easier to discuss on the phone.

I'm confirming that the sample ads you shared started to run during the Biden administration, specifically, not prior.

From: [(b)(6)]@state.gov>
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 11:12 AM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" [(b)(6)]@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, [(b)(6)]@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: We have long implemented targeted messages in the region, but have seen a true shift in the scope of messaging in the last six weeks.

Regards,

[(b)(6)]

Press Officer
 Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla [(b)(6)]@cnn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:06 PM
To: [(b)(6)]@state.gov>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>; [(b)(6)]@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Got it. And when did they start running? Just making sure it's been during this administration.

From: [(b)(6)]@state.gov>
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 10:59 AM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" [(b)(6)]@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>, [(b)(6)]@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the Record: Yes, these radio ads in Guatemala are still running. We have localized ads running across the Northern Triangle. As a sample, we wanted to share what we're doing in Guatemala in terms of migration messaging and ad campaigns.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 10:17 AM

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

Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Understood. And just to confirm, these ads are still running, is that right?

Are ads only in Guatemala right now? Or others running in Honduras and El Salvador?

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

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:21 AM

To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Yes, go ahead. Apologies for the confusion. Only the contents of my email message are off the record.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 7:23 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi (b)(6)

Can we use the Spanish ad? Given your note off the record below, wanted to confirm.

Thanks,

Priscilla

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Date: Monday, March 22, 2021 at 5:59 PM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hello Priscilla,

Off the record: My name is (b)(6) and I'm a press officer at the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. I wanted to follow up on an inquiry you submitted to my colleague (b)(6). See your initial email below for reference.

Off the record: To clarify, we use Facebook and Instagram's advertising platform as a service. Attached are samples of radio ads we have run in Guatemala in Spanish and two indigenous languages (Kakchiquel and Tzutujil). Facebook/Instagram promoted content are posted publicly on each respective Embassy's Facebook page.

Regards,

(b)(6)
Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

Your Initial Email:

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 5:36 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hello,

I'm an immigration reporter at CNN. I'm reaching out regarding the digital and radio ads released in Latin America to discourage migration to the US southern border.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the US, via the State Department, had placed approximately 17,118 radio ads in Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras since January 21 in Spanish, Portuguese and six indigenous languages. She also said the State Department worked with Facebook and Instagram on an advertising campaign.

Can you share examples of those ads?

I can also be reached at (b)(6)

Thank you,

Priscilla

Sender: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
Recipient: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>

FL-2023-00013

A-00000599172

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Alanna Dvorak <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: BN Check Contacts to Share with Africa Check for Tentative GEC Award
Date: Mon, 3 Oct 2022 16:57:03 +0000

Good afternoon,

Received with thanks for your prompt response! We will pass these along to the Africa Check team.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Grants Management Officer
 China Division, Global Engagement Center
 U.S. Department of State
 Office: +(b)(6)
 Mobile: (b)(6)



From: Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 12:42 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: BN Check Contacts to Share with Africa Check for Tentative GEC Award

The two points of contacts we had were:

Aloui Rabe: (b)(6)@gmail.com
 Ikhlas Latif: (b)(6)@businessnews.com.tn

On Mon, Oct 3, 2022 at 12:11 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:
 Good afternoon Alanna,

Just following up on this! We have signed the award mentioned in the below, and are eager to connect the team at Africa Check to the BN Check contacts as soon as possible. Could you please share them?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Grants Management Officer

China Division, Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

Office: +(b)(6)

Mobile:



From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:09 PM

To: (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org

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

Subject: BN Check Contacts to Share with Africa Check for Tentative GEC Award

Good afternoon Alanna,

The China Division of the Global Engagement Center is currently in the final stages of pre-award negotiation with tentative implementer, Africa Check, for an FY22 award. I understand from (b)(6) cc'd, that you spoke with Africa Check over the summer about the inclusion of Tunisian organizations in their proposed program.

Could you please provide the relevant contacts at BN Check for us to pass along to Africa Check?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Grants Management Officer

China Division, Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

Office: +(b)(6)

Mobile:



~~-SBU - DELIBERATIVE PROCESS-~~

--

Alanna Dvorak

International Training Manager/IFCN

The Poynter Institute

ph: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@poynter.org
www.poynter.org

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

Recipient: Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>

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FL-2023-00013

A-00000599155

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From: "Bajak, Frank" <(b)(6)@ap.org>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: AP calling - Russian vaccine disinfo campaign/
Date: Wed, 26 May 2021 21:06:20 +0000

(b)(6)

Using passive DNS, we've determined that Fazze.com and Adnow.com share some internet infrastructure.

And both have listed the same London address as their headquarters. Most of Adnow's employees are in Russia, according to LinkedIn. But who owns the company?

Best,
 -fb

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 10:12 AM
To: Bajak, Frank <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: Re: AP calling - Russian vaccine disinfo campaign/

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Frank,

Thanks for your note.

I've reached out to our Russia Team. I'll see what I can dig up for you.

(b)(6)

From: Bajak, Frank <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 5:51 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: AP calling - Russian vaccine disinfo campaign/

Hi (b)(6)

I wonder if the GEC can discuss with us the apparent Russian connections here:

<https://apnews.com/article/europe-social-media-coronavirus-pandemic-business-coronavirus-vaccine-c4ce42244be08d7d73a412dd42e36360>

We did not include them in our reporting yet _ we're still working on it. But we're seeing apparent Russian hosting of fazze.com (which is now offline) and interesting LinkedIn connections between adnow.com and fazze employees. Is this an SVR front, one wonders?

Seems like there may be considerably more to Russia's effort to try to discredit Pfizer and other Western vaccines than what this WSJ piece referenced <https://www.wsj.com/articles/russian-disinformation-campaign-aims-to-undermine-confidence-in-pfizer-other-covid-19-vaccines-u-s-officials-say-11615129200>

Many thanks,
-fb

Frank Bajak, Cybersecurity/Investigations

Twitter: @fbajak – secure email: (b)(6)@protonmail.ch - Boston, U.S.A.

Cel. (b)(6) (Signal) Landline : +(b)(6)

PGP/encrypted chat: http://(b)(6) Fingerprint: (b)(6)

Wickr, WhatsApp – XMPP: (b)(6)



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Sender: "Bajak, Frank" (b)(6)@ap.org>
Recipient: (b)(6)@state.gov>

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FL-2023-00013

A-00000599117

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/25/2023

From: (b)(6)
 Grynkewich, Alexis G Maj Gen USAF CENTCOM CCJ3 (USA)
 (b)(6)

To: Kimmage, Daniel (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>;
 Parode, Steven L CTR (USA)(b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>;
 (b)(6)@umd.edu (b)(6)@umd.edu>;
 (b)(6)@lexsg.com (b)(6)@lexsg.com>;
 (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>

CC: (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>;
 (b)(6)

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal and Coordination

Date: Fri, 26 Mar 2021 16:53:39 +0000

Joe,

Please forgive my tardy response.

I can do 1600ET on the 5th, 8th and 9th, as well and available 0900 and any day that week except Tuesday.

You have my bio. My salient contact info is in my signature block below.

Looking forward, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Director, Strategic Multilayer Assessment
 Joint Staff DDGO (J39)
 Pentagon, Washington, DC (1D557)

(b)(6)

"Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant, to step the Ocean, and crush us at a blow? Never! -- All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, ...could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years. At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."

- Abraham Lincoln, age 28

From: Grynkewich, Alexis G Maj Gen USAF CENTCOM CCI3 (USA) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:21 PM
To: Kimmage, Daniel (b)(6)@state.gov>; Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>;
 Parode, Steven L CTR (USA) (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>; (b)(6)@umd.edu; (b)(6)@lexsg.com; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com
Cc: (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal and
 Coordination

Joe—

I can do 1600 on 5 Apr.

Please pull my bio and picture from af.mil. A quick google should get you there but let me or
 (b)(6) cc'd, know if you need a specific link.

Thanks!
 V/r
 Grynch

From: "Kimmage, Daniel" (b)(6)@state.gov>
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 10:49:41 AM
To: "Nakashima, Ellen" (b)(6)@washpost.com>, "Parode, Steven L CTR (USA)"
 (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>, (b)(6)@umd.edu" (b)(6)@umd.edu>, (b)(6)@lexsg.com"
 (b)(6)@lexsg.com>, (b)(6)
 "Grynkewich, Alexis G Maj Gen USAF CENTCOM CCI3 (USA)"
 (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com"
 (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>
Cc: (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu" (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal
 and Coordination

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender,
 and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and
 pasting the address to a Web browser.

Joe,

I can make either of those dates and times (1600 on April 5; 0900 on April 9) work, too. Best, Daniel

From: Nakashima, Ellen <(b)(6)@washpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Steve Parode <(b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>; (b)(6)@umd.edu; (b)(6)@lexsg.com; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com
Cc: (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal and Coordination

Hi, Joe,

Working with Steve's availability, I'm free at 1600 on 5 Apr; 1600 on 6 Apr; and 0900 on 9 Apr.

Thanks and bests,
 Ellen

Washington Post
 (b)(6)

From: Steve Parode <(b)(6)@arl.psu.edu < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@arl.psu.edu > >
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:21 AM
To: (b)(6)@umd.edu < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@umd.edu > (b)(6)@lexsg.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@lexsg.com > ; (b)(6)@state.gov < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov > ; (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@newsguardtech.com > ; Nakashima, Ellen <(b)(6)@washpost.com < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@washpost.com > >
Cc: (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu >
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal and Coordination

Joe,

Good morning. WRT rehearsal availability: 1600 on 5 Apr; Both options 6 Apr; Unavail 7-8 Apr; 0900 on 9 Apr.

Bio and headshot coming as requested via SEPCOR. For rehearsal, I will use the same endpoint equipment that I will have for the event. However, since I will be in Newport for the event, I am afraid that we must place trust in Cox to deliver a broadband service on par with the Verizon service I will use for rehearsal. It should be fine, right? Right?

Warm regards,
 Steve

Steve Parode

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Engineering Program Manager
The Applied Research Laboratory of
Pennsylvania State University
(b)(6) nonsecure/landline/voicemail)

From: Joseph Michael Kelly (b)(6)@umd.edu <Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@umd.edu > >

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 10:58 PM

To: Barton Brown (b)(6)@lexsg.com <Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@lexsg.com > >; (b)(6)
(b)(6) >; Steve Parode

(b)(6)@arl.psu.edu <Caution-

mailto:(b)(6)@arl.psu.edu > >; (b)(6) <Caution-

mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov <Caution-

mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov > >; Gordon Crovitz (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com <Caution-

mailto:(b)(6)@newsguardtech.com > >; (b)(6)@washpost.com <Caution-

mailto:(b)(6)@washpost.com >

Cc: Angie Mallory (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu <Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu > >

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal and Coordination

Panel Members

Thank you again for joining us at the Phoenix Challenge conference on April 13th. Your panel will run from **1030-1215 EDT** – please mark your calendars accordingly.

You are on Panel 1: Information Effects in Strategic Competition and **your panel shepherd** to guide you through the rehearsal is **Boyd Brown**. He will follow up with you on matters in this email.

In order to check comms prior and ensure a smooth panel, we must schedule a **rehearsal the week of April 5th at either 0900 or 1600ET. Please reply with your availability ASAP.** To the extent possible, please arrange to participate in the rehearsal from the same location and computer that you will use on April 13th. This will allow us to identify and plan for any technical issues.

In order for us to adhere to our event compliance and provide pertinent information to attendees, we ask that all speakers provide the following information. As the event is fast approaching, if each of you could **provide these to me (and Angie Mallory copied) as soon as possible**, it would be greatly appreciated.

1. Short bio and a head shot. If you would like us to pull these from LinkedIn or another website, just let us know.
2. Emergency contact information (cell phone, office phone & email) for the day of the event to allow instant contact in case of tech issues.
3. We have your names, titles, and institutions listed below – please send us back any corrections.

- a. MODERATOR: (b)(6) Director, Strategic Multilayer Assessment, Joint Staff J3
- b. RADM Steve Parode, USN (Ret), Penn State University Applied Research Lab
- c. Maj Gen Alexis Grynkeiwich, USAF, Director of Operations (J3), USCENTCOM
- d. Mr. Daniel Kimmage, Acting Coordinator, Global Engagement Center, Department of State
- e. Mr. Gordon Crovitz, Co-Founder & Co-CEO, Newsguard
- f. Ms. Ellen Nakashima, National Security Reporter, The Washington Post

Please find attached the updated agenda and note that it includes a change in format. We will not be holding breakout sessions with attendees as it will interfere with effective presentations by you our panelists. That means we will need you to participate for the full scheduled panel time.

We will be recording the event but conducting it under Chatham House rules of non-attribution and the recording will only be made available to registered attendees. Please keep an eye out for a speaker release form that will be coming separately.

Thank you again for your support to the information operations community!

On behalf of ARLIS and the IPA,

Joe

Joseph M. Kelly
 Professor of Practice
 Interim Director of Computational Infrastructure
 UMD Applied Research Lab for Intelligence and Security
 (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu < Caution-mailto:(b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu >
 Mobile: (b)(6)

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	(b)(6)
	Kimmage, Daniel (b)(6)@state.gov>;
	Nakashima, Ellen (b)(6)@washpost.com>;
	Parode, Steven L CTR (USA) (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>;
Recipient:	(b)(6)@umd.edu (b)(6)@umd.edu>;
	(b)(6)@lexsg.com (b)(6)@lexsg.com>;
	(b)(6)@newsguardtech.com (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>;
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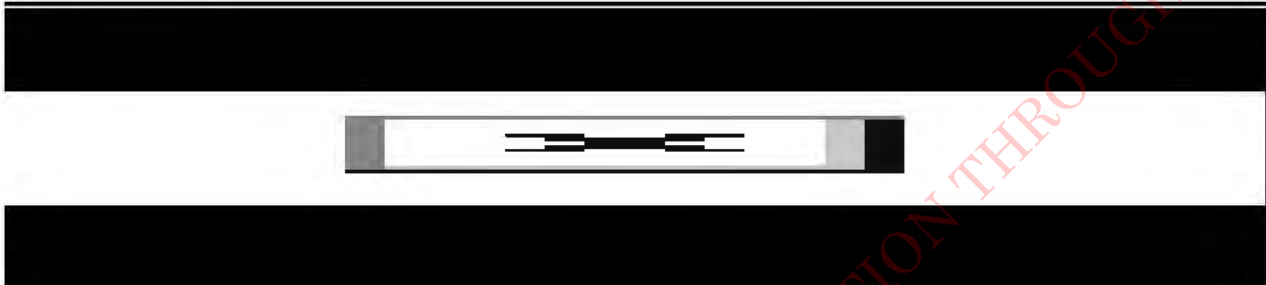
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From: (b)(6)@dfat.gov.au>
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To: (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 (b)(6)@iwpr.net (b)(6)@iwpr.net>
CC: (b)(6)@dfat.gov.au>;
 (b)(6)@dfat.gov.au>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Next steps - DFAT funding extension of Poynter program [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thu, 29 Jul 2021 00:01:25 +0000

OFFICIAL

Hi All,

Thank you for your time this morning. It was wonderful to e-meet you all, and great to hear how the Poynter program is progressing.

As discussed we are keen to understand what the costs would be to extend the existing program for an additional 12 months, and to add a business model sustainability component as well.

I will send a calendar invite shortly for another catch up in a few weeks. Please share this invitation with your respective colleagues, including at ABC and RMIT. We will also invite our colleagues who run the PACMAS program to participate.

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

Policy Officer

Disinformation Policy and Resilience Section

Counter Disinformation Branch

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Phone: (b)(6)

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

www.dfat.gov.au

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From:	"Kroeker, Scott" (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>
To:	Ueretan Bauro (b)(6)@bpa.org.ki>
CC:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Joshua Peller (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Subject:	New York Times licensing project
Date:	Thu, 5 Aug 2021 00:47:46 +0000

Mauri Bauro:

I hope you are doing well and I am happy to see that Kiribati has still remained free of Covid throughout the pandemic.

I am reaching out about the New York Times licensing project that the East-West Center is managing for the U.S. Department of State, in partnership with the Institute for War & Peace Reporting. After Joshua at the New York Times onboarded Uekera and provided you with all the information you needed to access and use the content, I have not heard from you. I've reached out a number of times asking about your experience with the project, if you need any more help to take full advantage of the opportunity, and if you are using content from The Times in your publication. Since I haven't heard back I'm reaching out one last time.

Your current licensing agreement expires on November 30, 2021 and the Department of State is currently considering a short-term extension of licenses (through the end of December 2021) in order to fully evaluate whether they want to continue with the project beyond that time. In order for Uekera to be eligible for the immediately short-term extension can you please respond to this email by close of business Friday August 6th. Please let us know if you are currently using The New York Times content in your publication and indicate your understanding that in order to be considered for a longer-term extension you are required to provide monthly reports to the East-West Center about your usage. If I do not hear back from you by the deadline I will have to assume that you are not interested in continuing with the project or that you did not find the service useful.

Thanks for your consideration of the timely matter.

All the best,

Scott

Scott Kroeker | Senior Program Officer, Professional Development Program | (b)(6)

East-West Center

1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96848-1601, USA
EastWestCenter.org

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

Sender:	"Kroeker, Scott" (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>
Recipient:	Ueretan Bauro (b)(6)@bpa.org.ki>; (b)(6)@state.gov>;

Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
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From:	Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	Mon. at 2:00 p.m. ET: New Government with California Secretary of State Alex Padilla
Date:	Fri, 8 Jan 2021 22:44:47 +0000

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BEGIN:VCALENDAR
PRODID:-//Splash Event Planning System
VERSION:2.0
METHOD:PUBLISH
BEGIN:VEVENT
DTSTAMP:20210108T224445Z
UID:eabf42e0f60a2e0577d204a14510b6f81c2e3a88@newgovtjan11.splashthat.com
URL:https://newgovtjan11.splashthat.com
DTSTART:20210111T190000Z
DTEND:20210111T193000Z
SUMMARY:New Government January 11
DESCRIPTION:For more information - https://newgovtjan11.splashthat.com
LOCATION:Washington DC 20071
END:VEVENT
END:VCALENDAR

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From: Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Live at 2:00 p.m. ET: New Government with California Secretary of State Alex Padilla
Date: Mon, 11 Jan 2021 17:29:06 +0000

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 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Corina Rebegea (b)(6)@cepa.org>;
 Sarah Cook (b)(6)@FreedomHouse.org>;
To: Danielle Cave (b)(6)@aspi.org.au>;
 Rachael Owen (b)(6)@aspi.org.au>;
 Alex Joske (b)(6)@aspi.org.au>;
 Tom Baker (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
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 (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 (b)(6)@ceip.org (b)(6)@ceip.org>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Subject: GEC FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe
Date: Thu, 5 Nov 2020 13:27:31 +0000

Please find appended below an agenda for tomorrow's discussion. We look forward to speaking with you all.

///

With a new fiscal year and a full slate of programs in execution globally, the GEC China team invites you to join a discussion as we look ahead to our efforts in Europe in FY21.

We hope this discussion can be candid, informal, and focused on how we can bring our unique capabilities to bear to support our efforts to counter PRC malign influence in Europe. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on where we've made progress, where gaps remains, and things we should keep in mind as put together our programmatic strategy for FY21.

Global Engagement Center China Directorate

Agenda for FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe Roundtable

November 5, 2020

Participants:

Global Engagement Center

(b)(6)

Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Danielle Cave
Rachael Owen
Alex Joske

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Evan Feigenbaum
Erik Brattberg

Center for European Policy Analysis

Edward Lucas
Corina Rebegea

Freedom House

Sarah Cook

Institute for War and Peace Reporting

Alan Davis
Tom Baker
Vonda Wolcott

Poynter Institute

Baybars Örsek
Ferdi Özsoy

Sinopsis

Martin Hála

Agenda (all times in EST):

14:00 – 14:05	<p>Welcome remarks and GEC/China strategic landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (b)(6), GEC/China Director
14:05 – 14:25	<p>Research and networking activities in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each participant summarizes their relevant work in Europe as it relates to the GEC (max three minutes per organization), proceeding in alphabetical order as shown in the Participants list.
14:25 – 14:55	<p>Open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we ensure these activities are complementary? • How much overlap is there among our European network partners?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there opportunities to amplify each other’s work to maximize counter-propaganda and -disinformation impact? • How do we create sustained impact?
14:55 – 15:00	<p>Synthesis, closing remarks, next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (b)(6) GEC/China Director

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 (h)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Corina Rebegea (h)(6)@cepa.org>;
 Sarah Cook (b)(6)@FreedomHouse.org>;
 Danielle Cave (h)(6)@aspi.org.au>;
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From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Lagipoiva Cherelle Jackson (h)(6)@gmail.com>
CC: (b)(6)@ap.org (h)(6)@ap.org>; (b)(6)
Subject: FLAGGING FOR YOUR ACTION: 11th annual Pacific Information Operations (IO) and Electromagnetic Warfare (EW) Symposium, 17 thru 21 October 2022
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 2022 23:40:30 +0000

Manuia le aoauli, Dr. Lagipoiva Cherelle Jackson,

I hope this message finds you and your family well.

I wanted to follow-up with you about the IO&EW Symposium, by providing copies of your registration and the latest agenda as of 15 September.

Within the next 24 hours, you should receive an acknowledgement email from the FBC website to verify your virtual registration. As a **virtual briefer** providing an On-Demand recorded presentation within the **UNCLASSIFIED** plenary session, you will be able to build and create your presentation as well as review the other briefs. Your access to all the symposium presentations via the website will be not only during the actual event but up until 22 November 2022. I am CC'ng (b)(6) if you have any questions or additional concerns

Fa'amolemole tele lava for your participation in this event.

V/r

(b)(6)
 Foreign Affairs Officer
 Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM)
 Global Engagement Center (GEC)

(b)(6)

OpenNet (b)(6)@state.gov



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(b)(6)@ap.org (b)(6)@ap.org>;

(b)(6)

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11th Annual Pacific IO & EW Symposium
AGENDA - 17-21 OCT 2022

“Implementing Integrated Deterrence”

Day 1 – Monday 17 October (Virtual)

LIVE VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS WITH Q&A FOLLOWING. Symposium co-chairs COL Ret. Arthur Tulak, EdD, and COL, Ret. Andrew Whiskeyman, PhD

- 0700 – 0750 Virtual Presentation #1. Ms Julia Hodgins, Deputy Research Director for ITSS Verona, Italy, “Assessing the challenges of deterring gray zone actions and coercion operations from the challenging power China in cyberspace” **DETERRENCE CYBER**
- 0800 – 0850 Virtual Presentation #2. Dr. Michael A. Berger, PhD, USCENTCOM J39, “Examination of Russian/Chinese propaganda throughout the Ukraine invasion, and how this is shifting attitudes / perceptions globally.”
- 0900 – 0950 Virtual Presentation #3. Bill Gertz, Washington Times, “Is it time to review strategic ambiguity toward Taiwan to enhance deterrence of a conflict?” **DETERRENCE**
- 1000 – 1050 Virtual Presentation #4. Dr. Dan Altman, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Georgia State University, “The Fait Accompli: Understanding the Threat from China & Russia” **DETERRENCE**
- 1100 – 1150 Virtual Presentation #5. LCDR James R. Sullivan, Deputy Director, International Affairs Directorate, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Visiting Scholar, Regional Security Studies, Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies. “Grey Zone Tactics as Catalysts for Balancing Coalitions: A Level of Analysis Approach” **DETERRENCE**
- 1200 – 1250 Virtual Presentation #6. Anthony Allen, Director and Kristie Lavery, Elysium Ltd, “Leading the Narrative: A critical Part of Integrated Deterrence” **DETERRENCE**
- 1300 – 1350 Virtual Presentation #7. Dr Dana Eyre and Mr. Nathaniel Hill, M&C Saatchi World Services U.S., “Integrated Deterrence, What Is The Story?” **DETERRENCE**
- 1400 – 1450 Virtual Presentation #8. Charles Dunst; Associate, Research & Analytics at The Asia Group, and Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, “Deterring Chinese gray zone activity in Cambodia” **DETERRENCE**
- 1500 – 1550 Virtual Presentation #9. Dr Dave Ormrod (LTCOL, Australian Army, Ret.), and Mr. Ben Cornish, McGrathNicol “Enhancing IO Campaigns through Hyper-Wargames within the Integrated Deterrence and Competition Space” **IO WARGAMING**

—SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1600 – 1650 Virtual Presentation #10. Major, USMC, Jake T. Yeager, Intelligence Officer, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force, "Reestablishing JUSMAAG – Taiwan" **IO PRACTITIONERS**

ON-DEMAND Virtual Presentation #11. Dr. Lagipoiva Cherelle Jackson, Editor for the *Pacific Environment* (Pre-Recorded) *Weekly*, Republic of Samoa, "The Long Game: The People's Republic of China's (PRC) not so subtle influence in Pacific Island Countries" **COUNTER MALIGN INFLUENCE**

ON-DEMAND Virtual Presentation #12. Dr. Christopher Paul, PhD "Assessing Geographic Combatant (Pre-Recorded) Command Deterrence Operations, Activities, and Investments" **DETERRENCE**

Day 2 Tuesday 18 October 2022 (Hale Koa Hotel)

LIVE VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS WITH Q&A FOLLOWING. Symposium co-chair COL, Ret. Andrew Whiskeyman, PhD

0500 – 0550 Virtual Presentation #13. LTC Jason C. Brown, PhD, Research Scientist & Assistant Professor at the Army Cyber Institute, and MAJ Max Kovalsky, 75th Innovation Command, presentation of findings from their recently published Army Cyber Institute report "Powerful Narratives: Weaponized Harmony and the Soft Power Tools of China's Rise to Global Primacy." **THREAT**

0600 – 0650 Virtual Presentation #14. Mr. Ben Heap, NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, "Monitoring and evaluation of NATO deterrence information activities." **DETERRENCE**

0700 – 0750 Virtual Presentation #15. Jared Ettinger, Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP, "Creating the Winning Story: Research to Understand PLAN Navy Narratives" **DETERRENCE**

IN-PERSON PLENARY

0700 – 0800 Check in / Coffee & Pastries (Provided by AOC)

0800 – 0810 Col Brian Hill, INDOPACOM J39, opening remarks, acknowledgment of virtual speakers present in the room.

0810 – 0820 CAPT, USN, Ret. Brian "Hinks" Hinkley, President-Elect, Association of Old Crows, Welcome and Introduction of Keynote Speaker

0820 – 0900 Keynote Speaker #1. ADM Sam Paparo, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, keynote address **DETERRENCE**

0900 – 0940 Presentation #1. Ms. Catherine Johnston, INDOPACOM DJ2 "Threat Overview" [REDACTED]

0940 – 1020 Presentation #2. Mr. Elbridge Colby, Principal and Co-Founder of The Marathon Initiative, former Dep. Asst. SECDEF for Strategy and Force Development, DoD, author of *The Strategy of Denial*. **DETERRENCE**

1020 – 1050 Networking Break (Exhibits in Lau Lima and Kalia Rooms)

1050 – 1130 Presentation #3. MG Dustin Anne "Dusty" Schultz, Director Strategic Operations in the Army

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G-3/5/7, LTC Jonathan Wheeler G-3/5/7, and Mr. Patrick Scribner, Senior IA Analyst, Army's way Forward for Information Advantage" **DOCTRINE**

- 1130 – 1145 Presentation #4. MG Matthew Easley**, Deputy Principal Information Operations Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, "Purpose and Outlook of the Phoenix Challenge Information Operations Conference Series."
- 1145 – 1300 Buffet Lunch in the Hale Koa Luau Gardens**
- 1300 – 1410 Panel: "Integrated Deterrence" Panel Moderator: LtGen, Ret. Loretta Reynolds, Panel Members: RADM Michael Vernazza** Commander of Navy Information Warfare Command Pacific; **RADM Ronald A. Foy** the Deputy Director for Global Operations; **Mr. Jeff Star, SES 1**, Secretary of the Air Force, Administrative Assistant's Concepts, Development, and Management Office (SAF/CDM); **Jim Harrell**, JIOWC, and; **Mr. Stephen Hunnewell**, Information Branch Director USINDOPACOM. **DETERRENCE**
- 1410 – 1450 Presentation #5. COL Fu, Wen-Cheng**, Taiwan Ministry of National Defense, "Deterrence or numbness? Exploring The Effects of Cognitive Warfare and Democratic Resilience" **A & P DETERRENCE**
- 1450 – 1520 Networking Break** (Exhibits in Lau Lima Rooms)
- 1520 – 1600 Presentation #6. Ms. Bay Fang**, President of Radio Free Asia, "Countering Chinese Sharp Power: Radio Free Asia's Evolution." **DISINFO**
- 1600 – 1700 Senior IO Leader Panel Col Brian Hill**, INDOPACOM J39 Moderator, **Panel members: COL Kelvin Mote**, USFK J39; **COL Jeremy Mushtare**, USARPAC G39; **CAPT Andrew Corey**, PACFLT N39 (INVITED); **Col Ray Gerber**, MARFORPAC G39, and; **CAPT Rob Smilie**, RAN, ADF J39. **IO PRACTITIONERS**
- 1700 – 1710 Dr. Arthur Tulak** Daily wrap-up.
- 1720 – 1900 Networking Reception and Social in the Hale Koa Luau Gardens.**

Alternate Speakers for Days #2 and #3:

1. **Dr. Joshua Segal**, "Information Campaign Assessment and Sense-making."

