



San Francisco: Major Convention Cancels Due to Homeless Problems of Drugs, Behavior and Feces

Tourism is San Francisco's biggest industry, bringing in \$9 billion a year, employing 80,000 people and generating more than \$725 million in local taxes. A major convention canceled future plans due to open drug use, threatening behavior, and mental illness that are common on the streets. Last week, more than 16,000 complaints of human feces littering the streets were logged with the city. Needles and garbage near homeless encampments also add to the problem.

In a move that is alarming San Francisco's biggest industry, a major medical association is pulling its annual convention out of the city – saying its members no longer feel safe.

“It's the first time that we have had an out-and-out cancellation over the issue, and this is a group that has been coming here every three or four years since the 1980s,” said **Joe D'Alessandro**, president and CEO of S.F. Travel, the city's convention bureau.

D'Alessandro declined to name the medical association, saying the bureau still hopes to bring the group back in the future.

As a rule, major conventions book their visits at least five years in advance. So when D'Alessandro and members of the

hospitality industry hadn't heard from the doctors about re-upping, they flew to the organization's Chicago headquarters for a face-to-face meeting with its executive board.

A non-profit group is trying to raise \$100 million to help solve the city's homeless crisis. Tara Moriarty reports.

Media: JW Player

And with good reason: The group's annual five-day trade show draws 15,000 attendees and pumps about \$40 million into the local economy.

"They said that they are committed to this year and to 2023, but nothing in between or nothing thereafter," D'Alessandro said. "After that, they told us they are planning to go elsewhere – I believe it's Los Angeles."

Joe D'Alessandro, President & CEO of the San Francisco Travel, in his office at the group's headquarters in San Francisco, Calif., on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. It's not just hotel owners who are getting the brunt of tourists' complaints about how disgusting San Francisco's streets have become. It's also S.F. Travel, the city's visitor bureau that's in charge of promoting the city and bringing conventions and conferences here. Increasingly, their clients are fed up and threatening to scratch SF off the convention circuit.

The doctors group told the San Francisco delegation that while they loved the city, postconvention surveys showed their members were afraid to walk amid the open drug use, threatening behavior and mental illness that are common on the streets.

It didn't help that one board member had been assaulted near Moscone Center last year.

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Japan Limits Overtime to 99 Hours Per Month to Curb “Death by Overwork”

Japan: In an effort to limit incidences of Karoshi, a Japanese term for “death by overwork,” parliament passed a new law limiting overtime work to less than 100 hours a month per worker. Before the law, there was no limit to the number of hours companies could ask their employees to work, as long as labor unions didn’t make a fuss. In South Korea, a law that lowered the country’s maximum workweek to 52 hours, down from 68, also took effect this week. Those who make their employees work more than 52 hours weekly now face up to two years in prison or a fine of up to \$24,484.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s struggle to combat incidences of Karoshi – a Japanese term for “death by overwork” – reached an key milestone on Friday, when Japan’s parliament approved a bill that **limits overtime work to less than 100 hours a month per worker, and less than 720 hours per year**, while setting penalties for companies that violate the

new labor rules, according to [the Wall Street Journal](#).

Before the law, there was no limit to the number of hours companies could ask their employees to work, as long as labor unions didn't make a fuss.



Recently released government data revealed that Japan's jobless rate touched 2.2% in May, the lowest level in 26 years. And as Japan's working-age population dwindles, job openings have outpaced the number of workers available to fill them: As a reference, two months ago, **there were 160 job offers available for every 100 workers seeking a job.**

The law should also improve working conditions for "nonregular" workers – what we would call "temps" in the US – who lack the job security of their salaried peers.

"Work-style reforms are the best means to improve labor productivity," Mr. Abe said in Parliament June 4. "We will correct long working hours and improve people's balance between work and life."

The new law also seeks to improve the lot of Japan's growing pool of "nonregular" workers in temporary or part-time jobs who don't have the job security of full-time regular employees. It says employers must pay equally for the same

work, regardless of workers' status. In a 2016 interview with The Wall Street Journal, Mr. Abe said he wanted to "eliminate the word 'nonregular' from the lexicon."

The suicide of a 24-year-old female employee of Japanese advertising firm Dentsu helped inspire the law, as the government and the young woman's family condemned Japan's culture of long working hours.

In addition to the curbing suicides, Abe hopes that limiting workers' hours will help reverse or at least arrest the country's declining productivity (although it wasn't exactly clear how). Declining productivity has been the scourge of the developed world, [including the US](#), where the issue [has mystified the Federal Reserve](#) and economists, who fail to explain the lack of a rebound in US economic output.

