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Southern DAILY

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Georgia prosecutor probing Trump taps leading racketeering attorney



(Reuters) - The district attorney investigating whether former U.S. President Donald Trump illegally interfered with Georgia's 2020 election has hired an outside lawyer who is a national authority on racketeering, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis has enlisted the help of Atlanta lawyer John Floyd, who wrote a national guide on prosecuting state racketeering cases. Floyd was hired recently to "provide help as needed" on matters involving racketeering, including the Trump investigation and other cases, said the source, who has direct knowledge of the situation.

The move bolsters the team investigating Trump as Willis prepares to issue subpoenas for evidence on whether the former president and his allies broke the law in their campaign to pressure state officials to reverse his Georgia election loss. Willis has said that her office would examine potential charges including "solicitation of election fraud, the making of false statements to state and local governmental bodies, conspiracy, racketeering" among other possible

violations.

A representative for Trump did not respond to requests for comment.

Floyd's appointment signals that racketeering could feature prominently in the investigation. It's an area of law where Willis has extensive experience - including a high-profile Atlanta case where she won racketeering convictions of 11 public educators for a scheme to cheat on standardized tests.

The investigation of Trump focuses in part on his phone call to Georgia's secretary of state, asking the secretary to "find" the votes needed to overturn Trump's election loss, based on false voter-fraud claims.

Willis - a Democrat who in January became the county's first Black woman district attorney - will have to navigate a fraught political landscape. She faces pressure from Democrats in Atlanta and nationally to pursue an aggressive prosecution, along with scrutiny from Republicans in a state historically dominated by that party. Floyd declined to comment when asked about the appointment but spoke to

Reuters about his past experiences working with Willis.

In 2014, when Willis was an assistant district attorney in Atlanta, Floyd was brought in as a special prosecutor for the racketeering case that grew out of the schools cheating scandal.

"It was very much a team effort," Floyd said of working with Willis.

The cheating case could provide clues to her strategy for investigating Trump, legal experts say, while stressing that the probe is still in its early stages.

If she pursues racketeering charges, Willis will need to prove a pattern of corruption by Trump, alone or with his allies, aimed at overturning the election results to stay in power. While racketeering is typically pursued by prosecutors in cases involving such crimes as murder, kidnapping, and bribery, the Georgia statute defines racketeering more broadly to include false statements made to state officials.

The federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) was originally passed in 1970 to help tie Mafia bosses to the crimes of their underlings by allowing prosecutors to argue they conspired together in a "criminal enterprise." Over the years, how-

ever, its reach has grown to include businesses and other organizations as enterprises subject to the law.

Willis specifically listed racketeering and lying to public officials in detailing the possible crimes her office intended to investigate in a Feb. 10 letter to four Republican state officials, asking them to preserve records related to the case.

"That letter was really a signal to the public that she was going after a number of possibilities," said Clark Cunningham, a Georgia State University law professor.

Georgia lawyers familiar with the state RICO law said Willis may be considering whether it would apply to alleged false statements made by Trump and his allies as they sought to influence state officials to reverse his election loss.

"It's not a stretch to see where she's taking this," said Cathy Cox, the dean of Mercer University's law school in Macon, Georgia and a former Georgia secretary of state. "If Donald Trump engaged in two or more acts that involve false statements - that were made knowingly and willfully in an attempt to falsify material fact, like the election results - then you can piece together a violation of the racketeering act."

Racketeering, a felony in Georgia, can carry stiff penalties including up to 20 years in prison and a hefty fine. "There are not a lot of people who avoid serving prison time on a racketeering offense," said Cox.

In a Jan. 2 phone call, Trump urged Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a fellow Republican, to "find" just enough votes to allow him to win. In the hour-long call, Trump repeated false voter-fraud claims, insisting he won Georgia by a landslide and that Democrat Joe Biden received thousands of votes from people who were out-of-state, unregistered, or dead. Trump made another phone call in late December to Georgia's chief elections investigator, urging the official to "find the fraud."

On Dec. 5, Trump called the state's Republican governor, Brian Kemp, to urge him to hold a special session of the legislature to overturn the election results. Three days later, Trump called Georgia's Republican attorney general, Chris Carr, warning him not to interfere with a Texas lawsuit that challenged the election results in Georgia and other states.