Program* - Day 3 - Wednesday 19 October 2022 (Hale Koa Hotel)

LIVE VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS WITH Q&A FOLLOWING. Symposium co-chairman COL, Ret. Andrew Whiskeyman, PhD:

- 0500 – 0550 Virtual Presentation #16. Rebecca Fair**, VP, Information Operations, Two-Six Tech, "Using Data Exhaust' from Chinese Media Manipulation in Support of Deterrence" **IO TOOLS**
- 0600 – 0650 Virtual Presentation #17. Scott Philips**, Vannevar Labs, "PAI for Strategic Competition" **IO TOOLS**

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- 0700 – 0750 Virtual Presentation #18. Bob Deppisch, CEO Predata, "Unlocking the Other Side of the Internet" **IO TOOLS**
- 0700 – 0800 Check in / Coffee & Pastries (Provided by AOC)
- 0800 – 0820 Lt Col John Salvador, J39 JEMSO, Opening Remarks, highlight focus of the day's agenda on EW, introduction of keynote speaker
- 0820 – 0900 Keynote speaker #2. LTG Maria Barrett, Commanding General, U.S. Army Cyber Command, keynote address. (INVITED) **DETERRENCE CYBER**
- 0900 – 0940 Presentation #7. Mr. Tom Evans, (COL, USA, Ret.), JIOWC, "Review of Joint Publication 3-04, Information" **DOCTRINE**
- 0940 – 1020 Presentation #8. Dr. William "Dollar" Young (Col, USAF, Ret) and Ms. Melinda Tourangeau, Executive Director, Reginald Victor Jones (RVJ) Institute, "Experience the Spectrum | Building Competitive Advantage for Integrated Deterrence" **EW**
- 1020 – 1050 Networking Break (Exhibits in Lau Lima Rooms)
- 1050 – 1200 Electromagnetic Spectrum Superiority Roundtable, Moderator Ken Dworkin. Panel Lead: Mrs. Vernita Harris, DoD CIO. Panel members: Mr. David Tremper, OUSD (A&S); Brig Gen AnnMarie Anthony, USSTRATCOM (invited); RDML Susan BryerJoyner, JS/J6 **EW**
- 1200 – 1300 Buffet Lunch in the Hale Koa Luau Gardens
- 1300 – 1320 Awards Presentations Lt Col John Salvador, USINDOPACOM JEMSO Chief, President AOC Diamond Head Chapter. Mr. Austin Branch, Information Professionals Assn Hermes Award.
- 1320 – 1400 Presentation #9. Dr. David Stoudt, Booz Allen Hamilton, Directed Energy, "Joint Electro-magnetic Spectrum Operations (JEMSO) Contributions to Integrated Deterrence" **EW**
- 1400 – 1410 Presentation #10. CAPT Graham Lovatt RN, Assistant Head Indo-Pacific and Middle East, Military Strategic Effects, Ministry of Defence, UK, "Overview on Phoenix Challenge 2023-1 in London, UK." **A & P**
- 1410 – 1450 Presentation #11. Mr. Shawn Chenoweth, IO/IW Program Manager, Technical Lead, Peraton **IO TOOLS**
- 1450 – 1510 Networking Break (Exhibits in Lau Lima and Kalia Rooms)
- 1510 – 1550 Presentation #12. Ms. Vera Zakem, Senior Technology and Policy Advisor, "USAID's Approach to Information Resilience - Impacts to the US Foreign Policy, Democracy and Human Security." **DISINFO**
- 1550 – 1630 Presentation #13. Adela Levis, Policy, Plans and Operations Analyst, Global Engagement Center "Evidence and Research Driven Counter-Disinformation Efforts" **[REDACTED]**
- 1630 – 1650 Col Hill, Acknowledgement of Sponsors/Presenters, Hale Koa Staff

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Program* - Day 4 – Thursday 20 October 2022, Classified Discussions (ADM John Towers Conference Center, Camp H.M. Smith) and an UNCLAS Virtual schedule for those not attending the in-person classified plenary.

Live, Virtual UNCLAS presentations with Q&A following. Symposium co-chairman Mr. Eric Wallace

- 0800 – 0850 Virtual Presentation #19. Dr. Jonathan Ashdown, AFRL, “Dynamic Spectrum Access Policy Development” **EW**
- 0900 – 0950 Virtual Presentation #20. Mr. Mark Stokes, Project 2049, “China’s Quest for Electromagnetic Spectrum Dominance.” **EW**
- 1000 – 1050 Virtual Presentation #21. Major, USMC, Jennifer Giles, “Information Warfare Lessons in Inoculation to Disinformation” **DISINFO**
- 1100 – 1150 Virtual Presentation #22. MAJ Nick Starck, and CPT Maggie Smith, PhD, Army Cyber Institute, “Nothing to Hide: Data Privacy and Risks to the Force in the Age of (Over) Sharing” **DISINFO**
CYBER
- 1200 – 1250 Virtual Presentation #23. Max Meyers & Dan Agar, Deloitte Consulting LLP, ‘Commercial Insights on UTS Technologies’ (Tech-enabled assessment) **IO TOOLS**
- 1300 – 1350 Virtual Presentation #24. MAJ Kelley Jhong & Capt Robert Stelmack, Naval Postgraduate School, “Delineating Service Roles and Responsibilities in the Information Environment” **IO PRACTITIONERS**
- 1400 – 1450 Virtual Presentation #25. Raul Harnasch, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lincoln Laboratory, “Identifying foreign influence campaigns in the Gray-zone” **IO TOOLS**
- 1500 – 1550 Virtual Presentation #26. Mr. Rakhi Shah, Integrated Modern Engineering. “Red Force Tracking Through Publicly Available Information – Lessons Learned from Russian War on Ukraine” (Tech-enabled INTEL) **IO TOOLS**
- 0800 – 1130 **CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REL TO USA, DEU, FRA, JPN, KOR, FVEY**
- 0800 – 0805 Dr. Arthur Tulak, Research Faculty, Georgia Tech Research Institute, Symposium Chair: Day #3 Administrative Remarks, Schedule Review, Security Brief.
- 0805 – 0815 Col., USAF, Brian Hill, USINDOPACOM J39 – Welcome and Introduction of Keynote Speaker
- 0815 – 0845 Keynote Speaker #3. ADM John Aquilino, Commander USINDOPACOM, “Commander’s Vision and Theater Strategy” **DETERRENCE**
- 0845 – 0915 Presentation #14. RDML Jeromy Williams, Commander, SOCPAC, “SOF Contributions to the Theater Strategy” **DETERRENCE**
- 0915 – 0945 Presentation #15. LtCol Alexandre Bernardeau, Ministry for the Armed Forces (Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy “Deterrence Challenges in the Indo-Pacific,”
- 0945– 1000 Networking Break

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- 1000 – 1030 **Presentation #16.** CDR Malte von Spreckelsen, "Germany's approach to cover the Russian Zapad-21 strategic military exercise" **EW**
- 1030 – 1130 **INTEL Panel, Panel Moderator is LTG, Ret. Robert Ashley Jr.**, former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Panel members: **Ms. Catherine Johnston**, INDOPACOM DJ2; **MajGen William H. Seely III** Director of Intelligence; **Mr. Stephen Cambone**, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; **Mr. Bob Giesler**, non-Resident Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Council; **James A. Holly**, and; **LTG, Ret. Ed Cardon**. **DETERRENCE**
- 1130 – 1300 **Networking Lunch at the Sunset Lanai**
- 1300 – 1700 **Classification changes to SECRET REL TO USA, FVEY**
- 1300 – 1340 **Presentation #17.** USSTRATCOM/DJ5, **Mr. Richard McManus**, STRATCOM. "Transitioning Integrated Deterrence Theory into Practice" **DETERRENCE**
- 1340 – 1420 **Presentation #18.** **Mr. James Harrell II**, Director JIWC, "JIWC: The Way-forward"
- 1420 – 1440 **Networking Break**
- 1440 – 1530 **Presentation #19.** **Captain Graham Lovatt RN**, Assistant Head Indo-Pacific and Middle East, Military Strategic Effects, Ministry of Defence, UK, "Lessons from Ukraine." **A & P**
- 1520 – 1600 **Presentation #20.** **CAPT Rob Smilie**, RAN, Director Strategic Effects and Targeting, Military Strategic Effects Branch, Title of presentation TBD **A & P**
- 1600 – 1640 **Presentation #21.** **Dr. Rebecca Law, PhD**, INDOPACOM J3, "Command and Control of the Information Environment" **IO TOOLS**
- 1640 – 1700 **Col., USAF, Brian Hill**, USPACOM J39, Director Information Operations: Summary and guidance for Day #4 of the Symposium

Breakout Sessions - Day 4 – Thursday 20 October 2022, (S/REL USA FVEY) Discussions (ADM John Towers Conference Center, and J1 Conference Room, Camp H.M. Smith)

- 1000 - 1045 **Break-Out Session #1. Room 224K: Dr. Timothy Wood**, DIA and **Mr. Todd Hamm** (Col, USAF, Ret), NSA/CSS Colorado, "Transformation of Intel Support to EW/EMSO" **EW**
- 1045 – 1130 **U.S.-only Break-Out Session #2. Room 224K: Ray O'Mara, PhD**, "Active Deterrence: Theory to Practice" **DETERRENCE**

Bi-lateral Engagements

- 0830 – 0930 **Thursday 20 OCT – Bilateral US/Taiwan IO Discussions with TWN PW Delegation; TECO Military Liaison; INDOPACOM PA, J37, J39, J51, & J7; SOCPAC SOJ37 & SOJ39, &; USARPAC IO (MARFORPAC Conf Room)**
- 0930 – 1030 **Thursday 20 OCT – Bilateral US/Taiwan IO Discussions with TWN MND J6 ICEF and NSB 5th Dept. EW, Delegation; TECO Military Liaison; INDOPACOM PA, J37, J39, J51, & J7; SOCPAC SOJ37 & SOJ39, &; USARPAC IO (MARFORPAC Conf Room)**

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- 1030 – 1130** Thursday 20 OCT – Bilateral US/Singapore IO Discussions with SGP Delegation; SGP LNO to INDOPACOM; INDOPACOM J7, J39, & J52; USARPAC IO (MARFORPAC Conf Room)
- 1300 – 1400** Thursday 20 OCT – Bilateral meeting with Republic of Korea delegation ROK LNO to INDOPACOM; PACOM J7, J39, & J51; USFK J39SOCPAC SOJ39 & SOJ37, and; USARPAC (MARFORPAC Conf Room)
- 1400 – 1500** Thursday 20 OCT – Bilateral US/Philippines IO Discussions with AFP Delegation; PHL LNO to INDOPACOM, J7, J39 & J52, and; MARFORPAC (MARFORPAC Conf Room)

Day 5 – Friday, 21 October, 2022, SECRET, REL TO USA, FVEY, (ADM John Towers Conference Center, and J1 Conference Room, Camp H.M. Smith)

- 0800 – 0810** Col. Brian Hill, PACOM J39, opening remarks.
- 0810 – 0850** Keynote Speaker #4. MG, Ret. Suzanne Vares-Lum, President, East-West Center.
- 0850 – 0930** Presentation #22. SqnLdr Libby Reardon, Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) and CPO Emma Songivalu, RNZN, "Building enduring relationships in partnership with the Pacific" **A & P**
- 0930 – 1010** Presentation #23. Speaker is TBD Threat Analyst, GEC Analytics & Research, "Connecting Allies and Partners through Collaborative Platforms" **A & P**
- 1010 – 1050** Presentation #24. Tye Gonzalez, Chesapeake Technology International, "Fielding a Common Unified Platform for Information Dominance to Counter Malign Influence." **IO TOOLS**
- 1050 – 1140** Presentation #25. Ben Burke, Chief Operating Officer of Dispel, "Moving Target Defense for Cyber Physical Systems" **CYBER**
- 1140 – 1300** **BREAK** (Lunch on own – Marine Mart, Aloha Café in Bldg 4, and the Food Court in Bldg. 700)
- 1300 – 1340** Presentation #26. David Whiting, Director, GEC China division, "Leading U.S. Government Efforts to Counter PRC Disinformation and Propaganda: Overview of the Global Engagement Center's China Division" **DETERRENCE**
- 1340 – 1500** J39 and KPMG co-leads for audience participation in an "Information Operations Table Top Exercise (TTX)"
- 1340 – 1500** OSD Phoenix Challenge Event Review, Identification of issues/tasks (J1 Conference Room)

Alternate Speakers for Days #4 and #5:

1. Valentin Dooley, Ingenia Services, "Adapting the Art of War for Information"
2. Dr. Joshua Segal, "Information Campaign Assessment and Sense-making."

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From: "Ice, John T" <(b)(6)@state.gov>
 Gordon, Michael <(b)(6)@wsj.com>;
To: <(b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Kimmage, Daniel <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Dial-in Number for 2:00 PM Call Today
Date: Thu, 18 Feb 2021 18:27:36 +0000

Hi Michael, (b)(6) Daniel,

Just confirming that we are on today for a call at 2:00 PM for Michael to ask some follow-up questions. This will be an off the record conversation, with the option for Michael to come back with requests for items he would like to use on background.

Dial In - (b)(6)

NO PIN

Thanks,

J.T.

Sender: "Ice, John T" <(b)(6)@state.gov>
 Gordon, Michael <(b)(6)@wsj.com>;
Recipient: <(b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Kimmage, Daniel <(b)(6)@state.gov>

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From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
To: (b)(6)@nytimes.com <(b)(6)@nytimes.com>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Call between NYT and GEC
Date: Fri, 26 Aug 2022 20:24:39 +0000

This is a call between GEC's (b)(6) and NYT's Steven Lee Myers

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From: (b)(6)@poynter.org>
SentVia: Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Accepted: GEC FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe @ Thu Nov 5, 2020 2pm - 3pm (EST) (b)(6)
Date: Thu, 5 Nov 2020 13:34:22 +0000

(b)(6)@poynter.org has accepted this invitation.

GEC FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe

When Thu Nov 5, 2020 2pm – 3pm Eastern Time - New York

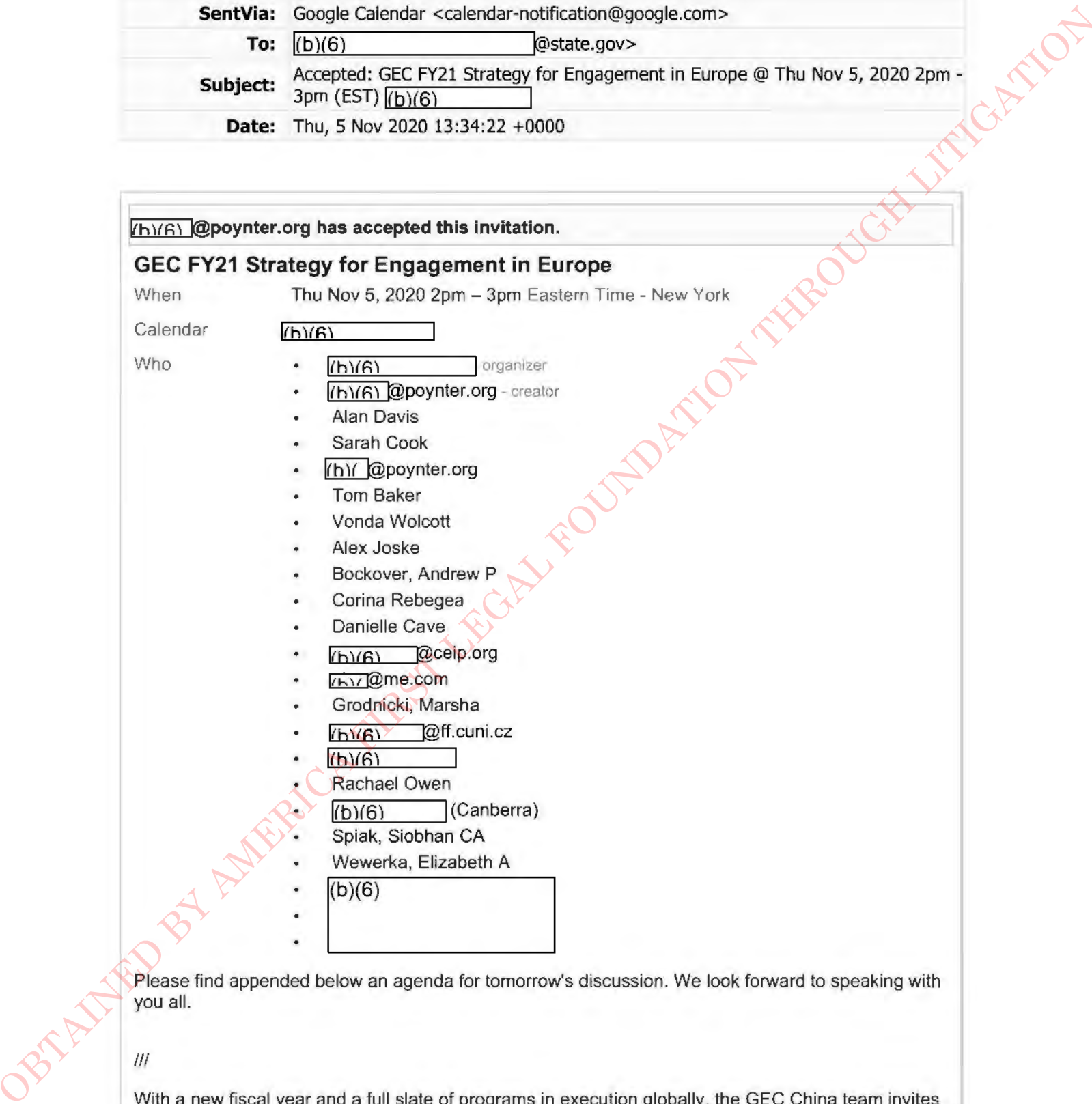
Calendar (b)(6)

- Who
- (b)(6) organizer
 - (b)(6)@poynter.org - creator
 - Alan Davis
 - Sarah Cook
 - (b)(6)@poynter.org
 - Tom Baker
 - Vonda Wolcott
 - Alex Joske
 - Bockover, Andrew P
 - Corina Rebegea
 - Danielle Cave
 - (b)(6)@ceip.org
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 - Grodnicki, Marsha
 - (b)(6)@ff.cuni.cz
 - (b)(6)
 - Rachael Owen
 - (b)(6) (Canberra)
 - Spiak, Siobhan CA
 - Wewerka, Elizabeth A
 - (b)(6)
 -
 -

Please find appended below an agenda for tomorrow's discussion. We look forward to speaking with you all.

///

With a new fiscal year and a full slate of programs in execution globally, the GEC China team invites



you to join a discussion as we look ahead to our efforts in Europe in FY21.

We hope this discussion can be candid, informal, and focused on how we can bring our unique capabilities to bear to support our efforts to counter PRC malign influence in Europe. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on where we've made progress, where gaps remains, and things we should keep in mind as put together our programmatic strategy for FY21.

Global Engagement Center China Directorate

Agenda for FY21 Strategy for Engagement in Europe Roundtable

November 5, 2020

Participants:

Global Engagement Center

(b)(6)

Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Danielle Cave

Rachael Owen

Alex Joske

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Evan Feigenbaum

Erik Brattberg

Center for European Policy Analysis

Edward Lucas

Corina Rebegea

Freedom House

Sarah Cook

Institute for War and Peace Reporting

Alan Davis

Tom Baker

Vonda Wolcott

Poynter Institute

Baybars Örsek

Ferdi Özsoy

Sinopsis

Martin Hála

Agenda (all times in EST):

14:00 – 14:05

Welcome remarks and GEC/China strategic landscape

- * (b)(6), GEC/China Director

14:05 – 14:25

Research and networking activities in Europe

- * Each participant summarizes their relevant work in Europe as it relates to the GEC (max three minutes per organization), proceeding in alphabetical order as shown in the Participants list.

14:25 – 14:55

Open discussion

- * How can we ensure these activities are complementary?
- * How much overlap is there among our European network partners?
- * Are there opportunities to amplify each other's work to maximize counter-propaganda and -disinformation impact?
- * How do we create sustained impact?

14:55 – 15:00

Synthesis, closing remarks, next steps

- * (b)(6), GEC/China Director

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5/25/2023

From: Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>
SentVia: <fakenewssci@googlegroups.com>
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: [fakenewssci] Call for Abstracts - Global Fact 9 Academic Track
Date: Mon, 14 Feb 2022 17:40:03 -0500

Call for Abstracts - Global Fact 9 Academic Track

Short abstracts now due 25 February 2022

As noted in an earlier communication, the first day of the Global Fact summit, 22 June, will be devoted to an academic track, with several invited panelists and speakers addressing topics such as:

- Best academic practices in—and potential contributions to—this developing field.
- Fact-checking in the context of misinformation and increasing polarization.
- Directions of fact-checking, e.g., towards more debunking and tech partnerships.
- (Socio)technical tools—old, new, and yet-to-be-developed—in fact-checking.
- Fact-checker safety—mental, emotional, and/or physical.
- Collaborations between different types of actors, based on topics, aims, regions, languages, etc.
- Regulation efforts aimed at big tech and platforms, and the impact on fact-checking partnerships and funding.
- Media and information literacy in the age of COVID-19 and declining institutional trust.
- The importance of publicly available data (e.g., national statistics, platform insights) and other resources for fact-checkers.
- Fact-checking in the context of oppression—e.g., how it can be conducted and disseminated.

In addition to the invited presentations, we are reserving a portion of the academic track for lightning-round presentations. These will entail discussions of your work, at whatever stage—conceptual, in progress, or finished—in a shorter time frame. Depending on the number of submissions accepted, presentations will likely be limited to 10 minutes with questions. **We are particularly interested in work from early career researchers, work that focuses on marginalized communities or regions, and/or work using new or innovative methods.** Potential topics might include, but are not way restricted to, the above list.

If you are interested in presenting at this open session, please fill out [this form](#). Please include your institutional affiliation and contact information, a title, a description of what you'd like to present (~300 words), and a paragraph on the significance (~150 words). The deadline for submissions is now 25 February 2022 (extended from 18 February), and notifications of selection will be on or before 25 March 2022.

If you have questions, please feel free to email [\(b\)\(6\)@oslomet.no](mailto:(b)(6)@oslomet.no). You can also contact the OsloMet-based team behind the [Source Criticism and Mediated Disinformation](#) project.

--

[Baybars Örsek](#)

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
[@bayharsorsek](#) / [@factchecknet](#)

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#FakeNewsSci seeks to cultivate and continue an academic and practical agenda around defining and protecting against fake news and misinformation, and work to build news literacy, defend a free press and strengthen first amendment principles.

There are three ground rules for this community aimed at ensuring appropriate communication and exchange:

- (1) Civility is the primary responsibility of membership - we intend to avoid uncivil debates or rhetoric and those who violate this rule will be immediately removed.
- (2) To preserve people's comfort with being open and frank, all exchanges are to be treated as "off the record" unless the member(s) in question explicitly agree otherwise.
- (3) To maintain high-quality exchanges of ideas and practice, all new members must be recommended by two other group members to be added to this group. Please fill the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/h1UkZHwGEjt5Z4wg1> before you apply for membership.

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Combating Fake News: The Science of Misinformation" group.

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Sender: Baybars Orsek [\(b\)\(6\)@poynter.org](mailto:(b)(6)@poynter.org); <fakenewssci@googlegroups.com>

Recipient: undisclosed-recipients:

From: Nicola Aitken (b)(6)@fullfact.org>
SentVia: disinfor@googlegroups.com
To: disinfor@googlegroups.com
Subject: [disinfogroup] Consultation: Framework for information incidents
Date: Tue, 23 Mar 2021 17:10:57 +0000

Dear colleagues,

With apologies for any cross posting, I am happy to share that Full Fact, the UK's independent fact checking charity, has launched a new consultation on a model for tackling information incidents.

Over the past seven months, Full Fact has been working with a variety of organisations including Facebook, Google, Twitter, First Draft and the UK and Canadian governments to create a Framework for Information Incidents.

The Framework is intended to enable better collaboration among organisations tackling information incidents. We all know that certain events (e.g. the pandemic, elections, natural disasters) can affect the information environment so that it becomes harder for those of us tackling misinformation to do so effectively. It is our belief that collaboration and a greater consideration of proportionality and global consistency is needed in order to effectively respond to these events. That is why we have created this new model.

We are now looking for feedback on the proposed five level system for determining the severity of an incident, the common challenges that occur across different incidents, and how to respond in proportionate and effective ways. We are keen to get responses from a wide range of organisations who tackle or are affected by misinformation during crisis events. We will use this feedback to further develop and refine the framework, with the goal of publishing a second version later in the year.

The consultation will be open until 14 May. You can respond either by email to policy@fullfact.org, or online via fullfact.org/incidentframework. I've attached the pdf, but you can also access the text [online](#).

Best wishes,
Nicola

--

Nicola Aitken

Policy Manager

(b)(6)

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Sender: Nicola Aitken <(b)(6)>@fullfact.org>; disinfo@googlegroups.com

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(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response
Date: Fri, 5 Feb 2021 04:34:49 +0000

Hi Baybars,

Yes, the DS1909 needs to be signed by the proper person at Poynter who has authority to sign for grants. Once they sign, please send back to me.

We are excited about reviewing the online course materials. We originally scheduled January for the first review. Are you still okay with the current period of performance (ending July 31) to accomplish all activities/outputs?

Regards,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:19 PM

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

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

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks! I confirm the receipt of the DS1909.

Do you want this to be signed by us? I can send it to you after asking our VP of Finance and Business signs it.

On the other hand, we are ready to deliver the training.

How should we proceed to schedule them?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Sun, Jan 31, 2021 at 9:21 PM (b)(6)

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

Hi Baybars,

Can you please confirm receipt of the DS1909?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6) @poynter.org>
Cc: (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov;
Subject: RE: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

As promised, here is the new DS1909 and the new Award Provisions, which contains a detailed description of the grant's balance of payments and budget. Please review the provisions and have the DS1909 signed by one of the directors at Poynter (Wendy Wallace signed the last one).

