



Germany: A Public-Broadcasting Company Carried a Program in Which a Children's Choir Sang "My Grandma Is an Old Environmental Pig"

WDR, a German public-broadcasting company, aired a video of children singing a satirical tune, "My grandma is an old environmental pig." The song encourages children to blame their own grandmothers for global warming. The video ends with a quote from the angry teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg: "We will not let you get away with this." -GEG

A public broadcaster has justified removing the video, saying allegations it had politically manipulated the children were unbearable for editorial staff. However, one news editor called the clip "scandalously good."

German public broadcaster WDR 2 on Saturday issued an apology for showing a video of a children's choir singing a humorous, traditional tune rewritten with satirical lyrics.

The song, titled "My grandma is an old environmental pig," triggered heated reactions on Twitter. One user described the lyrics as "disrespectful," while a WDR news editor said the

remake of the traditional tune was “scandalously good.”

The lyrics, including verses about grandma riding a motorcycle that burns a thousand liters of gasoline every month and eating a cutlet every day because meat from the discount supermarket is so cheap, include the refrain, “My grandma is an old environmental pig.” The video ends with a quote from teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg: “We will not let you get away with this.”

WDR Twitter accounts responded to some of the tweets, saying: “The video should not be considered offensive.”

Read full article here..



\$1.5-Trillion In US \$100 Bills Are Being Hoarded by Investors To Protect against Bank Confiscation of Deposits

While central banks have been injecting \$100-billion into the economy every month in electronic money to prop up sagging markets, a similar amount in physical currency, mostly \$100-dollar bills, is disappearing from circulation. US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says that negative interest rates in

other countries are causing people to hold American dollars as an investment. So-called negative interest rates is a deceptive way of describing a process whereby failing banks cover their losses by simply taking money from their depositors' accounts. That's why people of wealth are taking their money out of the banks where they cannot be stolen in this fashion. ZeroHedge says that the top 0.001% are cashing out and hoarding their US Dollars in secret vaults as central banks do everything in their power to replace physical currency with credit and debit-card accounts that can be accessed by banks without permission of depositors. -GEG

Last week we reported that something strange was going on at the same time that central banks are injecting \$100 billion each month in electronic money to crush volatility and ramp markets: a similar amount in physical currency and precious metals was literally disappearing.

The mystery, in a nutshell, was as follows: while banks are printing more bank notes than ever, these seem to be "disappearing off the face of the earth" and nobody knows where or why, or as the WSJ notes, "central banks don't know where they have gone, or why, and are playing detective, trying to crack the same mystery."

And while readers can read up much more on the topic of disappearing hard assets here, a few days after, Fox Business picked up on this thread, writing that almost \$1.5 trillion of the world's physical cash, with \$100 dollar bills making up the vast majority, was reportedly unaccounted for.

So what happened to the money?

To get to the bottom of this mystery, this was the question FOX Business anchor Lou Dobbs asked the man who literally signs every single US dollar bill, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. The response "Literally, a lot of these \$100 bills are sitting in bank vaults all over the world," Mnuchin said.

Mnuchin pointed to the negative interest rates causing people to turn to American dollars as a solid investment.

The dollar is the reserve currency of the world, and everybody wants to hold dollars,” Mnuchin said on “Lou Dobbs Tonight.” “And the reason why they want to hold dollars is because the U.S. is a safe place to have your money, to invest and to hold your assets.”

Mnuchin said it’s interesting that, in a increasingly digital world, “the demand for U.S. currency continues to go up.” adding that “there’s a lot of Benjamins all over the world.”

Read full article here...



Kentucky Citizens Outraged After Governor Pardoned 650 Prisoners before Leaving Office

Matt Bevin, the former Governor of Kentucky, issued more than 650 pardons and commutations of prison sentences before leaving office, prompting critics to call for a federal investigation. Bevin pardoned men convicted of murder, homicide and child rape. Brian Baker was pardoned, and records show that his brother held a fundraiser event for the former governor. Kentucky’s constitution grants broad discretion for the governor to pardon, and he likely will not be prosecuted

for the controversial pardons. However, the state could prosecute donors if a pay-for play pardon scheme is discovered. -GEG

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is looking into the more than 650 pardons and commutations that former Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin issued in his last act as governor after allegations surfaced that some had been given as favors to his campaign donors.

Bevin, a Republican, lost his re-election bid in November and Democrat Andy Beshear was sworn in as governor on Dec. 10.

