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 Federal Bureau of Investigation - Seal

May 03, 2023
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Daily News Briefing

(In coordination with the Office of Public Affairs)

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IN THE NEWS

Texas Mass Shooting Suspect Arrested After Dayslong Manhunt

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (05/03, Bhattacharya, Gurman, Lukpat) reported that Francisco Oropeza, 38, the man sought in the killing of five people in Texas, has been taken into custody, according to law-enforcement officials, ending a dayslong search. Officials said they captured Francisco Oropeza Tuesday evening near Cut and Shoot, Texas, about 16 miles west of the city where the shooting occurred. According to San Jacinto County Sheriff Greg Capers, he was found hiding in a closet underneath some laundry. The [Associated Press](#) (05/03, Lozano, Merchant)

reported that the tip ending the chase came at 5:15 p.m. Oropeza was in custody a little over an hour later, said FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge Jimmy Paul. The alleged shooter is a Mexican national who has been deported four times between 2009 and 2016, according to U.S. immigration officials. The report also states that Connor Hagan, an FBI spokesman, said they would not disclose the identity of the person who called in the tip — one of more than 200 tips he says investigators received. Authorities did not say who owned the house, whether Oropeza knew them, or if anyone else was inside when he was found. In addition to acting on the tip, law enforcement officials tracked Oropeza's wife to a home near Cut and Shoot that was associated with one of his family members, a law enforcement source told [CNN](#) (05/03, Campbell, Lavandera, Wolfe). The article also mentions that members of the Texas Department of Public Safety, U.S. Marshals Service, and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol's Border Patrol Tactical Unit, known as BORTAC, entered the home and brought the suspect into custody, an FBI Houston spokesperson said. Authorities are now investigating whether the suspect had any help hiding, San Jacinto County District Attorney Todd Dillon told [CNN](#) Tuesday night. Oropeza will appear before a magistrate in San Jacinto County Wednesday, a law enforcement source involved in the investigation told [CNN](#). Authorities have 90 days to indict the suspect, the source said. According to the source, the Mexican consulate will be formally notified on Wednesday of Oropeza's circumstances. The storyline was also reported on by the [New York Times](#) (05/02, Goodman), the [Washington Post](#) (05/02, Lati, Masih, Paul), [ABC News](#) (05/02, Shapiro), [CBS News](#) (05/02, Staff Writer), [Fox News](#) (05/02, Jenkins, Sabes), [NBC News](#) (05/02, Schuppe, Lenthang, Hesel), [Reuters](#) (05/02, Trotta), [The Guardian](#) (05/02, Clayton), [BBC News](#) (05/02, Debusmann Jr., Matza), [USA TODAY](#) (05/02, Santucci), [MSNBC](#) (05/02, Broadcast), the [Independent](#) (05/03, Marcus, Dasgupta), [Forbes](#) (05/02, Walsh), [HuffPost](#) (05/02, Visser), and [NPR](#) (05/02, Doubek).

Biden Sending 1,500 Troops for Mexico Border Migrant Surge

The [Associated Press](#) (05/02, Long, Madhani, Copp) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (05/02, Hackman, Caldwell) reported that starting next week, the Biden administration will deploy 1,500 active-duty troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to deal with an expected surge in migrants following the end of the Coronavirus pandemic-era restrictions. White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said Tuesday that military personnel would do data entry, warehouse support, and other administrative tasks so that U.S. Customs and Border Protection can focus on fieldwork. The troops "will not be performing law enforcement functions or interacting with immigrants or migrants," Jean-Pierre said. "This will free up Border Patrol agents to perform their critical law enforcement duties." According to the articles, many migrants have been illegally entering El Paso, Texas, recently. Hundreds unable to find spots in shelters gathered in the past few days around downtown churches in the border city looking for help, according to photos and videos of the scene. Mario D'Agostino, a deputy city manager, said an estimated 35,000 migrants in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico—across the Rio Grande from El Paso—are believed to be waiting to cross into the U.S. Reports also mention that the troops will be deployed for 90 days and will be pulled from the Army and Marine Corps. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin will look to backfill with National Guard or Reserve troops during that period, Pentagon spokesman Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said. According to reports, 2,500 National Guard members are already at the border. The articles also state that the Biden administration has been scrambling to prepare for what it expects will be a significant surge of migrants when it stops using the public health measure known as Title 42 to expel migrants beginning May 11 rapidly, the same day the national Covid-19 emergency ends. The storyline was also reported on by the [New York Times](#) (05/02, Cooper, Kanno-Youngs), the [Washington Post](#) (05/02, Horton, Miroff), [CNN](#) (05/02, Bertrand, Alvarez, Britzky), [MSNBC](#) (05/02, Broadcast), [CBS News](#) (05/02, Montoya-Galvez), [NBC News](#) (05/02, Ainsley, Gains, Alexander), [Fox News](#) (05/02, Griffin, Friden, Pandolfo), [Reuters](#) (05/02, Ali, Hesson), [Politico](#) (05/02, Ward, Seligman, Gould), [Bloomberg](#) (05/02, Sink, Gardner), the [New York Post](#) (05/02, Christenson, Doombos), [Axios](#) (05/02, Kight, Habeshian), [Al Jazeera](#) (05/02, Staff Writer), [HuffPost](#) (05/02, Robillard), [Newsweek](#) (05/02, Skinner), and the [Washington Examiner](#) (05/01, Willis).

300 Arrested in Global Crackdown on Dark Web Drug Market

The [Associated Press](#) (05/02, Corder, Whitehurst) reported that authorities in the United States and Europe conducted a major international operation targeting drug trafficking on the dark web, resulting in the arrest of nearly 300 people and the seizure of the "Monopoly Market" dark web marketplace. According to the article, over \$53 million was confiscated, and significant amounts of drugs, firearms, and virtual currencies were seized. The operation, coordinated by Europol, aimed to dismantle sales platforms for illegal goods. The arrests were primarily made in the U.S., with synthetic opioids like fentanyl being a major focus. "Our message to criminals on the dark web is this: You can try to hide in the furthest reaches of the internet, but the Justice Department will find you and hold you accountable for your crimes," said U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland. The number of arrests and

money seized was the highest for any international Justice Department-led drug trafficking operation, he said. The article noted that investigators also got leads from local police investigating overdose deaths, including a 19-year-old man in Colorado who loved learning languages and building his own computers, said FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate. "But some of the packages his family thought were full of computer parts actually contain drugs he had purchased off the dark net," he said. "Because of those drugs, that promising young man sadly died of an overdose last year." [Forbes](#) (05/02, Erb), [Washington Examiner](#) (05/02, Severi), [Wall Street Journal](#) (05/02, Gurman, Volz), [New York Daily News](#) (05/02, Severi), [VOA News](#) (05/02, Farivar), [The Verge](#) (05/02, Roth), [Reuters](#) (05/02, De Clercq), [CyberScoop](#) (05/02, Vicens), [WIRED](#) (05/02, Greenberg), [Bleeping Computer](#) (05/02, Toulas), [Bloomberg](#) (05/02, Turton), and [CNBC](#) (05/02, Goswami) also reported on the story.

