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Hope grows for deal to avoid U.S. tariffs on Mexican goods



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Ten U.S. states sue to stop Sprint-T-Mobile deal, saying consumers will be hurt



New York State Attorney General Letitia James speaks at a news conference to announce the filing of a federal lawsuit in partnership with at least 10 U.S. state attorneys general to stop a proposed \$26 billion merger of mobile carriers Sprint and T-Mobile in New York, U.S., June 11, 2019. REUTERS/Mike Segar

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Ten states led by New York and California filed a lawsuit on Tuesday to stop T-Mobile US Inc's \$26 billion purchase of Sprint Corp, warning that consumer prices will jump due to reduced competition.

New York State Attorney General Letitia James speaks at a news conference to announce the filing of a federal lawsuit in partnership with at least 10 U.S. state attorneys general to stop a proposed \$26 billion merger of mobile carriers Sprint and T-Mobile in New York, U.S., June 11, 2019. REUTERS/Mike Segar

The complaint comes as the U.S. Justice Department is close to making a final decision on the merger, which would reduce the number of nationwide wireless carriers to three from four. The all-Democratic attorneys general from the 10 states, including Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Virginia and Wisconsin, say the reduced competition would cost Sprint and T-Mobile subscribers more than \$4.5 billion annually, according to the complaint.

"When it comes to corporate power, bigger is not always better," New York Attorney General Letitia James said at a news conference.

"To many upstate New Yorkers, (the carriers) still struggle with 3G," she said, adding that there is nothing in the merger that will guarantee more towers and coverage for certain communities.

James said the lawsuit was not filed to influence the Justice Department's decision on the merger, adding that negotiations were ongoing among the states, the Justice Department and the carriers.

James also said her office did not notify Justice before the states filed the lawsuit, adding it was not required for them to do so. State attorneys general often participate in lawsuits aimed at stopping mergers but rarely go it alone.

The complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. "This is the third time T-Mobile has tried to merge and shrink the market to three players," said California Attorney General Xavier Becerra.

Every time they've tried they've been blocked or forced to walk away because of opposition from the government... Opposition that's based on the same concerns laid out in our lawsuit today."



New York State Attorney General Letitia James speaks at a news conference to announce the filing of a federal lawsuit in partnership with at least 10 U.S. state attorneys general to stop a proposed \$26 billion merger of mobile carriers Sprint and T-Mobile in New York, U.S., June 11, 2019. REUTERS/Mike Segar

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U.S. House approves authority to sue Trump advisers who ignore subpoenas

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Democratic-led U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday voted to give lawmakers clear authority to sue Trump administration figures who defy congressional subpoenas, beginning with former White House Counsel Don McGahn, who is expected to face swift action.

In an escalation of wide-ranging probes of President Donald Trump and his inner circle, lawmakers voted 229-191 along party lines to approve the measure. It authorizes House committees to file lawsuits in federal court seeking orders from judges to compel officials to cooperate with official congressional demands for testimony or evidence.

The measure authorizes the House Judiciary Committee to seek a court order enforcing subpoenas relating to Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election. The committee is seeking an unredacted version of the report, as well as underlying evidence from the investigation, and related documents and testimony.

Democrats acknowledged the unprecedented nature of the resolution.

"This has not been done before. But neither have we ever seen blanket stonewalling by the administration of all information requests by the House," House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said. "We must go to court to enforce the subpoenas." Nadler said he would go to court "as quickly as possible" against McGahn to compel him to testify about the Republican president's efforts to impede Mueller's investigation.

U.S. House authorizes court action to enforce Trump subpoenas House panel to move quickly to force former Trump counsel to obey subpoena: Nadler

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McGahn, a star witness in the Mueller report, last month defied a subpoena for his testimony and documents after the White House directed him not to cooperate with the Judiciary panel.

Nadler said other witnesses, such as former White House Communications Director Hope Hicks and former McGahn aide Annie Donaldson, would also face court action if they defy committee subpoenas demanding their testimony later this month.

The measure also reinforces a process for other panels to take similar action. Half a dozen House panels are looking into Trump's presidency and personal holdings.



