



Merrill Lynch Caught Criminally Manipulating Precious Metals Market “Thousands of Times” Over 6 Years

Merrill Lynch Commodities (MLCI), a global commodities trading business, was fined a paltry \$25 million to resolve the government’s investigation into a scheme that ran from 2008 to 2014 by MLCI precious metals traders, who misled the market for precious metals futures contracts traded on the COMEX (Commodity Exchange Inc.). MLCI admitted its precious metals traders deceived other market participants thousands of times by injecting false and misleading information into the precious metals futures market. No one will face prison time as a non-prosecution agreement was signed by government agencies that cater to banks.

Remember when it was pure tinfoil-hat conspiracy theory to accuse one or more banks of aggressively, compulsively and systematically manipulating the precious metals – i.e., gold and silver – market? We do, after all we made the claim over and over, while

demonstrating

clearly just how said manipulation was taking place, often in real time.

Well, it's always good to be proven correct, even if it is years after the fact.

On Tuesday after the close, the CFTC announced that Merrill Lynch Commodities (MLCI), a global commodities trading business, agreed to pay \$25 million to resolve the government's investigation into a multi-year scheme by MLCI precious metals traders to mislead the market for precious metals futures contracts traded on the COMEX (Commodity Exchange Inc.). The announcement was made by Assistant Attorney General Brian A. Benczkowski of the Justice Department's Criminal Division and Assistant Director in Charge William F. Sweeney Jr. of the FBI's New York Field Office. In other words, if the Merrill Lynch Commodities group was an individual, he would have gotten ye olde perp walk.

As MLCI itself admitted, beginning in 2008 and continuing through 2014, precious metals traders employed by MLCI schemed to deceive other market participants by injecting materially false and misleading information into the precious metals futures

market.

They did so in the now traditional market manipulation way – by placing fraudulent orders for precious metals futures contracts that, at the time the traders placed the orders, they intended to cancel before execution. In doing so, the traders intended to “spooft” or manipulate the market by creating the false impression of increased supply or demand and, in turn, to fraudulently induce other market participants to buy and to sell futures contracts at quantities, prices and times that they otherwise likely would not have done so. Over the relevant period, the traders placed thousands of fraudulent orders.

Of course, since we are talking about a bank, and since banks are in charge of not only the DOJ, and virtually every other branch of government, not to mention the Fed, nobody will go to jail and MLCI entered into a non-prosecution agreement and agreed to pay a combined – and measly – \$25 million in criminal fines, restitution and forfeiture of trading profits.

Under the terms of the NPA, MLCI and its parent company, Bank of America, have agreed to cooperate with the government’s

ongoing investigation of individuals and to report to the Department evidence or allegations of violations of the wire fraud statute, securities and commodities fraud statute, and anti-spoofing provision of the Commodity Exchange Act in BAC's Global Markets' Commodities Business, whose function is to conduct wholesale, principal trading and sales of commodities. Laughably, MLCI and BAC also agreed to enhance their existing compliance program and internal controls, where necessary and appropriate, to ensure they are designed to detect and deter, among other things, manipulative conduct in BAC's Global Markets Commodities Business.

Translation: it will be much more difficult to catch them manipulating the market next time.

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Study Claims 40,000 Venezuelans Dead as a Result of US Sanctions that Have Increased Under Trump

A study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a left-leaning think tank, claims that American economic sanctions may have led to the death of up to 40,000 people in Venezuela between 2017 and 2018, as the mortality rate surged 31%. President Trump increased the sanctions tenfold over the Obama administration's limited sanctions, in a "maximum pressure" campaign. The study highlights that sanctions are an act of war with lethal consequences that affect civilians, despite being presented as a humane alternative to armed combat.

American economic sanctions may have killed up to 40,000 people in Venezuela between 2017 and 2018, according to a new study. The finding only underscores the lethal realities of "soft power," all too often presented as a humane alternative to open armed conflict.

"There was a 31 percent increase in general mortality from 2017 to 2018," noted the study, conducted by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), a left-of-center think tank based in Washington.

"This would imply an increase of more than 40,000 deaths," the

study

said, adding it was “virtually certain” the sanctions made a “substantial contribution” to the figure. The authors said that amounted to “collective punishment,” and violated international humanitarian law.

