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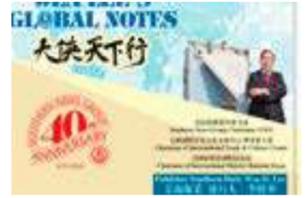
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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Elon Musk's Twitter suspension of journalists draws global backlash

Dec 16 (Reuters) - Twitter's unprecedented suspension of at least five journalists over claims they revealed the real-time location of owner Elon Musk drew swift backlash from government officials, advocacy groups and journalism organizations across the globe on Friday.

Officials from France, Germany, Britain and the European Union condemned the suspensions, with some saying the platform was jeopardizing press freedom.

The episode, which one well-known security research labeled the "Thursday Night Massacre", is being regarded by critics as fresh evidence of the billionaire, who considers himself a "free speech absolutist," eliminating speech and users he personally dislikes.

Shares in Tesla (TSLA.O), an electric carmaker led by Musk, slumped 4.7% on Friday and posted their worst weekly loss since March 2020, with investors increasingly concerned about his being distracted and the slowing global economy.

FTX's Bankman-Fried could face long road to fraud trial  
Elon Musk's team seeks new investors for Twitter - Semafor

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'Cryptoqueen' associate pleads guilty in U.S. over One-Coin fraud

Roland Lescure, the French minister of industry, tweeted on Friday that, following Musk's suspension of journalists, he would suspend his own activity on Twitter.

Melissa Fleming, head of communications for the United Nations, tweeted she was "deeply disturbed" by the suspensions and that "media freedom is not a toy."

The German Foreign Office warned Twitter that the ministry had a problem with moves that jeopardized press freedom.

The suspensions stemmed from a disagreement over a Twitter account called ElonJet, which tracked Musk's private plane using publicly available information.

On Wednesday, Twitter suspended the account and others that tracked private jets, despite Musk's previous tweet saying he would not suspend ElonJet in the name of free speech.

Shortly after, Twitter changed its privacy policy to prohibit the sharing of "live location information."

Then on Thursday evening, several journalists, including



from the New York Times, CNN and the Washington Post, were suspended from Twitter with no notice.

In an email to Reuters overnight, Twitter's head of trust and safety, Ella Irwin, said the team manually reviewed "any and all accounts" that violated the new privacy policy by posting direct links to the ElonJet account.

"I understand that the focus seems to be mainly on journalist accounts, but we applied the policy equally to journalists and non-journalist accounts today," Irwin said in the email.

The Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing said in a statement on Friday that Twitter's actions "violate the spirit of the First Amendment and the principle that social media platforms will allow the unfiltered distribution of information that is already in the public square."

Musk accused the journalists of posting his real-time location, which is "basically assassination coordinates" for his family.

The billionaire appeared briefly in a Twitter Spaces audio chat hosted by journalists, which quickly turned into a contentious discussion about whether the suspended reporters had actually exposed Musk's real-time location in violation of the policy.

"If you dox, you get suspended. End of story," Musk said repeatedly in response to questions. "Dox" is a term for publishing private information about someone, usually with malicious intent.

The Washington Post's Drew Harwell, one of the journalists who had been suspended but was nonetheless able to join the audio chat, pushed back against the notion that he had exposed Musk or his family's exact location by posting a link to ElonJet.

Soon after, BuzzFeed reporter Katie Notopoulos, who hosted the Spaces chat, tweeted that the audio session was cut off abruptly and the recording was not available.

In a tweet explaining what happened, Musk said "We're fixing a Legacy bug. Should be working tomorrow."