Muslim Mayor Blocked From White House Decries "Watch List"

The [Associated Press](#) (05/02, Shipkowski) reported that Prospect Park Mayor Mohamed Khairullah, who was barred from attending a White House celebration, called on the Biden administration to end the federal "watch list" that allegedly targets Muslims and others illegally. According to the article, Khairullah and the New Jersey chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NJ) held a news conference condemning the list as discriminatory and unconstitutional, and called for federal agencies, including the FBI, to stop using and distributing the list. They also criticized the lack of transparency and remedy for individuals who are on the list. The article noted that New Jersey Senators and a Representative have formally asked the Secret Service and the Biden administration for an explanation regarding the mayor's exclusion from the event. [CNN](#) (05/02, Judd), [The Guardian](#) (05/02, Rios), [Axios](#) (05/02, Falconer), [Al Jazeera](#) (05/02, Staff Writer), [NBC News](#) (05/02, Hesel), [Politico](#) (05/02, Han), [CBS News](#) (05/02, Linton), [ABC News](#) (05/02, Cathey), [Washington Examiner](#) (05/02, Severi), [The Daily Beast](#) (05/02, Hawkinson), [Independent](#) (05/02, Feinberg), [Gothamist](#) (05/02, Solomon), [Washington Times](#) (05/02, Boyer), [The Hill](#) (05/02, Shapero), and the [Washington Post](#) (05/02, Paybarah) also reported on the story.

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COUNTERTERRORISM

Former Pizza Shop Owner Convicted of Helping Recruit for Islamic State Accused of Attempted Murder in Prison

[Law & Crime](#) (05/02, Kandel) reported that Mufid Elfgeeh, a former New York pizza shop owner and one of the first recruiters for the Islamic State group captured in the U.S., is accused of attempting to kill another inmate while serving his 22-year sentence in a Kentucky prison. According to the article, Elfgeeh had previously pleaded guilty to charges of recruiting fighters and raising funds for ISIL. He had recruited informants for the FBI to travel to Syria, provided guidance on joining ISIL, and sent money and supplies to individuals associated with the group.

Minnesota Man Is Charged With Arson After Two Mosque Fires

[Fox News](#) (05/02, Richard) reported that President Biden expressed his support for Muslim Americans and Representative Ilhan Omar after a man was arrested for allegedly starting fires at two mosques and vandalizing Omar's congressional district office in Minneapolis. According to the article, the president tweeted about the importance of standing against anti-Muslim hate and upholding the rights and dignity of all people. The arrest of Jackie Rahm Little, who is believed to be responsible for the arsons, was praised by Omar and the Muslim community, with Omar emphasizing the need to stand united against bigotry and terrorism. The article noted that the DOJ, FBI, and local law enforcement were thanked for their efforts in apprehending the suspect. The [New York Times](#) (05/02, Holpuch) and [The Guardian](#) (05/02, Rios) also reported on the story.

Vandalized Pregnancy Centers Cry for Justice One Year After Dobbs Leak

The [Washington Examiner](#) (05/03, Poff) reported that a series of attacks targeting crisis pregnancy centers, which offer support and care opportunities instead of abortion, have occurred since the leak of a draft Supreme Court opinion for the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case. According to the article, the attacks include vandalism and arson, with the FBI getting involved in investigating some cases. However, critics argue that the Department of Justice has shown a disproportionate focus on prosecuting anti-abortion demonstrators under the FACE Act, while not adequately pursuing those responsible for the attacks on pregnancy centers. "It's absolutely clear that the DOJ is nothing now but a political arm of the Democrat Party," Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) told the [Washington Examiner](#) in an interview. "Merrick Garland is the worst attorney general in American history. He should have resigned a long time ago, and if the president had any decency, he'd remove him."

Man Uses Craigslist Ad to Extort Money From Harvard, Places Explosive Packages on Campus

[WFXT \(Fox-25\)](#) (05/02, Thorpe, Douglas) reported that a man named William Giordani has been held in federal custody for his involvement in aiding and abetting an extortion attempt, conspiracy, and bomb threats at Harvard University. According to court documents, Giordani responded to a Craigslist ad and purchased items, including fireworks, to be delivered to a Harvard student. Subsequently, a series of threatening phone calls were made, stating that bombs had been planted on the Harvard campus, leading to the discovery of a safe containing fireworks and wires. The article noted that the investigation involves the Harvard University police, FBI's Boston-area Joint Terrorism Task Force, and ongoing efforts to identify other individuals involved in the conspiracy.

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COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

Evan Gershkovich Detainment Shows Russia Not Worried About Consequences, Ex-Hostage Affairs Envoy Says

[Fox News](#) (05/02, Flood, Rutz) reported that the imprisonment of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich in Russia reflects the country's disregard for human rights, according to former Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs Hugh Dugan. According to the article, Dugan highlighted Russia's historical roots in the Soviet Union and stated that the Russian Federation lacks respect for individuals and operates with a mentality that people are mere tokens for the government's purposes. He also mentioned the involvement of the FBI's Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, a part of the machinery employed to bring hostages home, in Gershkovich's case.

GOP Officials Raise Alarm Over U.S. Guardsman in TikTok Ad

[The Epoch Times](#) (05/02, Li) reported that two Republican lawmakers, Rep. Elise Stefanik and Sen. Josh Hawley, have raised concerns about a TikTok advertisement featuring an Air National Guardsman, considering it a potential endorsement of the Chinese-owned app by the U.S. military. According to the article, they wrote a letter to Gen. Daniel Hokanson, expressing worries about TikTok's ties to Chinese intelligence and the threats it poses to Americans, particularly in light of the platform being banned on U.S. government devices. The article noted that lawmakers called on the National Guard Bureau to clarify its policies on TikTok's official and unofficial use, citing potential risks to national security and operational security.

Garland Says Has Not Yet Received Durham Report on Origins of Trump Investigation

[Fox News](#) (05/02, Singman) reported that Attorney General Merrick Garland stated that he has not yet received the report from Special Counsel John Durham's investigation into the origins of the Trump-Russia probe. According to the article, Durham has been conducting the investigation since April 2019, and Garland suggested that inquiries regarding the report should be directed to Durham. The article noted that Durham, who was appointed as special counsel by then-Attorney General Bill Barr, has indicted three individuals as part of the investigation.

U.S. Envoy Worries About China Anti-Spy Law Overreach

[Asia Times](#) (05/03, Pao) reported that the top U.S. diplomat to China, Ambassador Nicholas Burns, has called on Beijing to clarify the newly-amended Counterespionage Law, expressing concerns that it could criminalize routine activities of American business people, academics, and journalists in China. The article noted that the amended law, set to take effect on July 1, expands the definition of offenders and widens the coverage of the law to include "other documents, data, materials, and items related to national security and interests." Burns emphasized the potential implications for academic research and urged that American businesses in China be free from intimidation and operate based on the rule of law. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce also expressed serious concern about the amendment, warning that it could hinder foreign investment and create legal uncertainties.