Regards,
 (b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 1:37 PM
To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6) @poynter.org>
Cc: (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov;
Subject: RE: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi Baybars,

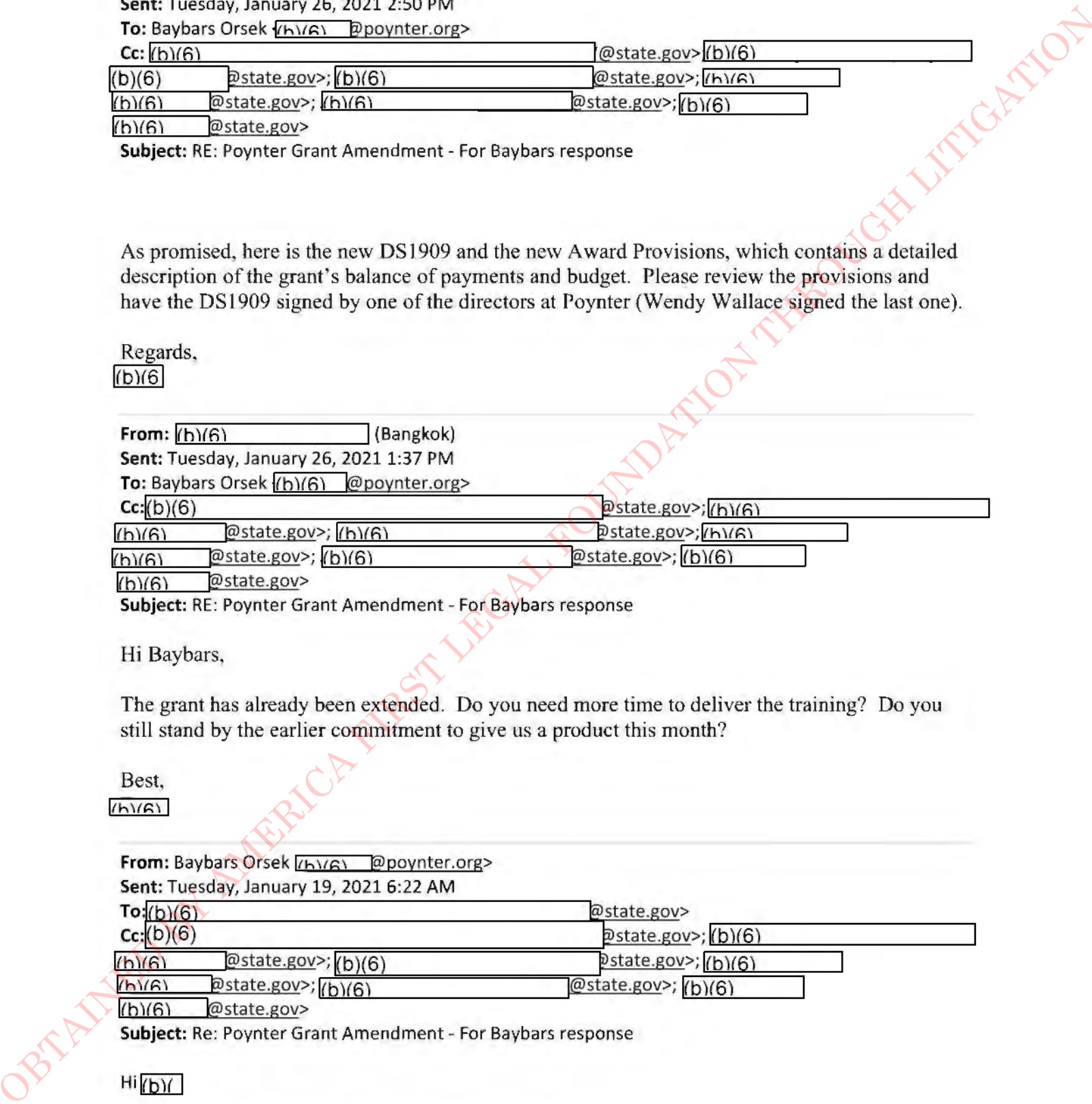
The grant has already been extended. Do you need more time to deliver the training? Do you still stand by the earlier commitment to give us a product this month?

Best,
 (b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6) @poynter.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:22 AM
To: (b)(6) @state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov;
Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi (b)(6)

Yes! The content is ready therefore we are good to go and deliver the trainings.



Looking forward to receiving the paperwork.

Thanks

Baybars

On Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 8:17 PM (b)(6)@state.gov>

wrote:

Hi Baybars,

Just another ping to see if everything is going well on your side. Everything on track to produce online course content?

Best,

(b)(6)

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

Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 8:30 AM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi Baybars,

Hope you had a nice New Year holiday. Just wanted to drop a note to let you know we look forward to receiving the course outline this month. Let me know if you need to discuss anything. In the meantime, I will work on some of the required documents to reformat the grant.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)

Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:48 AM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

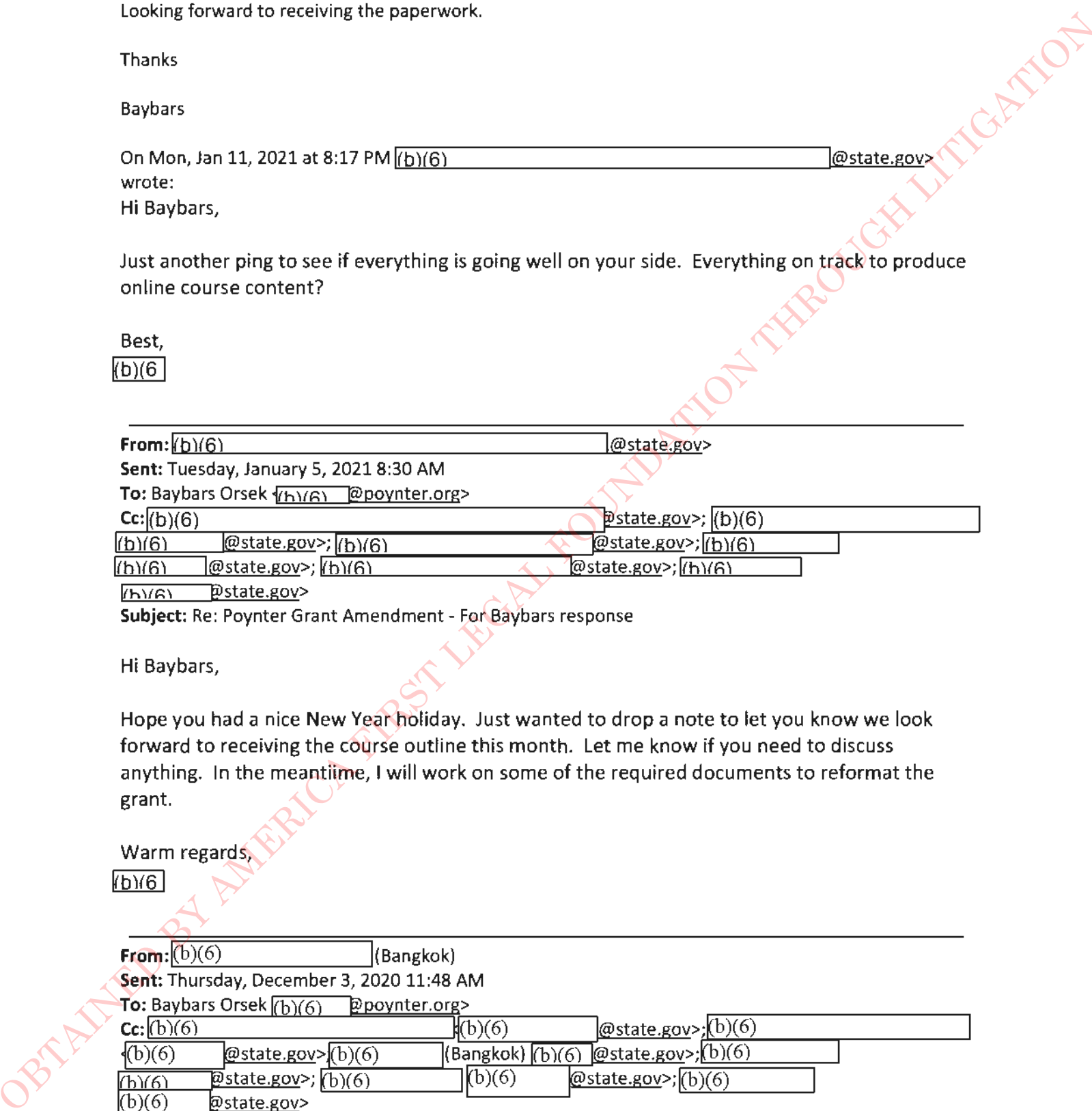
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response



Hi Baybars,

When I return after Christmas we will do some paperwork outlining these initiatives more formally in the grant. For now, please proceed designing the online course and designing the virtual training.

Congrats again on the new family member.

Regards,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 8:39 PM

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

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

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for this!

Please kindly feel free to share if there is any paperwork we should focus on for the amendment if you need it to be done before your break.

Otherwise, happy to keep up the conversation with GEC and Wow.

Best-

Baybars

On Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 12:08 AM (b)(6)

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

Hi Baybars -

Thank you for replying that you're interested in continuing the grant in the separate email. We understand completely about parental leave, and many congratulations to you on the new family member!

I'd like to keep the conversation going in this thread here as there are additional stakeholders cc'ed. I have initiated an extension of the grant out to July 31, 2021 just to give us buffer room. I will be on much needed R&R from Dec 7-25, so we will pick up this conversation again when I return. While I am out, please feel free to continue discussions with GEC, and (b)(6)

(b)(6) on my staff. I have copied elements of your separate email, which looks fine to me, below.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

--email Dec 2, 2020 from Baybars --

Given we are heading to the end of the year and the winter break here, can we aim the following timeline for the amendment?

Late January: Poynter provides online course outline to Embassy for review (in English). Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Mid February: Poynter provides online course version 2 to Embassy (in English or Thai). Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Early March: Poynter provides final version of online course to Embassy (in Thai). Embassy and TJA make final checks.

Late March: Virtual Training + Kickoff Press Conference at TJA to introduce the new online course.

---##---

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

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 9:01 PM

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

(b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

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

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

Subject: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

(b)(6) - adding in (b)(6) from my team.

Best, (b)(6)

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

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 4:04 AM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

Final check. Do you want to amend this grant?

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)

Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 12:23 PM

To: 'Baybars Orsek' (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars – how are you? Shall we proceed with the grant amendment?

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 11:18 AM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

I'll be going on leave soon and want to amend the grant as soon as possible.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 2:49 PM

To: 'Baybars Orsek' (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

I hope you are well. I'm sure that election season is an exciting time for the fact checking community!

Given the many challenges of Covid we appreciate your willingness to be flexible in this project. My team and I have reviewed the Google Doc and we generally like the plan. We are wondering if you can make two changes. One, to be less ambitious, we recommend 1 (one) not

three virtual training sessions. Also, is there any way to increase the payment to TJA for their services? Their work as implementing partner will be very important.

To review, the two major components of the grant are 1) virtual training and 2) development of an online course. Here is a rough sketch of timings we think are realistic:

Mid November: Poynter provides online course outline to Embassy for review (in English).

Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Mid December: Poynter provides online course version 2 to Embassy (in English or Thai).

Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Early January: Poynter provides final version of online course to Embassy (in Thai). Embassy and TJA make final checks.

Late January: Virtual Training + Kickoff Press Conference at TJA to introduce the new online course.

Sound okay?

Kind Regards,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 10:45 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Just wanted to follow up on this to see if we would be able to do this before the end of this year or move to 2021.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 4:04 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Thanks Baybars,

COVID has certainly been a challenge for grants. Glad to hear your team is engaging on elections! Important topic for fact checking!

Our team will look at the Doc and get back to you soon.

Hope all is well!

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 9:59 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Sorry about the delay. We had been buried down with an election focused project, our new chatbot on WhatsApp around the US elections.

Sharing this document to get your feedback and discuss it over the document if needed.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lBhFi4s0XnHOVICcq6UZ0nqFlPmvwGdlYAkjypauzk/edit>

I just had to adjust the dates in this timeline.

Also copying the budget notes in that document as well.

I suggest having a call with TJA as soon as possible to start planning and executing the trainings!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 12:34 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

(b)(6) wrote:

Hi Baybars,

We have a few ideas for how to move the grant forward. Let us know what you think, and please provide an estimate of the cost.

1. **Three Online Training Sessions** for the Thai Journalists Association (TJA is the main professional association for journalists in Thailand. We would recommend you pay TJA as the implementing partner so they can procure simultaneous translation, and naturally you would provide them with admin fees etc so they can help you organize the sessions.
 - a. Session 1 - September 3. Fact-Checking and Misinformation (broad overview for journalists and editors)
 - b. Session 2 – Mid-September. Fact-Checking for News Rooms (for news room editors)
 - c. Session 3 – October. Fact-Checking: U.S. Election Watch (20-30 media and academics.

2. **Online Course for Thai Journalists.** This would be an online course with quizzes and a final test in the Thai language. The goal is to promote journalism standards, fact-checking, and accuracy. Thai journalists who complete the course with a passing score would receive a certificate which could read “This is to certify that –NAME – has received IFCN Certification in News-Room Fact-Checking” or something similar. This would be a morale booster for the journalists, and something they can put on a resume.
 - a. Phase 1. September – IFCN submits course outline and structure to the Embassy which will seek comment from TJA and may adjust the outline to meet the needs of the Thai environment.
 - b. Phase 2. December – IFCN submits full course in Thai language to Embassy for review.
 - c. Phase 3. January – IFCN Launches course with joint press releases, social media postings, and an online event with TJA and IFCN.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Acting Spokesperson
Social Media Director
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok



From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 6:31 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Great to hear from you! I'm all good, safe, and interesting in Istanbul for a few weeks. I wanted to take the liberty of working from Istanbul for a month or so to stay a bit away from Florida and be closer to the family.

(b)(6)

I've heard that (b)(6) is now in another heaven like place in Earth after lovely Thailand and hoping she invites me to Hawai at some point to do a training there! :)

Since the Global Fact is over and I've been able to recover a bit, I'm now able to send you a proposal on our engagement in Thailand.

Would that be possible to send it in a week or two and we then start acting assuming we confirm the new scope of the program.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Mon, Jul 20, 2020 at 12:03 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Greetings from Thailand, where we have had very low cases of the virus. I hope you are well! Has the U.S. citizen paperwork been going okay? (b)(6) has moved to Hawaii for a year at the East West Center.

I'm writing to see if we can move the grant forward and somehow safely train/certify Thailand's first IFCN fact-check organization.

Any and all ideas are on the table – including virtual training.

All best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 10:28 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Hope all is well on your end too and you are all doing well and healthy!

It's been a crazy week not only workwise but also personally as well for all of us so please accept my apologies for the late response.

I just wanted to share that I'll share the proposal with you before the end of the week. I couldn't do that yet because there has been an enormous workload on our e-learning department as everything is being migrated to online, therefore I had wait a bit to have my turn with them.

Once I have the costs and timeline from them, I'll share it with you and will look forward to moving forward!

Stay healthy and safe!

Best-

Baybars

On Sun, Mar 15, 2020 at 11:37 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Hope all is well in these rapidly evolving times. Number one priority is health, of course. Looking forward to your proposal on a virtual version of activities that still gives Thai organizations a good shot at becoming certified by IFCN. I'm also open to hearing any other suggestions you have. Again, health is number one at this point.

All best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 6:02 AM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

It was great to talk to you as well!

I agree with you. I think it will be wiser to design the extension/modification relying only on virtual teaching and a limited notion of bringing two Thai participants to Oslo.

I'll have a meeting with related faculty people at Poynter and then share the possibilities and ideas around localizing our training materials to Thai and creating new modules from scratch.

I should be able to send that email to you by Monday if that's not too late.

Best-

Baybars

On Tue, Mar 3, 2020 at 10:27 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Was great talking to you the other day. I'm looking forward to seeing your revised proposal on how we can best utilize the remaining funds in the current environment. Thailand's Ministry of Public Health is now raising its alert level for other nations new experiencing a rise in cases, including European countries. It will also be important to note the rise in cases in the U.S. and to see if that could impact Thai travel to the U.S. Department of State

Given the rapidly evolving situation and potential risks, I'd ask you to think about virtual programming and have an annex to your proposal that has a fully virtual (no travel) scenario. This could include mass translation of web based courses into Thai, Web based virtual training, etc etc.

All best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:57 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

No worries! It will be 9pm Sunday eve here and I should be able to take the call.

How should we connect? Can you send me dial-in instructions?

Best-

Baybars

On Tue, Feb 25, 2020 at 4:37 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Great! I can do 9am on Monday March 2, but unfortunately no other day this week.

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 10:26 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Dear (b)(6)

Hope this email finds you well.

It's great to hear from you, (b)(6) I really missed that beautiful place! Hope you had a great break!

My suggestion for the rest of the project based on your feedbacks are;

- To organize a Skype call Yo/Sure and Share, and SONP as per Tom's suggestion and discuss their progress and provide feedback before their application.
- Schedule a call this or next week to;
 - Set the date and the content for the video conference from Florida
 - Fix the scope and the date for Thai's delegation visit to St. Petersburg, FL
 - Decide who to bring to Global Fact in Oslo from Thailand (possibility from other Mekong countries as well)

Once we kick the ball rolling, this will be a lot easier to move.

Looking forward to hearing from you for your ideal day to have a 9am Bangkok time call.

Best-

Baybars

On Mon, Feb 24, 2020 at 2:59 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Baybars! I'm just back from the Gulf of Thailand... you know, honeymoonland. Hope all is well.

How shall we proceed? I think it's time we get something down in writing – dates for a video conference from Florida, dates for a visit by a few to Florida, and then a total number of Thais to

Oslo. Let's look at the budget and the planning, get something approved, and determine when you might be able to get back out here as well!

I depart Thailand mid June, so would love to be sure we have everything rolling before I go!

All best,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 3:38 PM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

Hope all is well. The virus is still making news here but seems to be contained, for now.

Would you be willing to do the Skype connection with Yo/Sure and Share, and SONP to discuss their efforts toward certification? We know they would love to have the opportunity to talk with you on Skype. Any further thought to (b)(6) second question below as well?

Best,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 2:47 PM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Thank you Baybars. I can understand that many don't want to travel to the region considering the international declarations.

We are facing a battle here of information and misinformation. We'll very much like to see what you are doing in that space.

Meanwhile, let me talk to (b)(6) I think we would like to reformat the grant a bit and include some new elements. Would you be willing to (in addition to some international travel for Thais), do the following:

1. DVC with Yo/Sure and Share, and SONP to discuss their efforts toward certification. We can do that in February on the planned dates, or we can look to a convenient time in the next month.
2. Come back to Thailand after you can travel again, and after Oslo?

Once we know the answer to those, (b)(6) can work with you to amend the grant.

Thanks!

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 10:22 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Greetings from DC! I just organized a day-long event at the Washington Post in partnership with Google and been working on the side for the programming in Bangkok.

I've just seen the news on [Reuters](#) that Thailand confirms the first human-to-human coronavirus transmission. The virus has been a big focus for the fact-checkers lately as we keep [publishing](#) our reports on the misinformation around the disease.

I've also heard that Splice Beta is canceled/postponed due to WHO's [declaration](#) on public health emergency of international concern.

All those considered, can we officially amend the project with no travel to Bangkok in February and discuss alternative options such as bringing people either to the US or Oslo? We can multiply the impact of the engagement with such options

Looking forward to hearing your thoughts.

Thanks

Baybars

On Wed, Jan 29, 2020 at 4:17 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Thanks for all of this, Baybars. Our inclination is to have your deputy/trainer come in February and I hope they're still available. Our Thai partners are eager. We're just negotiating with Washington about how to spend the rest of the money, i.e. if there will be US and/or Oslo travel. We will get back to you ASAP to confirm February and also what else lies in store. Sound ok?

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 1:11 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Thank you so much! I really appreciate it! Fingers crossed! Once again, thank you so much for your understanding.

Eoghan Sweeney, German trainer who is one of the leading experts on Open Source Intelligence Tools for fact-checking & verification. More about him and his works are available here > <https://www.osintessentials.com/> He can do great work by providing the training in those two days.

Having said that and putting more thought into it, my suggestion will be to try to invite senior and non-senior Thai to Florida and use the remaining resources to bring Thai and some other regional participants to Oslo for the Global Fact between 24-27 June. By doing these two - not doing the Bangkok training in February - we can achieve;

- having one-to-one time with leading figures of the Thai media and journalists in the steer of their newsrooms
- offering Poynter's renowned teaching resources to the participants and merging ethics & newsroom management seminars with our fact-checking training
- following up with some of the participants in Florida tour in Oslo during the Global Fact and having them (Shure and Share + others) exposed to 60+ different sessions in 3.5 days

Once the Global Fact 7 is over, Shure and Share along with other potential Thai partners can apply to the network thanks to the training they had (Bangkok/October + Florida/Spring + Oslo/June) in three different settings and the remote consulting I had been providing and will keep providing until they are evaluated by our advisory board.

If those don't sound a terrible idea to you, I can send a draft template over the weekend for what we can cover in 2-3 days in Florida for the first group. Also, the attached program of the last Global Fact which took place in Cape Town, South Africa can also give a better sense of what will most likely await the Thai & regional journalists in Oslo.

One way or another, I'll make sure we will share our know-how with the invested participants and support the practitioners in the country. I remain committed to making this effort helping the non-partisan Thai media landscape.

Best-

Baybars

On Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 9:53 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Great to speak with you and we wish you and your family all the best in this momentous progress toward U.S. citizenship!

I found the bio of Christina on the Poynter site, but would love to hear from you what you propose for the activities/deliverables going forward. Also, could you kindly send the bio of the trainer who would accompany Christina to Bangkok?

Though you may have more ideas, the activities we wrote down from the call were:

- Sending Thais (could be a mix of senior and working level) to Poynter in Florida
- Christina and trainer come to Thailand in place of Baybars and trainer
- Sending Thais (and perhaps other journalists from Mekong/Indo-Pacific countries) to Oslo, June 24-27

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 8:31 AM

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

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

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Good morning!

What's the best way to connect? Whatsapp call works?

Talk to you soon!

Baybars

On Mon, Jan 20, 2020 at 8:00 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Perfect. We have a call here 8-9am, so just after our 9am works well.

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 7:57 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

How about anytime tomorrow (Tuesday) evening Eastern time? Sometime between 9-11 am (Wednesday) Bangkok time?

On Mon, Jan 20, 2020 at 6:28 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Absolutely- when works well for you? We can make it work to suit your schedule.

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 2:31:05 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Important issue to discuss

Dear (b)(6)

There are some developments on my end that I need to talk to you about as soon as possible regarding our plans.

May I kindly ask for a call at your earliest convenience this week?

Thanks a lot

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
[@baybarsorsek](#) / [@factchecknet](#)

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
[@baybarsorsek](#) / [@factchecknet](#)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

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

Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;

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

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

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

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

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

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>

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

Subject: Confirmation for a Conversation with Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman

Date: Mon, 12 Sep 2022 12:51:39 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

BEGIN:VCALENDAR
PRODID:-//Splash Event Planning System
VERSION:2.0
METHOD:PUBLISH
BEGIN:VEVENT
DTSTAMP:20220912T125138Z
UID:fc21234e75c78e2c94ee346440d28e237f1a2f21@shermansept2022
.splashthat.com
URL:https://shermansept2022.splashthat.com
DTSTART:20220916T143000Z
DTEND:20220916T150000Z
SUMMARY:Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman
DESCRIPTION:Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman\n\nWa
tch live: wapo.st/shermansept2022
LOCATION:Washington D.C. DC 20071
END:VEVENT
END:VCALENDAR

Sender: Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>

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

From: Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: WashPost Invite: In-person health equity event Tuesday, 5/17 [Response Requested]
Date: Fri, 13 May 2022 16:10:43 +0000

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sender: Kristine Coratti Kelly <washpostlive@washpost.com>

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

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: "Boyle, Maggie H" (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific
Date: Mon, 22 Mar 2021 04:17:48 +0000

Good Afternoon all,

Hope this email finds you all well and looking forward to brand new week ☺ .

Just wanted to touch base with you John and Dave since we sent out emails a few weeks ago to our participating newsrooms across the region to check in on their passwords and access.

John, has there been any direct feedback with you and is there anything else we can assist with?

Also, in terms of a "Call for All", do you have any tentative dates that we could work with to schedule, do let us know what could work.

Thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Cheers,

Maggie Boyle

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office

U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

📧 (b)(6)@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva

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From: Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 6:27 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: Boyle, Maggie H (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi (b)(6)

Instead of the AP Academy website listed below, please use the new updated site of https://aphelp.ap.org/Content/SupportDocs/apnewsroom/#t=Video_Tutorials.htm

Hope this help and have a great weekend,

John

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2021 2:56 PM
To: Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>; Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>
Cc: Boyle, Maggie H (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

[EXTERNAL]

Thanks Dave-

We will send them the below materials and share John's email. 4 pm your time is good for us so can you share a day that works for you and we can invite them to participate?
Have a lovely one.

Many thanks, (b)(6)

From: Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 7:50 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>
Cc: Boyle, Maggie H (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi (b)(6)

Please have the user's that require account verification and resets reach out directly to John Khin above.
*John please re-run current users list to and provide for (b)(6).

Resending the link for online training materials on AP Academy:

<https://www.ap.org/ap-academy/>

Also, we would like to let you know that we now have a product training and client engagement team and would be happy to schedule a Zoom presentation for the group. Realize difficult with time change involved but we have some people that could be game to do this at an odd hour.

Thanks,

Dave

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2021 12:49 AM

To: Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>; Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>

Cc: Boyle, Maggie H (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Dave and John-

I am following up on the below email. We'd really like to reach out to the members and give them helpful info on using this service.

Have a good one.

Many thanks, (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:29 AM

To: (b)(6)@ap.org; Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>

Cc: Boyle, Maggie H (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi Dave and John-

Per the report you sent to Maggie I can see that several of the users need to verify accounts or change their passwords. Can you send us the Youtube videos you mentioned as well as the best email for the users who need assistant resetting or verifying their accounts. We'd like to reach out to all of them again to encourage them to use the service and we can ask if they'd like a training via WebEx.

In the meantime is there any way to see how much the active users are accessing and/or downloading from AP?

Have a wonderful day.

Many thanks, (b)(6)

From: Boyle, Maggie H (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:18 AM

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

Subject: FW: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi (b)(6)

FYI

Maggie Boyle

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office

U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

(b)(6)@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva

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From: Boyle, Maggie H
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 2:23 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: FW: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi (b)(6)

Received this from Dave today. Have emailed him back to ask for some guidance on how to read this report as its not very clear to me.

Appreciate if you have more insight on this to share, thank you.

Cheers,

Maggie Boyle

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office

U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

📞 (b)(6)@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva

✘ ✘ ✘

From: Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Boyle, Maggie H (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi Maggie-

Well we made it to November 4th but still no declared winner, historic and exhausting at once. Here is the information you requested. It seems to me that it would be a good idea to organize a training session or training materials for you users. Realize there is a time difference issue but we can be flexible for a webex session, there is also a plethora of information online including instructional YouTube videos – please let me know how that sounds.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave

From: Boyle, Maggie H <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 6:44 PM
To: Rizzo, Dave <(h)(6)@ap.org>
Cc: Khin, John <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Dave,

Awesome to hear from you! Yes thank you, usage reports will be most appreciated when you get a chance. Of course, the elections just around the corner, I'm excited seeing and hearing all about that. Wishing you and the team all the very best in your coverage.

Talk soon. Have a gorgeous evening on that end.

Cheers,

Maggie Boyle

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office
U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

📞 (h)(6)@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva

✉️ ✉️ ✉️

From: Rizzo, Dave <(h)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 10:38 AM
To: Boyle, Maggie H <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: Khin, John <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Hi Maggie-

My apologies for the delayed response and thank you for bumping this up in my inbox. We can run usage reports for you, typically it would take a couple days to compile and deliver, it may take a bit longer as elections are currently consuming a lot of resources.

I will keep you posted and provide a delivery date on the reports shortly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave

From: Boyle, Maggie H <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:52 PM
To: Rizzo, Dave <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Cc: Khin, John <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: RE: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

[EXTERNAL]

Good Afternoon Mr. Rizzo,

Just following up on my email. Appreciate if you have had a moment to consider the request.

Thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you.

Cheers,

Maggie Boyle

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office

U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

📧 (b)(6)@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva



From: Boyle, Maggie H
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 3:52 PM
To: (b)(6)@ap.org' (b)(6)@ap.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@ap.org' (b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: Usage of free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service in the Pacific

Good Afternoon Mr. Rizzo,

Trust this email finds you well. My name is Maggie Boyle and I'm working with the US Embassy in Suva, Fiji.

I understand you were integral in the free provision of AP content for the Pacific Islands and I would appreciate your assistance in my current task to highlight some data on the program's uptake.

I'm hoping to compile some data on how many news organizations in the Pacific are using the free AP Asia Online and AP Top News Service since the inception of the grant/program.

Is there a way in which your organization is able to assist with this information gathering, also how often they are using the content?

Appreciate your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,

Maggie Boyle

Press and Media Coordinator | Public Diplomacy Office
U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu

📞 (b)(6)@state.gov

158 Princess Road | PO Box 218, Suva

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The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

Sender: "Boyle, Maggie H" (b)(6)@state.gov>

Khin, John (b)(6)@ap.org>;

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

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

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

Rizzo, Dave (b)(6)@ap.org>

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
To: Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
Alan Davis <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
Ferd Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunisia
Date: Mon, 1 Feb 2021 09:45:54 -0500

Dear Erica,

Thank you so much! Happy new year to you too!