Carr stated publicly that he opposed the Texas lawsuit. The offices of Kemp and Carr did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

Willis' office has indicated it is also examining efforts to influence the election by Trump's allies, including a November phone call made by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham to Raffensperger to discuss mail-in ballots; false election fraud claims made by Trump's then personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, in testimony at state legislative hearings; and the abrupt removal of Byung J. "BJay" Pak, a U.S. attorney in Georgia who angered Trump by not doing enough to investigate his unfounded fraud claims.

Legal experts say prosecutors could use the pattern of false statements in a pressure campaign to build a RICO case, but that Willis would face the burden of proving Trump knew his fraud allegations were false. In a trial, Trump could argue that he did not deliberately break the law because he truly believed he had been cheated, said Kurt Kastorf, an Atlanta attorney and former U.S. Justice Department prosecutor.

Tom N Tom Galleria and Dak & Bop 18th

韓式小吃與美餐碰撞會激起怎樣的火花呢？

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Myanmar forces make night raids after breaking up protests

(Reuters) - Myanmar security forces fired gunshots as they carried out overnight raids in the main city Yangon after breaking up the latest protests against last month's coup with teargas and stun grenades.

FILE PHOTO: Protesters set up a makeshift shield formation in preparation for potential clashes, in Yangon, Myanmar March 6, 2021, in this still image from a video obtained by Reuters.

The Southeast Asian country has been plunged into turmoil since the military overthrew and detained elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1. Daily demonstrations and strikes have choked business and paralysed administration.

There were sporadic protests across Myanmar on Saturday and local media reported that police fired tear gas shells and stun grenades to break up a protest in the Sanchaung district of Yangon, the country's biggest city. There were no reports of casualties.

Late at night, residents said soldiers and police moved into several districts of Yangon, firing shots.

They arrested at least three people in the Kyauktada Township, residents there said. They did not know the reason for the arrests.

"They are asking to take out my father and brother. Is no one going to help us? Don't you even touch my father and brother. Take us too if you want to take them," one woman screamed as two of them, an actor and his son, were led off.

Soldiers also came looking for a lawyer who worked for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), but were unable to find him, a member of the now dissolved parliament, Sithu Maung, said in a Facebook post.

Reuters was unable to reach police for comment. A junta spokesman did not answer calls requesting comment.

ARRESTS AND DEAD
Well over 1,500 people have been arrested under the junta, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners advocacy group. This association and the United Nations say that more than 50 protesters have been killed.

Myanmar authorities said on Saturday they had exhumed the body of 19-year-old Kyal Sin, who has become an icon of the protest movement after she was shot dead in the city of Mandalay on Wednesday wearing a T-shirt that read "Everything will be OK".

State-run MRTV said a surgical investigation showed she could not have been killed by police because the wrong sort of projectile was found in her head and she had been shot from behind, whereas police were in front.

Photographs on the day showed her head turned away from security forces moments before she was killed. Opponents of the coup accused authorities of an attempted cover-up.



Editor's Choice



An ultra-Orthodox man wears three masks over his face while celebrating Purim amid coronavirus restrictions in Jerusalem February 28, 2021 REUTERS/Ronen Zvulun



The scene of a collision between a sport utility vehicle and a tractor-trailer truck is seen near Holtville, California, March 2, 2021. Thirteen people killed in the highway crash were part of a group of nearly four dozen migrants suspected of slipping through a hole cut by human smugglers through a steel fence along the U.S.-Mexico border, federal officials said. Besides the dead and injured among 25 people crammed into the SUV that collided with the truck, 19 others were found huddled near a second SUV that caught fire in the same area just north of the border, the officials said. REUTERS/Bing Guan



A Madame Tussauds wax figure of Audrey Hepburn sits at an empty table at Peter Luger Steak House in Brooklyn, New York, February 26, 2021. As New York City restaurants reopened indoor dining rooms at 35% capacity, the steakhouse and wax museum joined forces to welcome diners back in a fun way and to enforce social distancing guidelines. REUTERS/Brendan



Participants wearing motorcycle helmets are sprayed with firecrackers during the 'Beehive Firecrackers' festival at the Yanshui district in Tainan, Taiwan February 26, 2021. REUTERS/



Sahrawi women take part in a parade organized by the Polisario Front independence movement at the Awserd refugee camp in Tindouf, Algeria February 27, 2021. Generations of young Sahrawis have grown up in Algeria's remote desert refugee camps largely forgotten by the outside world and now see no prospect of an independent homeland in Western Sahara except through a new war their leaders say has already begun. REUTERS/Ramzi Boudina