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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

California College Town Rocked by Stabbings That Remain a Mystery

The [New York Times](#) (05/02, Hubler) reported that two people have died and a third person has been wounded over the course of five days in Davis, Calif. The police said they were uncertain whether only one assailant was involved. According to the article, a placid Northern California college town has been rocked by a series of

stabblings in which two people have been killed and a third critically wounded in less than a week. The police in Davis, Calif., a community of about 70,000 people west of Sacramento, have been asking for the public's help since a 50-year-old man was found dead with stab wounds on Thursday in the city's Central Park. Two days later, a University of California, Davis student was stabbed to death in a different park. The article stated that the latest attack occurred on Monday night, severely injuring a woman sleeping in a homeless encampment near railroad tracks just east of downtown. In a 911 call shortly before midnight, the woman told dispatchers that she had been stabbed through the wall of her tent. Witnesses reported seeing a man fleeing the scene. The woman was hospitalized and in critical but stable condition on Tuesday. It remains unclear whether all three attacks were committed by the same person, the police said, but the descriptions provided by witnesses in the most recent two stabblings are similar. The article mentioned that evidence from the crime scenes was being processed and that the FBI and California Department of Justice had been called in to assist with the investigation, along with other police and sheriff's departments in Sacramento and surrounding counties, including campus police. [CBS News](#) (05/02, Video), [Huffington Post](#) (05/02, Golgowski), [Associated Press](#) (05/02, Staff Writer), [Los Angeles Times](#) (05/02, Garrison), the [Guardian](#) (05/02, Staff Writer), and an additional [CBS News](#) (05/02, Video) article reported on the story.

Merrick Garland Stands by Testimony in Hunter Biden Probe Despite IRS Whistleblower's Coverup Claims

The [New York Post](#) (05/02, Nelson) reported that Attorney General Merrick Garland said Tuesday his testimony to Congress about a long-running federal criminal investigation of first son Hunter Biden was truthful in response to an IRS whistleblower's bombshell claims alleging a coverup. According to the article, a journalist asked Garland at an unrelated press conference about the whistleblower complaint and noted that the AG had "assured Congress some time ago that the Hunter Biden investigation would be conducted without any kind of political interference." The article quoted Garland, who said, "Yes, it's still the case, I stand by my testimony and I refer you to the attorney for the district of Delaware, who is in charge of this case and capable of making any decisions that he feels are appropriate." The article noted that the whistleblower supervised the IRS probe of Hunter for three years and on April 19 informed Congress that there had been "preferential treatment" in the case as well as false testimony to Congress by an official later revealed to be Garland. The article added that it was reported last month that there is "growing frustration" within the FBI over the fact that Weiss had not yet brought charges after the bureau concluded most of its work last year.

Biden Isn't the Only Official Who Could Pardon Trump

[Politico](#) (05/02, Wehle) reported that Trump currently faces actual or potential criminal charges in two states, New York and Georgia. The article stated that in both New York and Georgia, a politically motivated pardon — which Trump himself embraced unabashedly by pardoning advisors Steven Bannon, Roger Stone, and Paul Manafort (his 2016 campaign manager) — is not in the cards. The article noted that Trump is currently embroiled in three criminal probes at the federal level. Attorney General Merrick Garland tasked Special Counsel Jack Smith with looking into the classified documents Trump unlawfully kept at Mar-a-Lago months after the FBI and the National Archives requested their return. A second federal investigation involves the Securities and Exchange Commission plus a federal grand jury, which are considering whether his company, Trump Media, violated federal criminal laws in connection with its initial public offering for his social media platform, Truth Social, as well as its reported receipt of \$8 million in related loans wired from entities connected to an ally of Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin. The third is Smith's investigation of Trump's role in the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the Capitol, a probe that now reportedly includes possible wire fraud in connection with the massive fundraising that occurred over his false election claims. The article added that if any of these produces an indictment, President Joe Biden could pardon Trump. Given the precedent set by President Gerald Ford's pardon of a disgraced former president, Richard Nixon, there will be considerable pressure on Biden to do so.

Epstein Victims Demand Federal Investigation in FBI's Failure to Probe Decades-Old Sex Trafficking Allegations

[Fox News](#) (05/02, Betz) reported that multiple victims of Jeffrey Epstein are demanding answers in the FBI's failure to investigate sex trafficking allegations against the disgraced financier that go back decades. According to the article, legal counsel for several of Epstein's sex trafficking survivors sent a letter to the FBI Tuesday calling on the bureau, the Justice Department, and the attorney general to "conduct a full and fair investigation into the repeated failures to properly, adequately, or timely investigate the sex trafficking of hundreds of young girls and young women, as well as possible child sex abuse materials (CSAM) crimes." The article noted that Jennifer Freeman,

Special Counsel to Marsh Law and legal counsel to several of Epstein's sex trafficking survivors, maintains that her client ██████ reported to the FBI that Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell abused her in August 1996. Freeman says ██████ report to the FBI was "clear-eyed" and prescient, describing in detail, Epstein's involvement in the "production, possession, and distribution of sexually suggestive or exploitative images of children." The article continued to quote Freeman in the letter, who said, "Despite subsequent repeated red flags that Epstein trafficked girls and collected sexualized images of children, the FBI appears, for years, to have done little to investigate and prosecute Epstein's sex trafficking and, to date, done nothing regarding reports of possible CSAM," The [Washington Examiner](#) (05/02, Dunleavy), [Fox News](#) (05/02, Hagstrom), and the [Daily Beast](#) (05/02, Briquet) also reported on the story.

Seven Bodies Found on Oklahoma Property During Search for Missing Teenage Girls

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (05/02, Lukpat) reported that Oklahoma authorities said they found seven bodies on a rural property Monday while they were searching for two missing teenage girls. According to the article, the authorities in Henryetta, Okla., a city about 45 miles south of Tulsa, haven't released the identities of the seven people. Okmulgee County Sheriff Eddy Rice said two of the bodies were believed to be the missing girls: Ivy Webster, 14, and Brittany Brewer, 16. Sheriff Rice at a Monday news briefing said authorities were no longer searching for the girls. The article noted that another body was believed to be 39-year-old Jesse McFadden, he said, while adding that a medical examiner would confirm the identities of the victims. Mr. McFadden registered as a sex offender in 2020 and worked as an independent contractor, according to state records. He didn't show up to a district court Monday to go on trial for charges including child pornography, according to court records. The bodies were found hours after he was supposed to appear in court. The article added that Sheriff Rice on Monday didn't identify the property's owner. He and Gerald Davidson, a spokesman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, declined to answer questions on Monday about the details of the case. The article stated that Mr. Davidson said authorities weren't looking for additional suspects and there was no threat to the community. He declined to say why the girls were with Mr. McFadden. The [Associated Press](#) (05/02, Murphy), and [BBC](#) (05/02, Drenon) also reported on the story.