In addition to the surge in the mortality rate, the study also found that the sanctions have helped to reduce the average Venezuelan’s caloric intake, and driven millions to flee the country in search of employment.

The researchers acknowledged the difficulty in precisely quantifying the role of the sanctions in Venezuela’s dismal economy, but it’s clear they are among the main factors preventing a recovery.

Pressure

Though Venezuela’s troubles are surely caused in no small part by the government’s socialist economic policies – as well as the dramatic devaluation of the Bolivar – the humanitarian crisis is only worsened by US sanctions. The Obama administration maintained a limited sanctions regime on the country, but President Trump has expanded it tenfold since

taking office – part of another so-called “maximum pressure campaign.”

As of April, more than 150 Venezuelan entities have been penalized, many linked to the country’s industrial and financial sectors. Washington in the summer of 2017 cut off Venezuela’s access to American lenders, and more recently sanctioned its central bank.

The U.S. has sanctioned the Venezuelan Central Bank (BCV) & Director Iliana Josefa Ruzza. This action will hinder former Maduro regime’s use of BCV to move money in & out of #Venezuela via the U.S., stopping further theft of assets & destruction of the economy. #EstamosUnidosVE pic.twitter.com/ly4jYDu9WV

– Department of State (@StateDept) April 17, 2019

Deprived of foreign creditors and the ability to finance capital maintenance, Venezuelan oil production has collapsed, with output expected to fall by some 67 percent by the end of this year, according to the CEPR study. Production capacity currently sits at one third of what it was the year Hugo Chávez took power in 1999.

Venezuela’s oil sector is a vital source of state revenue, and was hit with several rounds of sanctions this year. In January,

Washington

blocked American firms from purchasing Venezuelan oil, which alone

tanked petrol exports by 40 percent; the US was its largest market. Additional oil sanctions were applied in April, looking to disrupt shipments to Cuba.

The sanctions are set to continue to inflict pain on Venezuela's

civilian population, who face one of the worst economies in the country's history.

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Report: California Woman Wins Huge Settlement in CPS Incident Where Son Was Taken, Given 13 Vaccines

California: In 2015, Rachel Bruno, the mother of a 7-week old infant, sent her nanny home at 4 am when the baby was crying. Her newborn son had a serious skull fracture and had emergency surgery. The hospital called Child Protective Services (CPS) to investigate for child abuse. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office (LACSO) and CPS removed Bruno's other son, who was 20-months old, from his grandmother's house, without a warrant. While Bruno's oldest son was in the County's custody, a social worker asked that the child be subjected to vaccinations in direct contravention to his father's demand to be present for any medical procedure. Bruno's lawyer reported that police, the hospital and CPS all violated numerous constitutional amendments, laws, policies, and procedures. Rachel Bruno has reportedly won settlements from LACSO, CPS and the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC).

A California woman said her infant son was taken by Child Protective Services, then given a full body medical test and thirteen vaccines without a warrant or parental consent.

This was done based on the recommendation of a doctor who has been sued repeatedly.

Rachel Bruno reached a \$500,000 settlement in December with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office (LACSO) and two other settlements are near finalization.

"Before this, I assumed that if social services took your kids, you did something really bad," she said.

Instead, she learned she could do nothing and find herself at the mercy of untrained and reckless bureaucrats.

Bruno

said she is diagnosed with seizures and needs uninterrupted sleep, so she hired a nanny, Shannon King, to watch her newborn, born in 2015, to watch him from 10PM to 6AM.

Her

son was seven weeks old on July 8, 2015, when she was awoken at around 4AM. When she got to her son's room, she found King patting her son on the chest as he was lying face up in his crib. She sent King away.

"At

that point, Rachel unswaddled [her son] and placed him on her chest in an attempt to get him to sleep. [Her son] intermittently slept and cried on her chest between approximately 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.," attorney Shawn McMillan stated in his initial complaint.

After

several hours still unable to get her son to fall asleep, she took her youngest son to the emergency room at Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), accompanied by her mother and her oldest, then twenty months. Bruno's mother took her oldest back to her mother's house later that day. (RELATED: Arizona's Department Of Child Protective Services Has A Pattern Of Sending SWAT Teams For

'Medical Kidnapping)

Her

son was found to have had a serious skull fracture and had emergency surgery at approximately 1:30 p.m. which lasted approximately three hours.