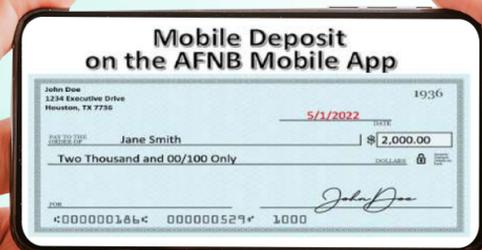
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# OPEC+ oil output cut shows widening rift between Biden and Saudi royals

WASHINGTON/LONDON, Oct 7(Reuters) - The OPEC+ organization's decision this week to cut oil production despite stiff U.S. opposition has further strained already tense relations between President Joe Biden's White House and Saudi Arabia's royal family, once one of Washington's staunchest Middle East allies, according to interviews with about a dozen government officials and experts in Washington and the Gulf.

The White House pushed hard to prevent the OPEC output cut, these sources said. Biden hopes to keep U.S. gasoline prices from spiking again ahead of midterm elections in which his Democratic party is struggling to maintain control of the U.S. Congress. Washington also wants to limit Russia's energy revenue during the Ukraine war.

The U.S. administration lobbied OPEC+ for weeks. In recent days, senior U.S. officials from energy, foreign policy and economic teams urged their foreign counterparts to vote against an output cut, according to two sources familiar with the discussions.

Amos Hochstein, Biden's top energy envoy, along with national security official Brett McGurk and the administration's special envoy to Yemen Tim Lenderking, traveled to Saudi Arabia last month to discuss energy issues, including the OPEC+ decision.

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- They failed to prevent an output cut, just as Biden did after his own July visit.

US officials "tried to position it as 'us versus Russia,'" said one source briefed on the discussions, telling Saudi officials they needed to make a choice.

That argument failed, the source said, adding that the Saudis said that if the United States wanted more oil on the markets, it should start producing more of its own.

The United States is the world's No. 1 oil producer and also its top consumer, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.



The Saudi government media office CIC did not respond to Reuters emailed requests for comment about the discussions.

"We are concerned first and foremost with the interests of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and then the interests of the countries that trusted us and are members of OPEC and the OPEC + alliance," Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz told Saudi TV Wednesday.

OPEC weighs its interests with "those of the world because we have an interest in supporting the growth of the global economy and providing energy supplies in the best way," he said.

Washington's handling of the Iran nuclear deal and withdrawal of support for a Saudi-led coalition's offensive military operations in Yemen have upset Saudi officials, as have actions against Russia after the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

A U.S. push for a price cap on Russian oil is causing uncertainty, Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman told Bloomberg TV after the OPEC cut, noting the "lack of details and the lack of clarity" about how it will be implemented.

A source briefed by Saudi officials said the kingdom views it as "a non-market price-control mechanism, that could be used by a cartel of consumers against producers."

A Biden-directed sale of 180 million barrels of oil in March from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve put downward pressure on oil prices. In March, OPEC+ said it would stop using data from the International Energy Agency (IEA), a Western oil watchdog, due to Saudi-led concerns the United States had too much influence.

## Editor's Choice



Morocco fans react after being knocked out of the World Cup after their semi-final match against France in Al Khor, Qatar, December 14. REUTERS/Dylan Martinez



Submerged statues are seen in a flooded street in Alges, Oeiras, Portugal, December 13. REUTERS/Pedro Nunes



Cesar, 34, a pilgrim from Mexico, walks on the San Antolin beach while continuing his pilgrimage in the "Camino de Santiago del Norte", in Llanes, Spain September 24. REUTERS/Nacho Doce



Ukrainian service members shoot in the air during a funeral ceremony for their brother-in-arm Armen Petrosian, 50, who was recently killed in a fight against Russian troops during the liberation of Kharkiv region, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Perechyn, Zakarpattia region, Ukraine September 25. REUTERS/Serhii Hudak



France's Kylian Mbappe, wearing a Morocco jersey, celebrates after their semifinal match where they defeated Morocco to advance to the World Cup final in Al Khor, Qatar, December 14. REUTERS/Kai Pfaffenbach



U.S. President Joe Biden holds up his pen to the cheers of the crowd, as well as U.S. Senator Cory Booker, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, Rep. Jerry Nadler, second gentleman Doug Emhoff, first lady Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and Senator Dianne Feinstein after signing the "Respect for Marriage Act," a landmark