Lori Vallow's Husband's First Wife May Have Been Restrained When She Died: Medical Examiner

The [New York Post](#) (05/02, Keane) reported that the first wife of "Doomsday mom" Lori Vallow Daybell's husband may have been restrained when she died under mysterious circumstances three years ago, a medical examiner testified this week. According to the article, bruises consistent with being restrained were discovered on the arms and chest of Tammy Daybell, who was married to Lori's husband Chad Daybell at the time of her death in October 2019, Utah's Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Erik Christensen testified during Lori's murder trial on Monday. The article noted that an FBI forensic anthropologist also testified last week that J.J.'s body had stretch marks on his neck and bruises on his wrists and ankles where he was bound with duct tape. Lori Vallow Daybell and Chad Daybell believe the end times are upon the world and we must prepare for doomsday and the second coming of Christ.

A New Text Scam Starts Out As A Simple 'Hi'

[The Street](#) (05/02, Lenihan) reported that a scam known as 'pig-butcher' is claiming victims around the world in a rip-off that can start off with a simple message. According to the article, last month, the U.S. Department of Justice said it had seized virtual currency worth an estimated \$112 million linked to a pig butchering cryptocurrency investment scam. The article noted that investment fraud caused the highest losses of any scam reported by the public to the FBI's Internet Crimes Complaint Center, last year, the DOJ said, totaling \$3.31 billion. Frauds involving cryptocurrency, including pig butchering, represented most of these scams, increasing 183% from 2021 to \$2.57 billion in reported losses last year.

Florida Man, 74, Accused of Grabbing Flight Attendant by the Crotch

The [New York Post](#) (05/02, Steinbuch) reported that a 74-year-old Florida man allegedly told an American Airlines flight attendant that he loved the scent of her perfume — and proceeded to grope her crotch. The article stated that Gary Matthew Sorichetti was arrested Thursday on federal charges of abusive sexual contact for his alleged behavior aboard a flight from Sarasota, Florida, to Charlotte, North Carolina, according to a probable cause complaint.

Woman Arrested for Allegedly Vandalizing Michigan Synagogue With Antisemitic Graffiti

[CBS News](#) (05/02, Staff Writer) reported that a 35-year-old Michigan woman has been arrested for allegedly spray-painting antisemitic graffiti on the building of a Royal Oak synagogue. The article mentioned that the Royal Oak

Police Department said, officers responded to the incident around 4 p.m. on Friday, April 28 after a passerby noticed the antisemitic graffiti on Woodward Avenue Shul, a Jewish community center. A swastika symbol was drawn on the building as well as pro-Nazi propaganda. The article noted that Royal Oak detectives worked with the FBI, Jewish Community Security, and the Farmington Hills Police Department in identifying the suspect.

Vandalized Pregnancy Centers Cry for Justice One Year After Dobbs Leak

The [Washington Examiner](#) (05/02, Poff) reported that the attacks against Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center and Life First Pregnancy Center were part of a series of acts of vandalism perpetrated in the wake of the Dobbs leak against crisis pregnancy centers, which offer pregnant women support and care opportunities instead of abortion. According to the article, the political advocacy organization CatholicVote says it has tracked 84 attacks against pregnancy centers and anti-abortion organizations since the Dobbs draft was leaked. While the vast majority of the incidents have involved graffiti, some, like the June 25, 2022, incident at Life Choices in Longmont, Colorado, involved an act of arson. The article noted that the Colorado-based center was firebombed in the early hours of June 25, the day after the Supreme Court released its decision in the Dobbs case. The damage was so severe that the center had to use alternative facilities for a year-long renovation. The article mentioned that in January, the FBI offered a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of people responsible for "attacks and threats targeting reproductive health service facilities," which is a violation of the Free Access to Clinic Entrances, or FACE, Act.

Suspect in Deputy Death Escapes Jail; Unnoticed for 26 Hours

The [Associated Press](#) (05/02, Staff Writer) reported that two men escaped from a jail in Virginia over the weekend, including one charged in the killing of a North Carolina sheriff's deputy last year. Alder Marin-Sotelo, 26, escaped from Piedmont Regional Jail in Farmville, Virginia around 1 a.m. on Sunday, FBI officials said Monday. He is charged in the August 2022 murder of a sheriff's deputy in North Carolina. According to the article, he left the jail in a red or burgundy Ford Mustang, the FBI said and was gone for more than 24 hours before guards noticed he was missing, jail officials confirmed. The other escapee, Bruce Callahan, 44, had been held at the jail on drug charges, the sheriff's office said. Authorities have not said whether the two escapes are related. The article noted that the escapee investigation was turned over to the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Service since the men were federal detainees with no affiliations to the area or local charges, the sheriff's office said. The FBI said in a news release that digital billboard images of Marin-Sotelo have been put up across Virginia and North Carolina. [NBC News](#) (05/02, Alsharif), [Fox News](#) (05/02, Mion), and [ABC News](#) (05/02, McDuffie, Shapiro) also reported on the story.

Attempted Harvard Bomber Left a Trail of Evidence: Court Docs

The [Daily Beast](#) (05/02, Rohrlich) reported that a New England man planted a fake bomb on the Harvard University campus last month as part of an attempt to extort a "large" amount of Bitcoin from the Ivy League school, according to a criminal complaint unsealed Tuesday. According to the article, William A. Giordani, 55, was arrested on Tuesday by federal agents and remains detained pending a Friday court hearing. He stands charged in Massachusetts federal court with conspiracy, along with aiding and abetting an extortionate threat. The article mentioned that during the investigation Giordani said he knew the FBI wanted to speak with him, but was afraid of getting arrested for transporting fireworks across state lines.

Bronx Felon Charged With Attempted Murder Over Shooting on Crowded NYC Street

The [New York Post](#) (05/02, Donlevy) reported that a Bronx felon was charged with attempted murder and other offenses on Tuesday for allegedly shooting a man on a crowded Manhattan sidewalk, sending tourists scrambling for cover. The article mentioned that Michael Rowe, 23, was on probation when he allegedly opened fire in Hell's Kitchen during an argument with the other man around 5:45 p.m., according to the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. The victim, identified as 28-year-old Shaquille Bailey, suffered multiple gunshot wounds in the point-blank range shooting, police said. Rowe was charged by the NYPD with attempted murder, assault, and criminal possession of a weapon. The alleged shooter is also facing a federal charge of possessing ammunition after a felony conviction, the US Attorney's office said. The DOJ posted a [press release](#) that quoted FBI Assistant Director in Charge Michael J. Driscoll, who said, "Rowe's alleged actions endangered numerous innocent people simply attempting to live their lives safely - something we all should feel free to do. The charges today should serve as a warning to any individual willing to settle arguments in a similar fashion - the FBI and our partners in law enforcement will hold you accountable in the criminal justice system."