FILE PHOTO: White House Counsel Don McGahn sits behind U.S. President Donald Trump as the president holds a cabinet meeting at the White House in Washington, U.S. June 21, 2018. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst/File Photo



Attendees listen to U.S. President Donald Trump speak during a visit to Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy in Council Bluffs, Iowa

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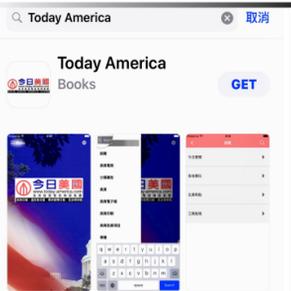
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Editor's Choice



Police officers stand guard outside the Legislative Council building as people protest the extradition bill with China in Hong Kong



U.S. President Donald Trump signs an executive order to streamline the approval for GMO crops during a visit to Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy in Council Bluffs



Soccer Football - Women's World Cup - Group F - United States v Thailand - Stade Auguste-Delaune, Reims, France - June 11, 2019 A fan of the U.S. before the match REUTERS/Christian Hartmann



Protesters gather at the rally called 'Flower Demo' to criticize recent acquittals in court cases of alleged rape in Japan and call for revision of the anti-sex crime law, in Tokyo



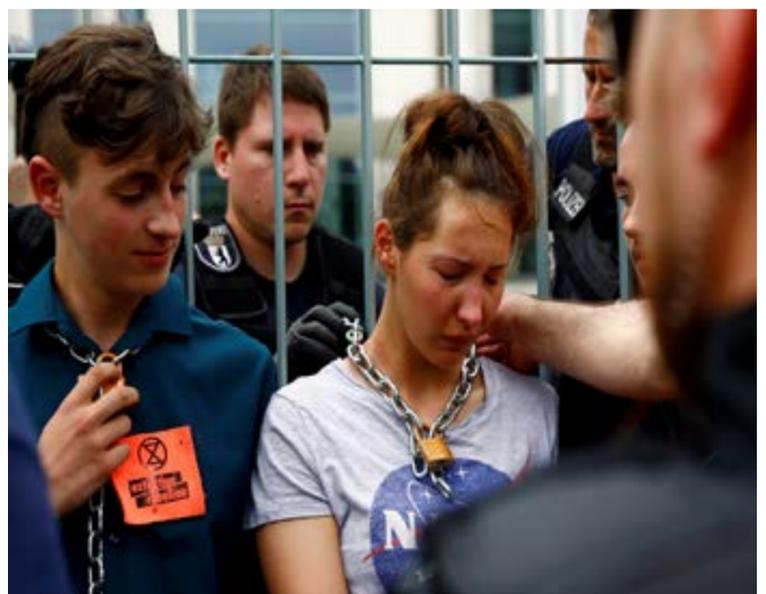
Noah Tiktak holds a handmade qilauti (traditional Inuit drum) with the Raptors insignia on one side as he cheers during Game 5 of the NBA Finals between the Toronto Raptors and the Golden State Warriors from his home in Rankin Inlet



Supporters of the Democratic Party of Moldova hold a rally in Chisinau



The Mermaid, a Hungarian boat which sank in the Danube river near Margaret bridge, is moved away during a salvage operation in Budapest, Hungary, June 11, 2019. REUTERS/Tamas Kaszas TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Police officers remove the chains of climate activists demonstrating outside the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany June 11, 2019. REUTERS/Fabrizio

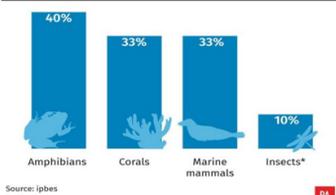
Worldwide Losses At 'Unprecedented' Rate
UN Study Warns:Nature In Decline



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Wildlife and habitats are declining at an “unprecedented” rate worldwide which directly threatens human beings, a major new study has warned. Up to a million species of plants and animals are at risk of extinction, a greater number than ever before in human history.

