



California's War on Guns Expands to a War on Ammo Beginning January 2018

A ban on the possession on bullets purchased out-of-state takes effect January 1, 2018. It also will be illegal "to transfer or buy ammo" from anyone other than a licensed dealer within the state. In 2019, everyone who buys ammunition in California will be required to undergo a background check like those currently required for firearm sales. [The plan is clear. Rather than direct confiscation of firearms, which is unconstitutional, would-be tyrants are gradually increasing rules, regulations, fees, and restrictions so that, eventually, firearms will be confiscated by assessments and red tape.] -GEG

California's war on guns will soon broaden to a war on ammunition as a ban on the possession of bullets purchased out-of-state takes effect January 1, 2018.

This is one of many steps going into effect which will quickly place ammunition under controls similar to those which Democrat lawmakers have placed on firearms.

According to the [Sacramento Bee](#), it will also be illegal "to transfer or buy ammo" from anyone other than a licensed dealer within the state, beginning January 1. California residents can order ammunition from a catalog as long as they have that

ammunition shipped to a licensed dealer for pickup. The dealer will then add a "processing fee" to the cost of the ammunition.

In this scenario, a "processing fee" is just another tax that law-abiding citizens will pay for the bullets they buy.

Then, in 2019, all ammunition purchasers will be required to undergo a background check like those currently required for firearm sales. That background check will require the law-abiding citizen to "pay a \$1 state fee" for the check. That "fee" is yet another tax.

This is how gun control or, in this case, ammunition control, works. First, they limit the supply by passing a law that it is only legal to possess ammunition purchased in California. Then they pass a law narrowing options even further, so that it is only legal to purchase in-state ammunition from a licensed dealer. Then they apply a tax but call it a "processing fee." And in 2019 they will apply another tax of \$1 to help cover the cost of a point of sale background check for law-abiding ammunition purchasers.

Once such fees are in place it is quite easy for state bureaucrats to increase them to cover unforeseen costs. In the end, this will make ammunition cost-prohibitive for poorer families who may live in situations where they need a gun and ammunition worse than anyone.

It should be clear from California's gun control history that these laws on ammunition are only the beginning. After all, California implemented background checks for firearms then followed that with gun registration requirements and gun confiscation laws.

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Alabama: Court Allows the Destruction of Digital Voting Records – Outrageous!

Alabama: Doug Jones defeated Judge Roy Moore in the special election for the Senate seat. The day before the election, a Montgomery County Circuit Court issued an order directing Alabama election officials to preserve all digital ballot images created at polling places. Less than three hours later, the state Supreme Court granted a stay on the order, thus allowing the destruction of the records. Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill and Ed Packard, the state Administrator of Elections, were behind the request to trash the records. They said they were afraid of hacking. Chris Krebs, head of the Department of Homeland Security, supported the quick destruction of voting records and said: "What I'm worried about is undermining the broader confidence in the vote. My [ideal] outcome is ensuring the American people have confidence that their vote matters when they show up to vote." [Great rhetoric, but the destruction of ballots to prevent a recount does just the opposite. This stinks to high heaven.] - GEG

In what is being described as a "spurious," ruling, an Alabama court says officials can destroy all digital voting records for the state's special Senate election between Republican Judge Roy Moore and Democrat Doug Jones.

[AL.com](#) reports:

At 1:36 p.m. Monday, a Montgomery County Circuit Court judge [issued an order](#) directing Alabama election officials to preserve all digital ballot images created at polling places across the state today.

But at 4:32 p.m. Monday, attorneys for Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill and Ed Packard, the state administrator of elections, filed an “emergency motion to stay” that order, which the state Supreme Court granted minutes after Merrill and Packard’s motion was filed.

By granting the stay, the court effectively told the state that it does not in fact have to preserve the digital ballot images – essentially digitized versions of the paper ballots voters fill out at the voting booth – created today.

But Priscilla Duncan, attorney for four Alabama voters who sued the state last week in an attempt to force election officials to preserve the digital records, said Tuesday that their argument was “spurious” and misleading.

Alabama attorney Priscilla Duncan blasted the decision saying, “They made a bunch of spurious arguments that they don’t have the authority to tell [election officials across the state] what to do – well, they’re already telling them what to do – and that it will cause a bunch of confusion at the polls, but the voters wouldn’t even know if they changed their retention policy.”

The ruling comes amid hacking fears, prompting Department of Homeland Security officials to boost the state’s cybersecurity.