Illinois Bank Robber Sprays Substance at Teller, Flees on Foot

[CBS News](#) (05/02, Staff Writer) reported that the FBI is investigating a bank robbery where an unknown substance was sprayed at employees in Chicago. According to the article, a suspect put down a note, but did not display a weapon, and sprayed some sort of substance. He asked the teller for money and fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash.

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CYBER DIVISION

Microsoft Says Iranian Hackers Combine Influence Ops With Hacking for Maximum Impact

[CYBERSCOOP](#) (05/02, Vicens) reported that Iranian state-aligned hackers are increasingly deploying information operations to amplify cyberattacks and gain maximum exposure for their efforts to support the regime's agenda in the Middle East and against Western targets, Microsoft's Digital Threats Analysis Center said Tuesday. According to the article, researchers linked 24 unique cyber-enabled influence operations, which combine offensive computer network operations with online messaging and amplification, to the Iranian government in 2022 compared to just seven in 2021, according to the report. Seventeen of the operations have taken place since June of 2022, the researchers found. The article stated that the Iranian-aligned groups are turning more toward information operations as part of an overall cyber strategy could be attempts at proportionate response to a flurry of attacks on Iranian targets by entities the Iranians say are Israeli or American, the researchers note. Black Magic, for example, which Microsoft assesses as working in support of the IRGC, launched a series of ransomware attacks on Israeli targets that seemed to mimic the attacks of Predatory Sparrow, an unaffiliated hacking group that has pulled off a series of top-tier cyberattacks on Iranian targets that some have linked to the Israeli government. The article noted that Iranian-linked cyberattacks and information operations are likely to continue along this pattern, the researchers said, which can usually be characterized as a response to perceived attacks or provocations against the Iranian government, including anything related to the ongoing protests within Iran in response to the murder of Mahsa Amini.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Private Security Guards Are Replacing Police Across America

[Time](#) (05/02, Semuels) reported that while police departments were losing officers, crime was rising in many parts of America. Murders, assaults, and car thefts rose nationally in 2020, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, and an increase in homelessness has heightened anxieties about safety. These factors bolstered the private security industry, which had already been growing steadily since the terrorist attacks of September 11 but has boomed since 2020. There are roughly twice as many security guards employed in the U.S. than there were 20 years ago, according to the Security Industry Association, though the nation's population has only grown 16% over the same time period. By 2021, there were about 2 police officers but 3.1 security guards for every 1,000 civilians. The article mentioned that in Philadelphia alone, police staffing levels dropped nearly 10% from the end of 2019 to the end of 2022, a recent government audit found. Nationally, the number of sworn officers dropped 7% between 2019 and 2021, according to FBI data.

Frequent Shootings Put U.S. Mass Killings on a Record Pace

The [Associated Press](#) (05/02, Dazio, Fenn, Slevin) reported that the Mojave slayings over the weekend represented the 19th mass killing of the year, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in a partnership with Northeastern University. That is the most during the first four months of the year since data was first recorded in 2006. The Oklahoma deaths have not been added to the database as of Tuesday afternoon. According to the article, as of the Mojave shooting, 97 people had been killed in the 19 mass killings this year, exceeding the record set in 2009 when 93 people were killed in 17 incidents by the end of April. The article stated that the number killed is a fraction of the total number of people who died by homicide for the year. The database counts killings involving four or more fatalities, not including the perpetrator, the same standard as the FBI, and tracks a number of variables for each. The article noted that the 2023 numbers stand out even more when they are compared with the tally for full-year totals since data was collected. The U.S. recorded 30 or fewer mass killings in more than half of the years in the database, so to be at 19 a third of the way through is remarkable.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The FBI Will Support the Ecuadorian Police in the Investigation of Terrorist Actions

The [Ecuador Times](#) (05/02, Staff Writer) reported that the Ecuadorian Minister of the Interior, Juan Zapata, assured that there will be “a reorganization, readaptation, retraining and a strengthening of the capacities of the police to face the threat of terrorism.” The official spoke during an event in the Intervention and Rescue Group (GIR), this Monday, May 1, 2023. According to the article, he also said that the police will have the support of the FBI, of the United States, for the investigation of terrorist actions, and, in addition, there will be international instructors, who will teach closed combat classes.

U.S. Hands Cyprus Ancient Artifacts, Some 4,000 Years Old

The [Associated Press](#) (05/02, Staff Writer) reported that the United States has returned some 80 ancient artifacts, including coins and limestone sculptures, to Cyprus, the Mediterranean island nation’s Department of Antiquities said Tuesday. According to the article, the antiquities were recovered after U.S. authorities seized them or individual owners decided to hand them back after discovering their true provenance, Cyprus Department of Antiquities Director Marina Solomidou Ieronymidou said. The article noted that the number of items accumulated as pandemic restrictions prevented Cypriot officials from collecting them in the U.S., Ieronymidou said. Officials from multiple U.S. agencies, including the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, were involved in the seizure and return of the artifacts.

Senator Urges Release of New U.S. Report on Killing of Abu Akleh

[Al Jazeera](#) (05/02, Staff Writer) reported that a Maryland senator has called on the administration of President Joe Biden to give legislators access to a report from the United States Security Coordinator (USSC) about the killing of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. According to the article, Democrat Chris Van Hollen said on Tuesday that he sent a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken urging him to make the assessment “available immediately for Congressional review”. The article noted that U.S. officials, including President Joe Biden, have called for accountability in the case, but critics say the U.S. has not done enough to pressure its Israeli allies to ensure justice for the slain journalist. The article added that in September 2022, Israel said there was a “high possibility” its army fired at Abu Akleh but dismissed the killing as accidental and refused to launch a criminal investigation into the incident. The article mentioned that U.S. officials welcomed the Israeli assessment at that time and called on Israel to review its military rules of engagement to avoid similar shootings in the future, a demand that was openly rejected by Israeli leaders. The article stated that U.S. and Israeli outlets reported in November that the FBI had launched an investigation into Abu Akleh’s killing, and Israeli officials had vowed not to cooperate with the purported U.S. probe. [Axios](#) (05/02, Ravid) also reported on the story.

CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

FBI Says Former Agent Arrested Over Jan. 6 Called Officers Nazis and Encouraged Mob to ‘Kill ‘Em’

[NBC News](#) (05/02, Reilly) reported that this week, the FBI arrested former FBI supervisor Jared L. Wise in Oregon in connection with the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. Wise, who worked at the FBI from 2004 to 2017, was charged with various offenses, including entering a restricted building, disorderly conduct, and unlawfully parading in a Capitol building. According to an FBI affidavit, Wise allegedly called for killing officers protecting the Capitol and made derogatory remarks towards them before entering the building. The article noted that the arrest is part of ongoing efforts by federal authorities to hold individuals accountable for their involvement in the riot, which has resulted in the arrest of over 1,000 people so far. Shortly after the attack, a top FBI official warned that many within the bureau were “sympathetic” to the mob.