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

Lockdown Protests Held Worldwide in 2022



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

The anti-lockdown protests that have garnered so much attention in the United States in recent weeks may seem like a uniquely American phenomenon. Writer Emma Grey Ellis called them an “American mess,” describing them as “a modern permutation of an identity crisis with roots very deep in America’s individualist history.” The protests have been compared to other American political movements, from Trump rallies to the rise of the Tea Party in 2009, which took its own name from the 1773 Boston Tea Party, a seminal event in US history that helped spark the American Revolution and came to symbolize the fundamental American trait of rejection of tyranny and government overreach. But while the anti-lockdown protests that have taken place in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Carolina, Utah, and elsewhere certainly have a distinctly American flavor, they are far from unique to America. Similar protests have taken place almost everywhere you look around the world. Just this month alone, thousands of people from Latin America to Europe have demonstrated against aggressive government policies intended to curb the coronavirus outbreak. They don’t perfectly mirror the protests in the US, but there are some striking similarities.



**COVID-19 Anti-lockdown protests**  
Anti-lockdown protests took place this past weekend in over a dozen European countries in response to strict government restrictions to control a third wave of COVID-19 infections. The sentiment swept across the continent with demonstrations in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Romania, Serbia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and others. Meanwhile, France and Poland announced tighter lockdown measures as new virus variants spread and the European Union’s vaccination program stalls. Unlike the United States, European lockdown measures have been more severe, demanding prolonged shutdowns of nonessential businesses, schools and travel restrictions. In its earlier lockdowns, France required citizens to carry documents explaining why they were out of their homes. Residents were limited to one hour of outdoor exercise per day, includ-

ing walking a pet. The United Kingdom continues to prohibit gatherings of more than two people outside the home, including for peaceful protests. Germany banned residents from traveling more than 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) from their homes if they lived in high-risk areas and the European Union adopted travel restrictions throughout the 27-member bloc. Now, 12 months into the pandemic, many Europeans are frustrated, fatigued and taking to the streets, largely unmasked, in defiance of public health orders.



Swedish authorities dispersed hundreds of protesters in Stockholm who gathered in violation of the government’s restrictions on large gatherings. Video showed protesters being arrested and holding signs that read, “Freedom for security,” “Stop dictatorship,” and “They inject us with poison.” Unlike other countries, Sweden remained open during the early part of the pandemic but implemented tougher restrictions as cases accelerated in the winter. In the Netherlands, police fired water cannons at hundreds of protesters who gathered in Amsterdam’s Museum Square, a popular site for demonstrations. Italians took to the streets against restrictions that have closed schools, businesses, restaurants, cafes and left the entire country under a 10 p.m. curfew. Roughly 20,000 people showed up in the central German city of Kassel to protest the lockdown, according to Deutsche Welle. Police used pepper spray, batons and water cannons to disperse demonstrators. Another 500 demonstrators took to the streets in Berlin. The unrest followed a Friday announcement by German Chancellor Angela Merkel that the country’s leaders would “pull the emergency brake” and reinstate lockdowns on schools and businesses through April. The largest number of arrests occurred in London after thousands took to the streets in violation of nationwide pandemic restrictions that specifically forbid protest gatherings. Demonstrators hurled bottles and other projectiles at

police, trying to break up the crowds. Close to three dozen people were arrested Saturday during the clashes.