We, unfortunately, haven't been able to identify the local beneficiary for Tunisia, The conversation with HAICA stalled, showing a lack of motivation from HAICA's side. We were already a bit hesitant to identify them as our local beneficiaries in this project, therefore currently looking for other outlets which might be a better fit.

We would be more than happy to hear your thoughts and suggestions while we keep looking for a newsroom/media outlet in the country.

All the best-

Baybars

On Fri, Jan 29, 2021 at 2:24 AM Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Baybars and (b)(6)

Happy New Year. I'm checking in to see if you have any updates on the Poynter Tunisia project. I look forward to your feedback.

Erica Thibault

(b)(6)@state.gov

(b)(6)

I am currently teleworking

From: Thibault, Erica (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 11:27 PM
To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Baybars

I hope that you are doing well. As Gabby noted, HAICA appears to be a great fit. Is there anything specific that you need from Embassy Tunis in order to move forward? If not, what is your current timeline and your planned next steps, knowing that COVID may require adjustments?

Best regards,

Erica Thibault

Counselor for Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy Tunis

(b)(6)@state.gov

(b)(6)

I am currently teleworking

From: Baybars Orsek <baybars@poynter.org>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 6:44 PM
To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis)

Cc: (b)(6) Vonda Wolcott; Alan Davis; (b)(6) Ferdi Ozsoy; Thibault, Erica (Tunis); Fanous, Mary K (Tunis)
Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Gabrielle,

Thanks for sharing those with me.

Hope you have completed your transition smoothly.

Erica and Mary,

I'd be more than happy to jump on a call and discuss about this to know more about their fitness to our program.

Would that be possible to do it next week?

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best-

Baybars

On Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 1:26 PM Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Baybars,

I am transitioning out of post, so I will leave my colleagues Erica and Mary to respond to this officially. I think the HAICA proposal looks promising and that it is worth serious consideration. (My only issue with the proposal is that they have the Covid timeline in Tunisia wrong.) It appears to dovetail with another project supported by the Embassy / GEC on Counter disinformation and propaganda on the Covid-19 pandemic in Tunisia. Our grantee is the Grande Ecole de la Communication (GEC) which is working with the Tunisian Ministry of Health.

Best regards,

Gabrielle

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: Glavin, Nicholas A <GlavinNA@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>; <(b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; Thibault, Erica (Tunis) <(b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hello again,

Hope this finds you in a good health.

Just wanted to kindly remind my inquiry about your thoughts on HAICA from Tunisia as a potential local partner for our training engagement in the country.

I'm sharing two documents that I've received about the organization (via UNDP) and kindly asking your feedback on their status and eligibility to be a good partner for this project.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 10:35 AM Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:

Hello everyone,

Just wanted to get a quick feedback on haica.tn and their collaborative initiative <https://tunisiachecknews.com/>

UNDP and Council of Europe seem to be supporting them

I'm aware that HAICA is a constitutional body set up after the revolution and is not a private organization, however, wondering if they are more independent than similar organizations around the world.

Thanks a lot!

Baybars

On Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 12:42 PM Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:

Hi Gabby,

Hope you had a great weekend!

Just wanted to kindly check in since I have not received an invite yet.

I believe we are still confirmed for tomorrow 11am EDT.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 9:25 AM Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Super!

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 2:22 PM
To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Thibault, Erica (LEO) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6) MK@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi (b)(6)

Sure thing! Please kindly feel free to send an invite with your preferred method of communication.

Looking forward to it!

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 9:16 AM Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Baybars,

That's great. Would it be possible to push the moving back to 11 am Tampa / 4 pm Tunis? That better suits a key person on our side. We can set the meeting up via Teams or Zoom. Let us know your preference and we'll send a link by Monday am our time.

Thanks again,

Gabby

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 2:07 PM
To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Thibault, Erica (LEO) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Yes, that works for me.

Looking forward to it!

Baybas

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 5:53 AM Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Baybars,

Tuesday morning (Eastern time) works well for us too. Are you available around 10 am Tampa / 3 PM Tunis?

Thanks,

Gabby

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Thibault, Erica (LEO) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Hi Gabby,

Great to hear from you!

Next week would be very ideal for me!

I'm based in Florida, Eastern Time Zone

My Tuesday morning (EDT) seems flexible. I hope that would work for you given the time difference and your schedule.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 12:31 PM Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Dear Baybars,

It is a pleasure to meet you. Perhaps we can meet next week over Zoom. Please let me know where you are based so that we can work out a date and time. I would like to include our incoming PAO, Erica Thibault, and our new press officer, Mary Fanous in the call.

Best regards,

Gabby

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 3:52 PM

To: Price, Gabrielle M (Tunis) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Subject: Fwd: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

Dear Gabby Price and all,

Hope this email finds you well.

Thanks a lot for this introduction, (b)(6). Happy to be connected.

Gaby, we are lacking a trainee organization in Tunisia to kick off the trainings. Dogruluk Payi from Turkey will be our regional partner in those trainings, therefore will be providing guidance and support throughout the implementation of the engagement.

We like to hear your thoughts and guidance on identifying a Tunisian newsroom and/or non-profit organization to engage with and train them to be eligible for the International Fact-Checking Network's Code of Principles.

I'll be more than happy to connect with the colleagues at the embassy to seek help in our search for a partner in the country.

Available for a call at your convenience.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

----- Forwarded message -----

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

Date: Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 5:35 PM

Subject: Update on Poynter and Tunisia -- Connecting with U.S. Embassy Tunis

To: (b)(6) [redacted]@poynter.org (b)(6) [redacted]@poynter.org>

Cc: Vonda Wolcott (b)(6) [redacted]@iwpr.net>, Alan Davis (b)(6) [redacted]@iwpr.net>, (b)(6) [redacted]

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

Baybars,

I hope you are doing well! I'm touching base with you regarding the Tunisia portion of your IFCN program. I understand from your recent amendment that Poynter still seeks a local Tunisian organization with whom to partner.

May you provide our public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis with an update on where things stand regarding Tunisia **by open of business tomorrow (Thursday)**? Her name is Gabby Price and her email is (b)(6)@state.gov. She is already aware that you and IWPR will reach out with an update and to begin coordinating on potential local implementers. The embassy likely can assist you in your search.

Please cc myself, Vonda, Alan, and (b)(6)@state.gov from our Near Eastern Affairs Bureau on your email. I ask with urgency because Gabby is leaving her position within the next several days. She would like to brief her successor on all pending projects to avoid any disconnect or confusion that the transition may cause. It would also be useful for you to mention that you've identified Doğruluk Payı -- the Turkish fact-checking organization -- as the one who will be connected with the Tunisian organization TBD.

Thank you again, and I do hope you and your family are remaining healthy these days.

Kindly,

(b)(6)

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)@state.gov

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network

@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network

@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network

@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

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Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network

@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

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Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network

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Baybars Örsek

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Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network

@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network

@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

Sender: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Thibault, Erica (Tunis) <(b)(6)@state.gov>;

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

Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

Alan Davis <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

(b)(6) [redacted]@state.gov>;
Ferd Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
Fanous, Mary K (Tunis) (b)(6) [redacted]@state.gov>;
(b)(6) [redacted]@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: "Nakashima, Ellen" <(b)(6)@washpost.com>
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
CC: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Ukraine's information campaign - request to speak with Daniel Kimmage
Date: Wed, 16 Mar 2022 13:25:00 +0000

Many thanks, (b)(6)

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Nakashima, Ellen <(b)(6)@washpost.com>
Cc: GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Ukraine's information campaign - request to speak with Daniel Kimmage

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello Ellen,

We were happy to help with your article by arranging for you to speak with Daniel Kimmage. We are glad that it worked out.

Please feel free to contact us again in the future with any other press inquiries.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State

All Native Group Contractor

(b)(6)



From: Nakashima, Ellen <(b)(6)@washpost.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 4:05 PM
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: Ukraine's information campaign - request to speak with Daniel Kimmage

Hello,

I'm a national security reporter with The Washington Post and have covered information operations, cyber and intelligence issues.

We're working on a story with a quick turnaround (needs to be edited by tomorrow afternoon) that assesses the strengths and potential pitfalls of Ukraine's remarkable information campaign during its war with Russia.

I understand that Daniel Kimmage is researching a related topic at NDU –on Russian and Soviet disinformation, and he's a noted expert on the subject.

Could you arrange for me to speak with him –even on background—so that our readers may have the benefits of his insights –even if not attributed to him by name?

We would be ever so grateful.

Thank you,
Ellen Nakashima

(b)(6)

Sender: "Nakashima, Ellen" (b)(6)@washpost.com>

Recipient: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>;
GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Subject: Re: Re:
Date: Thu, 4 Feb 2021 20:46:00 +0000

Hi Julian,

We still plan to respond today, let us know if you can hold just a bit longer. Sorry for the delay.

Very best,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
Accenture Federal Services Contractor
Cell: (b)(6)



From: Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 3:13 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Re:

Checking in

Julian E. Barnes
Intelligence, National Security reporter
The New York Times
+1 (b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 10:42 AM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Julian,

I think it should be very shortly.

Very best,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
Accenture Federal Services Contractor
Cell: (b)(6)



From: Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:39 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: Re:

Will you be able to get back to me today?

Julian E. Barnes
Intelligence, National Security reporter
The New York Times
+1 (b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 9:44 AM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:
Hi Julian,
Can you give us a little more time? We should be able to get back with you shortly.
Very best,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
Accenture Federal Services Contractor
Cell: (b)(6)

x

From: Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 5:22 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:

(b)(6)

Looks like the story I was helping my colleague could go as early as tomorrow afternoon. Not sure if there is anything you will be able to share Thursday morning. Give a ring when you can

(b)(6)

Julian E. Barnes
Intelligence, National Security reporter
The New York Times
+1 (b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

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

Recipient: Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
 (b)(6)@iwpr.net (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6);
 (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Subject: Re: Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call
Date: Tue, 8 Dec 2020 19:34:26 +0000

Hi Vonda,
 I'm in the meeting, but it says I am the only one?
 cheers,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@iwpr.net
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 4:15 AM
To: (b)(6)@iwpr.net (b)(6)@iwpr.net>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@poynter.org
 (b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
 (b)(6); (b)(6)@poynter.org <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Subject: Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call
When: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:30 AM-10:30 AM.
Where:

This event has been changed.

Poynter Pacific Islands Kick Off Call

When Changed: Tue Dec 8, 2020 2:30pm – 3:30pm Eastern Time - New York

Calendar (b)(6)@state.gov

Who

- (b)(6)@iwpr.net - organizer
- (b)(6)@state.gov
- (b)(6)@poynter.org
- (b)(6)@state.gov
- (b)(6)
- (b)(6)@poynter.org

[more details »](#)

Conference call link:

<https://meet.jit.si/ArtisticPerceptionsDenounceEarly>

PW (b)(6)

Agenda:

Intro (IWPR)

Overview and timeline of project (Poynter)

Questions/comments (GEC et al)

Going (b)(6) @state.gov)? **Yes - Maybe - No** [more options »](#)**Invitation from Google Calendar**

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account gentzelca@state.gov because you are an attendee of this event. To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event. Alternatively you can sign up for a Google account at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/> and control your notification settings for your entire calendar. Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer and be added to the guest list, or invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or to modify your RSVP. [Learn More](#)

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

Recipient: (b)(6)@iwpr.net <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 (b)(6) @state.gov>;
 (b)(6);
 (b)(6)@poynter.org (b)(6)@poynter.org>

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response
Date: Thu, 11 Feb 2021 01:33:28 +0000

Received with thanks!

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 2:51 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi (b)(6)

Please kindly find the counter signed version attached.

All the best-

Baybars

On Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 10:35 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Thanks Baybars - totally understand.

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 9:42 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi (b)(6)

Thank you so much! We will be providing another update to (b)(6) next week.

I've just reminded our VP of Finance and Business again for her signature.

Poynter is having its National Advisory Board meeting this week so she must have been swamped but will take care of that before the end of the week for sure.

Thanks a lot for your understanding.

Best-

Baybars

On Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 8:52 PM (b)(6)@state.gov>

wrote:

Hi Baybars,

So glad to see you and (b)(6) discussing the way forward. Just a quick reminder that we hope to receive the DS 1909 soon. Hope all is well in your neck of the woods.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:19 PM

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

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

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi (b)(6)

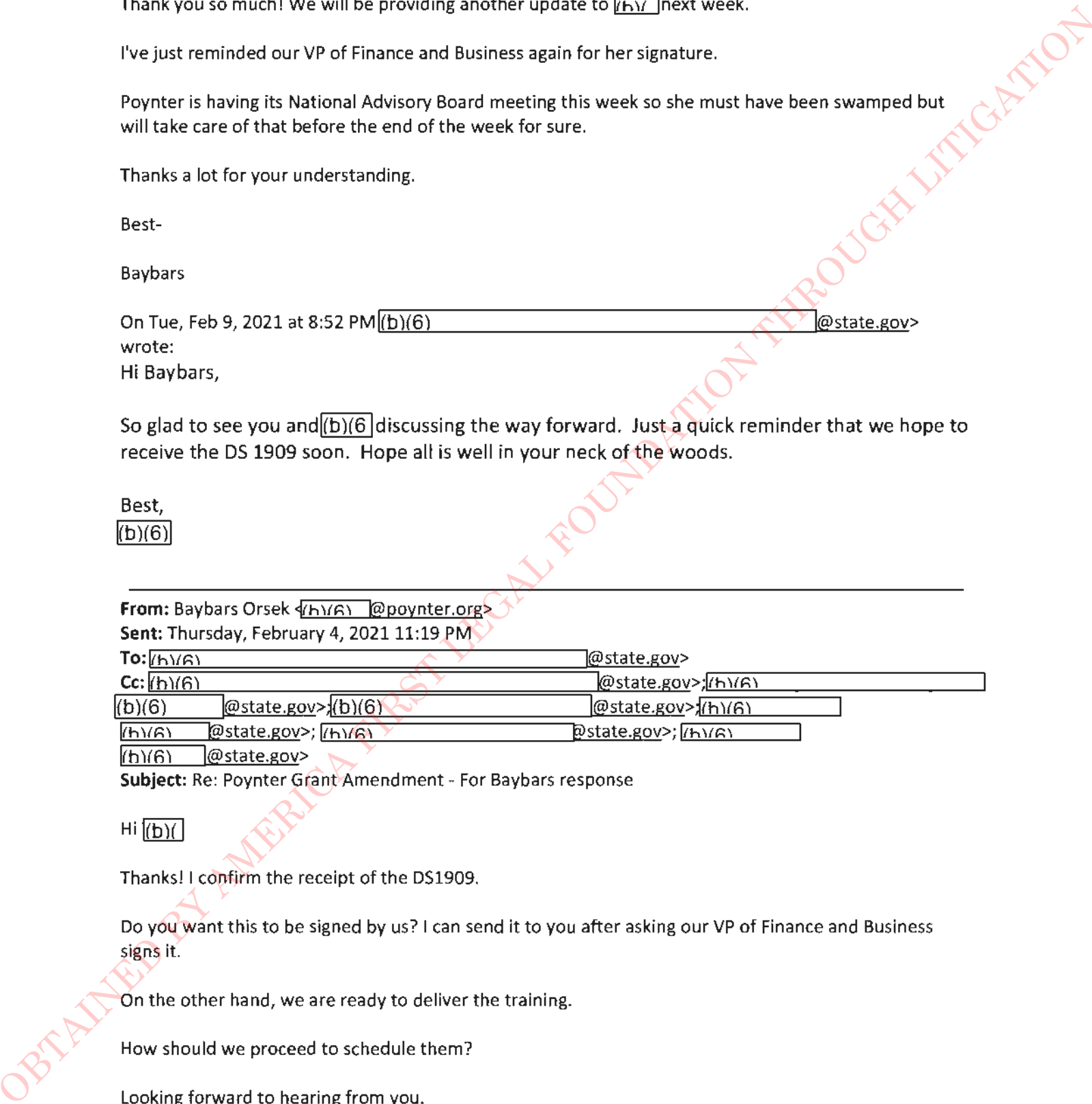
Thanks! I confirm the receipt of the DS1909.

Do you want this to be signed by us? I can send it to you after asking our VP of Finance and Business signs it.

On the other hand, we are ready to deliver the training.

How should we proceed to schedule them?

Looking forward to hearing from you.



Best-

Baybars

On Sun, Jan 31, 2021 at 9:21 PM (b)(6)@state.gov>

wrote:

Hi Baybars,

Can you please confirm receipt of the DS1909?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

As promised, here is the new DS1909 and the new Award Provisions, which contains a detailed description of the grant's balance of payments and budget. Please review the provisions and have the DS1909 signed by one of the directors at Poynter (Wendy Wallace signed the last one).

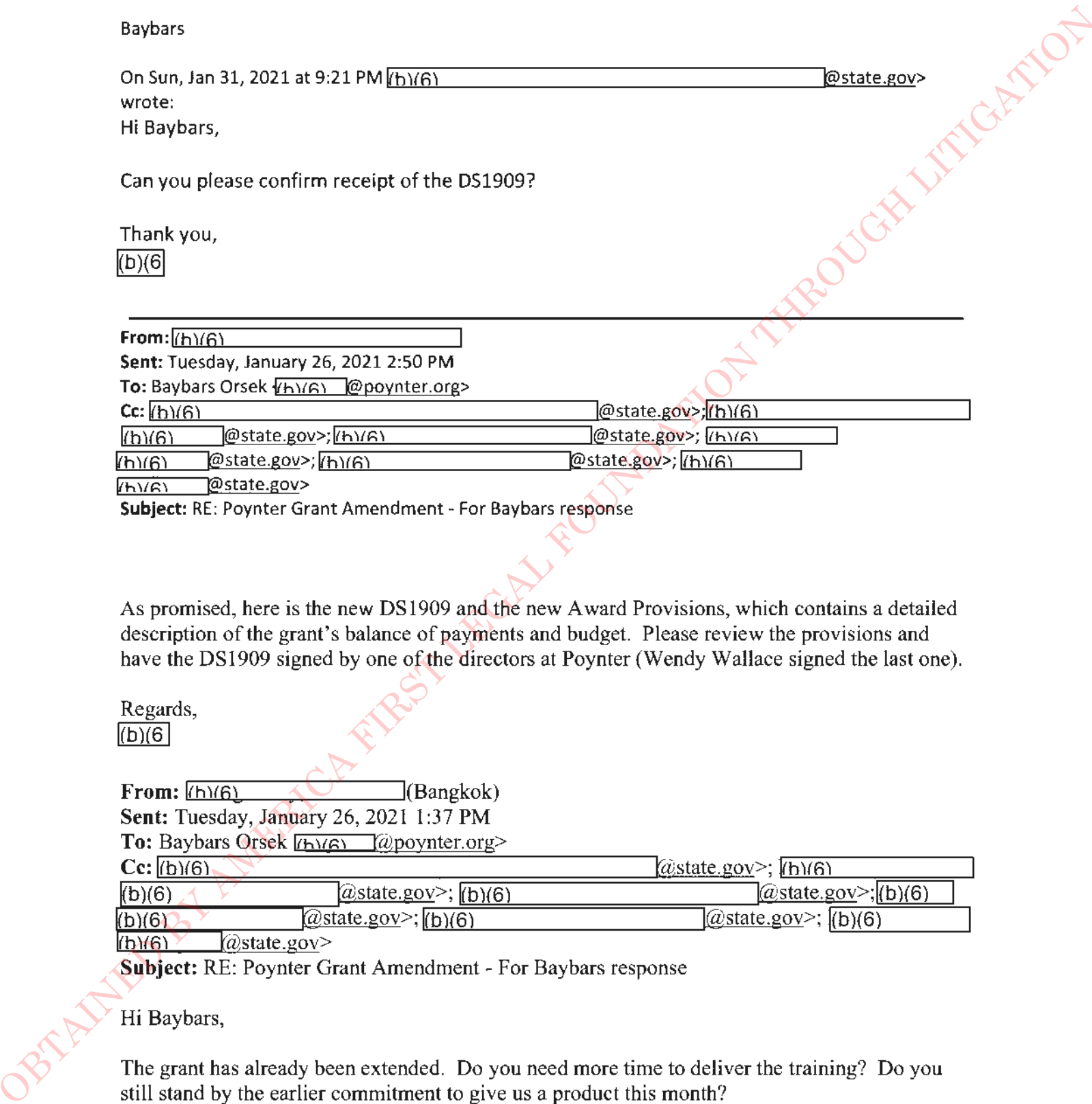
Regards,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 1:37 PM
To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi Baybars,

The grant has already been extended. Do you need more time to deliver the training? Do you still stand by the earlier commitment to give us a product this month?



Best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:22 AM

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

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

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi (b)(6)

Yes! The content is ready therefore we are good to go and deliver the trainings.

Looking forward to receiving the paperwork.

Thanks

Baybars

On Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 8:17 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Just another ping to see if everything is going well on your side. Everything on track to produce online course content?

Best,

(b)(6)

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

Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 8:30 AM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi Baybars,

Hope you had a nice New Year holiday. Just wanted to drop a note to let you know we look forward to receiving the course outline this month. Let me know if you need to discuss

anything. In the meantime, I will work on some of the required documents to reformat the grant.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)

Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:48 AM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi Baybars,

When I return after Christmas we will do some paperwork outlining these initiatives more formally in the grant. For now, please proceed designing the online course and designing the virtual training.

Congrats again on the new family member.

Regards,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 8:39 PM

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

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

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for this!

Please kindly feel free to share if there is any paperwork we should focus on for the amendment if you need it to be done before your break.

Otherwise, happy to keep up the conversation with GEC and (b)(6)

Best-

Baybars

On Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 12:08 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars –

Thank you for replying that you're interested in continuing the grant in the separate email. We understand completely about parental leave, and many congratulations to you on the new family member!

I'd like to keep the conversation going in this thread here as there are additional stakeholders cc'ed. I have initiated an extension of the grant out to July 31, 2021 just to give us buffer room. I will be on much needed R&R from Dec 7-25, so we will pick up this conversation again when I return. While I am out, please feel free to continue discussions with GEC, and (b)(6) (b)(6) on my staff. I have copied elements of your separate email, which looks fine to me, below.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

--email Dec 2, 2020 from Baybars --

Given we are heading to the end of the year and the winter break here, can we aim the following timeline for the amendment?

Late January: Poynter provides online course outline to Embassy for review (in English).

Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Mid February: Poynter provides online course version 2 to Embassy (in English or Thai).

Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Early March: Poynter provides final version of online course to Embassy (in Thai). Embassy and TJA make final checks.

Late March: Virtual Training + Kickoff Press Conference at TJA to introduce the new online course.

---##---

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

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 9:01 PM

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

(b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

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

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

Subject: Poynter Grant Amendment - For Baybars response

Tom - adding in (b)(6) from my team.

Best, (b)(6)

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

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 4:04 AM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

Final check. Do you want to amend this grant?

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)

Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 12:23 PM

To: 'Baybars Orsek' (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars – how are you? Shall we proceed with the grant amendment?

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 11:18 AM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

I'll be going on leave soon and want to amend the grant as soon as possible.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 2:49 PM

To: 'Baybars Orsek' (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

I hope you are well. I'm sure that election season is an exciting time for the fact checking community!

Given the many challenges of Covid we appreciate your willingness to be flexible in this project. My team and I have reviewed the Google Doc and we generally like the plan. We are wondering if you can make two changes. One, to be less ambitious, we recommend 1 (one) not three virtual training sessions. Also, is there any way to increase the payment to TJA for their services? Their work as implementing partner will be very important.

To review, the two major components of the grant are 1) virtual training and 2) development of an online course. Here is a rough sketch of timings we think are realistic:

Mid November: Poynter provides online course outline to Embassy for review (in English). Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Mid December: Poynter provides online course version 2 to Embassy (in English or Thai). Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Early January: Poynter provides final version of online course to Embassy (in Thai). Embassy and TJA make final checks.

Late January: Virtual Training + Kickoff Press Conference at TJA to introduce the new online course.

Sound okay?

Kind Regards,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 10:45 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Just wanted to follow up on this to see if we would be able to do this before the end of this year or move to 2021.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 4:04 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Thanks Baybars,

COVID has certainly been a challenge for grants. Glad to hear your team is engaging on elections! Important topic for fact checking!

Our team will look at the Doc and get back to you soon.

Hope all is well!

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 9:59 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Sorry about the delay. We had been buried down with an election focused project, our new chatbot on WhatsApp around the US elections.

Sharing this document to get your feedback and discuss it over the document if needed.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IBhFi4s0XnHOVICc6UZ0nqFIPmwGdIYAkyjypauzk/e_dit

I just had to adjust the dates in this timeline.

Also copying the budget notes in that document as well.

I suggest having a call with TJA as soon as possible to start planning and executing the trainings!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 12:34 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

We have a few ideas for how to move the grant forward. Let us know what you think, and please provide an estimate of the cost.

1. **Three Online Training Sessions** for the Thai Journalists Association (TJA is the main professional association for journalists in Thailand. We would recommend you pay TJA as the implementing partner so they can procure simultaneous translation, and naturally you would provide them with admin fees etc so they can help you organize the sessions.
 - a. Session 1 - September 3. Fact-Checking and Misinformation (broad overview for journalists and editors)
 - b. Session 2 – Mid-September. Fact-Checking for News Rooms (for news room editors)
 - c. Session 3 – October. Fact-Checking: U.S. Election Watch (20-30 media and academics.
2. **Online Course for Thai Journalists.** This would be an online course with quizzes and a final test in the Thai language. The goal is to promote journalism standards, fact-checking, and accuracy. Thai journalists who complete the course with a passing score would receive a certificate which could read “This is to certify that –NAME – has received IFCN Certification in News-Room Fact-Checking” or something similar. This would be a morale booster for the journalists, and something they can put on a resume.
 - a. Phase 1. September – IFCN submits course outline and structure to the Embassy which will seek comment from TJA and may adjust the outline to meet the needs of the Thai environment.
 - b. Phase 2. December – IFCN submits full course in Thai language to Embassy for review.
 - c. Phase 3. January – IFCN Launches course with joint press releases, social media postings, and an online event with TJA and IFCN.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Acting Spokesperson
Social Media Director

U.S. Embassy, Bangkok



From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 6:31 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Great to hear from you! I'm all good, safe, and interesting in Istanbul for a few weeks. I wanted to take the liberty of working from Istanbul for a month or so to stay a bit away from Florida and be closer to the family.

(b)(6)

I've heard that (b)(6) is now in another heaven like place in Earth after lovely Thailand and hoping she invites me to Hawai at some point to do a training there! :)

Since the Global Fact is over and I've been able to recover a bit, I'm now able to send you a proposal on our engagement in Thailand.

Would that be possible to send it in a week or two and we then start acting assuming we confirm the new scope of the program.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Mon, Jul 20, 2020 at 12:03 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Greetings from Thailand, where we have had very low cases of the virus. I hope you are well! Has the U.S. citizen paperwork been going okay? (b)(6) has moved to Hawaii for a year at the East West Center.

I'm writing to see if we can move the grant forward and somehow safely train/certify Thailand's first IFCN fact-check organization.

Any and all ideas are on the table – including virtual training.

All best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 10:28 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Hope all is well on your end too and you are all doing well and healthy!

It's been a crazy week not only workwise but also personally as well for all of us so please accept my apologies for the late response.

I just wanted to share that I'll share the proposal with you before the end of the week. I couldn't do that yet because there has been an enormous workload on our e-learning department as everything is being migrated to online, therefore I had wait a bit to have my turn with them.

Once I have the costs and timeline from them, I'll share it with you and will look forward to moving forward!

Stay healthy and safe!

Best-

Baybars

On Sun, Mar 15, 2020 at 11:37 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Hope all is well in these rapidly evolving times. Number one priority is health, of course. Looking forward to your proposal on a virtual version of activities that still gives Thai

organizations a good shot at becoming certified by IFCN. I'm also open to hearing any other suggestions you have. Again, health is number one at this point.

All best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 6:02 AM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

It was great to talk to you as well!

I agree with you. I think it will be wiser to design the extension/modification relying only on virtual teaching and a limited notion of bringing two Thai participants to Oslo.