Florida Man Charged With Throwing Explosive at Capitol Riot

The [Associated Press](#) (05/02, Staff Writer) reported that a Florida man, Daniel Ball, was arrested for his involvement in the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection where he allegedly set off an explosive, injuring several police officers. Ball is charged with assaulting, resisting, or impeding officers with a deadly weapon. According to the criminal complaint,

he entered the Capitol, pried a piece of a wooden shutter, and later threw an explosive into the entranceway. An FBI explosives expert concluded that the device was capable of causing damage and serious injury.

Missouri Man Sentenced to Prison for Jan. 6 Participation

The [Associated Press](#) (05/02, Staff Writer) reported that Lloyd Casimiro Cruz Jr., a participant in the January 6, 2021, Capitol siege, has been sentenced to 45 days in jail after being found guilty of two misdemeanors related to entering the U.S. Capitol. According to the article, Cruz had argued that the cases against him and other participants were unconstitutional, but his petitions were denied by the judge. Prosecutors said Cruz entered the U.S. Capitol building with others and roamed around for about 7 minutes before leaving. They argued his lack of remorse and continued downplaying of the rioters' actions justified a jail sentence.

Jurors Struggle Over at Least One Charge in Proud Boys Seditious Conspiracy Trial

[NBC News](#) (05/02, Reilly, Barnes) reported that the jury in the trial of five Proud Boys charged with seditious conspiracy in connection with the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol has asked for additional instructions, indicating that they may be struggling with the charges against some of the defendants. The note asked for guidance on what to do if they do not agree on all charges, and the judge told them they were allowed to deliver a partial verdict and to inform him if they were deadlocked over a charge. The case has lasted for about five months, and several other Proud Boys have already pleaded guilty to their actions on Jan. 6.

Former Judge Who Advised Pence on Jan. 6: Supreme Court Should Subject Itself to 'Highest' Ethical Standards

[The Hill](#) (05/02, Sforza) reported that J. Michael Luttig, a former federal judge and advisor to Vice President Pence, testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding Supreme Court ethics. Luttig emphasized the importance of the Court adhering to high professional and ethical standards, especially in light of recent events such as the January 6th Capitol insurrection. He urged the Court to conduct itself beyond reproach, not only in its judicial activities but also in non-judicial contexts, setting an example that upholds the integrity of the institution.

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OTHER FBI NEWS

Gun Sales Explode in States Banning Them According to FBI

The [Washington Examiner](#) (05/02, Bedard) reported that the sales of firearms, especially AR-15-style rifles, unexpectedly turned up last month, apparently driven by efforts in several states to impose gun bans. According to the article, industry officials reviewing the latest FBI background check information said that states planning gun bans or moving to change the rules governing firearms purchases saw massive jumps in April sales.

House Republicans' Budget Bill Doesn't Spare Veterans. Democrats Are Making Them Regret It.

The [Huffington Post](#) (05/02, Marans, Nicholson) reported that House Republicans passed a government funding bill last week that would both enact massive federal spending cuts and raise the so-called national debt ceiling for less than a year. According to the article, since House Republicans made it clear early on that they wanted to keep military spending on its present growth path, the White House produced an estimate of how much the GOP would have to cut from all other agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, to still achieve its spending reduction goals. The article stated that liberal think tanks have drafted their own analyses of exactly how deeply Republicans would have to cut other programs — things like food stamps and federal funding for preschools and police officers — if Republicans held both military spending and veterans' benefits harmless. The article noted that Third Way, a centrist Democratic think tank, projected that keeping defense and veterans funding safe from discretionary cuts would mean a \$2.8 billion cut to the FBI, at the cost of 11,000 agents, analysts and staff. In that scenario, Customs and Border Patrol would also lose 2,400 officers and the Federal Aviation Authority would lose about 9,400 positions.

Suzanne Morphew Case: Husband Who Was Accused of Murder Files Lawsuit Against FBI, Sheriff, Investigators

[CBS News](#) (05/02, Staff Writer) reported that the husband of Suzanne Morphew is asking for \$15 million saying he was wrongfully charged in his wife's disappearance and presumed death. Barry Morphew, of Chaffee County, was not only the prime suspect in the case as he was also charged with the murder of his wife Suzanne. According to the article, Morphew filed the lawsuit on Tuesday which includes Chaffee County, the Chaffee County Sheriff's

Office, and several named investigators in the case including those working for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the FBI.

Ex-Officer Who Held Back Crowd During George Floyd's Killing Is Convicted

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (05/02, Barrett) reported that Tou Thao, the ex-Minneapolis police officer who kept a group of onlookers at bay as three other officers knelt on a handcuffed George Floyd until he lay lifeless in the street, was convicted Tuesday of aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter. According to the article, the verdict came after a bench trial in which Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill considered agreed-upon evidence from the two sides and is the final conviction in state and federal court of the four officers involved in the May 25, 2020, killing that led to a summer of unrest in Minnesota and across the U.S.

Week-Long Nuclear 'Training Exercise' Being Held in Major U.S. City

The [Epoch Times](#) (05/02, Phillips) reported that the FBI on Tuesday warned residents of a Texas city that a week-long nuclear incident training exercise is taking place this week. According to the article, in a bulletin issued to the public, the FBI's Houston office told Houston residents that the exercise will last starting Monday until Friday.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Russian Defense Chief Wants Wartime Missile Output Doubled

- Associated Press: Russian Defense Chief Wants Wartime Missile Output Doubled

Spike in Russian Combat Deaths Fuels Fears of Worse Carnage to Come

- Washington Post: Spike in Russian Combat Deaths Fuels Fears of Worse Carnage to Come

Ukraine Seeks to Bolster Air Defenses After Russian Missile Barrages

- Wall Street Journal: Ukraine Seeks to Bolster Air Defenses After Russian Missile Barrages

Sudan Crisis: Civilians Facing Catastrophe as 100,000 Flee Fighting

- BBC News: Sudan Crisis: Civilians Facing Catastrophe as 100,000 Flee Fighting

Rockets Fired After Palestinian Hunger Striker Dies in Israeli Jail

- BBC News: Rockets Fired After Palestinian Hunger Striker Dies in Israeli Jail

Hong Kong to Cut Elected Council Seats in Blow to Democracy

- Associated Press: Hong Kong to Cut Elected Council Seats in Blow to Democracy

Man Arrested Outside Buckingham Palace With Suspected Weapon

- Associated Press: Man Arrested Outside Buckingham Palace With Suspected Weapon

U.N. Struggling to Strike Balance in Afghanistan Amid Humanitarian Crisis

- Washington Post: U.N. Struggling to Strike Balance in Afghanistan Amid Humanitarian Crisis