That said, Japan isn't the only Asian country where work-life balance is hopelessly out of whack. In South Korea, a law that lowered the country's maximum workweek to 52 hours, down from 68, also took effect this week. **Altogether, workers in South Korea will be allowed to work the standard 40 hours, with an additional 12 hours of overtime thrown in.**

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California Punishes Doctor who Wrote Vaccine Exemption for 2-Year Old Boy

The Medical Board of California has suspended Dr. Robert Sears, a pediatrician who gave a vaccine exemption to a 2-year old boy after his mother reported that previous immunizations made the boy's body limp, and caused him to lose urinary functions. The agency is threatening to revoke Dr. Sears' medical license. The case is setting a precedent for doctors who choose not to follow the state's strict vaccine schedules. All requested exemptions must be approved by the State Department of Public Health.

In a decision that could signal how California's fierce vaccine debates will play out in the coming years, the Medical Board of California has ordered 35 months' probation for Dr. Bob Sears, an Orange County pediatrician well-known for being sympathetic to parents opposed to vaccines.

In 2016, the board threatened to revoke Sears' medical license for wrongly writing a doctor's note for a 2-year-old boy that exempted him from all childhood vaccinations. This week, the medical board settled on a lesser punishment.

Sears can keep practicing medicine but will be required to take 40 hours of medical education courses a year, as well as an ethics class, and also be monitored by a fellow doctor. He also must notify all hospital and medical facilities where he practices of the order and is not allowed to supervise physician assistants or nurse practitioners.

The doctor's supporters expressed relief that he was not more severely punished, while critics were pleased that the state did more than simply reprimand him, as some had feared.

"It's not a trivial decision, it's not a slap on the hand,"

said UC Hastings law professor Dorit Reiss. "It really is strongly limiting his ability to practice ... he's a doctor under supervision now."

Sears found himself in hot water because, according to the medical board, he wrote a vaccine exemption for a young boy without obtaining even basic medical information, such as the child's history of vaccines. He took the boy's mother at her word when she said her son lost urinary function and went limp in response to previous immunizations, according to the filing.

Sears settled his case so he would not have to go to trial. Probation is the most common punishment for doctors in California accused of wrongdoing. In the last fiscal year, the board took away 57 licenses, while putting 197 doctors on probation.

"Many parents, myself included, are relieved that Dr. Sears will maintain his practice and continue to serve his patients that rely on him," said Rebecca Estepp, who is part of an advocacy group that supports alternative vaccine schedules.

Sears' battle, however, does not appear to be over. In a Facebook post Friday, he denied any wrongdoing.

"Isn't it my job to listen to my patients and believe what a parent says happened to her baby? Isn't that what all doctors do with their patients?" Sears wrote. "After all, I don't want a child to receive a medical treatment that could cause more harm. I am going to first do no harm, every time."

Sears also said that the medical board has four more cases lined up accusing him of writing improper vaccine exemptions. Officials from the medical board said investigations are confidential and that they could not confirm there are more cases against Sears.

"It seems there is an attempt to keep me on probation for the

rest of my medical career,” Sears wrote.

Vaccine exemptions have become a central part of the immunization debate in California in recent years. After a measles outbreak that originated in Disneyland, California passed a tough inoculation law in 2015. The new law, known as SB 277, prevents parents from citing religious or other personal beliefs to get out of vaccinating their children. Now children must have a doctor’s note if they don’t have their shots.

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Harvard Professor Proposes Packing Supreme Court with Leftists, Salutes Socialism

Ian Samuel, a lecturer at Harvard Law School, says that 14 out of the last 18 Supreme Court justices were appointed by Republicans, and argues that the Supreme Court should add new seats to the Supreme Court, “packing” it with liberals to give more power to the left, as soon as Democrats recapture the presidency and Congress.

Fox News host Tucker Carlson had Harvard professor Ian Samuel on his Tuesday night show to discuss his arguments to increase

the size of the Supreme Court when Democrats take back the Congress, then “pack” the newly created seats with liberals.

While Samuel noticeably tried to make his argument sound as reasonable as possible to Carlson and the Fox News audience, his true colors came through when Tucker gave him the last word.

“Wouldn’t it just be easier to give California, I don’t know, 27 new congressional districts in LA County and be done with it?” Tucker asked his guest. “Or maybe just abolish Congress entirely. If the goal is just to increase the power of the left, why mess around with the Supreme Court?”

Samuel responded by contending that both sides “agree on the basic end,” that the Supreme Court “not be a partisan institution subject to sort of like ideological swings.” Citing the fact that “14 out of the last 18” justices were appointed by Republican presidents, Samuel insisted that he only wants to return the court to being a “nonpartisan institution.”

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Imran Awan, Pakistani IT

Worker Strikes Plea Deal Preventing Prosecution on Spying and Hacking Charges

Imran Awan, the Pakistani IT worker suspected of hacking, spying and transferring classified information from DNC computers, pleaded guilty to making a false statement on a loan/credit application. The DNC refuses to hand over their servers to be investigated. The plea agreement states that Awan will not be charged with any non-violent crimes that violated Federal or District of Columbia law.