While a majority of the pardons that the former governor issued were to low-level drug offenders, several violent offenders were also on his list, including convicted murderers and rapists, according to the Courier-Journal.

Democratic Kentucky State Representative Chris Harris said that he had been contacted by criminal investigators.

"I can confirm that I have been contacted by someone looking into the pardons that were issued by Gov. Bevin on his way out the door," Harris said. "The impression I got is that there was an investigation ramping up."

Although the FBI would not confirm or deny the existence of an investigation, two other sources told the Courier-Journal that the investigator who had spoken with Harris was from the FBI.

"It may be a formal investigation or it may not be a formal investigation," Harris said. "It may be just calling to see if there's anything there to warrant a full investigation... I can tell you, at least, there are questions being asked."

State prosecutors have condemned Bevin's pardons and questioned whether there was corruption involved in the former governor's decision-making, MSNBC reported.

In the most egregious example, Bevin pardoned Patrick Brian Baker, who had only served two years of a 19-year sentence for reckless homicide and robbery convictions.

Baker participated in the 2014 killing of a Knox County man in front of his wife, the Courier-Journal reported.

Prosecutors said that Baker and another man posed as police officers to gain entry to a home for the purposes of a robbery and then fatally shot Donald Mills in front of his wife, NBC News reported.

The Courier-Journal reported that Baker's brother hosted a campaign fundraiser for the governor's re-election campaign in July of 2018 and raised \$21,500 for Bevin's campaign coffers.

Terry Forcht, a GOP mega-donor in Kentucky, also reached out to Bevin on Baker's behalf and urged the then-governor to pardon the convicted murderer.

Forcht has given more than \$100,000 to Bevin's past campaigns and inaugurals, according to the Courier-Journal.

Baker held a press conference after he was pardoned and claimed the state police had framed him.

Former Kentucky State Police Commissioner Rick Sanders told the Courier-Journal that an internal investigation had determined that "Baker was, in fact, guilty in that case" and he had told Bevin that.

Republican State Senate President Robert Stivers has called for an investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Bevin also pardoned a convicted child rapist named Micah Schoettle, NBC News reported.

Schoettle was convicted of rape, sodomy, and other sexual crimes against a nine-year-old girl.

Bevin defended the controversial pardon by saying the case “was investigated and prosecuted in a manner that was sloppy at best,” the Courier-Journal reported.

He said that victim could not have been raped because her sister, who was also allegedly a victim, denied that it happened, NBC News reported.

“These girls both were examined medically. They were examined physically. There was zero evidence. Zero. Both their hymens were intact,” Bevin said. “This is perhaps more specific than people would want, but trust me, if you have been repeatedly sexually violated as a small child by an adult, there are going to be repercussions of that physically and medically.”

Medical experts and victims’ advocates disputed Bevin’s assertions.

Read full article here...



US Attack on Iraq and Syria Over the Weekend Provoked Iraqi Militias to Burn US

Embassy Security Posts in Baghdad

An American contractor was killed, which led the Trump administration to launch airstrikes on Sunday, attacking facilities in Iraq and Syria. The US blamed Iran, although there was no evidence given, and Iran has denied involvement. The Iraqi government condemned what they called a US violation of their sovereignty, as the US attacked Iraqi defense forces. Ron Paul said that profiteering by the military industrial complex is the motivation for confrontational wars. -GEG

Protesters angry about U.S. air strikes on Iraq hurled stones and torched a security post at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Tuesday, setting off a confrontation with guards and prompting the United States to send additional troops to the Middle East.

The protests, led by Iranian-backed militias, posed a new foreign policy challenge for U.S. President Donald Trump, who faces re-election in 2020. He threatened to retaliate against Iran, but said later he does not want to go to war.

The State Department said diplomatic personnel inside were safe and there were no plans to evacuate them.

Embassy guards used stun grenades and tear gas to repel protesters, who stormed and burned the security post at the entrance but did not breach the main compound.

[Read full article here...](#)



Jewish Leader Dov Hikind Says Democrats Are Indulging in 'Hate Speech'

Dov Hikind, a New York Assemblyman for 35 years and the founder of Americans Against Antisemitism, said that mostly all of the recent attacks on Jews in New York are coming from the African American community. He said that New York Governor Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio need federal help from President Trump because anti-Semitism has become an 'epidemic'. Dov Hikind said that members of Congress, including Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez are indulging in 'hate speech' against Jews and are getting away with it. He further stated that the media has a double standard that allows hate and anti-Semitism by Democrats but condemns the right even though "all the hate is coming from the left." -GEG

"The acts of antisemitism that have happened in New York have nothing to do with the Right, have nothing to do with the president," Former New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind told Fox and Friends. His statement came after NY City Mayor Bill de Blasio told Fox News that an "atmosphere of hate" had been developing in the US and that much of it was "emanating from Washington," and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo called it an "intolerant time" in the US during a press conference following the stabbing attack in Monsey.