I'll have a meeting with related faculty people at Poynter and then share the possibilities and ideas around localizing our training materials to Thai and creating new modules from scratch.

I should be able to send that email to you by Monday if that's not too late.

Best-

Baybars

On Tue, Mar 3, 2020 at 10:27 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Was great talking to you the other day. I'm looking forward to seeing your revised proposal on how we can best utilize the remaining funds in the current environment. Thailand's Ministry of Public Health is now raising its alert level for other nations new experiencing a rise in cases, including European countries. It will also be important to note the rise in cases in the U.S. and to see if that could impact Thai travel to the U.S. Department of State

Given the rapidly evolving situation and potential risks, I'd ask you to think about virtual programming and have an annex to your proposal that has a fully virtual (no travel) scenario. This could include mass translation of web based courses into Thai, Web based virtual training, etc etc.

All best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:57 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

No worries! It will be 9pm Sunday eve here and I should be able to take the call.

How should we connect? Can you send me dial-in instructions?

Best-

Baybars

On Tue, Feb 25, 2020 at 4:37 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)
(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:
Great! I can do 9am on Monday March 2, but unfortunately no other day this week.

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 10:26 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Dear (b)(6)

Hope this email finds you well.

It's great to hear from you, (b)(6) I really missed that beautiful place! Hope you had a great break!

My suggestion for the rest of the project based on your feedbacks are;

- To organize a Skype call Yo/Sure and Share, and SONP as per (b)(6) suggestion and discuss their progress and provide feedback before their application.
- Schedule a call this or next week to;
 - Set the date and the content for the video conference from Florida
 - Fix the scope and the date for Thai's delegation visit to St. Petersburg, FL
 - Decide who to bring to Global Fact in Oslo from Thailand (possibility from other Mekong countries as well)

Once we kick the ball rolling, this will be a lot easier to move.

Looking forward to hearing from you for your ideal day to have a 9am Bangkok time call.

Best-

Baybars

On Mon, Feb 24, 2020 at 2:59 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Baybars! I'm just back from the Gulf of Thailand... you know, honeymoonland. Hope all is well.

How shall we proceed? I think it's time we get something down in writing – dates for a video conference from Florida, dates for a visit by a few to Florida, and then a total number of Thais to Oslo. Let's look at the budget and the planning, get something approved, and determine when you might be able to get back out here as well!

I depart Thailand mid June, so would love to be sure we have everything rolling before I go!

All best,

(b)(6)

—SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED—

—SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED—

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

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 3:38 PM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

Hope all is well. The virus is still making news here but seems to be contained, for now.

Would you be willing to do the Skype connection with Yo/Sure and Share, and SONP to discuss their efforts toward certification? We know they would love to have the opportunity to talk with you on Skype. Any further thought to (b)(6) second question below as well?

Best,

(b)(6)

—SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED—

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Thank you Baybars. I can understand that many don't want to travel to the region considering the international declarations.

We are facing a battle here of information and misinformation. We'll very much like to see what you are doing in that space.

Meanwhile, let me talk to (b)(6) I think we would like to reformat the grant a bit and include some new elements. Would you be willing to (in addition to some international travel for Thais), do the following:

1. DVC with Yo/Sure and Share, and SONP to discuss their efforts toward certification. We can do that in February on the planned dates, or we can look to a convenient time in the next month.
2. Come back to Thailand after you can travel again, and after Oslo?

Once we know the answer to those, (b)(6) can work with you to amend the grant.

Thanks!

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 10:22 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Greetings from DC! I just organized a day-long event at the Washington Post in partnership with Google and been working on the side for the programming in Bangkok.

I've just seen the news on Reuters that Thailand confirms the first human-to-human coronavirus transmission. The virus has been a big focus for the fact-checkers lately as we keep publishing our reports on the misinformation around the disease.

I've also heard that Splice Beta is canceled/postponed due to WHO's declaration on public health emergency of international concern.

All those considered, can we officially amend the project with no travel to Bangkok in February and discuss alternative options such as bringing people either to the US or Oslo? We can multiply the impact of the engagement with such options

Looking forward to hearing your thoughts.

Thanks

Baybars

On Wed, Jan 29, 2020 at 4:17 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Thanks for all of this, Baybars. Our inclination is to have your deputy/trainer come in February and I hope they're still available. Our Thai partners are eager. We're just negotiating with Washington about how to spend the rest of the money, i.e. if there will be US and/or Oslo travel. We will get back to you ASAP to confirm February and also what else lies in store. Sound ok?

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 1:11 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Thank you so much! I really appreciate it! Fingers crossed! Once again, thank you so much for your understanding.

Eoghan Sweeney, German trainer who is one of the leading experts on Open Source Intelligence Tools for fact-checking & verification. More about him and his works are available here

> <https://www.osintessentials.com/> He can do great work by providing the training in those two days.

Having said that and putting more thought into it, my suggestion will be to try to invite senior and non-senior Thai to Florida and use the remaining resources to bring Thai and some other regional participants to Oslo for the Global Fact between 24-27 June. By doing these two - not doing the Bangkok training in February - we can achieve;

- having one-to-one time with leading figures of the Thai media and journalists in the steer of their newsrooms
- offering Poynter's renowned teaching resources to the participants and merging ethics & newsroom management seminars with our fact-checking training

- following up with some of the participants in Florida tour in Oslo during the Global Fact and having them (Shure and Share + others) exposed to 60+ different sessions in 3.5 days

Once the Global Fact 7 is over, Shure and Share along with other potential Thai partners can apply to the network thanks to the training they had (Bangkok/October + Florida/Spring + Oslo/June) in three different settings and the remote consulting I had been providing and will keep providing until they are evaluated by our advisory board.

If those don't sound a terrible idea to you, I can send a draft template over the weekend for what we can cover in 2-3 days in Florida for the first group. Also, the attached program of the last Global Fact which took place in Cape Town, South Africa can also give a better sense of what will most likely await the Thai & regional journalists in Oslo.

One way or another, I'll make sure we will share our know-how with the invested participants and support the practitioners in the country. I remain committed to making this effort helping the non-partisan Thai media landscape.

Best-

Baybars

On Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 9:53 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Great to speak with you and we wish you and your family all the best in this momentous progress toward U.S. citizenship!

I found the bio of Christina on the Poynter site, but would love to hear from you what you propose for the activities/deliverables going forward. Also, could you kindly send the bio of the trainer who would accompany Christina to Bangkok?

Though you may have more ideas, the activities we wrote down from the call were:

- Sending Thais (could be a mix of senior and working level) to Poynter in Florida
- Christina and trainer come to Thailand in place of Baybars and trainer
- Sending Thais (and perhaps other journalists from Mekong/Indo-Pacific countries) to Oslo, June 24-27

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 8:31 AM

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

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

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Good morning!

What's the best way to connect? Whatsapp call works?

Talk to you soon!

Baybars

On Mon, Jan 20, 2020 at 8:00 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

(b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Perfect. We have a call here 8-9am, so just after our 9am works well.

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 7:57 AM

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

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

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

How about anytime tomorrow (Tuesday) evening Eastern time? Sometime between 9-11 am (Wednesday) Bangkok time?

On Mon, Jan 20, 2020 at 6:28 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

(b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Absolutely- when works well for you? We can make it work to suit your schedule.

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 2:31:05 AM

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

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

Subject: Important issue to discuss

Dear (b)(6)

There are some developments on my end that I need to talk to you about as soon as possible regarding our plans.

May I kindly ask for a call at your earliest convenience this week?

Thanks a lot

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
[@baybarsorsek](#) / [@factchecknet](#)

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[Baybars Örsek](#)

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
[@baybarsorsek](#) / [@factchecknet](#)

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Sender: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Baybars Orsek (h)(6)@poynter.org>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;

Recipient: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(h)(6)@state.gov>;
(h)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>

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From: Joseph Michael Kelly (b)(6)@umd.edu>
To: Angie Mallory (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>
(b)(6)
(b)(6)@arl.psu.edu <(b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>;
(b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov>;
CC: Vicky Weiss (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>;
Gordon Crovitz (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>;
(b)(6)@washpost.com (b)(6)@washpost.com>;
Barton Brown (b)(6)@lexsg.com>;
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal Date/Time
Date: Sat, 3 Apr 2021 18:42:25 -0400

Panel Members,

My apologies for the delay in getting the invite out. Shortly after this email, you should receive an invite from (b)(6) for **rehearsal meeting on Teams for Friday, April 9 at 9am EDT.**

I would also like to announce a change to the line up and am pleased to announce that DASD for Special Operations and Counterterrorism, Milancy Harris, will be joining us on the panel.

RADM (Ret) Steve Parade will be shifting to panel 2 (though he may join us on Friday as he has a conflict for his panel rehearsal time).

Due to the need to ensure the ability for our DoD speakers and attendees to connect to the event in a controlled and confidential manner, we have moved the event on to DoD's Microsoft platform - cvt.mil. We have also shifted from doing the event as a Live Event to holding the sessions as Teams meetings. The major impact of this change is that the sessions will all be capped at 250 people (including speakers and staff) and it will give us greater control over the attendees experience.

The goal for our rehearsal is to test your connection and technology, provide all of you some insights and best practices for a Team based panel, and finally discuss everyone's planned remarks.

Please let Angie or myself know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you again for your support and we look forward to seeing you all on Friday!

V/R,

Joe Kelly

On Wed, Mar 31, 2021 at 11:04 PM Angie Mallory <(b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu> wrote:

Dear Panel 1 Members,

Thank you for your patience as we nailed down a date/time that works for most of you! **Your rehearsal time is Friday, April 9th at 0900 ET.*** You will receive an invite with a Microsoft Teams link by this Friday afternoon.

Note that if you are dialing in from a government computer, you will need to create a cvr.mil account to access the Teams rehearsal and main event. Apologies for another step—we're working hard to make this event as secure and easy as possible, and believe it or not, this is the easiest method, given the constraints.

Please try to dial into the rehearsal from the same computer you'll be using for the event, to avoid as many unforeseen challenges as possible.

***Maj. Gen. Grynkewich**, I am tracking that the only time that will work for you is Monday, April 5th at 1600 ET, so we'll either add you to another rehearsal that is happening at that time or do an individual one with you. Either way, we have your availability locked in.

Standing by for questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Angie

Angie Mallory, Ph.D.

Integrator, Human Aspects of Military Operations

Assistant Research Scientist, Rhetoric

Applied Research Lab for Intelligence and Security (ARLIS)

University of Maryland

C: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@umd.edu

*Take decisive action based on research. Observe the fight, and expand the Field.**Embrace the Unknown—though it mock your Knowns. Such is the burdened privilege of Knowledge and Freedom.***From:** Joseph Michael Kelly (b)(6)@umd.edu>**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 8:58 PM**To:** Barton Brown (b)(6)@lexsg.com>; (b)(6)

(b)(6); (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov; Gordon Crovitz (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>;

(b)(6)@washpost.com

Cc: Angie Mallory (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>**Subject:** Fwd: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 - Rehearsal and Coordination

Panel Members

Thank you again for joining us at the Phoenix Challenge conference on April 13th. Your panel will run from **1030-1215 EDT** – please mark your calendars accordingly.

You are on Panel 1: Information Effects in Strategic Competition and **your panel shepherd** to guide you through the rehearsal is **Boyd Brown**. He will follow up with you on matters in this email.

In order to check comms prior and ensure a smooth panel, we must schedule a **rehearsal the week of April 5th** at either **0900 or 1600ET**. Please reply with your availability **A5AP**. To the extent possible, please arrange to participate in the rehearsal from the same location and

computer that you will use on April 13th. This will allow us to identify and plan for any technical issues.

In order for us to adhere to our event compliance and provide pertinent information to attendees, we ask that all speakers provide the following information. As the event is fast approaching, if each of you could **provide these to me (and Angie Mallory copied) as soon as possible**, it would be greatly appreciated.

1. Short bio and a head shot. If you would like us to pull these from LinkedIn or another website, just let us know.
2. Emergency contact information (cell phone, office phone & email) for the day of the event to allow instant contact in case of tech issues.
3. We have your names, titles, and institutions listed below – please send us back any corrections.
 - a. MODERATOR: (b)(6) Director, Strategic Multilayer Assessment, Joint Staff J3
 - b. RADM Steve Parode, USN (Ret), Penn State University Applied Research Lab
 - c. Maj Gen Alexis Grynkeiwich, USAF, Director of Operations (J3), USCENTCOM
 - d. Mr. Daniel Kimmage, Acting Coordinator, Global Engagement Center, Department of State
 - e. Mr. Gordon Crovitz, Co-Founder & Co-CEO, Newsguard
 - f. Ms. Ellen Nakashima, National Security Reporter, The Washington Post

Please find attached the updated agenda and note that it includes a change in format. We will not be holding breakout sessions with attendees as it will interfere with effective presentations by you our panelists. That means we will need you to participate for the full scheduled panel time.

We will be recording the event but conducting it under Chatham House rules of non-attribution and the recording will only be made available to registered attendees. Please keep an eye out for a speaker release form that will be coming separately.

Thank you again for your support to the information operations community!

On behalf of ARLIS and the IPA,

Joe

Joseph M. Kelly

Professor of Practice

Interim Director of Computational Infrastructure

UMD Applied Research Lab for Intelligence and Security

(b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu

Mobile: (b)(6)

Sender: Joseph Michael Kelly (b)(6)@umd.edu>

Angie Mallory (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>;

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@arl.psu.edu (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>;

(b)(6)

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

Recipient: Vicky Weiss (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>;

Gordon Crovitz (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>;

(b)(6)@washpost.com (b)(6)@washpost.com>;

Barton Brown (b)(6)@lexsg.com>;

(b)(6)

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From: Vonda Wolcott <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>
To: Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
<(b)(6)@state.gov>;
CC: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>;
Alanna Dvorak <(b)(6)@poynter.org>;
Maria Adelma Montejo <(b)(6)@iwpr.net>
Subject: Re: M&E for Balkans and Pacific Islands
Date: Tue, 9 Feb 2021 16:25:07 -0500

Hi (b)(6)

Can you forward the latest version of the GEC Workbook to this email chain? It might help for me to give some background on this to Poynter before the call.

Thanks!

On Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 4:05 PM Ferdi Ozsoy <(b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:
Dear (b)(6)

Thank you for reaching out regarding M&E for the Balkans and Pacific Islands. Sorry for the late reply. We were just waiting for some internal updates regarding a meeting with our National Board of Advisors. My colleagues and I were tasked in running a few of the meetings that are set through this Thursday and Friday.

We were wondering if we can set a date early next week. We can for sure move things around for Monday need be.

As for activities for the two regions :

We have made some headway with the Pacific Island Grant. We have identified the local partner that will be partnering up with and they are currently underway preparing the localized materials for the training sessions.

As for the Balkans, we are still at the very beginning. We have identified potential partners and have had our introduction meetings and will more to work off of at the end of this month.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all the support.

Best,
Ferd

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 2:28 PM <(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi! Thank you for reaching out!

Would next Friday work? I'm free anytime after 11am except 3-4pm EST.

Before we meet, can you tell me where your projects are at and what M&E work you've done so far? Also, are you just looking for a walk through of the M&E Workbook/Performance Monitoring Plan? Is there anything else you'd like to accomplish during our call?

Thanks!

(b)(6)

M&E Specialist

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

Contractor - Alutiiq Information Management, LLC

(b)(6)@state.gov

x

From: Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 10:51 AM

To: Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>

Cc: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; Maria Adelma Montejo (b)(6)@iwpr.net>

Subject: Re: M&E for Balkans and Pacific Islands

Hi All,

Vonda, thank you for the introductions.

(b)(6) When would be the best time and date for us to set up a call to go over the documents?

The only day that would not work for us is Monday, we will be filming that day for the projects.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Ferdi

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 4:47 PM Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net> wrote:

Hi everyone.

Per our discussion, I wanted to put Poynter folks in touch with (b)(6) the M&E expert from GEC. Shelby has kindly offered to walk you through the GEC's new M&E workbook.

This Workbook uses the M&E from your GEC-approved proposals, which I've attached for everyone's convenience.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

--

Vonda Wolcott

Sr. Program Manager

Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)

1156 15th Street, NW

Suite 329

Washington, DC 20005

Tel: +1 202 393 5641

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--

Ferdi Ferhat Özsoy

Program Manager | *International Fact-Checking Network*

[@ferdi_ozsoy](mailto:ferdi_ozsoy@factchecknet.org) | [@factchecknet](https://www.factchecknet.org)



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Ferdi Ferhat Özsoy

Program Manager | *International Fact-Checking Network*

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Vonda Wolcott

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Sender: Vonda Wolcott [REDACTED]@iwpr.net>
Ferdie Ozsoy [REDACTED]@poynter.org>;
[REDACTED]@state.gov>;
Recipient: Baybars Orsek [REDACTED]@poynter.org>;
Alanna Dvorak [REDACTED]@poynter.org>;
Maria Adelma Montejo [REDACTED]@iwpr.net>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss
Date: Tue, 1 Dec 2020 22:49:02 -0500

Hi (b)(6)

Sorry for the late reply.

I (b)(6) missed responding this.

Let's do that!

Given we are heading to the end of the year and the winter break here, can we aim the following timeline for the amendment?

Late January: Poynter provides online course outline to Embassy for review (in English). Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Mid February: Poynter provides online course version 2 to Embassy (in English or Thai). Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Early March: Poynter provides final version of online course to Embassy (in Thai). Embassy and TJA make final checks.

Late March: Virtual Training + Kickoff Press Conference at TJA to introduce the new online course.

On Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 4:04 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)
(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Baybars,

Final check. Do you want to amend this grant?

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 12:23 PM
To: 'Baybars Orsek' <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)
(Bangkok)(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars – how are you? Shall we proceed with the grant amendment?

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)
(Bangkok)(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

I'll be going on leave soon and want to amend the grant as soon as possible.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (Bangkok)
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 2:49 PM
To: 'Baybars Orsek' (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(Bangkok) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

I hope you are well. I'm sure that election season is an exciting time for the fact checking community!

Given the many challenges of Covid we appreciate your willingness to be flexible in this project. My team and I have reviewed the Google Doc and we generally like the plan. We are wondering if you can make two changes. One, to be less ambitious, we recommend 1 (one) not three virtual training sessions. Also, is there any way to increase the payment to TJA for their services? Their work as implementing partner will be very important.

To review, the two major components of the grant are 1) virtual training and 2) development of an online course. Here is a rough sketch of timings we think are realistic:

Mid November: Poynter provides online course outline to Embassy for review (in English). Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Mid December: Poynter provides online course version 2 to Embassy (in English or Thai). Embassy and TJA provide feedback.

Early January: Poynter provides final version of online course to Embassy (in Thai). Embassy and TJA make final checks.

Late January: Virtual Training + Kickoff Press Conference at TJA to introduce the new online course.

Sound okay?

Kind Regards,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 10:45 PM

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

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

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

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Just wanted to follow up on this to see if we would be able to do this before the end of this year or move to 2021.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 4:04 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Thanks Baybars,

COVID has certainly been a challenge for grants. Glad to hear your team is engaging on elections! Important topic for fact checking!

Our team will look at the Doc and get back to you soon.

Hope all is well!

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 9:59 PM

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

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

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

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Sorry about the delay. We had been buried down with an election focused project, our new chatbot on WhatsApp around the US elections.

Sharing this document to get your feedback and discuss it over the document if needed.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lBhFi4s0XnHOVICcq6UZ0nqFIPmvwGdIYAkyjypauzk/e/dit>

I just had to adjust the dates in this timeline.

Also copying the budget notes in that document as well.

I suggest having a call with TJA as soon as possible to start planning and executing the trainings!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 12:34 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)
(b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Hi Baybars,

We have a few ideas for how to move the grant forward. Let us know what you think, and please provide an estimate of the cost.

1. **Three Online Training Sessions** for the Thai Journalists Association (TJA is the main professional association for journalists in Thailand. We would recommend you pay TJA as the implementing partner so they can procure simultaneous translation, and naturally you would provide them with admin fees etc so they can help you organize the sessions.
 - a. Session 1 - September 3. Fact-Checking and Misinformation (broad overview for journalists and editors)
 - b. Session 2 – Mid-September. Fact-Checking for News Rooms (for news room editors)
 - c. Session 3 – October. Fact-Checking: U.S. Election Watch (20-30 media and academics.
2. **Online Course for Thai Journalists.** This would be an online course with quizzes and a final test in the Thai language. The goal is to promote journalism standards, fact-checking, and accuracy. Thai journalists who complete the course with a passing score

would receive a certificate which could read "This is to certify that –NAME – has received IFCN Certification in News-Room Fact-Checking" or something similar. This would be a morale booster for the journalists, and something they can put on a resume.

- a. Phase 1. September – IFCN submits course outline and structure to the Embassy which will seek comment from TJA and may adjust the outline to meet the needs of the Thai environment.
- b. Phase 2. December – IFCN submits full course in Thai language to Embassy for review.
- c. Phase 3. January – IFCN Launches course with joint press releases, social media postings, and an online event with TJA and IFCN.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Acting Spokesperson

Social Media Director

U.S. Embassy, Bangkok



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From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 6:31 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Great to hear from you! I'm all good, safe, and interesting in Istanbul for a few weeks. I wanted to take the liberty of working from Istanbul for a month or so to stay a bit away from Florida and be closer to the family.

(b)(6)

I've heard that (b)(6) is now in another heaven like place in Earth after lovely Thailand and hoping she invites me to Hawai at some point to do a training there! :)

Since the Global Fact is over and I've been able to recover a bit, I'm now able to send you a proposal on our engagement in Thailand.

Would that be possible to send it in a week or two and we then start acting assuming we confirm the new scope of the program.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best-

Baybars

On Mon, Jul 20, 2020 at 12:03 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)
(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Baybars,

Greetings from Thailand, where we have had very low cases of the virus. I hope you are well! Has the U.S. citizen paperwork been going okay? (b)(6) has moved to Hawaii for a year at the East West Center.

I'm writing to see if we can move the grant forward and somehow safely train/certify Thailand's first IFCN fact-check organization.

Any and all ideas are on the table – including virtual training.

All best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 10:28 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(Bangkok) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Hope all is well on your end too and you are all doing well and healthy!

It's been a crazy week not only workwise but also personally as well for all of us so please accept my apologies for the late response.

I just wanted to share that I'll share the proposal with you before the end of the week. I couldn't do that yet because there has been an enormous workload on our e-learning department as everything is being migrated to online, therefore I had wait a bit to have my turn with them.

Once I have the costs and timeline from them, I'll share it with you and will look forward to moving forward!

Stay healthy and safe!

Best-

Baybars

On Sun, Mar 15, 2020 at 11:37 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)
(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Baybars,

Hope all is well in these rapidly evolving times. Number one priority is health, of course. Looking forward to your proposal on a virtual version of activities that still gives Thai organizations a good shot at becoming certified by IFCN. I'm also open to hearing any other suggestions you have. Again, health is number one at this point.

All best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 6:02 AM

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

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

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

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

It was great to talk to you as well!

I agree with you. I think it will be wiser to design the extension/modification relying only on virtual teaching and a limited notion of bringing two Thai participants to Oslo.

I'll have a meeting with related faculty people at Poynter and then share the possibilities and ideas around localizing our training materials to Thai and creating new modules from scratch.

I should be able to send that email to you by Monday if that's not too late.

Best-

Baybars

On Tue, Mar 3, 2020 at 10:27 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Was great talking to you the other day. I'm looking forward to seeing your revised proposal on how we can best utilize the remaining funds in the current environment. Thailand's Ministry of Public Health is now raising its alert level for other nations new experiencing a rise in cases, including European countries. It will also be important to note the rise in cases in the U.S. and to see if that could impact Thai travel to the U.S. Department of State

Given the rapidly evolving situation and potential risks, I'd ask you to think about virtual programming and have an annex to your proposal that has a fully virtual (no travel) scenario. This could include mass translation of web based courses into Thai, Web based virtual training, etc etc.

All best,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:57 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

No worries! It will be 9pm Sunday eve here and I should be able to take the call.

How should we connect? Can you send me dial-in instructions?

Best-

Baybars

On Tue, Feb 25, 2020 at 4:37 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Great! I can do 9am on Monday March 2, but unfortunately no other day this week.

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 10:26 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Dear (b)(6)

Hope this email finds you well.

It's great to hear from you, (b)(6) I really missed that beautiful place! Hope you had a great break!

My suggestion for the rest of the project based on your feedbacks are;

- To organize a Skype call Yo/Sure and Share, and SONP as per (b)(6) suggestion and discuss their progress and provide feedback before their application.
- Schedule a call this or next week to;
 - Set the date and the content for the video conference from Florida
 - Fix the scope and the date for Thai's delegation visit to St. Petersburg, FL
 - Decide who to bring to Global Fact in Oslo from Thailand (possibility from other Mekong countries as well)

Once we kick the ball rolling, this will be a lot easier to move.

Looking forward to hearing from you for your ideal day to have a 9am Bangkok time call.

Best-

Baybars

On Mon, Feb 24, 2020 at 2:59 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Baybars! I'm just back from the Gulf of Thailand... you know, honeymoonland. Hope all is well.

How shall we proceed? I think it's time we get something down in writing – dates for a video conference from Florida, dates for a visit by a few to Florida, and then a total number of Thais to Oslo. Let's look at the budget and the planning, get something approved, and determine when you might be able to get back out here as well!

I depart Thailand mid June, so would love to be sure we have everything rolling before I go!

All best,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 3:38 PM

To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Hi Baybars,

Hope all is well. The virus is still making news here but seems to be contained, for now.

Would you be willing to do the Skype connection with Yo/Sure and Share, and SONP to discuss their efforts toward certification? We know they would love to have the opportunity to talk with you on Skype. Any further thought to (b)(6) second question below as well?

Best,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: (b)(6) @state.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Baybars Orsek (b)(6) @poynter.org>
Cc: (b)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>
Subject: RE: Important issue to discuss

Thank you Baybars. I can understand that many don't want to travel to the region considering the international declarations.

We are facing a battle here of information and misinformation. We'll very much like to see what you are doing in that space.

Meanwhile, let me talk to (b)(6) I think we would like to reformat the grant a bit and include some new elements. Would you be willing to (in addition to some international travel for Thais), do the following:

1. DVC with Yo/Sure and Share, and SONP to discuss their efforts toward certification. We can do that in February on the planned dates, or we can look to a convenient time in the next month.
2. Come back to Thailand after you can travel again, and after Oslo?

Once we know the answer to those, (b)(6) can work with you to amend the grant.

Thanks!

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 10:22 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Greetings from DC! I just organized a day-long event at the Washington Post in partnership with Google and been working on the side for the programming in Bangkok.

I've just seen the news on Reuters that Thailand confirms the first human-to-human coronavirus transmission. The virus has been a big focus for the fact-checkers lately as we keep publishing our reports on the misinformation around the disease.

I've also heard that Splice Beta is canceled/postponed due to WHO's declaration on public health emergency of international concern.

All those considered, can we officially amend the project with no travel to Bangkok in February and discuss alternative options such as bringing people either to the US or Oslo? We can multiply the impact of the engagement with such options

Looking forward to hearing your thoughts.

Thanks

Baybars

On Wed, Jan 29, 2020 at 4:17 AM (b)(6) (Bangkok)
(b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Thanks for all of this, Baybars. Our inclination is to have your deputy/trainer come in February and I hope they're still available. Our Thai partners are eager. We're just negotiating with Washington about how to spend the rest of the money, i.e. if there will be US and/or Oslo travel. We will get back to you ASAP to confirm February and also what else lies in store. Sound ok?

From: Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 1:11 PM

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

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

(b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Hi (b)(6)

Thank you so much! I really appreciate it! Fingers crossed! Once again, thank you so much for your understanding.

Eoghan Sweeney, German trainer who is one of the leading experts on Open Source Intelligence Tools for fact-checking & verification. More about him and his works are available here > <https://www.osintessentials.com/> He can do great work by providing the training in those two days.