Sahrawi women take part in a parade organized by the Polisario Front independence movement at the Awserd refugee camp in Tindouf, Algeria February 27, 2021. Generations of young Sahrawis have grown up in Algeria's remote desert refugee camps largely forgotten by the outside world and now see no prospect of an independent homeland in Western Sahara except through a new war their leaders say has already begun. REUTERS/Ramzi Boudina

Texas Power Crisis Begg Question For Future Solutions

Bill Gates: Texas ‘Will Need To Connect Up’ To U.S. Power Grid To Avoid Future Shortages

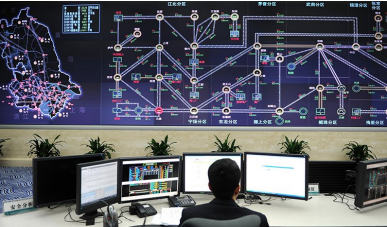


Bill Gates

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

Billionaire philanthropist and Microsoft founder Bill Gates said Texas “will want to connect up to” the U.S. power grid following unprecedented winter weather in the Lone Star State, leading to millions of people without power last week. Gates appeared on Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace following Gov. Greg Abbott’s criticism of alternative energy sources, such as wind energy, he claims led to the power shortage following historic snowstorms across the state. “Well, it’s not — not at all true,” Gates said. “The failure to weatherize some of the nuclear sensors, the natural gas plants, and even some of the wind are, are responsible for their power shortage. And the wind is a tiny part of it.” Texas is the only state in the continental United States with a separate power grid, managed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, without federal oversight. The unique power grid has enabled Texas, the top U.S. producer of oil and gas, to become one of the major hubs for renewable

energy, especially wind power, which makes up roughly 25% of the state’s power resources. Despite the state’s ability to rely solely on its own energy production, the storm left over 4 million residents without power, and 276 water systems across the state issued temporary advisories for residents to boil water, as local water purification plants were obstructed by the energy crisis. “It was mostly the thermal generators that went offline, because they haven’t been weatherized,” Gates said. “Obviously, wind works in North Dakota, it works in Alaska. We know how to weatherize wind turbines.”



Texas Power Grid

The trouble with ERCOT’s ability to keep the power on for Texans during the storm caused Abbott to start an investigation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and North American Electric Reliability Corporation. Last Tuesday, Abbott said ERCOT “has been anything but reliable over the past 48 hours.” Abbott and other Republican leaders across the state have been critical of the power crisis and management handling but have not signaled any support toward opening Texas’s grid for connection with the rest of the country. Thousands across the state are reportedly still without power, according to PowerOutage.US, and millions more are still under boiling water advisories as many water lines were ruptured due to the storm. A spokesperson from ERCOT told the Washington Examiner, “We fully plan to participate in conversations regarding the ERCOT market design and any other topics that regulators would like to discuss. If lawmakers choose to move in another direction, then we will implement any changes necessary to comply.” **Related**
Winter Storm 2021
Experts: Texas Leaders Failed To Heed Warnings And Left The State’s Power Grid Vulnerable To Winter Extremes Texas officials knew winter storms could leave the state’s power grid vulnerable, but they left the choice to prepare for harsh weather up to the power companies — many of which opted against the costly upgrades. That, plus a deregulated energy market largely isolated from the rest of the country’s power grid, left the state alone to deal with the crisis, experts said leaving millions without access to electricity. As Texas faced record-low temperatures this February and snow and ice made roads impassable, the state’s electric grid operator lost control of the power supply, . As the blackouts extended from hours to days, top state lawmakers called for investigations into

the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, and Texans demanded accountability for the disaster.



Energy and policy experts said Texas’ decision not to require equipment upgrades to better withstand extreme winter temperatures, and choice to operate mostly isolated from other grids in the U.S. left power system unprepared for the winter crisis. (Photo: Jordan Vonderhaar for The Texas Tribune) Millions of Texans have gone days without power or heat in subfreezing temperatures brought on by snow and ice storms. Limited regulations on companies that generate power and a history of isolating Texas from federal oversight help explain the crisis, energy and policy experts told The Texas Tribune. While Texas Republicans were quick to pounce on renewable energy and to blame frozen wind turbines, the natural gas, nuclear and coal plants that provide most of the state’s energy also struggled to operate during the storm. Officials with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the energy grid operator for most of the state, said that the state’s power system was simply no match for the deep freeze. “Nuclear units, gas units, wind turbines, even solar, in different ways — the very cold weather and snow has impacted every type of generator,” said Dan Woodfin, a senior director at ERCOT. Policy observers blamed the power system