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Bulgaria Acquired \$3.6 Billion in Bitcoin After Organized Crime Bust

Bulgaria acquired 213,519 Bitcoin after an organized crime ring was busted for placing a virus into computers at the Customs office that allowed members of the ring to avoid import taxes on their cargo. The group converted its gains to Bitcoin, which now is valued at more than \$15,000 per coin, for a total of \$3.6 billion. If Bulgaria sells its stash of the seized cryptocurrency, it will be able to pay off almost 20% of its national debt. [We do not expect that to happen, however, because government leaders seldom are concerned about debt. They likely will spend the money on vote-buying schemes or simply will steal it for themselves.] It is not clear from this article how the government was able to confiscate the Bitcoin inasmuch as cryptocurrencies are supposed to be secure against theft or government seizure. If anyone can tell us how this was accomplished, we will share it with our readers.] -GEG

Bulgaria's GDP is about \$52.4 billion (2016), so it is quite a shock that the **Bulgarian Government is sitting on an approximate \$3 billion worth of Bitcoins seized in an anti-corruption operation back in May.**

Bulgarian law enforcement jointly worked with the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center ([SELC](#)), a regional organization comprised of 12 member states, to **bust a sophisticated organized-crime network, arresting twenty-**

three Bulgarian nationals and seizing a total of 213,519 bitcoins.

SELC described the organized-crime scheme as the hacking of Bulgarian Custom's computers and allowing those associated with the group to skip fees for importing goods into the country. To make it work, the group recruited corrupt Customs officers to upload a virus into government machines, so that hackers could establish remote access.

The organized criminal group consisted in Bulgarian nationals having connections in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hellenic Republic, Romania and Republic of Serbia. The modus operandi used was recruiting corrupted Customs officers in all involved countries with the purpose to infiltrate a virus in the Customs' computerized systems. Once the virus installed, from distance, the offenders were able to finalize various transports, as in the Customs' system appeared that the cargo was already checked and passed.

Further, SELC provided details of how the operation was conducted, involving a large-scale search of "more than 100 addresses, suspects, and vehicles." **Out of the 23 suspects arrested, 5 of them were Bulgarian Customs officers.** Police seized "equipment, devices for communication, computers, tablets, and bank documents."

Bulgarian authorities have searched more than 100 addresses, suspects and vehicles. A large quantity of money was seized, as well as equipment, devices for communication, computers, tablets, bank documents, etc. 23 suspects were arrested, 5 of them acting as Bulgarian Customs officers. As result of this criminal activity the damages recorded by the Customs Agency, only for year 2015, is around 10 million Leva.

Here is where things get interesting... **Police also seized**

213,519 bitcoins, at the time, worth \$500 million. As of writing this article, the amount seized, is now worth approximately 3,676,583,661, according to [CoinDesk](#).

As well, up to now were found in the virtual space bitcoin wallets of the main suspects with a total value of 213,519 bitcoins. As a reference, the value of one bitcoin is rating to 2354 USD. The offenders choose the bitcoin way of investing/saving the money, because it is rather difficult to be tracked and followed.

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U.N. Warns of New Wave of Syrian Refugee into Europe if Aid Dries Up

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is demanding that Europe increase aid payments to the UN to support the refugee program. Otherwise, he warns that millions more Syrian refugees might try to reach Europe. The refugees are currently residing in Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt. The UNHCR has received only 53% of its \$4.63 billion proposal for 2017, and is calling out for more money to keep the refugees from flooding Europe. The unspoken message is clear: "Pay up or be sorry." [Crime syndicates use extortion threats like this to sustain their cash flow. It's called the Protection Racket.

"This sure is a nice bar you have. It would be a pity if some hoodlums came in here and messed it up or set fire to it. We can protect you from that – and it will only cost you \$500 per week." The Protection Racket is well known at the UN syndicate.] -GEG

GENEVA (Reuters) – Syrian refugees could again seek to reach Europe in droves if aid programs are not sustained in five neighboring countries hosting the bulk of them, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was giving details of the \$4.4 billion appeal to support 5.3 million Syrian refugees in surrounding countries as well as to host communities in Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt that have taken them in.

The agency, which has received only 53 percent of its \$4.63 billion appeal for 2017, needs international support, Amin Awad, director of UNHCR's Middle East and North Africa bureau, told a news briefing.

He listed "many reasons", including: "The vast number of refugees that we have in the region, the geopolitical status of that region, the risk that a population of 5.3 million people can bring to an area, a small region already volatile as it is, if there is no assistance.

"We had the experience of 2015, we don't want to repeat that," he said.

The lack of funding led to an acute shortage of services that year, when one million refugees fled to Europe, he added. About half were Syrians, UNHCR figures show.

An EU-Turkey deal has largely halted the flow, but a UNHCR funding shortfall has led to fresh cutbacks in vital programs providing food, health care, education and shelter to Syrian refugees, Awad said.

"That means we're not able to provide stoves, we are not able

to deliver kerosene, we are not able to deliver enough thermal blankets, we are not able to winterise tents, we are not able to drain water and snow from camps, we are not able to do engineering work to insulate some of the buildings. People are sitting in cold, open buildings,” he said.

Turkey currently hosts 3.3 million Syrian refugees, the largest number, followed by Lebanon with one million.

“These are the biggest donors, these are the real donors. They provided space, international protection,” Awad said.

“Now the material assistance is left to the donors and international community.. And that’s not coming through. So we have to be prepared for consequences,” he said.

Awad, asked about countries in the region closing their borders to Syrian refugees, replied: “Borders are managed, in some instance are closed.”

Host countries have cited concerns over security, economic crises, and xenophobia, but Syrians continue to arrive, he said.

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