Having said that and putting more thought into it, my suggestion will be to try to invite senior and non-senior Thai to Florida and use the remaining resources to bring Thai and some other regional participants to Oslo for the Global Fact between 24-27 June. By doing these two - not doing the Bangkok training in February - we can achieve;

- having one-to-one time with leading figures of the Thai media and journalists in the steer of their newsrooms
- offering Poynter's renowned teaching resources to the participants and merging ethics & newsroom management seminars with our fact-checking training
- following up with some of the participants in Florida tour in Oslo during the Global Fact and having them (Shure and Share + others) exposed to 60+ different sessions in 3.5 days

Once the Global Fact 7 is over, Shure and Share along with other potential Thai partners can apply to the network thanks to the training they had (Bangkok/October + Florida/Spring + Oslo/June) in three different settings and the remote consulting I had been providing and will keep providing until they are evaluated by our advisory board.

If those don't sound a terrible idea to you, I can send a draft template over the weekend for what we can cover in 2-3 days in Florida for the first group. Also, the attached program of the last Global Fact which took place in Cape Town, South Africa can also give a better sense of what will most likely await the Thai & regional journalists in Oslo.

One way or another, I'll make sure we will share our know-how with the invested participants and support the practitioners in the country. I remain committed to making this effort helping the non-partisan Thai media landscape.

Best-

Baybars

On Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 9:53 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)

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

Hi Baybars,

Great to speak with you and we wish you and your family all the best in this momentous progress toward U.S. citizenship!

I found the bio of Christina on the Poynter site, but would love to hear from you what you propose for the activities/deliverables going forward. Also, could you kindly send the bio of the trainer who would accompany Christina to Bangkok?

Though you may have more ideas, the activities we wrote down from the call were:

- Sending Thais (could be a mix of senior and working level) to Poynter in Florida
- Christina and trainer come to Thailand in place of Baybars and trainer
- Sending Thais (and perhaps other journalists from Mekong/Indo-Pacific countries) to Oslo, June 24-27

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 8:31 AM

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

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

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

Good morning!

What's the best way to connect? Whatsapp call works?

Talk to you soon!

Baybars

On Mon, Jan 20, 2020 at 8:00 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)
(b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Perfect. We have a call here 8-9am, so just after our 9am works well.

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 7:57 AM

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

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

Subject: Re: Important issue to discuss

How about anytime tomorrow (Tuesday) evening Eastern time? Sometime between 9-11 am (Wednesday) Bangkok time?

On Mon, Jan 20, 2020 at 6:28 PM (b)(6) (Bangkok)
(b)(6)@state.gov wrote:

Absolutely- when works well for you? We can make it work to suit your schedule.

From: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 2:31:05 AM

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

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

Subject: Important issue to discuss

Dear (b)(6)

There are some developments on my end that I need to talk to you about as soon as possible regarding our plans.

May I kindly ask for a call at your earliest convenience this week?

Thanks a lot

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Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network

@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

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Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network

@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

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Sender: Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>

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

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

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

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

(h)(6)@state.gov>

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From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
To: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?
Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 15:12:42 +0000

Hi Amanda,

Apologies for not getting back to you sooner. We have amended the quote slightly:
"Russian propaganda and disinformation sources will try to connect Ukrainian refugees to negative indicators about quality of life in Europe."

Also, we would like the quote attributed to "an official at the State Department's Global Engagement Center."

Thank you,

(b)(6)

From: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:38 AM
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: RE: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi, (b)(6) -

Sorry for the delay. Thank you very much for checking on the quote and attribution.

I think we are hoping to publish the third week in August, to coincide with an additional embargo report we will be writing about that is intended for publication on Aug. 22.

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 9:29 AM
To: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Amanda,

We are confirming the quote and attribution for your article. Can you confirm if the article will run in August?

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
All Native Group Contractor



From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 29, 2022 11:39 AM

To: Seitz, Amanda [(b)(6)]@ap.org>

Cc: [(b)(6)]@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi Amanda,

Many thanks for your email and follow-up. The topic you've landed on sounds very interesting!

Happy to run your questions by a few folks internally. I will likely have answers by Monday if that is OK? Would you be able to share a deadline/timeline for when the story might run?

Thanks and either myself or [(b)(6)] will revert back with guidance.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Seitz, Amanda <[(b)(6)]@ap.org>

Sent: Friday, July 29, 2022 10:50 AM

To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Cc: [(b)(6)]@state.gov>; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

Subject: RE: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi, [(b)(6)]!

I hope you are doing well. I wanted to give you an update on our story. We are now hoping to run something around Russian propaganda in regards to the Ukraine war in August, and I was hoping to include some of [(b)(6)] comments around the possibilities he raised that Russia is likely to exploit divisiveness over refugees in Europe. I plan on summarizing his comments that Russian propaganda is likely to play up narratives that refugees cause crime, take away jobs, etc. As for an actual quote, am hoping to use this:

"They'll try to connect them to negative indicators about quality of life in Europe," he said.

As far as a title, how should I handle this as I believe John has already moved into a new position since we spoke?

Also, please let me know if we should touch base before this story runs if there are any relevant updates to be had on this topic.

Thank you very much,

Amanda

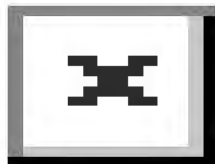
Amanda Seitz
Newsperson
The Associated Press
1100 13th Street NW
Washington, DC
(b)(6)@ap.org
(b)(6)

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:09 AM
To: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov; GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

[EXTERNAL]
Hi Amanda,

We have attached the original Russian Health Ministry disinformation pamphlet that John mentioned during the interview.

This is GEC's short report on Russian disinformation on food security, which includes a section listing examples of the Russian disinformation ecosystem amplifying false narratives: <https://www.state.gov/disarming-disinformation/russias-disinformation-cannot-hide-its-responsibility-for-the-global-food-crisis/>



Russia's Disinformation
Cannot Hide its
Responsibility for the
Global Food Crisis - United
States Department of State

This bulletin is also available in Arabic,

Chinese, French, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, and Urdu. "As with its decision to start this unjustified war, responsibility for the disruption of these supplies and the suffering that it's causing around the world lies squarely and solely with the Russian Government." Secretary of State Antony Blinken May 18, 2022 Lying to ...

www.state.gov

Also, here is a State Department product from the Bureau of Global Public Affairs that rebuts Russian false narratives: <https://stories.state.gov/this-is-a-warning/>

Thank you,
Scott

From: Seitz, Amanda <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 3:41 PM
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: RE: GEC - Who to contact?

Thank you very much, (b)(6)

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 3:05 PM
To: Seitz, Amanda <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

[EXTERNAL]
Hi Amanda,

This is the GEC's PAO (b)(6) responding, thanks for reaching out to us. I heard that the discussion with (b)(6) went well and I'm happy that we were able to help.

We will look for the information you are requesting and be back in touch.

Thanks,
(b)(6)

From: Seitz, Amanda <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 2:42 PM

To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Subject: RE: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi, (b)(6)

I wanted to thank you again very much for scheduling the interview yesterday with (b)(6). I would love if we could schedule a check-in once the new director comes in as well.

I wanted to touch base on the pamphlet (b)(6) mentioned was circling around during the World Health Assembly that highlighted humanitarian assistance from Russia. Would you be able to send that over, by chance?

Also, I know that (b)(6) mentioned some of the propaganda around food shortages, and I wondered if the GEC might be willing to share an example of what they have seen?

I will send a few quotes for approval later this week.

Thank you very much,

Amanda Seitz
Newsperson
The Associated Press

(b)(6)@ap.org

(b)(6)

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 4:34 PM

To: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org

Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

[EXTERNAL]

Great - thanks Amanda! We look forward to tomorrow.

If you have any issues dialing in, please feel free to call me on my cell (b)(6) to troubleshoot anything.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Seitz, Amanda <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 4:09 PM
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: RE: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi, (b)(6) -

Thank you again, yes, I can share some of the broader points I'd like to touch base on:

- _ Countries and narratives that the GEC is seeing Russian propaganda thrive?
- _ Which countries are a priority for the GEC to counter that narrative?
- _ What are the most effective ways the GEC has countered that narrative?
- _ Has GEC engaged at all with US-owned tech companies to talk about some of the mis-and dis-information around the war?
- _ Which countries' leaders has the GEC engaged in conversations with around the prevalence of Russian propaganda?
- _ Which Russian propaganda narratives are the most effective?
- _ Can you speak to how different the perception of outlets like RT and Sputnik is in some of these other countries?

I hope this is helpful for you to have a general sense, and I look forward to chatting tomorrow.

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 11:20 AM
To: Seitz, Amanda <(b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

[EXTERNAL]

Of course -- below my text you will find the dial-in details (you can disregard the Teams link; I'll join via there to open up the line).

Last question for you - in terms of any quotes you might want to use, would you be able to (broadly) share the types of questions you'd like to cover? John would like to ensure he can address specific questions and make sure you leave the conversation with the information you are seeking.

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

Microsoft Teams meeting

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(b)(7)(E) United States, Spokane

Phone Conference ID: (b)(7)(E)

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

From: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>

Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 9:35 AM

To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Subject: RE: GEC - Who to contact?

Oh yes, if you could provide dial-in details that would be great. Thank you!

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2022 9:01 AM

To: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>

Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

[EXTERNAL]

Thanks, Amanda. Just circling back on my question below - would you be able to share dial-in details that you'd like us to use? Or would you like us to provide them?

From: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2022 4:22 PM

To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Subject: RE: GEC - Who to contact?

That sounds great, thank you (b)(6)

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 9:22 PM
To: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

[EXTERNAL]

12:30 should work! I'll likely join (b)(6) our GEC Russia Director, on this call. We can aim for 30-45 minutes if that works on your end?

I think a phone call would likely be best as John and I are in different locations at the moment. Would you be able to provide dial-in details or would you like us to?

Many thanks and looking forward to next Tuesday,

(b)(6)

From: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 9:03 PM
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi, (b)(6)

That sounds great. Would 12:30 work? I am happy to chat by phone or in person, just let me know.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 23, 2022, at 8:00 PM, GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov> wrote:

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Amanda -

Following up with the following:

Could we aim to have you speak with our GEC Russia Director any time on Tuesday June 28th between 12-3PM?

Additionally, we would like to have the conversation on background and we can work with you on reviewing/approving a couple of OTR quotes.

Please let me know what you think,

(b)(6)

From: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 3:16 PM
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

Great. I think it would be wonderful if we could have an off the record conversation, to be candid, and perhaps have a portion of the conversation on the record or on background. Let me know what you think.

On Jun 23, 2022, at 1:56 PM, GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov> wrote:

[EXTERNAL]

That is doable! I will coordinate with my colleagues and share some options with you to decide.

Would this conversation be on deep background, OTR, do you need quotes, etc? Want to also square away logistics internally as well.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 1:32 PM
To: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: RE: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi, (b)(6) -

So great to hear from you. I'd love to set up a time next week, if possible?

Thank you,

Amanda

Amanda Seitz
Newsperson
The Associated Press
(b)(6)@ap.org
(b)(6)

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

[EXTERNAL]

Thanks (b)(6) Moving you to bcc.

Hi Amanda -- happy to assist you with this. Let me connect with my team and see if we can schedule a chat in the coming days. Kindly let me know what your timeline is in the meantime.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 12:46 PM
To: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>; GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi Amanda,

Adding GEC Press to help you with this inquiry

From: Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 12:17 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: GEC - Who to contact?

Hi, (b)(6) -

I am working on a story looking at how Russian propoganda and disinformation around the Ukraine war is thriving in eastern European countries like Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovakia, etc. I was hoping to touch base with someone at the GEC to talk a little bit about the efforts there to combat this, and which countries GEC might be most concerned about. Would love to chat with someone on this, and I also haven't really had the chance to introduce myself to the folks now leading the GEC since the administration change. Do you know who I could connect with on this?

Thanks,

Amanda Seitz
Newsperson
The Associated Press
(b)(6)@ap.org
(b)(6)

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The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

Sender: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Seitz, Amanda (b)(6)@ap.org>;

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

GEC-Press <GEC-Press@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH INVESTIGATION

From: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads
Date: Mon, 12 Jul 2021 16:44:06 +0000

Thank you! Deadline is tomorrow.

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Date: Monday, July 12, 2021 at 12:39 PM
To: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (h)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: Let me get back to you as soon as I can. When is your deadline?

Regards,

(b)(6)

Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (h)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 12:36 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi (h)(6)

Hope you had a good weekend. I wanted to check back in on the radio ads for any updates. In your previous responses, you said the US has run an estimated 28K radio ads in Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in Spanish, Portuguese, and six indigenous languages. Is that still the case? Has the number of ads dropped or increased?

You previously provided an example of a radio ad circulated in Guatemala. Are there others you can provide?

Feel free to also reach me at (b)(6)

Thanks so much,

Priscilla

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Date: Friday, April 2, 2021 at 2:27 PM
To: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (h)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

On Background, attributable to a State Department Spokesperson: The US government is paying for these radio ads I shared with you through contracted vendors. I confirm the numbers I supplied to you in my prior response are the most up to date.

Regards,

(b)(6)
Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: (h)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 11:40 AM
To: Alvarez, Priscilla (h)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: Working right now to get answers to you soonest. Will get back to you asap.

Best,

(b)(6)
Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (h)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 10:07 AM
To: (h)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi (b)(6)

Happy Friday. I just wanted to quickly clarify: The ads are paid for by the US government, is that right?

Also, have any of the numbers below changed?

Thanks,

Priscilla

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 at 4:11 PM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: I've supplied all the information and ads I have on file. I recommend looking at the Facebook and Instagram accounts of our U.S. embassies and consulates overseas for further content.

Regards,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 4:07 PM
To: (h)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Thanks, (h)(6) This is helpful. Right now, I only have the Spanish-language ad in Guatemala to point to. Would it be possible to get one more example to show the different messages?

From: (h)(6)@state.gov>
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 at 3:54 PM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (h)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

I can supply the following information below. This is all the information I have at this time:

On Background, attributable to a State Department Spokesperson:

- We have long leveraged targeted messages in the region on migration, but we have ramped up the scope of messaging since January 20 when this Administration took office.
- We are using digital, video, and radio messages in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to provide potential migrants with factual information about the ongoing closure of the border to counteract the lies and disinformation spread by coyotes and traffickers.
- Our messages also focus on generating hope for those considering migrating that they can build a better life in their home countries as in the U.S., as partner governments, NGOs, international organizations and the private sector are working to improve governance, economic prosperity, and security in the region.
- We utilize multiple social media platforms to communicate these messages, taking into account the multiple streams of information used to find factual information about migration. All digital ads are compatible with mobile devices, as data shows mobile is the dominant source of media consumption in the region
- We use the same means to share with audiences in those four countries the U.S. commitment and actions to generate economic opportunities, improve economic well-being, and combat corruption.
- Radio ad scripts are derived from real-life testimonials.
- Since January 2021, we have run an estimated 28K radio ads in Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in Spanish, Portuguese, and six indigenous languages. The current Central America radio campaign includes nationwide coverage in all regions, including both urban hubs and targeted rural areas where migrants are more likely to come from.
- These ads played on 133 radio stations, reaching at least 7 million Central American radio listeners and potentially as many as 22.8 million listeners each month. From October 2019 to December 2020, we ran an estimated 7,500 radio ads per month on 30 radio stations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Radio impressions data is pulled from listenership estimates, meaning the potential reach numbers indicated are likely significantly lower than the actual number of listeners reached.
- The Department takes a data-informed approach to deploying digital and traditional modes of advertising. We use message testing and audience research to make content more engaging and persuasive to target audiences, including potential irregular migrants. This data-driven approach allows the Department to communicate in complex information environments overseas to reach target audiences with credible, resonant messages, on platforms they use, and at times these audiences are most engaged.

Regards,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 3:33 PM

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

Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi all,

I'm working on a follow up on the LatAm digital/ radio ads and was wondering if there were more you could share as examples of the messages the US is sending.

I'd also love to connect with someone about the effort overall. How many ads are running? And what other messaging initiatives have been launched?

Feel free to also reach me at (b)(6)

Thanks so much,

Priscilla

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

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 2:28 PM

To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Below is my updated response.

Off the record: We have run targeted messaging on migration for a long time. It's a continued process of writing, production, and implementation. The content of the ads I provided to you were developed and implemented during this administration. That's all the information I could find.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: Correction, let me confirm what I just sent you in my last email. I'll get back to you soon.

Best,

(b)(6)
Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:22 PM
To: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: Apologies for the confusion. The ads I provided to you were developed and implemented during this administration, but for a long time we have run targeted messaging on migration.

Best,

(b)(6)
Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:15 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

What do you mean by a true shift? I'm at (b)(6) if it's easier to discuss on the phone.

I'm confirming that the sample ads you shared started to run during the Biden administration, specifically, not prior.

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 11:12 AM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the record: We have long implemented targeted messages in the region, but have seen a true shift in the scope of messaging in the last six weeks.

Regards,

(b)(6)
Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (h)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:06 PM
To: (h)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Got it. And when did they start running? Just making sure it's been during this administration.

From: (h)(6)@state.gov>
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 10:59 AM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Off the Record: Yes, these radio ads in Guatemala are still running. We have localized ads running across the Northern Triangle. As a sample, we wanted to share what we're doing in Guatemala in terms of migration messaging and ad campaigns.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 10:17 AM

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

Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Understood. And just to confirm, these ads are still running, is that right?

Are ads only in Guatemala right now? Or others running in Honduras and El Salvador?

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

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:21 AM

To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>,

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi Priscilla,

Yes, go ahead. Apologies for the confusion. Only the contents of my email message are off the record.

Best,

(b)(6)

Press Officer

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 7:23 AM

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

Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>; PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Re: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hi (b)(6)

Can we use the Spanish ad? Given your note off the record below, wanted to confirm.

Thanks,

Priscilla

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Date: Monday, March 22, 2021 at 5:59 PM
To: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Cc: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>, PA Press Duty <PAPressDuty@state.gov>, (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hello Priscilla,

Off the record: My name is (b)(6) and I'm a press officer at the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. I wanted to follow up on an inquiry you submitted to my colleague (b)(6). See your initial email below for reference.

Off the record: To clarify, we use Facebook and Instagram's advertising platform as a service. Attached are samples of radio ads we have run in Guatemala in Spanish and two indigenous languages (Kakchiquel and Tzutujil). Facebook/Instagram promoted content are posted publicly on each respective Embassy's Facebook page.

Regards,

(b)(6)
Press Officer
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA/PD)

Your Initial Email:

From: Alvarez, Priscilla (b)(6)@cnn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 5:36 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: CNN query on LatAm digital/ radio ads

Hello,

I'm an immigration reporter at CNN. I'm reaching out regarding the digital and radio ads released in Latin America to discourage migration to the US southern border.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the US, via the State Department, had placed approximately 17,118 radio ads in Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras since January 21 in Spanish, Portuguese and six indigenous languages. She also said the State Department worked with Facebook and Instagram on an advertising campaign.

Can you share examples of those ads?

I can also be reached at (b)(6)

Thank you,

Priscilla

Sender: "Alvarez, Priscilla" (b)(6)@cnn.com>

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

Recipient: WHA-Press <WHAPress@State.Gov>;

(h)(6)@state.gov>

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From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Jim Rutenberg (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Subject: Re: Book blurb
Date: Wed, 10 Nov 2021 19:52:00 +0000

Thanks, Jim. They approved the request for me to speak with you under the ground rules we discussed -- you can use the info I provide, but with no attribution to me, the Global Engagement Center, or State Department. Glad to do other conversations in the future, as your research progresses. It's a very interesting area.

Based on the 1975 mention of ethnic weapons you found, sourced to Richard Hammerschlag, I found a similar 1974 media mention of him and the theoretical "ethnic weapon" (attached). In this UPI article, Hammerschlag says he heard about the concept at a 1973 conference in Tokyo and then found the 1970 Military Review article by Larson, which, as best I can tell, was the original impetus for spreading the idea more broadly, which later resulted in a SOV disinformation campaign, as described in the chapter I wrote on this subject in the 1988 USIA report. I suspect that when Shively heard about the "ethnic weapon" idea in NYC in the early 1980s, it most likely was from SOV disinformation in a US Communist Party publication read by him or an American who repeated this false claim to him or perhaps it was repeated in other far-left US pubs, which he or friends read. I think this is much more likely venue for the idea to reach him than the way Hammerschlag learned about it -- at an international scientific conference.

This is very interesting detective work. The more you immerse yourself in this topic, the more evidence I find of: 1) the original idea for many disinfo claims originating spontaneously in US or other Western [on non-Western] circles, which the SOVs monitor, subsequently picking up, adapting, and spreading allegations they find congenial through their info networks (TASS, Novosti, Radio Moscow, and covert KGB pubs like the Patriot) and 2) the subsequent spread of SOV disinfo allegations back into the far-left US population and other segments of opinion here and abroad, which can have a multiplier effect, as in the case where Shively thinks AIDS might be an offshoot of alleged (but actually non-existent) USG research into ethnic weapons. Primal fears play a key role throughout, both in those who spontaneously come up with new conspiracy theories and in those who believe them or their later, more polished versions spread by SOV disinfo.

I worked for 10 years (1987-1996) on groundless rumors that Americans were adopting or kidnapping babies or children in Latin America and then killing them and using their organs to save the lives of their natural born children. This rumor originated as urban legend in Dec 1986, in this case in Central America, which started to spread virally as soon as it hit the press. The Cuban press soon picked up on and an Havana-based French correspondent for the French communist newspaper *L'Humanite* reported on it, which was noticed by the Soviets, who started to run stories about it in their domestic media and in TASS and Novosti, helping spread it around the world. The story was spreading virally anyway, but they gave it a boost through their info channels. Likely as a result, a communist in Spain wrote an entire book about this. See the attached doc I wrote on this, which was updated though May 1996 when I was shifted

to another job as part of a reduction in force. There was also a US domestic version of this rumor -- the kidney theft heist, in which a guy meets a woman at a bar, often in a strange city, and is drugged and one of his kidneys is stolen. This was believed and repeated by many people in the 1980s and 1990s and perhaps even now. The international version is slightly different, adapted to local circumstances -- adoptions by rich foreigners, who sometimes even adopt children with cleft palates and other birth defects (The reasoning goes: why would they want them? It must be for some evil purpose -- perhaps organ transplants.) Both the domestic and international versions of the rumor were spurred by dramatic advances in the use of immunosuppressive drugs in the 1980s, which made organ transplants much more likely to succeed because they combated the body's natural tendency to reject a foreign organ. Ancient fears of victimization were coupled with modern technology in the rumor. A decade earlier, there was the fictional 1978 American movie Coma, in which patients at a hospital were placed into comas so that corrupt doctors could "harvest" their organs for profit. As if very highly paid transplant surgeons would need the money. So the thought was in the air. Hope this helps. I spent countless hours on the "baby parts: stories, even writing a 1994 report to the UN on this issue (one of their special rapporteurs has heard about it and was investigating). It's a classic example of mass media madness, with major pubs in France and Spain publishing a variant of the rumor (eye snatching not organ snatching), which won the most prestigious journalism prizes in both countries, as I mention in the attached overview. Crazy stuff. The Sovs just copied what people in the West were already saying and circulated it through their channels.

Hope this is of interest and helps.

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Jim Rutenberg (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:09 PM

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

Subject: Book blurb

Thanks for talking

Here's how the Penguin described it in the deal announcement for Publisher's Lunch newsletter:

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Deal News

This morning we dispatched a report of 47 new deals, among them: Media columnist for the NYT Jim Rutenberg's narrative, tracing the half-century campaign to neutralize the mainstream news and a deep dive into the maelstrom of forces, some coincidental, some orchestrated, that resulted in the rise of "alternative facts," to Penguin Press

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

Recipient: Jim Rutenberg (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

What Next? Mastering Racial War

By JAMES J. DOYLE
LOS ANGELES (UPI)—A Los Angeles scientist wants it soon might be possible to develop "ethnic weapons" in a new type of selected biological warfare that would make some people more susceptible to certain diseases.

Dr. Richard Hammerheadlag, a neurosurgeon at the City of Hope Medical Center, said an ethnic weapon would be bacteriological or chemical in nature and attack the genes of ethnic groups with certain genetic characteristics.

"If there is the strategy of war, there is an intention of destroying members of certain nations or ethnic groups," he said.

"If there are 40 agents would kill several percent of the race more than they would present a threat to persons of another race."

For example, Southeast Asia has a different genetic makeup than the Caucasians. Therefore, Southeast Asians would be susceptible to those which would not affect Caucasians.

The concept is based on two findings that many geneticists find in several different populations. For the purpose, call them genetically "isolated" populations.

The problems are multiple forms and are called "polymorphisms." The most widely known are the blood group antigens A, B, O and Rh. They exist in different frequencies among population groups around the world.

An illustration, Hammerheadlag said, would be found in a trait which is practically absent in many American Indians but appears in a high and frequency, about 30 to 40 percent, in several population groups in Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

Hammerheadlag said he is fully aware of the concept has been a biological weapon and

decided to see if the possibility of "ethnic weapons" was being considered within the framework of modern warfare.

He said he found that a survey of racial genetic differences may have been carried out by the Defense Department as early as 1950.

In that year, "Ethnic Weapons" was the title of an article that appeared in Military Medicine, a U.S. Army publication. It was written by Carl Larson, the head of the department of human genetics at the University of Iowa, Iow.

The article, Hammerheadlag said, implied development of chemical agents to exploit polymorphisms can be expected in the immediate future.

Larson later told "Hammerheadlag the process, if it were used, could be 'unethical'."

The U.S. Army said it has made studies of genetic characteristics of ethnic groups for medical purposes only. The Army said no work is being carried out in the area of ethnic weapons.

Polymorphisms (D) polymorphisms, proteins, have been identified in human populations, and Hammerheadlag said that many something has been found.

The great majority of the human polymorphisms, proteins are without obvious effect on performance or survival. The individuals he said. But a few aberrant genes, such as that which produces sickle cell anemia in blacks, may cause serious clinical disorders.

This anemia, however, is said only as an example. It does not seem well understood, he said, in the population to make it a viable gene.

The logical extension of the concept would be genetic weapons, he said, as agents to attack it, and to kill harmful weaknesses, except your weapons to exploit weaknesses of the enemy's biological defenses.



Clipped By:

hc_moerschbacher
Thu, Jul 4, 2019

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

United States Information Agency

May 1996

THE "BABY PARTS" MYTH: THE ANATOMY OF A RUMOR

Since 1987, a totally unfounded, horrifying rumor has swept the world press. The ghastly and totally untrue charge is that Americans – or Europeans, Canadians, or Israelis – are adopting infants or kidnapping children from Latin America or other locations, and murdering or maiming them in order to use their body parts for organ or cornea transplants. This gruesome story has been reported hundreds of times by newspapers, radio, and television stations throughout the world, has won prestigious journalism awards, and is believed by tens of millions of people, if not more.

The rumor turned deadly in Guatemala in 1994. On March 29, 1994, an American tourist, June Weinstock, was attacked by a mob that accused her of abducting a Guatemalan boy. Weinstock suffered multiple broken arms, internal injuries, and severe head injuries that have left her permanently incapacitated.

The Mythical Origins of the Rumor

The "baby parts" rumor probably arose spontaneously as an "urban legend," a false but widely believed form of modern folklore. There are many such widely repeated but totally unsubstantiated stories. For example, when microwave ovens began to be widely used, an apocryphal story began to circulate about a person who had tried to dry their wet dog in a microwave oven, only to have it explode. These word-of-mouth stories are typically said to have happened to "a friend of a friend," who can never be located because there is no factual basis for the rumor.

In the same way that fears about microwave technology led to this unfounded rumor, recent dramatic advances in organ transplantation have contributed to the "baby parts" myth. All of us may someday benefit from the gift of life that organ transplantation can provide. But the process also stirs powerful, primal anxieties. This was illustrated by the fictional 1978 American movie *Coma*, in which patients at a hospital were placed into comas so that corrupt doctors could "harvest" their organs for profit. The same fear of wrongful death and mutilation that formed the basis for this fictional thriller is at the root of the "baby parts" rumor.

Experts on popular myths state that the "baby parts" story is a modern adaptation of a centuries-old tale. French folklorist Veronique Campion-Vincent has written:

The baby-parts story is a new – updated and technologized – version of an immemorial fable. The core of the fable is that a group's children are being kidnapped and murdered by evil outsiders.

Child abductions in 18th century France were explained by ailing nobility who needed them for medical reasons: the leprous King needed blood baths, or a mutilated Prince needed a new arm which incompetent surgeons were trying each day to graft from a new kidnapped child.