Global Risks to Journalists Increase, Say Press Advocates

- Wall Street Journal: Global Risks to Journalists Increase, Say Press Advocates

Marcos, Back in Arms of U.S., Is Making His Own Name in Foreign Policy

- New York Times: Marcos, Back in Arms of U.S., Is Making His Own Name in Foreign Policy

Discreetly, Berlin Confronts Russian Spies Hiding in Plain Sight

- New York Times: Discreetly, Berlin Confronts Russian Spies Hiding in Plain Sight

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

House Democrats Try to Force Vote on Debt Ceiling

- Wall Street Journal: House Democrats Try to Force Vote on Debt Ceiling
- New York Times: House Democrats Move to Force a Debt-Limit Increase as Default Date Looms
- Reuters: U.S. Senate Republicans, Democrats Squabble Over Debt Ceiling as Deadline Nears

At Trial, Second Woman Accuses Trump of Assault

- Wall Street Journal: At Trial, Second Woman Accuses Trump of Assault
- New York Times: Carroll's Friend Tells of a Fraught Call Reporting an Attack by Trump
- Reuters: E. Jean Carroll Called Minutes After Trump Allegedly Raped Her, Friend Testifies

Judge Rejects Zooey Zephyr Bid to Return to Montana House

- Associated Press: Judge Rejects Zooey Zephyr Bid to Return to Montana House
- New York Times: Judge Rejects Montana Lawmaker's Effort to Return to House Floor
- Wall Street Journal: Judge Rejects Montana Transgender Lawmaker's Bid to Return to House Floor

Liberal Prosecutors Tussle With State Officials Over Abortion, Drug Crimes

- Wall Street Journal: Liberal Prosecutors Tussle With State Officials Over Abortion, Drug Crimes

North Carolina Republicans Reach Agreement on 12-Week Abortion Ban

- Reuters: North Carolina Republicans Reach Agreement on 12-Week Abortion Ban

Utah Judge Delays Implementing Statewide Abortion Clinic Ban

- Associated Press: Utah Judge Delays Implementing Statewide Abortion Clinic Ban

After Pandemic Rebound, U.S. Manufacturing Droops

- New York Times: After Pandemic Rebound, U.S. Manufacturing Droops

Trump Agrees to Return to CNN, Ending a Long Boycott

- New York Times: Trump Agrees to Return to CNN, Ending a Long Boycott

In Texas, Aimless Gunfire Rattles Residents, but It's Hard to Stop

- New York Times: In Texas, Aimless Gunfire Rattles Residents, but It's Hard to Stop

Biden, Harris Planning 1st 2024 Fundraisers as Soon as Next Week

- Reuters: Biden, Harris Planning 1st 2024 Fundraisers as Soon as Next Week

Muslim Mayor Blocked From White House Decries "Watch List"

- Associated Press: Muslim Mayor Blocked From White House Decries "Watch List"

Almost Half of Midterm Voters Cast Ballots Early or by Mail

- Associated Press: Almost Half of Midterm Voters Cast Ballots Early or by Mail

White House Praises McCarthy's Commitment to Ukraine

- Washington Examiner: White House Praises McCarthy's Commitment to Ukraine

BIG PICTURE

New York Times

- After Pandemic Rebound, U.S. Manufacturing Droops
- Is the Debt Limit Constitutional? Biden Aides Are Debating It
- A Brutal Sex Trade Built for American Soldiers
- Writers Go on Strike and Late Shows Go Dark
- Discreetly, Berlin Confronts Russian Spies Hiding in Plain Sight

Wall Street Journal

- Stocks, Oil Fall Ahead Of Rate Decision
- Biden to Send Troops to Border As Cities Prepare for Migrants
- Market For New Homes Rebounds
- Deal Fuels Concern Over Size of Banks
- Switzerland Wants Children to Eat Less Chocolate, More Insects

Washington Post

- They've Waited Decades for D.C. Housing Aid. Is Help Finally Near?
- Debt Deal Strategy Hinges on Framing
- Zelensky: U.S. Kept Silent on Disclosures
- War Takes a Bloody Pivot
- Hollywood Writers on First Strike in 15 Years
- The No-Stoplight British Town That Explains a King

Financial Times

- Jeb Bush's Private Equity Group Held Talks Over Selling NSO Technology in U.S.
- U.S. Bank Agency Recommends Higher Deposit Insurance for Business Accounts
- Hollywood Faces Writers' Strike After Talks With Studios Collapse

ABC News

- 1,500 Troops Sent to U.S. Southern Border Ahead of Expected Migrant Surge; Thousands of Film and TV Writers Go On Strike; California College Town on Edge After Deadly Stabbings.

CBS News

- U.S. Sending 1,500 Troops to Southern Border to Deal With Migrant Surge; How the Tiger Is Brought to Life on Broadway for "Life of Pi".

NBC News

- Thousands of Television and Movie Writers on Strike; Man Arrested Outside Buckingham Palace Days Before Coronation of King Charles iii; Illinois Highway Engulfed in Dust Storm Still Dangerous to Drive On, Authorities Warn.

Fox News

- Karine Jean-Pierre's Comments Were Factually Untrue: Kyrsten Sinema; The Biden Admin Is Admitting Their Border Approach Was a 'Failure': Mollie Hemingway; Pentagon to Send Troops to Southern Border.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

White House

President Biden

- The President's schedule was not available at the time of the report's compilation.

Vice President Harris

- No events are scheduled.

US Senate

- Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for the fiscal year 2024 for the Environmental Protection Agency. – 10:00 AM – Host: Appropriations Committee
- Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for the fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration. – 10:00 AM – Host: Appropriations Committee
- Hearings to examine barriers to mental health care, focusing on improving provider directory accuracy to reduce the prevalence of ghost networks. – 10:00 AM – Host: Finance Committee
- Hearings to examine the 2024 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers budget and implementation of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. – 10:00 AM – Host: Environment and Public Works Committee
- Hearings to examine the real cost of fossil fuels. – 10:00 AM – Host: Budget Committee
- Hearings to examine combatting transnational criminal organizations and related trafficking. – 2:00 PM – Host: Appropriations Committee
- Hearings to examine competition in the digital advertising ecosystem. – 2:30 PM – Host: Judiciary Committee
- Hearings to examine the global information wars. – 2:30 PM – Host: Foreign Relations Committee
- To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. – 2:30 PM – Host: Intelligence Committee

US House of Representatives

- No events are scheduled.

Cabinet Members

- **Secretary of Defense Austin** hosts a full honors ceremony and meeting welcoming Philippines President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. to the Pentagon at 10:30 a.m. EDT on the River Parade Field.
- **Secretary of State Blinken** participates in a moderated conversation on the state of press freedom worldwide with Washington Post columnist David Ignatius in Washington, D.C. at 10:00 AM.

Visitors

- **Philippines President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.** meets with Secretary of Defense Austin at the Pentagon.