It was a dramatic reaction to what activists see as an undemocratic law masked in public health authorities. The U.K. law strictly limits the reasons a person can leave their home and imposes fines of up to 10,000 (\$13,864) for anyone charged with holding a gathering of more than 30 people. Ahead of the protests, the London Metropolitan Police reiterated the law stating, “The right to protest must be balanced against the rights of others and the protection of public health.” Protesters held signs that denounced government “tyranny” and called the pandemic restrictions “A cure worse than the disease.” Big Brother Watch, a civil liberties campaign, argued, “A country cannot be described as a democracy if people do not have the freedom to protest.” The group is working with members of the British Parliament who are calling to end protest exemptions in coronavirus regulations. The protest restrictions are set to expire next week. Police have also come under scrutiny for forcibly breaking up a candlelit vigil to denounce violence against women. The protests across Europe were part of a Worldwide Rally for Freedom, organized to oppose government-imposed coronavirus mandates and supported by conspiracy groups. They were also a sign of resentment against the way many European governments have handled the pandemic. “You can imagine the frustration,” said Heather Conley, director of the Europe, Russia, and Eurasia program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. “It’s really a perfect storm of issues.” First, European lockdowns have been more restrictive than what most Americans experienced, even at the beginning of the pandemic. Second, Europe has been dealing with the B.1.1.7 variant, which originated in the U.K. and is more contagious and potentially more deadly than other strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. That has put added strain on health care resources.



Paris hospitals reached capacity last week and began transferring patients to other regions. Poland hospitals are under pressure as the number of new cases exceeds the height of the November surge. “No government wants to do this,” Conley said of the third lockdown. “But the fact of the matter is, Europe has to do this because the hospital systems are going to be overwhelmed again.” Third, some parts of Europe have struggled to provide relief for workers and businesses impacted by coronavirus lockdowns. Unemployment also remains high, at 8.2% across the Euro area. Unlike the United States, which spent trillions of dollars in direct payment checks, unemployment assistance and small business loans, Europe’s relief effort was decentralized. States with larger budgets, like Germany, were able to provide more support. Furloughed German workers can receive up to 87% of their pre-pandemic wages through the end of 2021. Countries like Italy and Spain, hard-hit by the virus, unemployment and fiscal instability, have to rely on a European Union recovery fund, that likely won’t be available until 2022. Finally, much of Europe has been frustrated by the slow rollout of vaccines across the continent. The European Union signed agreements for hundreds of millions of vaccines from BioNTech-Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca. Altogether the EU has lined up 2.6 billion vaccine doses to be delivered by the end of 2021.



However, out of a population of 447 million people, recent data show only 70 million vaccines have been delivered and 51 million shots have been administered. By comparison, Great Britain, now separated from the EU, has administered more than 28 million shots and currently has the second-highest rate of any nation for vaccine doses per 100 people. (Courtesy nbcmontana.com)

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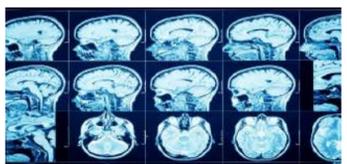
COMMUNITY

COVID-19: Research Points To Long-Term Neurological Effects



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

A recent paper examining existing evidence argues that SARS-CoV-2 infection might increase the risk of long-term neurological problems, including cognitive decline and dementia. Nearly 1 year after the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, was identified, global cases have surpassed 88 million. Although a number of vaccines have been approved, the rollout will take time. In the meantime, researchers continue studying COVID-19 in an attempt to slow the spread and reduce severe symptoms. A recent perspective article, which appears in *Alzheimer’s & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association*, reviews research into past viral illnesses, including the flu pandemic from a century earlier. The authors believe the research indicates COVID-19 could cause a lasting effect on the brain.



Other scientists are trying to piece together a picture of what life may look like in the long run for someone who has

had COVID-19. **Neurotropic viruses** Scientists consider the SARS-CoV-2 virus a “neurotropic” virus, because it can enter nerve cells. Neurotropic viruses include the mumps, rabies, and Epstein-Barr viruses. While some neurotropic viruses cause milder symptoms, others can cause swelling in the brain, paralysis, and death. Some flu-like viruses are neurotropic and similar in structure to the novel coronavirus. As such, researchers looked at these viruses to try to gain insight into what type of long-term effects to expect in people who have recovered from COVID-19. Dr. de Erausquin, who is a neurology professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, explains: “Those respiratory viruses included H1N1 and SARS-CoV. The SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19, is also known to impact the brain and nervous system.”