The Rumor Breaks Into the World Press

In the modern version of this legend, individuals have reported hearing the "baby parts" rumor as far back as the early to mid-1980s, although it did not appear in the international press until January 1987, when Leonardo Villeda Bermudez, the former Secretary General of the Honduran Committee for Social Welfare, mentioned the rumor during an interview in a way that made it appear as if it was true. Mr. Villeda immediately issued a clarification stating that he had merely heard unconfirmed rumors of such activities, but by this time the rumor had been reported by a wire service and it began to circulate throughout the media worldwide, appearing in Guatemala the next month and soon afterwards in Europe.

In April 1987, the Soviet disinformation apparatus began a conscious effort to spread and embellish this unfounded rumor. On April 5, 1987, *Pravda* carried the three-month old Honduran story, citing the original allegations without mentioning subsequent press accounts dismissing the story. The Soviet news agency TASS replayed the story, and during 1987 and 1988 it appeared many times in the Soviet media and in pro-Soviet media worldwide. The Soviet disinformation campaign in the media ended in late 1988.

Although political motivations have been responsible for some of the more spectacular outbursts of the child organ trafficking rumor, for the most part, the rumor has been embraced and spread by well-meaning individuals who believe it out of naivete or who worry that it may be true. Tragically, the publicity these well-intentioned individuals have given the rumor by deploring a non-existent crime has inadvertently contributed to its credibility and the resultant damage it has done. At this point, the rumor has attained such currency that it appears certain to continue on the strength of its own momentum for years to come.

The Impossibility of Concealing Clandestine Organ Transplants

Health and organ transplant officials in the United States and other countries have stated emphatically that it would be impossible to successfully conceal any clandestine organ trafficking ring.

In many countries, the sale or purchase of organs for transplants is expressly forbidden by law, with stiff penalties for violators. For example, organ sales for transplant have been illegal in the United States since 1984. There are similar statutes in many other countries.

In addition to the legal and moral deterrents to organ trafficking, the technical requirements that would be involved in arranging and operating an alleged murder-for-organ-transplantation scheme are so formidable that such clandestine activities are a practical impossibility.

In order for an organ transplantation to have any chance of success, a number of sophisticated medical procedures must be conducted to determine the suitability of various organs for transplantation and to permit a match with potential recipients. In particular, correct tissue and blood typing is critical to matching donor organs and potential transplant recipients. Crossing the blood group barrier from transplant donor to recipient can result in death. An equally important

consideration is histocompatibility, which measures the extent to which a donor organ and a recipient match.

The surface of all cells in the body carries proteins known as major histocompatibility complex (MHC) antigens. These proteins act as signals that identify what is uniquely self to our immune system. The importance of matching MHC antigens for transplanted organs is similar to the need to match blood types for blood transfusions. However, MHC matches are more complex, and excessive differences between a donor and a recipient will cause the recipient's immune system to attack and reject the transplanted organ. In humans, the MHC antigens are encoded by a set of linked genes, which are designated as Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA). In transplantation, it is vital to the survival and well-being of the recipient to identify and match the donor's HLA types. This can only be accomplished in a laboratory designed to test histocompatibility, and requires individuals with specialized laboratory skills to conduct the testing.

After the organs have been extracted from a donor, an extremely delicate and complex procedure that involves a transplant surgeon and support staff including an anesthesiologist, attending surgeons, and operating room nurses, the organs must be transported as rapidly as possible, typically by helicopter or airplane, to the hospitals where the transplants will occur. Before transporting the donor organ, special preservation solutions must be infused into it. Proper insulation and temperature-controlled packaging including adequate ice or refrigeration must be used to protect the organ during shipment. Absolute sterile conditions must be maintained for the organ to remain viable for transplant.

Organ transplants must be accomplished extremely rapidly because the time that organs can survive outside the body is severely limited. Hearts must be transplanted within five hours, livers within 24 hours, pancreases within six to 12 hours, and lungs within five hours. Kidneys can survive the longest, but most surgeons will not transplant a kidney that was removed more than 48 hours ago.

Sophisticated surgical equipment and highly skilled medical personnel are necessary for a transplant to take place. At a minimum, one needs 20 individuals, including three members of a surgical team, one scrub nurse, one circulating nurse, one anesthesiologist, one perfusion technician, and one general function technician. For all transplant surgery, a large area needed for the operating table, instrument table, laboratory instruments, anesthesia equipment, monitoring equipment, spare supplies, gas sources, and personnel access.

In addition, in order to prepare for a kidney recipient's surgery, a kidney machine must be available to perform dialysis. For a heart transplant, the patient must be placed on circulatory and respiratory bypass equipment during the entire length of the transplant procedure and constantly monitored by a pulmonary technologist. During a liver transplant, bleeding is extensive because the liver produces the substance that causes blood to coagulate. Access to a blood bank is necessary because as many as 20 to 50 units of blood may be required for blood transfusions.

Thus, the daunting technical requirements of the transplant process make it impossible that transplants could occur clandestinely, as the child organ trafficking rumor alleges. Such highly complex operations could not occur at hidden, makeshift facilities. It would not be possible to assemble a team of highly trained medical professionals who would all be willing to engage in such

morally repugnant criminal acts and be willing to take the enormous personal risks that would be involved in performing a transplant operation clandestinely. Nor would it be possible to arrange such a procedure for purely logistical reasons alone because the technical resources required could not be assembled outside of major medical centers.

In addition, the transplant process does not end with the completion of the transplant operation. Follow-up care of the transplant recipient is critical for short-term and long-term survival and well-being. After the transplant operation, the organ recipient must be treated by a transplant physician, a separate individual from the transplant surgeon, who monitors, medicates, and treats the transplant recipient for the rest of his life. No transplant physician would treat a person without knowing all the circumstances of their progressive organ disease, the details of their transplant operation, including the identity and health records of the donor of the organ, and a great deal of other information that would not be available if the transplant operation were performed clandestinely.

It is important to remember that transplant surgeons and physicians are highly trained professionals who are handsomely compensated for their expertise. There would be no reason for them to engage in clandestine, illegal transplantations. On the contrary, they would have every incentive not to participate in such activities. If such illegal activities were detected – and they surely would be given the large number of people involved, the highly technical nature of the procedures, and the abhorrent nature of the alleged activities – this would mean the effective end of the surgeon or physician's career, with catastrophic financial and personal implications.

In sum, organ transplantation is such an immensely complicated, highly technical, heavily regulated, extremely time-sensitive procedure, involving so many highly trained professional personnel and so much sophisticated medical equipment, that clandestine organ trafficking is, quite simply, an impossibility from a practical point of view. The charges that children are being kidnapped and murdered for such purposes make the allegations even more dubious.

Nor is there any evidence that clandestine rings exist in order to kidnap children or others in order to extract their corneas for transplant. Corneas, which are tissues, not organs, can be extracted up to 12 hours after death for use in sight-restoring transplantations. This means that if anyone wished to procure corneas illicitly, they could do so by bribing someone at a morgue to extract corneas from corpses. There is no reason for anyone to kidnap or murder children or others in order to obtain corneas.

Repeated Investigations Find No Evidence for the Rumor

In early 1987, when the "baby parts" rumor first appeared, representatives of the U.S. Justice Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service all investigated their records and stated that they had no evidence that would indicate alleged organ trafficking.

On July 23, 1987, in response to a European Parliament resolution asking for an investigation of such charges, the European Community Commission stated that it “does not know of any transplant operations performed in Europe for which the organs of Latin American children have been used.”

On October 7, 1987, the Geneva-based non-governmental organization Defense for Children, International (DCI) stated, “In recent months, DCI has tried to have these reports verified by its representatives in Central America. So far, these investigations have failed to find any evidence to substantiate the reports.”

On January 29, 1988, after these charges had resurfaced in Guatemala, the Director of the Treasury Police, Mr. Oscar Augusto Diaz Urquizu, stated: “The institution which I direct has no proof, evidence or indication that Guatemalan children are being sent to the United States, or to any other country, to be dismembered and used as organ donors.”

In a July 11, 1988 report, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar warned that reports of such activities issued by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers were “possibly fictitious,” adding that there has been no “corroboration” for them.

On August 23, 1988, Gene Pierce, Executive Director of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), stated that, “since the establishment of the Scientific Registry on October 1, 1987, UNOS has kept very detailed records on organ donors. There has been no documentation of any Latin American children under the age of 5 becoming donors in the United States.”

On August 25, 1988, Linda Sheaffer, Director of the Division of Organ Transplantation at the U.S. Public Health Service, stated that such illegal transplants would be “not only impractical but impossible.” She pointed out that some organ transplants “take up to 14 hours, none of the procedures could occur without the complete cooperation and knowledge of the hospital staff,” and “any such large scale operation would not be kept secret.”

On September 23, 1988, the Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights released a “Mission Report” on their “Investigation on Possible Trafficking in Infant Organs.” It stated, “we have not been able to find a single piece of evidence indicating that such a trafficking operation is really occurring.”

On September 26, 1988, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation stated that “based on a review of all information available to the FBI, these charges are completely unfounded.”

On October 3, 1988, R.C. Steiner, chief of the U.S. National Central Bureau, which represents the United States in the international criminal investigative organization Interpol, said that its records “do not reflect any requests for criminal investigative assistance from either the police in the United States or the police of any foreign country concerning this matter.”

On October 8, 1988, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Schifter stated that “My government has made an exhaustive investigation of the charges and rumors related to this matter and both the U.S. Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have concluded that they are totally groundless.”

On November 18, 1988, Guatemala's *Diario de Centro America* reported that Guatemalan president Cerezo had stated: "The Guatemalan government has made serious and thorough investigations on the trafficking of babies and it has been concluded that the rumors on the 'butchering' of babies are false."

On June 6, 1989, Assistant Secretary for Health James Mason and Surgeon General C. Everett Koop released a lengthy letter in which they pointed out that "the technical and medical aspects of organ transplantation make it impossible to obtain and transplant organs secretly." They stated, "The requirements of the process, including numerous highly trained professional personnel and sophisticated equipment, assure that any such activity would be detected and exposed," stressing that "removals of organs is a complex surgical procedure, performed only in hospitals, and specialized technical arrangements are needed to preserve the organs." Mason and Koop went on to point out, "Organ transplant procedures are also highly complex and must be performed in the highest level surgical facilities, most often in large hospitals affiliated with schools for the education of physicians." "Because of the nature of the technology involved," they concluded, "these activities could not be conducted in secret or makeshift facilities."

On February 7, 1991, Eduardo Mestre Sarmiento, the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva, sent a letter to Mr. Jan Martenson, U.N. Under-Secretary General, in which he stated that the office of the Attorney General of Colombia had launched an "exhaustive" investigation of charges made by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers that children's organs from Colombia were being sold. Mr. Mestre stated that the investigation had found that the claims made by IADL were "completely unsubstantiated," adding that "the newspapers referred to as having published the news item never had knowledge of these acts."

On July 20, 1992, the Mexican newspaper *Epoca* published the findings of its investigation of this issue. It stated:

Doctor Arturo Dib Kuri, director of the Health Secretariat's National Transplants Register, expresses this opinion: "The possibilities of human organ and tissue trafficking are extremely remote. It would be virtually impossible to conceal a criminal organization of this magnitude."

The interviewee continues: "First, to obtain an idea of what we are saying, I need only mention that, in the entire country, there would be, at the most, 10 doctors capable of performing a transplant. In an operation of this type, such as a liver transplant, 32 persons participate in an operating room, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, and team and technical personnel; not to mention laboratory workers and the personnel required for post-operative hospitalization"

Doctor Dib Kuri also describes the conditions for preserving an organ outside the body. The medical technique for extracting a kidney is very delicate.

"It takes from 4 to 6 hours Once it is outside the donor's body, it must be kept at a temperature no lower than 4 degrees centigrade, because the organ must retain optimal oxygenation levels."

"Organs such as the heart, lung, liver, and pancreas have, at the most, a duration of 6 hours after they are extracted from the human body; and this is under preservation conditions requiring advanced technology and an infrastructure that any hospital could hardly possess."

Dib Kuri comments: "The number of persons engaged in a surgical practice of this type, and the complex hospital infrastructure that it requires, make it extremely difficult to keep this type of crime clandestine, in the event that anyone were to attempt to deal in organs."

"I can't imagine one of those 10 doctors that we have in Mexico who are capable of making a transplant becoming involved with a criminal organization engaged in such activities. These are not operations that can be performed in any old hospital."

"The recipient would not risk receiving an organ from anyone. All this is a mere rumor. I don't dare deny that there are stolen children, but it could be done for other purposes, such as prostitution; it is highly unlikely to be for the purpose of extracting and selling their organs."

On April 19, 1993, after Honduran Congresswoman Rosario Godoy de Osejo made accusations that "baby parts" trafficking was occurring in Honduras, the President of the Honduran Supreme Court, Orlando Lozano Martinez, stated: "These allegations have been coming forward for three years and we have not been able to prove anything nor find merit in them through investigation." On April 21, Honduran Attorney General Leonardo Matute Murillo stated that his office had investigated organ trafficking charges for more than one year and found nothing to support them. The spokesman for the Honduran police also stated that the police had investigated organ trafficking allegations and found them to be completely false.

On June 7, 1993, Mexico's *El Financiero* newspaper quoted Pablo Chapa, the director of complaints at Mexico City's attorney general's office, as stating, "I have not seen a single case where a person has been kidnapped and has later appeared with scars where his organs were taken, or his eyes were taken away. If these famous clandestine hospitals existed, we would have found out about them immediately." Dr. Arturo Dib Kuri, director of Mexico's National Registry of Transplants, stated, "I compare the rumor of stolen children whose organs are sold for transplant to a story saying that several thieves stole three [space] ships from Cape Canaveral to go to the moon."

In April 1996, French folklorist Veronique Champion-Vincent completed an extremely comprehensive 285-page study for the French Transplant Organization entitled *Transplantation, Rumor, and the Media: Accounts of Organ Theft*. Her voluminous and extremely thorough examination concluded unequivocally that organ theft rumors are an unfounded urban legend.

The Rumor's Adverse Impacts

The false "baby parts" rumor has done tremendous damage in a number of different ways.

Most dramatically, it led to attacks on Americans and others in Guatemala during March 1994. On March 8, a mob in a Guatemalan town burned the police station in which an American wrongly suspected of child kidnapping had been held. The mob resisted the efforts of several hundred riot police and was not quieted until army troops and armored vehicles arrived to restore order. On March 29, an American tourist, June Weinstock, was savagely beaten by a mob, which accused her of abducting a Guatemalan child. A mob surrounded the building where Weinstock was being protected by local authorities, broke in, and dragged her out after a five-hour siege. Weinstock was pelted with rocks and beaten with pieces of firewood, suffering multiple broken bones, internal injuries, and severe head injuries that caused serious, long-term damage. She remains unable to speak or walk and requires 24-hour nursing care.

In addition to assaults on Americans, Guatemalan media reported numerous attempted lynchings by angry mobs that believed that "strangers" were allegedly stealing their children. A Swiss volcanologist, a Salvadoran family visiting relatives, foreign assistance workers, backpackers, and Guatemalan citizens all reportedly suffered such attacks.

The hysteria generated by this rumor has had an adverse impact on intercountry adoptions in a number of countries, according to adoption groups. In May 1991, the Turkish government announced that it was suspending intercountry adoptions because of the rumor. Adoptions have also been suspended or hindered in Honduras, Guatemala, Brazil, Mexico, and other countries. As a result, some children who might have found loving homes remain in orphanages. At one point, the government of Bulgaria even went so far as to require prospective adoptive parents from foreign countries to sign a form stating, "I will not permit my child to be an organ donor nor allow the child to give organs or be a part of any medical experiments."

The rumor has also led to groundless, but widespread fears among parents in Latin America and elsewhere who believe that their child might be kidnapped for the purpose of organ transplantation.

Finally, the rumor is probably also causing an indirect but very real loss of life. Voluntary organ donation is a very altruistic activity, and one that can be adversely affected by any perception of impropriety or illicit behavior. Worldwide, there are long waiting lists for organ transplants that exceed donor supply and, as a result, people die every day because of the lack of sufficient donor organs. To the extent that the organ theft rumor has been believed, it has very likely decreased voluntary organ donation, and thereby caused many premature deaths.

1993: The Rumor is Given Credence in Television Documentaries

In November 1993, two hour-long television documentaries, one British/Canadian and the other French, gave credence to the "baby parts" rumor. Both programs contained numerous errors.

The British/Canadian program, *The Body Parts Business*, featured an interview with the family of Pedro Reggi, who had been a patient at the Montes de Oca mental institution in Argentina. In the film, it is alleged that Reggi was blinded when his corneas were forcibly removed.

A few days after the program was broadcast, Reggi and his half-brother appeared on the Argentine television program *Hora Clave* and retracted the allegation, stating that Reggi had lost his eyesight due to an "infection." A subsequent investigation revealed that he had suffered from "bilateral congenital cataracts" as an infant and had severe eye problems in the mid-1980s that were judged to be inoperable. He lost his eyesight due to disease.

The French program *Organ Snatchers* also highlighted the false Pedro Reggi claim. In addition, the French program concluded with a dramatic sequence in which a mother in Colombia claimed that after she took her young son Jeison to a hospital for diarrhea, he emerged blind because his corneas had been stolen. The blind boy, misidentified as Jenson, was shown on the pages of *Life* magazine in October 1993, playing a flute.

On February 4, 1994, the Colombian government's Office of Human Rights issued a report on its investigation of these allegations. It stated that Jeison had gone blind due to disease. After he was admitted to a Colombian hospital in February 1983, at four months of age, he was found to be suffering from multiple illnesses, including "severe bilateral eye infection [which] had produced perforations of the corneas, conjunctivitis, and drainage of purulent matter from each of his corneas." The prognosis was for a total loss of vision, which, according to Jeison's medical records, occurred on February 23, 1983.

In short, the "revelations" of alleged organ and cornea trafficking in both programs turned out to be groundless.

1994-1996: The Rumor Attains Unprecedented Credibility

In January 1995, *Eye Snatchers*, an edited version of *Organ Snatchers*, was broadcast on M-6, a major television station in France. *Eye Snatchers* repeated the allegations about the Argentine youth Pedro Reggi and the Colombian child Jeison, both of which had been decisively disproved one year earlier. It made no mention of the fact that its main alleged "smoking gun" cases of cornea theft had been disproved. It simply ignored these facts as if they had not occurred.

In May 1995, *Eye Snatchers* received France's prestigious Albert-Londres prize in the audio-visual department, having been voted by a panel of journalists to be the best television program of the year in France.

The Colombian government was so outraged by the award of this prestigious journalism prize to a program that falsely accused Colombian doctors of stealing eyes from living children that it flew Jeison to Paris for an examination by a team of French doctors.

Jeison and his father arrived in Paris in August 1995 and the boy was examined by three prominent French doctors: Dr. Gilles Renard, of the Ophthalmological Service of the Hotel-Dieu Hospital; Dr. Marc Gentilini, of the Infectious and Tropical Diseases branch of the Pitie-Salpetriere Hospital; and Dr. Alain Fischer, of the Pediatric Immunology Service of Necker Hospital. The report on their examination of Jeison stated unequivocally that the boy had not had his eyes or corneas stolen. It reported that a stump of the eyeball and a number of fragments of corneal tissue remained in his eye sockets, proof that the corneas and the eye had not been removed. The condition of Jeison's

eyes was exactly what would have been expected as a result of the disease from which he had suffered, as recorded in his medical records.

Shortly after this report was released, the panel that had awarded the Albert-Londres prize to *Eye Snatchers* decided to suspend the prize, pending further investigation.

Meanwhile, on March 18, 1996, a series of articles repeating "baby parts" claims in the Brazilian newspaper *Correio Braziliense* was awarded the "King of Spain" prize for journalism. The articles repeated the long-disproved Jeison and Pedro Reggi charges and many other false claims that had appeared in the world press. The series' author, Ana Beatriz Magno, admitted in the March 20 issue of the Spanish newspaper *El Pais* that "I can only reproduce what the international press has written" on this issue and that she did not seek to verify any of the claims she had repeated.

Also on March 20, 1996, the Albert-Londres panel in France decided to reaffirm its award to *Eye Snatchers*, although with numerous "reservations." The panel criticized the program for having been "too categorical" in its allegations of cornea theft, which it admitted that the great majority of ophthalmologists thought were groundless, and admonished the program's producer, Marie-Monique Robin, for having "allowed herself to be carried away with emotion," for having made "unnecessarily injurious judgments," and for having been insufficiently skeptical of the claims of cornea theft. Despite these many criticisms, the panel nevertheless reaffirmed its award of the prize. Commenting on the panel's decision, the French magazine *Telerama* asked: "How is it possible for the Albert Londres jury to justify the award of its prize to an investigation that they themselves judge to have little reliability?"

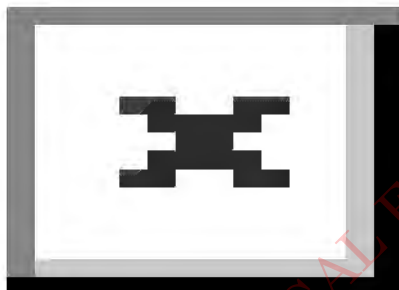
Conclusion

Despite the fact that it is totally unfounded, the "baby parts" rumor is now perceived as fact and accepted as conventional wisdom in large parts of the world. It has generated hysteria in Central American countries, led to brutal, unprovoked attacks on Americans and others, disrupted the lives of numerous prospective adoptive parents and the children they wished to adopt, won prestigious media awards in Europe, caused major disruptions in cornea donations in Latin America, and, in all likelihood, has caused numerous premature deaths because of its adverse effects on organ donation.

This sensationalistic rumor springs from deep, irrational, but very powerful anxieties stirred by advances in the life-saving process of organ transplantation. These fears have unfortunately been fanned by some who have cynically advanced this rumor for political purposes. The false rumor has also been propagated by many others who genuinely believe it. As a result of this cycle of events, the "baby parts" myth has now attained such widespread currency that it continues to feed on itself and, tragically, is widely believed despite numerous corrective statements, authoritative statements pointing to the impossibility of such practices occurring, and the fact that despite almost ten years of searching, no government, non-governmental organization, intergovernmental body, or investigative journalist has ever produced any credible evidence to support the charges.

From:	David Mikkelson <snopes@snopes.com>
SentVia:	fakenewssci@googlegroups.com
To:	fakenewssci@googlegroups.com
Subject:	Re: [fakenewssci] A new kind of backfire? "Perverse Downstream Consequences of Debunking: Being Corrected by Another User for Posting False Political News Increases Subsequent Sharing of Low Quality, Partisan, and Toxic Content in a Twitter Field Experiment"
Date:	Thu, 13 May 2021 12:01:54 -0700

I have to say our staff twigged to what was going on with this study, even if its subjects didn't:



--

#FakeNewsSci seeks to cultivate and continue an academic and practical agenda around defining and protecting against fake news and misinformation, and work to build news literacy, defend a free press and strengthen first amendment principles.

There are three ground rules for this community aimed at ensuring appropriate communication and exchange:

- (1) Civility is the primary responsibility of membership - we intend to avoid uncivil debates or rhetoric and those who violate this rule will be immediately removed.
- (2) To preserve people's comfort with being open and frank, all exchanges are to be treated as "off the record" unless the member(s) in question explicitly agree otherwise.
- (3) To maintain high-quality exchanges of ideas and practice, all new members must be recommended by two other group members to be added to this group. Please fill the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/h1UkZHwGEjt5Z4wg1> before you apply for membership.

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Combating Fake News: The Science of Misinformation" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to fakenewssci+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/fakenewssci/CAK-uGwOdWhVMtbtX4vxRNAgzZ-5O1VjVku-wM25ZzBSJteCK6Q%40mail.gmail.com>.

Sender: David Mikkelson <snopes@snopes.com>; fakenewssci@googlegroups.com

Recipient: fakenewssci@googlegroups.com

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re:
Date: Thu, 4 Feb 2021 17:08:09 -0500

call me

Julian E. Barnes
Intelligence, National Security reporter
The New York Times
+(b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 5:03 PM (b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:
Hi Julian,
We are still planning to send a response today. Let me know if there is any more time.
Very best,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer
Global Engagement Center
U.S. Department of State
Accenture Federal Services Contractor
Cell: (b)(6)

✘

From: Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 4:29 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:

(b)(6)

give me a quick call to update me on where you stand. (need to speak to you before 5)
Julian

Julian E. Barnes
Intelligence, National Security reporter
The New York Times
+(b)(6) Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal

Sender: Julian Barnes (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Recipient: (b)(6)@state.gov>

From: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
 Grynkewich, Alexis G Maj Gen USAF CENTCOM CCJ3 (USA)
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6)

To: (b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@washpost.com (b)(6)@washpost.com>;
 (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>;
 (b)(6)@outlook.com (b)(6)@outlook.com>;
 (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>
 (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>;
 Patrick Keane (b)(6)@convenelab.com>;
 (b)(6)
 ioconsultmlw (b)(6)@gmail.com>;
 (b)(6)@lexsg.com (b)(6)@lexsg.com>;
 (b)(6)@umd.edu (b)(6)@umd.edu>;
 (b)(6)
 (b)(6)@microsoft.com (b)(6)@microsoft.com>;
 (b)(6)@microsoft.com (b)(6)@microsoft.com>;
 (b)(6)@umd.edu (b)(6)@umd.edu>;
 (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>;

CC: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)@hotmail.com (b)(6)@hotmail.com>;
 (b)(6)@webheadtech.com (b)(6)@webheadtech.com>;
 (b)(6)@leidos.com (b)(6)@leidos.com>;
 (b)(6)@mitre.org (b)(6)@mitre.org>;
 (b)(6)@bah.com (b)(6)@bah.com>;
 (b)(6)@perkinscoie.com (b)(6)@perkinscoie.com>;
 (b)(6)@meritecservices.com (b)(6)@meritecservices.com>

Subject: Phoenix Challenge Panel 1 Rehearsal
Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 21:26:05 +0000

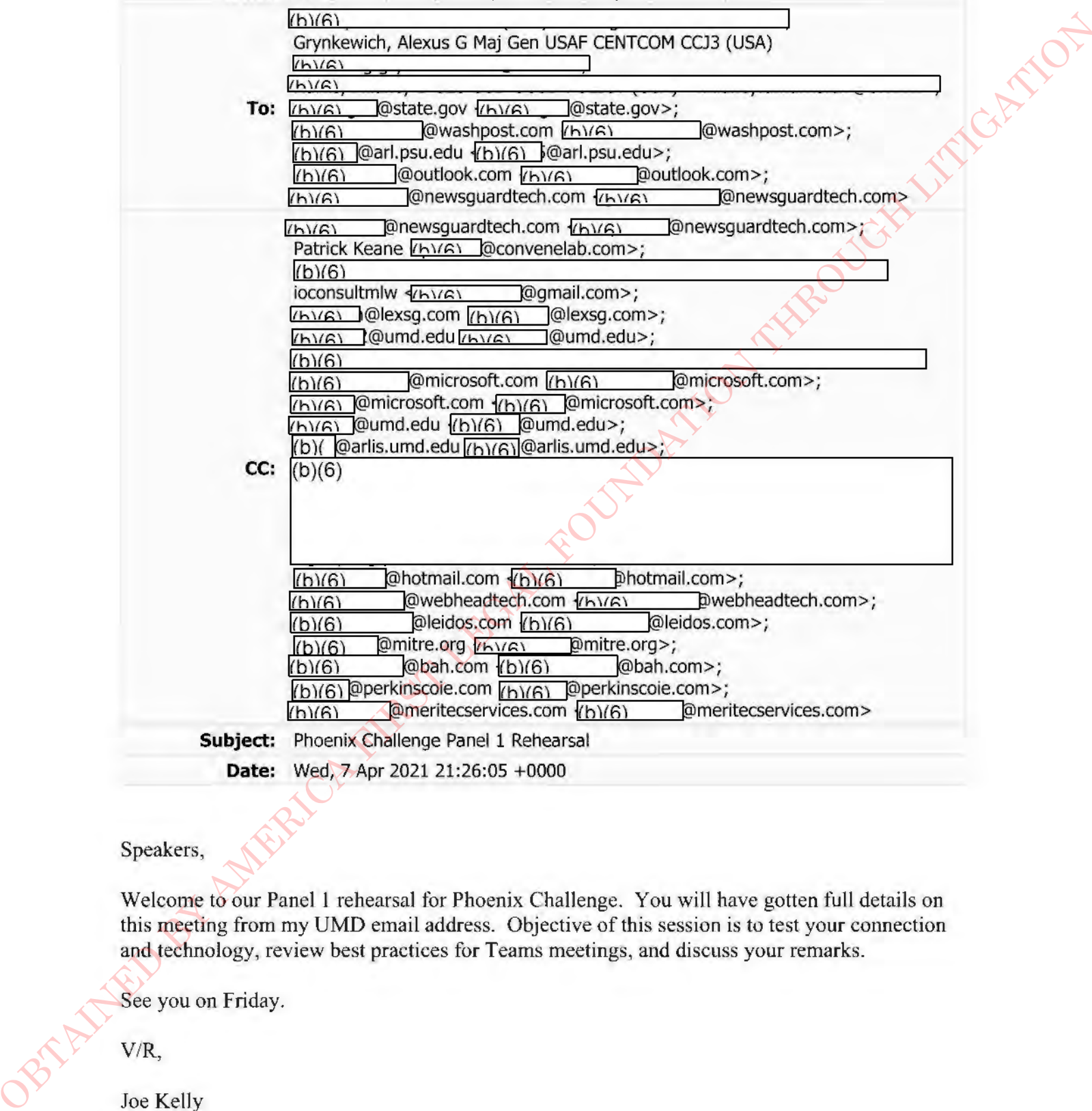
Speakers,

Welcome to our Panel 1 rehearsal for Phoenix Challenge. You will have gotten full details on this meeting from my UMD email address. Objective of this session is to test your connection and technology, review best practices for Teams meetings, and discuss your remarks.