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South Africa: Widow Retells Story of Terrifying Farm Attack While the Government Denies the Violence

A spokesman from AfriForum, a civil rights group in South Africa (SA) that tracks farm attacks and murders, said that violence against white farmers is romanticized and encouraged, even by the country's president, Cyril Ramamphosa. While the

SA government denies the farm attacks, at the same time, it aims to amend the constitution to seize farmland owned by white Africans, in order to give the land to black Africans. Farm attacks have reportedly risen from 100 to 200 per year in 2012 to more than 400 in 2018, yet the Western mainstream media ignores the problem or tries to 'debunk' it. Mariandra Heunis, a victim of a farm attack that resulted in her husband being shot to death while she was eight months pregnant, tells her story in the video.

Mariandra Heunis and her children are the survivors of a vicious, dead-of-night attack on her family. Her husband – her childrens' father – is not. He was killed in their home outside Pretoria, South Africa, in what has come to be called a "farm attack" – the targeted terrorizing of farmers in a country with a long history of strife over race and land.

Mariandra, her husband, and their three little girls were asleep when the two armed attackers came. She was eight months pregnant with a son Johann Heunis would never meet – Mariandra gave birth just five days after she buried him.

"You hear about these horrific stories and you really hope it never happens to you," Mariandra told the Daily Caller. "And somehow you

never expect
it to happen to you. Until it does.”

While the South African
government denies the problem, and news sites such as BBC and
The
Washington Post raced to debunk farm attacks after President
Donald
Trump tweeted about it in August 2018, attacks appear to have
risen
from between 100 and 200 in 2012 to over 400 in the past year.
Meanwhile, South Africa’s president and his party have vowed
to move
forward with a plan to amend the constitution to allow for the
seizure
of farmland owned by white Africans to give the land to black
Africans.

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Project Veritas Sting:

Google's AI Manipulations Threaten the 2020 Election in an Effort to Prevent "Next Trump Situation"

A new undercover exposé by Project Veritas reveals that the company is programming its machine learning/ artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms to favor of its social justice agenda. An insider revealed internal documents exposing ML (machine learning) fairness that filters content and denies users access to information. Google makes editorial news decisions and excludes conservative sources.

Jen Gennai is the head of Responsible Innovation at Google, and she determines ethics for machine learning/ AI. She said that the company has been working since 2016 to make sure they are ready for 2020 election, to "prevent" the next "Trump situation," indicating that Google is meddling with information that affects elections.

BIG UPDATE: YouTube has REMOVED the video from their platform. The video is still available on this website page.

UPDATE 1: Congressman Louie Gohmert issued a statement, saying *"Google should not be deciding whether content is important or trivial and they most assuredly should not be meddling in our election*

*process. They
need their immunity stripped..."*

UPDATE 2: Google executive Jen Gennai RESPONDED to the video, saying, "I was having a casual chat with someone at a restaurant and used some imprecise language. Project Veritas got me. Well done."

Insider: Google "is bent on never letting somebody like Donald Trump come to power again."

Google Head of Responsible Innovation Says Elizabeth Warren "misguided" on "breaking up Google"

Google Exec Says Don't Break Us Up: "smaller companies don't have the resources" to "prevent next Trump situation"

Insider Says PragerU And Dave Rubin Content Suppressed, Targeted As "Right-Wing"

LEAKED Documents Highlight "Machine Learning Fairness" and Google's Practices to Make Search Results "fair and equitable"

Documents Appear to Show "Editorial" Policies That Determine How Google Publishes News

Insider: Google Violates “letter of the law” and “spirit of the law” on Section 230

Read full article here...

Statement from Congressman Louis Gohmert:

“This video shows Google’s biases are now a threat to a free and fair election, all while they hide behind the immunity given by Congress years ago when they were supposed to be a simple ‘town square’ where everyone’s voice could be heard without biased results. In fact, Google references a significant role they see themselves fulfilling in the 2020 elections. This discovery should set off alarm bells throughout the country. It is no secret that Google has a political agenda. Multiple brave tech insiders have stepped forward and exposed Google’s censorship of content and specialized algorithms. This media giant’s ‘social justice narrative’ should distress all Americans who value a free and open society. Google should not be deciding whether content is important or trivial and they most assuredly should not be meddling in our election process. They need their immunity stripped and to be properly pursued by class action lawsuits by those they have knowingly harmed.”

<https://gohmert.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=399712>