Species threatened with extinction



Many could vanish within decades, the UN-backed global assessment reveals. Scientists warn that the natural world is deteriorating faster than ever as a direct result of human activity, eroding “the very foundations” of economies, livelihoods, food, health and quality of life

worldwide. A huge transformation is needed across the economy and society to protect and restore nature, which provides people with food, medicines and other materials, crop pollination, fresh water, and quality of life. Without such “transformational change”, the damage will continue or worsen up to 2050 and beyond, posing a direct threat to human well-being around the world, the study said.

It will also undermine existing global efforts to tackle poverty and hunger, improve health and curb climate change. The experts warned that “vested interests” would oppose changes to the status quo, from which they benefit through things such as subsidies or a lack of regulation, but this opposition could be overcome for the public good.

The three-year global assessment on the state of nature from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

has involved more than 450 experts from 50 countries.



Loss of pollinators such as bees is putting billions of pounds of crops at risk (Owen Humphreys/PA)

It looked at changes to the natural world over the past five decades, during which time the human population has doubled and demand for energy and materials has increased significantly, and sets out scenarios for the future.

Habitats, wild animals and plants and even domesticated breeds are in decline or vanishing as a direct result of human activity, and the rate at which species are becoming extinct is accelerating.

The biggest cause of wildlife losses is change to the way land or marine envi-

ronments are used, followed by direct exploitation of animals and plants, climate change, pollution and invasive species.

Three-quarters of the world’s land has been “significantly altered” by human activity, with forests cut down and grassland ploughed up for crops or livestock and the spread of cities, industry and infrastructure such as roads.



Habitat is being destroyed by human activity (Emily Beament/PA)

The study, which drew on thousands of pieces of evidence, also found that rising global temperatures were already having an impact on nature and the effects would increase in the coming decades.

Habitat is being destroyed by human activity (Emily Beament/PA)

The study, which drew on thousands of pieces of evidence, also found that rising global temperatures were already having an impact on nature and the effects would increase in the coming decades. The assessment outlines a series of scenarios for the future, and found that major changes are required to protect nature and benefit people.

These include a shift away from concentrating on economic growth, bringing in wildlife-friendly farming, restoring habitats such as native forests, cutting food waste, creating marine protected areas and effective quotas for fishing, reducing pollution and creating more green space in cities.

It is hoped the evidence in the report will help form policies and action and provide the basis for new global targets to protect nature which will be negotiated at a UN meeting in China in 2020. (Courtesy <https://www.irishexaminer.com/>)

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CBP Says Traveler Photos And License Plate Images Stolen In Data Breach



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has confirmed a data breach has exposed the photos of travelers and vehicles traveling in and out of the United States.

The photos were transferred to a subcontractor's network and later stolen through a "malicious cyberattack," a CBP spokesperson told TechCrunch in an email.

CBP's networks were unaffected by the breach.

"CBP learned that a subcontractor, in violation of CBP policies and without CBP's authorization or knowledge, had transferred copies of license plate images and traveler images collected by CBP to the subcontractor's company network," said an agency statement.

"Initial information indicates that the subcontractor violated mandatory security and privacy protocols outlined in their contract," the statement read.

The agency first learned of the breach on May 31.

When asked, a spokesperson for CBP didn't say how many photos were taken in the breach or if U.S. citizens were affected. The agency also didn't name the subcontractor.

It remains unclear exactly what kind of photos were taken, such as if the images were collected directly from CBP officers by visitors entering the U.S. or part of the agency's rollout of facial recognition technology at U.S. ports of entry.

over how federal officials' expanding surveillance efforts could imperil Americans' privacy.

Customs officials said in a statement Monday that the images, which included photos of people's faces and license plates, had been compromised as part of an attack on a federal subcontractor.

CBP makes extensive use of cameras and video recordings at airports and land border crossings, where images of vehicles are captured. Those images are used as part of a growing agency facial-recognition program designed to track the identity of people entering and exiting the U.S.

CBP says airport operations were not affected by the breach, but declined to say how many people might have had their images stolen. CBP processes more than a million passengers and pedestrians crossing the U.S. border on an average day, including more than 690,000 incoming land travelers.