General Events

- Brookings Institution: Understanding USAID's Policy Framework – Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Location: The Brookings Institution, 2:00 PM. USAID recently released the Policy Framework, a document that provides a comprehensive overview of key USAID policies and priorities, connects development policy to U.S. foreign

policy and national security goals, and shows the interconnections among policies. The framework highlights the need to address challenges of humanitarian emergencies and food security, climate change, authoritarianism and democratic renewal, health security, and inclusive economic growth. Given the broad interest in how this framework document will guide the implementation of U.S. assistance policies and programs, the Brookings Center for Sustainable Development is hosting a public discussion on May 3 with representatives of USAID and civil society to drill down into elements of the framework.

- [CSIS: Enhancing the Regional Impact of the CHIPS and Science Act](#) – Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Location: CSIS, 9:00 AM. On August 9th, 2022, President Biden signed the CHIPS and Science Act into law, providing nearly \$280 billion in new funding to boost domestic research and manufacturing of semiconductors. The Act represents a major initiative to build a more resilient innovation and manufacturing ecosystem and occurs against the backdrop of a growing competition between the United States and China. To better understand how the CHIPS and Science Act can promote regional economic growth and innovation, the Renewing American Innovation Project invites you to an all-day conference on 'Enhancing the Regional Impact of the CHIPS and Science Act' cohosted by the Indiana University Public Policy Institute. For this event, CSIS will bring together policymakers, senior industry leaders, agency leaders, and policy experts in a series of panels discussing how the United States can maximize and sustain the regional economic impact of the CHIPS and Science Act.
- [CSIS: Strengthening Deterrence: Parliamentary Perspectives on Japan's Defense Strategy](#) – Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Location: CSIS, 10:00 AM. With the revision of three key security documents in December 2022, Japan is charting a new course in its national defense strategy. Please join the CSIS Japan Chair on Wednesday, May 3, from 10:00 am - 11:00 am for a conversation with legislative leaders from Japan who will discuss the road ahead.
- [AEI: The Social Breakdown: The Poverty of Family, Community, and Religious Life in America](#) – Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Location: AEI, 9:00 AM. Social capital—the value inhering in our relationships and institutions—is in decline in America. Participation in community and civil society is withering. Relationships within our homes, associations, churches, and workplaces have weakened. We are less trusting of our neighbors and our government than ever before. America is suffering from mutually reinforcing crises of social isolation, nonparticipation, and distrust, leaving us lonely, resentful, and without a sense of purpose. Join AEI's Center on Opportunity and Social Mobility for a discussion of the state of social capital in America and the launch of a new research series, the Social Breakdown, which aims to uncover why America's social fabric is breaking down and what we can do to rebuild social capital.
- [Aspen Institute: Higher Ed Climate Action Listening Session I](#) – Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Location: Online Event, 1:00 PM. The Higher Ed Climate Action Task Force aims to accelerate higher education's already impressive progress on climate, create an overarching framework for the role of higher education in advancing solutions, and identify policies to scale climate action across the sector. The Task Force, co-chaired by Commissioner of Higher Education for Louisiana, Dr. Kim Hunter Reed and President of AASCU, Dr. Mildred García, includes a diverse group of leaders from across the higher education and climate fields. Over the next year, the Higher Ed Climate Action Task Force will host a virtual listening tour to better understand the work currently occurring and the opportunity to scale action across the sector. The task force will then draft an action plan grounded in what is learned from these sessions with recommendations for institutions, systems, and policymakers.
- [Wilson Center: China's Biodiversity Action at Home and Overseas](#) – Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Location: Wilson Center, 9:00 AM. In the early hours of the morning of December 19, 2022, delegates at the COP15 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal adopted the ambitious Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to conserve 30% of the world's land and 30% of the ocean by 2030. This framework wrapped up China's extended role as chair (and later co-chair with Canada) of the CBD. In the run up to COP15, China accelerated its domestic biodiversity and conservation policies to protect its wetlands, mangroves, forests and the Yangtze River. The Xi Administration also has prioritized reducing the ecological footprint of Belt and Road Initiative investments. At this meeting, speakers will delve into China's efforts to protect biodiversity at home and in its overseas investments. Feng Ge (Visiting Scholar of the Paul Tsai China Center at Yale Law School & Environmental Protection Lawyer from China) will share stories on NGO-led

public interest litigation cases within China to protect biodiversity. Zhao Zhong (Visiting Scholar of the Paul Tsai China Center at Yale Law School & Green Camel Bell) will discuss his group's partnership with Indonesian NGOs to investigate the impact of Chinese-funded projects on communities and biodiversity in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. He will also highlight their work with Chinese business and banking stakeholders to promote responsible green investment. Andrew Morimoto (Paulson Institute, Green Finance Center | Edelman Global Advisory) will examine the challenges facing Chinese and global biodiversity financing, drawing on his work on the intersection of climate policy, green finance, and U.S.-China relations.

- Wilson Center: Book Talk | Ukraine is Not Dead Yet – Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Location: Online Event, 10:00 AM. When her grandmother Anna died in Cleveland in 2013, Megan Buskey was compelled in her grief to uncover and document her grandmother's life as a native of Ukraine. A Ukrainian American, Buskey returned to her family's homeland and encountered the essential and sometimes difficult aspects of recent Ukrainian history. In this book talk, Megan Buskey will discuss her book, *Ukraine Is Not Dead Yet*, and her process of researching Ukraine's difficult twentieth century through the prism of her family's past.
- Wilson Center: The Battle for Democracy in Venezuela: A Conversation with Former Interim President Juan Guaidó – Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Location: Wilson Center, 12:00 PM. Deteriorating conditions under Nicolás Maduro's authoritarian government continue to raise concerns about democracy and human rights in Venezuela and migration challenges throughout the region. In a sign of the regime's repression of the democratic opposition, former Interim President Juan Guaidó recently escaped the country, traveling through Colombia amid persistent threats of government persecution. In recent days, the international community has come together to engage in discussions about the importance of restoring democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela. At the same time, however, Guaidó's journey to the United States is drawing renewed attention to the challenges faced by the democratic opposition in Venezuela, where the state security and intelligence services brutally quash dissent. Please join our conversation with former Interim President Guaidó to discuss the challenges confronting Venezuela's democratic opposition and how international actors could help bring about a democratic future in Venezuela. The dialogue is part of the Wilson Center's Hemisphere of Prosperity and Freedom series.
- Wilson Center: Possibilities - Canada and the Biden Administration's Historic Bipartisan Economic Investments – Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Location: Wilson Center, 3:15 PM. The Biden administration's historic public investments in decarbonization, energy transition, infrastructure, and strategic sectors such as semiconductor fabrication are creating opportunities for Canadian firms to engage in cross-border investment, participate in US supply chains, and collaborate on research and production. Bipartisan congressional support made these investments possible through funding for the Build Back Better framework in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 and gave the executive branch responsibility for implementation. On May 3, US Ambassador to Canada David L. Cohen will speak at the Wilson Center to address the possibilities for Canadians and Americans to build back better together.

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