US President Donald Trump praised Hikind's comments, tweeting,

“Thank you to highly respected Jewish leader Dov Hikind for his wonderful statements about me this morning on @foxandfriends.”

Read full article here...



New York: Grafton Thomas, Accused of Slashing 5 Victims at Hanukkah Party, Was Charged with a Hate Crime and May Be Linked to the Black Hebrew Israelites

Monsey, New York: Grafton Thomas, 37, a black man, is accused of entering a Hanukkah party at a rabbi's house and slashing five victims. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo called the machete attack a “blatant act of domestic terrorism that sought to inflict violence, incite hate and generate fear.” Authorities charged Thomas with a federal crime, obstruction of free exercise of religious beliefs involving an attempt to kill, after authorities discovered anti-Semitic journal entries in his home that appears to reference the Black Hebrew Israelites. Several weeks ago, two shooters killed three people in Jersey City and the male shooter also was affiliated

with the Black Hebrew Israelites who believe they are God's chosen people and other Jews are impostors. Thomas' lawyer claims the suspect has suffered from depression and psychosis for years and may have been off of his meds during the attack.
-GEG

The man accused of barging into a rabbi's home in Monsey, New York, and stabbing five people at a Hanukkah party with a machete has a "long history of mental illness and hospitalizations," his family and attorney said.

Grafton Thomas, 37, has suffered from depression and psychosis for years, said his lawyer, Michael Sussman, and was hospitalized several times in 2019.

Sussman said he's talked to Thomas since his arrest. Thomas said that on the night of the stabbings, he heard a "voice talking to him about a piece of property that he understood was in that house," Sussman told CNN. But Sussman did not say what kind of property Thomas was looking for.

Thomas talked about "various auditory hallucinations and one might say 'demons, ' " Sussman said. "His explanations were not terribly coherent."

Thomas's family issued a statement saying in part, "We believe the actions of which he is accused, if committed by him, tragically reflect profound mental illness for which. ... Grafton has received episodic treatment before being released."

Governor calls attack a 'blatant act of domestic terrorism'

Public officials denounced the attack as an act of hate, and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo called the machete attack a "blatant act of domestic terrorism that sought to inflict violence, incite hate and generate fear."

Thomas has pleaded not guilty to five counts of attempted murder. Federal authorities on Monday charged Thomas with obstruction of free exercise of religious beliefs involving an attempt to kill, a federal hate crime, after authorities discovered anti-Semitic journal entries in his home.

Thomas, a resident of Greenwood Lake, New York, is being held on \$5 million bond on the attempted murder charges. A federal

judge ordered him detained after his arraignment on Monday. A federal public defender told a judge Thomas was taking medications and has "issues with bipolar and schizophrenia." Sussman told CNN Thomas might have stopped taking his medications.

Sussman said he's seeking a thorough psychiatric evaluation for his client.

The journal entries

The journals found in the suspect's home led to the hate crime charges.

One entry said "Hebrew Israelites" took from the "powerful ppl (ebinoid Israelites)" and questioned "why ppl mourned for anti-Semitism when there is Semitic genocide." The criminal complaint said "ebinoid Israelites" appears to be a reference to the "Black Hebrew Israelite" movement.

Sussman said he had not seen those journal entries but had reviewed earlier writings by Thomas. Those writings reflect the "ramblings of a disturbed individual" but contain "no suggestion ... of an anti-Semitic motive, of any anti-Semitism," Sussman said.

When asked if Thomas was involved in the "Black Hebrew Israelite" movement, Sussman said he'd heard nothing that indicated that.

A man suspected of killing a police officer and three people at a kosher market in Jersey City, New Jersey, this month, has been linked to the Black Hebrew Israelite movement, a law enforcement official said.

The Black Hebrew Israelite movement comprises groups or members that have expressed anti-Semitic sentiments, however the Southern Poverty Law Center does not recognize the overall movement as a hate group.

But SPLC lists dozens of groups within the Black Hebrew Israelite movement as hate groups because its worldview and rhetoric are informed by bigotry against whites and Jews, according to Heidi Beirich, director of the SPLC Intelligence Project.

Read full article here...