Pedestrians and vehicles head into the United States in January along the Paso del Norte International Bridge, which connects the cities of El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. (Photo/The Washington Post)

The Post later reported that airport operations were not affected by the breach, suggesting the stolen data came from land crossings. A report in The New York Times, citing a government official, said "no more" than 100,000 images were stolen.

A CBP spokesperson did not return a follow-up email.

The agency, which processes more than a million travelers entering the U.S. every day, maintains a database of traveler images, including passport and visa photos. The database has come under fire from a federal watchdog, which said the accuracy of the system was subpar.

CBP said it had notified members of Congress and is "closely monitoring" CBP-related work by the subcontractor.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said Monday that photos of travelers had been compromised raising concerns



Surveillance cameras stand above the U.S.-Mexico border fence in January 2017 in Tijuana, Mexico. (Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

A CBP statement said the agency learned of the breach on May 31 and that none of the image data had been identified "on the Dark Web or Internet." But reporters at The Register, a British technology news site, reported late last month that a large haul of breached data from the firm Perceptics was being offered as a free download on the dark web.

CBP would not say which subcontractor was involved. But a Microsoft Word document of CBP's public statement, sent Monday to Washington Post reporters, included the name "Perceptics" in the title: "CBP Perceptics Public Statement."

Perceptics representatives did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

CBP spokeswoman Jackie Wren said she was "unable to confirm" if Perceptics was the source of the breach.

The breach raised alarms in Congress,

where lawmakers have questioned whether the government's expanded surveillance measures could threaten constitutional rights and open millions of innocent people to identity theft.

"If the government collects sensitive information about Americans, it is responsible for protecting it — and that's just as true if it contracts with a private company," Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) said in a statement to The Post. "Anyone whose information was compromised should be notified by Customs, and the government needs to explain exactly how it intends to prevent this kind of breach from happening in the future."

Wyden said the theft of the data should alarm anyone who has advocated expanded surveillance powers for the government. "These vast troves of Americans' personal information are a ripe target for attackers," he said.



Civil rights and privacy advocates also called the theft of the information a sign that the government's growing database of identifying imagery had become an alluring target for hackers and cybercriminals.

"This breach comes just as CBP seeks to expand its massive face recognition apparatus and collection of sensitive information from travelers, including license plate information and social media identifiers," said Neema Singh Guliani, senior legislative counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union. "This incident further underscores the need to put the brakes on these efforts and for Congress to investigate the agency's data practices. The best way to avoid breaches of sensitive personal data is not to collect and retain it in the first place."

CBP said copies of "license plate images and traveler images collected by CBP" had been transferred to the subcontractor's company network, violating the agency's security and privacy rules. The subcontractor's network was then attacked and breached.

No CBP systems were compromised, the agency said.

It's unclear whether passport or facial-recognition photos were included in the breach. Perceptics and other companies offer automated license-plate-reading devices that federal officials can use to track a vehicle, or its owner, as it travels on public roads. Immigration agents have used such databases to track down people who may be in the country illegally. Police agencies have also used the data to look for potential criminal suspects.

The breach comes weeks after a report said Perceptics, a government contractor, which claims to be the "sole provider" of license plate readers at U.S. land borders, was



breached and its data was dumped on the dark web. It's not yet known if the two incidents are linked. But according to the Washington Post, a Microsoft Word document containing the statement included "Perceptics" in the title. (TechCrunch received the statement as text in an email.)

CBP, however, said that "none of the image data has been identified on the Dark Web or internet."

A spokesperson for Perceptics did not immediately comment.

Perceptics, based in Tennessee, has championed its technology as a key part of keeping the border secure. "You want technology that generates data you can trust and delivers it when and where you need it most," a marketing website says.

The company also said recently that it had installed license-plate readers at 43 U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint lanes across Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas, saying they offered border guards "superior images with the highest license plate read rate accuracy in North America." (Courtesy washingtonpost.com)

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Advertisement for 中美酒樓 (Chinese American Restaurant) featuring a menu with items like 四人份, 八人份, and 十人份, and contact information.

Large advertisement for Adolphus Rice, featuring the brand name, 'LONG GRAIN Enriched RICE', and promotional text in Chinese and English.