See you on Friday.

V/R,

Joe Kelly



Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Sender: (b)(6)

Grynkewich, Alexis G Maj Gen USAF CENTCOM CCJ3 (USA)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@washpost.com (b)(6)@washpost.com>;
(b)(6)@arl.psu.edu (b)(6)@arl.psu.edu>;
(b)(6)@outlook.com (b)(6)@outlook.com>;
(b)(6)@newsguardtech.com (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>;
(b)(6)@newsguardtech.com (b)(6)@newsguardtech.com>;
Patrick Keane (b)(6)@convenelab.com>;

(b)(6)

ioconsultmlw (b)(6)@gmail.com>;
(b)(6)@lexsg.com (b)(6)@lexsg.com>;
(b)(6)@umd.edu (b)(6)@umd.edu>;

Recipient:

(b)(6)@microsoft.com (b)(6)@microsoft.com>;
(b)(6)@microsoft.com (b)(6)@microsoft.com>;
(b)(6)@umd.edu (b)(6)@umd.edu>;
(b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu (b)(6)@arlis.umd.edu>;

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@hotmail.com (b)(6)@hotmail.com>;
(b)(6)@webheadtech.com (b)(6)@webheadtech.com>;
(b)(6)@leidos.com (b)(6)@leidos.com>;
(b)(6)@mitre.org (b)(6)@mitre.org>;
(b)(6)@bah.com (b)(6)@bah.com>;
(b)(6)@perkinscoie.com (b)(6)@perkinscoie.com>;
(b)(6)@meritecservices.com (b)(6)@meritecservices.com>

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OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: "Kroeker, Scott" <(b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
Joshua Peller (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Subject: Opportunity for Marshall Islands Journal to join the New York Times Content Project
Date: Tue, 15 Dec 2020 19:24:27 +0000

Aloha (b)(6)

I hope you are keeping healthy and enjoying this holiday season. I am writing to you as the East-West Center is administering a project for the Department of State which provides licensing agreement to use *New York Times* content in select Pacific Islands newsrooms. The funds are drawn from the GEC Information Access Fund which we are accessing through a sub-award with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. We would like to make this opportunity available to the both the *Cook Islands News* and *Television Niue* if you think that these outlets would be open to the opportunity and a worthy recipients of the license. The year-long license (valued at (b)(4)) would allow those media outlets to republish *New York Times* content (in both English and Mandarin languages) in their hardcopy and online presence (if any).

If you think that Cook Islands News & TV Niue would be appropriate would you be willing to make the first approach to introduce their executives to the idea? Casi Gentzel, our GEC contact at INDOPACOM, prefers that approach instead of the EWC directly reaching out, if you are willing. Myself and our contact at the *New York Times* will follow-up your initial query with practical details.

At the end of this email I've included some boilerplate language used by other embassies to contact media outlets. Feel free to use verbatim or customize to your circumstances.

Thanks very much for your help. Stay safe and happy holidays.

Best regards,
Scott Kroeker

My name is XXXXX and I work with the US Embassy in XXXX it's my pleasure to E-meet you.

I'd like to bring your attention to an opportunity to access content for your publication, the XXXXX.

The U.S. Embassy is offering your news outlet the opportunity to be part of our New York Times English & Mandarin content project. We know that many small and medium size news outlets would like to use content from larger outlets, and, that content in Mandarin for occasional Mandarin language supplements is also helpful.

We are pleased to announce a new project for select news outlets in the Pacific:

- 1) free usage license for New York Times English and Mandarin content for at least one year,
- 2) custom training from the New York Times on their website (so you can most easily access the content you want, and on-going technical support),
- 3) quarterly webinars with prominent international journalists on relevant topics to the Pacific facilitated by the East-West Center, and
- 4) customized training organized by the East-West Center on specific topics you deem most important to your newsroom.

We hope you will join us in this project! If you are interested, we would like to connect you with Scott Kroeker from the East-West Center, who will be organizing logistics."

Scott Kroeker | Senior Program Officer, Professional Development Program | (b)(6)

East-West Center

1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96848-1601, USA
EastWestCenter.org

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

Sender: "Kroeker, Scott" (b)(6)@EastWestCenter.org>

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

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

Recipient: Vonda Wolcott (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;

Joshua Peller (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

From:	<(b)(6)@iwpr.net>
SentVia:	Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>
To:	<(b)(6)@state.gov>; <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; <(b)(6)@poynter.org>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	Invitation: Poynter Balkans kick off call @ Wed Dec 9, 2020 1pm - 2pm (EST) (b)(6)@state.gov)
Date:	Mon, 7 Dec 2020 21:07:37 +0000

You have been invited to the following event.

Poynter Balkans kick off call

When Wed Dec 9, 2020 1pm – 2pm Eastern Time - New York

Calendar (b)(6)@state.gov

Who

- (b)(6)@iwpr.net - organizer
- (b)(6)@poynter.org
- (b)(6)@poynter.org
- (b)(6)@state.gov
- (b)(6)@state.gov

more details »

Conference call link:

<https://meet.jit.si/WorthRocksInfluenceNearby>

PW (b)(6)

Agenda:

Intro (IWPR)

Overview and timeline of project (Poynter)

Questions/comments (GEC et al)

Going (b)(6)@state.gov)? **Yes - Maybe - No** [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account (b)(6)@state.gov because you are an attendee of this event.

To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event. Alternatively you can sign up for a Google account at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/> and control your notification settings for your entire calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer and be added to the guest list, or invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or to modify your RSVP. [Learn More](#).

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Sender: (h)(6)@iwpr.net>; Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>

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

Recipient: (h)(6)@poynter.org>;
(h)(6)@poynter.org>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: (b)(6)@iwpr.net
Sent: Fri, 4 Dec 2020 14:44:04 +0000
To: (b)(6)@iwpr.net, (b)(6)@poynter.org, (b)(6)@poynter.org, (b)(6)@state.gov, (b)(6)@iwpr.net, (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Poynter Balkans kick off call

Conference call link:
<https://meet.jit.si/WorthRocksInfluenceNearby>
 PW (b)(6)

Agenda:
 Intro (IWPR)
 Overview and timeline of project (Poynter)
 Questions/comments (GEC et al)

 Please do not edit this section of the description.

View your event at
https://calendar.google.com/calendar/event?action=VIEW&cid=NnFkYmo4MGZkajNmNW1nNThyZzRkMWU4Y2kgcnlhbmtAc3RhdGUuZ292&tok=MTQjdm9uZGFhX2dweic5uZXQ2NWl2OGJiODQ2Yjg2ZGUzNzlwNTE0MTIzNGY2MGI3NWRiODRhMTcw&ctz=America%2FNew_York&hl=en&es=l

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From: (b)(6)@iwpr.net>

SentVia: Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>

(b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@theglobalamericans.org>;
 Dhaniella Falk (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 (b)(6)@theglobalamericans.org>;

To: (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 Alan Davis (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 Seth Meixner (b)(6)@iwpr.net>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>;
 (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Invitation: IWPR GEC DRL Western Hem Projects Meeting @ Thu Nov 19, 2020 11am - 12pm (EST) (b)(6)@state.gov)

Date: Mon, 9 Nov 2020 20:41:42 +0000

You have been invited to the following event.

IWPR GEC DRL Western Hem Projects Meeting

When Thu Nov 19, 2020 11am – 12pm Eastern Time - New York

Calendar (b)(6)@state.gov

Who

- (b)(6)@iwpr.net - organizer
- (b)(6)@theglobalamericans.org
- Dhaniella Falk
- (b)(6)@poynter.org
- (b)(6)@theglobalamericans.org
- (b)(6)@poynter.org
- (b)(6)@state.gov
- Alan Davis
- (b)(6)@state.gov
- Seth Meixner
- (b)(6)@state.gov
- (b)(6)@state.gov

[more details »](#)

Conference call link:

<https://meet.jit.si/CommercialCornersEmailMagnificently>

PW: (b)(6)

Agenda

1. Introduction (IWPR - Vonda)

2. Project Summaries:

- IWPR LAC (Dhaniella Falk)
- Poynter (Baybars Orsek)
- Global Americans (Guy Mentel)

3. GEC/DRL Comments

4. Comments/questions/thoughts on synergies (all)

Going @state.gov)? **Yes - Maybe - No** [more options »](#)

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Sender: @iwpr.net>; Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>

@state.gov>;

@theglobalamericans.org>;

Dhaniella Falk @iwpr.net>;

@poynter.org>;

@theglobalamericans.org>;

Recipient: @poynter.org>;

@state.gov>;

Alan Davis @iwpr.net>;

Seth Meixner @iwpr.net>;

@state.gov>;

@state.gov>

From: Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: ICYMI: Calif. Secretary of State Alex Padilla on stimulus checks, impeachment and more
Date: Tue, 12 Jan 2021 00:12:28 +0000

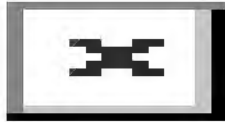
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Sender: Washington Post Live <washpostlive@washpost.com>

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

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From: Reuters <account@reuters.com>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Get the most out of Reuters.com
Date: Sat, 28 May 2022 13:04:20 +0000



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- **Markets:** Focus on the news shaping the financial markets across the globe
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Sender: Reuters <account@reuters.com>

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

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Subject: FW: Statement by the Secretary
Date: Fri, 16 Dec 2022 20:21:04 +0000

<https://www.state.gov/appointment-of-james-p-rubin-as-special-envoy-and-coordinator-of-the-global-engagement-center/>



Appointment of James P. Rubin as Special Envoy and Coordinator of the Global Engagement Center - United States Department of State

Today, we welcome James P. Rubin as Special Envoy and Coordinator of the State Department's Global Engagement Center (GEC). Jamie will lead and coordinate the U.S. Government's work to recognize, understand, expose, and counter foreign state and foreign non-state propaganda and disinformation that threatens the security of the United States, our allies, and partners. Jamie has more [...]

www.state.gov

Sender: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient: Steven Lee Myers (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

From: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
To: Jeremy Peters (b)(6)@nytimes.com>
Subject: Fw: hey... question for you on the Global Engagement Center
Date: Fri, 26 Aug 2022 20:26:02 +0000

Hi Jeremy -

Hope this note finds you well! My name is (b)(6) and I am on the GEC Press team and your note below made its way to us. We're happy to schedule a conversation next week with you. Are there any specific questions you'd like to flag beyond what you've shared below and could you share with us your deadline?

We look forward to speaking soon -- either myself or my colleague (b)(6) will follow up with you once we hear back.

All the best,

(b)(6)

From: Edward Price (b)(6)@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 3:16 PM
To: Jeremy Peters (b)(6)@nytimes.com>; Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: hey... question for you on the Global Engagement Center

Greetings from just down the street from you! I'm copying my work address and will forward this along. The team will be back to you. I'm confident they can help.

On Aug 26, 2022, at 12:40 PM, Jeremy Peters (b)(6)@nytimes.com> wrote:

Hi there. So for a story I'm doing on the new front in disinformation wars, I think the Global Engagement Center at State could be a great resource. My story is going to focus on the Russian campaign to manufacture fears of a global food shortage crisis. And the center has done some work on this recently. One recent report is here: <https://www.state.gov/disarming-disinformation/russias-disinformation-cannot-hide-its-responsibility-for-the-global-food-crisis/>

Do you have a contact there you'd recommend reaching out to? I think this could be a pretty eye opening piece because there are a lot of overlaps with the conspiracy theories about the food supply and those about vaccines and elections. Anyway, I know you're super busy. But I'd be grateful for any guidance. And hope you're doing well.

--

Jeremy Peters
The New York Times

(b)(6)

Sender: GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>
Recipient: Jeremy Peters (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

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From:	Jakub Janda (b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz> Iltebir, Elnigar EOP/ Nsc (b)(6) (h)(6)@ndi.org>;
To:	(h)(6)@washpost.com>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (h)(6)@state.gov>
CC:	Adam Čorgo (h)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>; (h)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>; Michaela Löfflerová (h)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>; Andrea Michalcová EH (h)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>
Subject:	Details on your STRATCOM SUMMIT panel
Date:	Mon, 7 Jun 2021 17:24:21 +0000

Dear Elnigar, Peter, Josh, Daniel,

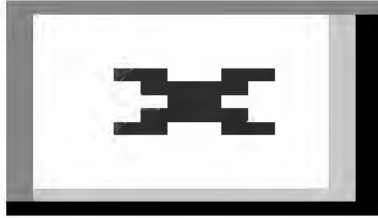
let me come to you regarding your STRATCOM SUMMIT panel which I have the privilege of moderating.

I am attaching the panel date and details below.

Each of you will get three minutes at first, then I will followup with questions.

If you have anything specific you would like to point out or be asked on, please let me know.

<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>JUNE 10</p> <p>16:45 – 17:45 CET (Prague time)</p>	<p>PANEL: <i>U.S. Government Policy - Building Transatlantic Consensus to Counter China's Malign Interventions</i></p> <p>Topic: The Biden's administration position vis-à-vis Xi Jinping's China, which appears, at present, adversarial. Certain European governments remain unwilling to genuinely confront China's disregard for rules and fair play. Is transatlantic consensus regarding a belligerent Beijing achievable, if so, how?</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elnigar Iltebir, Director for China at National Security Council, The White House, USA (<i>confirmed</i>) • Peter Mattis, Senior Advisor for Global Democratic Resilience at National Democratic Institute (NDI), USA (<i>confirmed</i>) • Josh Rogin, Washington Post columnist and CNN commentator, USA (<i>confirmed</i>) • Daniel Kimmage, Principal Deputy Coordinator of the State Department's Global Engagement Center (GEC) (<i>confirmed</i>)
--	--



Sender: Jakub Janda (b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>

Iltebir, Elnigar EOP/ Nsc (b)(6)

(b)(6)@ndi.org>;

(b)(6)@washpost.com>;

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

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

Adam Čorgo (b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>;

(b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>;

Michaela Löfflerová (b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>;

Andrea Michalcová EH (b)(6)@europeanvalues.cz>

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;
ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>;
Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: CSP-26 Disinformation Panel - Last Email
Date: Tue, 30 Nov 2021 06:32:32 +0000

Dear Panelists,

Thanks again for your participation in this event.

Please find attached a paper with out three themes as well as your brief bios. Do let our moderator (b)(6) (ccied) know as soon as possible if you want them amended.

Under each theme there are possible questions. They are only there to guide the discussion if need be. Feel free again to reach out to John to fine tune things.

The run of event will be as follow:

1. Ambassador Manso will call the meeting to order
2. Brief introductions (1-2 min.) by three co-hosting ambassadors in alphabetical country name order, mirroring the order of themes discussed by panelists:
 - a. Global scope of state-sponsored disinformation (Estonian Amb. Kuusing)
 - b. Countering disinformation (EU Amb. Leinonen)
 - c. CW disinformation (U.S. Amb. Manso, hands over to moderator GEC (b)(6) (b)(6))
3. Moderator remarks, introducing panelists (2-3 min.)
4. Panelist remarks (10 min. each)
 - a. Davey Alba (NYT)
 - b. Pasi Eronen (EEAS)
 - c. Eliot Higgins (Bellingcat)
5. Moderated Q&A – questions submitted by Slido and selected by moderator (30 min.)
6. Closing remarks by moderator

Here again is a link to the meeting

I would greatly appreciate if you would join early so I can ensure you have the proper presenting privileges for the meeting (mic and cam).

Most respectfully,

(b)(6)

Foreign Affairs Officer

Office of Chemical and Biological Weapons Affairs
Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance

U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

(b)(6) (desk)
(b)(6) (cell)
(b)(6) @state.gov
(b)(6) @state.sgov.gov

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

Davey Alba (b)(6)@nytimes.com>;
ERONEN Pasi (EEAS) (b)(6)@eeas.europa.eu>;

Recipient: Eliot Higgins (b)(6)@bellingcat.com>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>;
Rodjom, Sarah M (b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@state.gov>

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OPCW CSP-26 Side Event
“Countering State-Sponsored Disinformation”

November 30, 2021 at 1PM (EST)/ 7PM (The Hague)
90 minutes - Closed Teams Meeting - No Press but recorded

1. The Global Scope of State-Sponsored Disinformation:

Davey Alba will provide an overview of the scope of state-sponsored disinformation and how countries leverage technology to spread and amplify their twisted message.

Suggested questions:

- What countries are targeted by state-sponsored disinformation? Is the phenomenon limited to more developed nations or is it more global in scope? How aware are most countries that they are targets of state-sponsored disinformation?
- In what way does state-sponsored disinformation differ from other types of disinformation? Are the levers used by states vs. non-state disinformation actors different?

2. Countering and mitigating the effects of disinformation:

Drawing from his experience at EUvsDisinfo, Pasi Eronen will discuss what states can do to detect as well as counter state-sponsored disinformation campaigns. Suggested questions:

- What are the tell-tale signs a country is being targeted by a disinformation campaign? What should people be looking for when trying to determine whether a disinformation campaign is taking place?
- How can countries mitigate the effect of state-sponsored disinformation campaigns? What can countries and international organizations do to promote truthful messages amid a sea of falsehood? What are some good, real-life models of countries that have dealt with state-sponsored disinformation successfully?

3. State-Sponsored CW Disinformation:

Eliot Higgins will delve into the specificity of state-sponsored disinformation in the chemical weapons space based on his experience at Bellingcat working on the Syrian, Skripal, and Navalny CW file. Suggested questions:

- What is specific about state-sponsored disinformation in the CW space? In what way does it differ from other areas where disinformation abounds? What patterns, if any, can be discerned in CW related disinformation?
- What can States Parties to the CWC individually and the OPCW institutionally do to identify and promote accurate CW related information?

SPEAKERS BIOS

Davey Alba – New York Times

Alba is a technology reporter for The New York Times and covers online disinformation and its global harm. She was previously a senior reporter at BuzzFeed News and wrote about artificial intelligence and tech effects on people and communities. In 2019, she won a Livingston Award for excellence in international reporting.

Pasi Eronen – EUvsDisinfo

Eronen is an international security expert at EUvsDisinfo, the flagship project of the European External Action Service's East StratCom Task Force established in 2015 to better forecast, address, and respond to disinformation campaigns affecting the European Union, its Member States, and countries in the shared neighborhood.

Eliot Higgins – Bellingcat

Higgins is a citizen journalist and founder of Bellingcat the storied open-source investigation website. He has investigated the Syrian Civil War, 2014–15 Russian military intervention in Ukraine, the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, and the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal. He has already expressed interest in participating.

From: "Bickford, Ana" [(b)(6)]@warnermedia.com>
To: State Department Media <mediarequests@state.gov>
CC: Johnson, Christie [(b)(6)]@cnn.com>
Subject: Amanpour on PBS & CNNi
Date: Tue, 26 Oct 2021 11:07:42 +0000

Good morning,

Might U.S. Special Envoy Jeffrey Feltman be available to join Christiane Amanpour on Sudan today or tomorrow live at 1pmET?

Thanks,

Ana

Ana Cohen Bickford
Sr. Editorial Producer

AMANPOUR | PBS & CNNi

[(b)(6)]@warnermedia.com

[(b)(6)]

www.amanpour.com

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/amanpour-and-company/>

Sender: "Bickford, Ana" [(b)(6)]@warnermedia.com>
Recipient: State Department Media <mediarequests@state.gov>;
Johnson, Christie [(b)(6)]@cnn.com>

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From: Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Agenda announced for WashPost Global Women's Summit featuring Ukrainian first lady Olena Zelenska, Hillary Clinton and more
Date: Fri, 11 Nov 2022 14:59:29 +0000

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Sender: Katherine O'Hearn <washpostlive@washpost.com>
Recipient: (b)(6)@state.gov>

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From: Nancy Nussbaum (b)(6)@ap.org>

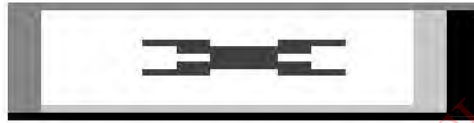
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Does faith have a place in mental health? Register Today!

Date: Thu, 2 Jun 2022 08:45:09 -0600



[View in browser](#)



Does faith have a place in mental health?

Join us on Wednesday, June 8 at 2 p.m. EDT for our webinar, “**Does faith have a place in mental health?**”

Our panel of leaders in this space will address the role of faith and clergy in managing urgent mental health issues with the young and society as a whole. The panel will address believers’ need to seek out faith institutions for help with their mental health, including the benefits and limitations of going that route. The session also will cover the mental health environment of various faith institutions.

The session is being offered through a collaboration between The Associated Press, The Conversation and Religion News Service.

Please register even if news may prevent you from joining. **We will send a recording link to everyone who registers.**

Who

Moderator:

- **Natasha Mikles**, assistant professor, Texas State University/Philosophy and Religious Studies

Panelists:

- **Thema Bryant**, president-elect, American Psychological Association
- **David Morris**, publisher/literary agent/author, Lake Drive Books
- **Rabbi Seth Winberg**, senior chaplain, Brandeis University

When**Date:** June 8, 2022**Time:** 2 p.m. Eastern (1800 GMT)[REGISTER HERE >](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please feel free to share this invitation with anyone from your staff who might be interested in these topics.

Thank you in advance for your participation.



Nancy Nussbaum
Global Director of Engagement

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From:	(b)(6)@poynter.org>
SentVia:	Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	Accepted: M&E Workbook/Performance Monitoring Plan Walk Through @ Tue Feb 16, 2021 11am - 11:50am (EST) (b)(6)
Date:	Wed, 10 Feb 2021 17:27:10 +0000

(b)(6)@poynter.org has accepted this invitation.

M&E Workbook/Performance Monitoring Plan Walk Through

When Tue Feb 16, 2021 11am – 11:50am Eastern Time - New York

Where <https://meet7.webex.com/meet7/j.php?MTID=m93b7bcf016e18f8c3e5478fb6a1b27c8>
([map](#))

Calendar (b)(6)

Who

- (b)(6) organizer
- (b)(6)@poynter.org - creator

JOIN WEBEX MEETING

<https://meet7.webex.com/meet7/j.php?MTID=m93b7bcf016e18f8c3e5478fb6a1b27c8>

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Meeting password: (b)(6) (from video systems)

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Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account (b)(6)@state.gov because you are an attendee of this event.

To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event. Alternatively you can sign up for a Google account at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/> and control your notification settings for your entire calendar.

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Sender: (b)(6)@poynter.org>; Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com>

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

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 15:56:03 +0000
To: (b)(6)@poynter.org
Subject: M&E Workbook/Performance Monitoring Plan Walk Through

JOIN WEBEX MEETING

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Meeting password: (b)(6) from video systems)

JOIN BY PHONE

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JOIN FROM A VIDEO SYSTEM OR APPLICATION

Dial sip:1324237370@meet7.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business

Dial sip:1324237370.meet7@lync.webex.com

Can't join the meeting?

<https://collabrationhelp.cisco.com/article/WBX000029055>

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From: Tijana Cvjetičanin (b)(6)@istinomjer.ba>
To: Jency Jacob (b)(6)@boomlive.in>
Baybars Orsek (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
Gulin (b)(6)@teyit.org>;
Rajneil Kamath (b)(6)@ncmn.in>;
Coreena Soares (b)(6)@gmail.com>;
(b)(6)@15min.lt>;
Inga Springe (b)(6)@gmail.com>;
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Angie Holan (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
Bwhitaker (b)(6)@ap.org>;
CC: Jeanfreddy (b)(6)@gmail.com>;
Maarten Schenk (b)(6)@leadstories.com>;
Ellen Tordesillas (b)(6)@verafiles.org>;
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(b)(6)@state.gov>;
(b)(6)@mdfgeorgia.ge>;
Enock NYARIKI (b)(6)@pesacheck.org>;
Ferdinand Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
Harrison Mantas (b)(6)@poynter.org>
Subject: Re: Working group to address harassment against fact-checkers
Date: Tue, 6 Jul 2021 10:47:31 +0200

Yes, thank you Baybars!

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 6:28 AM Jency Jacob <(b)(6)@boomlive.in> wrote:
Dear Baybars,

Glad to be a part and contribute in whichever way I can.

Cheers to all.

Regards

Jency

On Mon, Jul 5, 2021 at 4:42 PM Baybars Orsek <(b)(6)@poynter.org> wrote:
Dear friends & colleagues,

Hope you had a restful weekend.

I would like to thank you so much for your interest in this working group to help fact-checkers around the world to address harassment and threats for our work.

We have received a total of 23 submissions to join this working group. It's great to see such a high volume of interest!

I would like to suggest the below model to launch this working group.

Broader group for monitoring and evaluation

This broader group convenes on a quarterly basis to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of IFCN's actions to help fact-checkers around the world under stress and risks due to harassment and threats. It also provides feedback to IFCN on such activities and evaluates IFCN's performance in those areas by working with IFCN on publishing quarterly "Harassment against fact-checkers" reports for verified signatories and the public.

This group will be updated on a 2/3 basis in a calendar year.

Core group for consulting and planning (group of 11)

A smaller group acts as the core group for consulting and planning by convening on a monthly basis to discuss reported harassment cases and advising IFCN with action items. This group is provided with immediate updates on every harassment case reported by the fact-checking community and asked for their guidance and input.

This group will be updated on a 2/3 basis in a calendar year.

To move forward, I'm suggesting inviting the following names to the core group considering the diversity in geography and background.

Ana Brakus | Faktograf | Croatia
Angie Holan | Politifact | United States
Barbara Whitaker | Associated Press | United States
Ellen Tordesillas | Vera Files | Phillippines
Gülin Çavuş | Teyit | Turkey
Jency Jacob | Boom | India
Maarten Schenk | Lead Stories | Belgium / United States
Pablo M. Fernandez | Chequeado | Argentina
Rabiu Alhassan | GhanaFact | Ghana
Thanos Sitistas | Elinika Hoaxes | Greece
Tijana Cvjetičanin | Raskrinkavanje | Bosnia-Herzegovina

Action items for next steps

I would like you to let me know if you approve the suggested core group by submitting this form no later than this Friday, 9th of July.

Once we have the core group formed, I'll send further information on regular calls (quarterly for the broader group and monthly for the core group) as well as communication methods to foster rapid and effective dialogue.

Please kindly note that this proposed model is not to be set in stone and will require further consultation and discussion to be a better asset for the fact-checking community. Your inputs and feedback are highly needed and appreciated! There will be more opportunities to reflect on this and improve the model on the go as we tackle future challenges and identify room for improvement!

Thank you so much!

Best-

--

Baybars Örsek

Director | International Fact-Checking Network
@baybarsorsek / @factchecknet

Sender: Tijana Cvjetičanin (b)(6)@istinomjer.ba>

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 Angie Holan (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
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 Ferdi Ozsoy (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 Alanna Dvorak (b)(6)@poynter.org>;
 Harrison Mantas (b)(6)@poynter.org>