“Since the flu pandemic of 1917 and

1918, many of the flu-like diseases have been associated with brain disorders,” says lead author Dr. Gabriel A. de Erausquin. According to the scientists, an elevated risk of Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and mental health problems could potentially be connected to these flu-like illnesses.

**Importance of neurological symptoms** Some people with COVID-19 do not experience any symptoms, while others have symptoms ranging from mild to severe.

Some of the hallmark symptoms include: dry cough, fever, and difficulty breathing. Additionally, an estimated 15–25% of people with the viral illness may have neurological symptoms, including: loss of sense of taste and smell, altered mental state and headache. To enter cells, SARS-CoV-2 binds to ACE2 receptors on cell membranes. The olfactory bulb, which is the part of the brain receiving sensations of smell, harbors a high concentration of these receptors. The olfactory bulb also has strong connections to the hippocampus — the area responsible for memory.



**While losing the sense of smell may not seem serious at first, it is still important, since it is tied directly to brain function.**

According to Dr. de Erausquin, “The trail of the virus, when it invades the brain, leads almost straight to the hippocampus.” “That is believed to be one of the sources of the cognitive impairment observed in COVID-19 patients. We suspect it may also be part of the reason why there will be an accelerated cognitive decline over time in susceptible individuals,” he adds.

Among severe neurological issues during SARS-CoV-2 infection, patients may develop fluid on the brain, inflam-

mation in the brain, and seizures.

**Lasting impact of COVID-19** COVID-19 can cause severe damage to the lungs, and that damage can be irreversible. However, according to the authors’ research, it appears that the possible fallout from COVID-19 may extend far beyond lung damage.

**The authors write that “respiratory problems due to SARS-CoV-2 are thought to be due in part to brain stem dysregulation, as are possibly some of the gastrointestinal symptoms.”**

Based on the idea that COVID-19 can cause damage to the brain, it is possible that people who have had the novel coronavirus but were either asymptomatic or experienced mild symptoms may face problems down the road. However, because COVID-19 is a new disease, scientists will need to carry out longer-term studies to confirm these theories.

“As the *Alzheimer’s & Dementia* article points out, the under-recognized medical history of these viruses over the last century suggests a strong link to brain diseases that affect memory and behavior,” comments Dr. Maria C. Carrillo.



Alzheimer’s Association chief science officer and paper co-author. “In this difficult time, we can create a ‘silver lining’ by capitalizing on the Alzheimer’s Association’s global reach and reputation to bring the research community together to illuminate COVID-19’s long-term impact on the brain,” says Dr. Carrillo. (Courtesy medicalnewstoday.com)

**Related**  
**Stanford Researchers Develop Single-Dose Nanoparticle Covid-19 Vaccine That Doesn’t Need Cold Storage** Researchers have successfully tested a nanoparticle Covid-19 vaccine which, as yet, doesn’t appear to have any of the

side effects or distribution issues plaguing the current generation of vaccines in use. The scientists at the lab of Stanford University biochemist Peter S. Kim were already working on vaccines for the likes of Ebola, HIV and pandemic influenza when the coronavirus pandemic hit, and they quickly channeled all of their efforts into fighting the new scourge. The team has already produced and tested a promising new vaccine which could provide the solution to many of the issues frustrating global vaccination efforts. Nanoparticle vaccines are often just as effective as their virus-based counterparts, while encountering fewer of the drawbacks. For example, nanoparticle vaccines can be produced faster, don’t require the extensive cold storage supply chain for delivery to immunization centers, are less likely to produce side effects, and can be produced at a lower cost, if all goes to plan. Early results from vaccine tests on mice indicate that Stanford’s nanoparticle inoculation may grant immunity after just one dose. (Courtesy rt.com)