failure on the legislators and state agencies who they say did not properly heed the warnings of previous storms or account for more extreme weather events warned of by climate scientists. Instead, Texas prioritized the free market. “Clearly we need to change our regulatory focus to protect the people, not profits,” said Tom “Smitty” Smith, a now-retired former director of Public Citizen, an Austin-based consumer advocacy group who advocated for changes after in 2011 when Texas faced a similar energy crisis. “Instead of taking any regulatory action, we ended up getting guidelines that were unenforceable and largely ignored in [power companies’] rush for profits,” he said. It is possible to “winterize” natural gas power plants, natural gas production, wind turbines and other energy infrastructure, experts said, through practices like insulating pipelines. These upgrades help prevent major interruptions in other states with regularly cold weather. (Courtesy <https://www.texastribune.org/>)



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Caring For The Smallest Patients Among Us

Coronavirus: Can Newborns Catch COVID-19? Symptoms You Should Lookout For Unusual Signs And Symptoms Of COVID-19 In Babies



The legendary designer Pierre Cardin, whose futuristic and stylish designs helped revolutionize fashion in the 1950s and 60s, has died at the age of 98.

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

Novel coronavirus can be a hard disease to battle for any individual. For babies, it’s altogether a different ballgame. A new mom’s experience with her 4-month-old baby, who had been detected COVID+ has now become a warning for many parents like her globally. **Are younger children at a higher risk of catching COVID-19?**



While the occurrence of COVID-19 in babies and older children is not widely doc-

umented, nevertheless, it could affect them. Studies say that coronavirus may not cause severe infections amongst kids, but can sometimes present threatening complications.

High temperature



High temperature or fever is resultant of rapid inflammation in the body. It should be noted that while cough is the giveaway sign of COVID-19, in young babies, a high fever which unusually props up is a sign that the baby has caught a viral infection. Fever in babies

younger than 3 months can sometimes also be serious, so it should be attended to at once.

Mottled skin



The appearance of ‘mottled’ or patchy skin is now being looked at as a possible sign of COVID infection in younger kids. Mottled skin arises from a medical condition which causes changes due to low blood flow. In some, skin redness and patches can also appear due to extreme chills or cold. Even though rarely seen at this point in patients with COVID-19 infection, unusual spotting of patches or redness like this should alert you to take a COVID-19 test.

Nausea



Vomiting and nausea are signs of a severe COVID-19 infection. It can also occur in babies who catch the virus. Vomiting may be a sign of gastrointestinal infection or mild pneumonia (which can be resultant of COVID) as well. Consider getting a doctor’s opinion as soon as possible if your child experiences additional symptoms to vomiting, such as high temperature, irritability, mood swings and shortness of breath.

Swollen lips or skin



An evident sign of infection in children

of all ages, doctors warn parents to look for signs of trouble such as swelling, bluish lips, red patches, raised skin, blister outbreaks or lesions which can resemble chilblains around the hands or feet to be a possible sign of COVID-19. Swelling of any kind is usually a sign of inflammation and can occur without presentation of other typical signs and symptoms as well (such as cough, fever). However, do remember that lesions and swellings are often also the most painful, so care should be provided at once. Keep a tab on your baby’s heart rate and pulse. Blue lips and severe symptoms could be a sign of oxygen deprivation and hypoxia.

Muscle pain



Muscle pain or myalgia is usually regarded as one of the toughest and the most exhausting symptoms of COVID in adults. What scientists are now finding is that muscle pain could also affect the little ones. While they may not be able to express or tell about their symptom, as a caregiver, be aware of signs of worry. Muscle pain in babies can lead to sleep problems, irritability, moodiness, feeding difficulties, frequent crying spurts.

Should parents be worried about MIS-C?



Pediatric multisystem inflammatory syn-

drome (MIS-C) is a relatively dangerous syndrome linked to COVID-19 in kids. While research is still ongoing, pediatric doctors and medical experts warn that a syndrome like this could acutely affect their immune system and carry lifelong complications. Hence, parents have been urged to closely monitor children and attend to the symptoms, rather than dismissing it off as regular flu right now. Some of the symptoms related to MIS-C can be a high fever, eye pain, swelling, belly pain, stomach cramps, rashes on the feet or hands.

How to care for a baby with COVID-19?



If your baby develops symptoms, isolate and attend to symptoms at once. If you are still nursing your baby, continue to breastfeed. There is no evidence yet to suggest that the virus can transmit via breast milk. Wear a mask, follow good hygiene practices and follow advice stated by your doctor. (Courtesy <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>)