An assistant US attorney said Tuesday he would not prosecute Imran Awan, a former systems administrator for Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and other Democrats, for any crimes on Capitol Hill in a plea agreement that had him plead guilty to one count of bank fraud.

Only one person sat at the prosecutors' table: J.P. Coomey, who unsuccessfully prosecuted New Jersey Democrat Sen. Bob Menendez for corruption and was only added to the case Monday. There was no sign of Michael Marando, who had previously led the prosecution.

Coomey did not object to the removal of Awan's GPS monitor, said he would not oppose a sentence of probation, and agreed to drop charges against his wife, fellow former systems administrative Hina Alvi. [\(RELATED: Capitol Police Accidentally Gave Evidence To House Hacking Suspect's Defense Attorney\)](#)

The Department of Justice said it found "found no evidence that [Imran] illegally removed House data from the House network or from House Members' offices, stole the House Democratic Caucus Server, stole or destroyed House information technology equipment, or improperly accessed or transferred

government information.”

That statement appears to take issue – without explaining how – with the findings of the House’s Nancy Pelosi-appointed inspector general, its top law enforcement official, the sergeant-at-arms, and the statements of multiple Democratic aides.

In September 2016, the House Office of Inspector General [gave House leaders](#) a [presentation](#) that alleged that Alvi, Imran, brothers Abid Awan and Jamal Awan, and a friend were logging into the servers of members who had previously fired him and funneling data off the network. It said evidence “suggests steps are being taken to conceal their activity” and that their behavior mirrored a “classic method for insiders to exfiltrate data from an organization.”

Server logs show, it said, that Awan family members made “unauthorized access” to congressional servers in violation of House rules by logging into the servers of members who they didn’t work for.

The presentation especially found problems on one server, that of the House Democratic Caucus, an entity chaired at the time by then-Rep. Xavier Becerra of California.

On Feb. 3, 2017, Paul Irving, the House’s top law enforcement officer, [wrote in a letter](#) to the Committee on House Administration that soon after it became evidence, the server went “missing.”

The letter continued: “Based upon the evidence gathered to this point, we have concluded the employees are an ongoing and serious risk to the House of Representatives, possibly threatening the integrity of our information systems.”

Imran, Abid, Jamal, Alvi and a friend were banned from the House network the same day Kiko sent the letter.

The alleged wrongdoing consisted of two separate issues.

The first was the cybersecurity issues. In an April 2018 [hearing](#) spurred by the Awan case, Chief Administrative Officer Phil Kiko [testified](#): “The bookend to the outside threat is the insider threat. Tremendous efforts are dedicated to protecting the House against these outside threats, however these efforts are undermined when these employees do not adhere to and thumb their nose at our information security policy, and that’s a risk in my opinion we cannot afford.”

The second was a suspected theft scheme. Wendy Anderson, a former chief of staff for Rep. Yvette Clarke, told House investigators [she believed Abid was working with ex-Clarke aide Shelley Davis](#) to steal equipment, and described coming in on a Saturday to find so many pieces of equipment, including iPods and Apple TVs, that it “looked like Christmas.”

In the hearing, Kiko described “egregious” behavior by Imran, saying the House “discovered evidence of procurement fraud and irregularities” on top of the “numerous violations of House security policies.”

“CAO’s Office of Acquisition Management detected and flagged unusual invoices originating from five shared employees who served more than 30 House offices,” Kiko said. “The invoices, as submitted, were structured in a way to avoid the House’s \$500 equipment accountability threshold. Upon further investigation into the five shared employees’ activities, the House IG discovered evidence of procurement fraud and irregularities, numerous violations of House security policies, and violations of the Committee’s Shared Employee Manual, etc.”

Yet Tuesday’s court document said:

The Government agrees that the public allegations that your client stole U.S. House of Representatives (“House”) equipment and engaged in unauthorized or illegal conduct

involving House computer systems do not form the basis of any conduct relevant to the determination of the sentence in this case. The Government conducted a thorough investigation of those allegations, including interviewing approximately 40 witnesses; taking custody of the House Democratic Caucus server, along with other computers, hard drives, and electronic devices; examining those devices, including inspecting their physical condition and analyzing log-in and usage data; reviewing electronic communications between pertinent House employees; consulting with the House Office of General Counsel and House information technology personnel to access and/or collect evidence; and questioning your client during numerous voluntary interviews.

It concluded that the “Government has uncovered no evidence that your client violated federal law with respect to the House computer systems,” but didn’t explain how it came to that conclusion.

The bank fraud to which Imran pleaded guilty involved withdrawing hundreds of thousands of dollars by lying on mortgage application and pretending to have a medical emergency that required draining Alvi’s congressional retirement account, court records show. That money was then wired to Pakistan in January 2017. Prosecutors previously said they believe the Awans knew they were under investigation when they made the money moves, and described Imran as a flight risk.

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