Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

6/25/24 Tuesday

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Intelligence Kept Assange in UK Dungeon for Exposing War Crimes – CIA Analyst

The firebrand transparency activist will soon be free, but his years of confinement have caused untold damage to his mental and physical health.
Press freedom advocates claimed a significant victory this week when it was announced Wikileaks founder Julian Assange would be released from prison.
The journalist had been held in the UK detention facility, often called "Britain's Guantanamo Bay," for five years after police stormed the Ecuadorian embassy in London where he had taken refuge. The incident was a shocking turnabout after former leftist leader Rafael Correa first offered Assange asylum in 2012. The raid was reportedly spearheaded by Trump Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who drew up plans to kidnap and kill the firebrand transparency activist during his time at the Central Intelligence Agency.
Although those plans never came to fruition, US intelligence remained obsessed with Assange and likely prevented his release for years, according to ex-CIA analyst John Kiriakou. The former whistleblower joined Sputnik's The Final Countdown program Tuesday where he discussed the surprising development with hosts Ted Rall and Angie Wong.
"The pressures are immense," said Kiriakou, who himself accepted a plea deal after being targeted by the Obama justice department for revealing the CIA's clandestine torture program. "One of the things that Julian was adamant about was that he would not take a plea to an espionage charge and in the end, he did not take a plea to an espionage charge. He took a plea to a conspiracy charge and was given time served."
"So that's a win."
The pursuit of Assange on espionage charges sounded alarms for press freedom advocates, who feared the Australian citizen could be sentenced to life imprisonment or even the death penalty. Such a conviction would set a dangerous precedent for journalists, who could become subject to extradition to the United States from anywhere in the world.
"One of the things that's been fascinating to me today is to see the reaction from people across the ideological spectrum," said Kiriakou. "The strongest support for this agreement has come from the Republican right. Very strongly supportive statements from Rand Paul, from Congressman Thomas Massie, from Tucker Carlson… Among Democrats, you're getting the party line."
"The only interesting thing to me is the response of the neocons – so far led by Mike Pence – who is arguably one of the most irrelevant politicians in America today," he continued.
Pence's statement on the X social media platform, which was roundly criticized by users of the site, alleged that Assange endangered the safety of US service members "in a time of war."
"Name one – literally, seriously – name one single troop whose life was put in danger because of WikiLeaks or Julian Assange's revelations,"Kiriakou responded. "Name one. Because you can't. What Julian Assange revealed was a series of systematic war crimes committed by the US military. That's what he revealed."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Assange's work helped spark a global debate over the conduct of the US surveillance state, which has grown in power in recent decades. The journalist's publication of leaked diplomatic cables generated significant embarrassment for the United States government, which was revealedto have plotted covert regime change operations, engaged in economic espionage and even spied on allied world leaders and Western media outlets.

The release of a video showing the US military's killing of several civilians and two Reuters journalists in Iraq, provocatively titled "Collateral Murder," provoked discussion about the consequences of the United States' decades-long military engagement in the Middle East, which has led to the death of an estimated 4.5 million people according to one study.

"What was shown in the Wikileaks video only begins to depict the suffering we have created," wrote two repentant US Army veterans depicted in the footage. "From our own experiences, and the experiences of other veterans we have talked to, we know that the acts depicted in this video are everyday occurrences of this war: this is the nature of how US-led wars are carried out in this region."

"I think that Joe Biden was under such pressure from the CIA, and probably by the FBI, that he just couldn't do that," said Kiriakou when asked why the US president did not seek Assange's release sooner. "Or, if he were to do that, he would have had to wait until after the election. Julian's health has been precarious, both physically and mentally, and I think it's probably better that it worked out this way and he can be home."

Although Assange's family and multitude of supporters are celebrating his newfound freedom, his effective imprisonment for more than a decade still sends a stark message about the ruthlessness of the all-powerful US surveillance state and its determination to punish anyone who dares expose its misdeeds.

US intelligence kept Assange in UK dungeon for exposing war crimes – CIA analyst (Part 1)

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US intelligence remained obsessed with Assange and likely prevented his release for years, said ex-CIA analyst John Kiriakou on Sputnik's The Final Countdown program.

"The pressures are immense," said Kiriakou, who himself accepted a plea deal after being targeted by the Obama justice department for revealing the CIA's clandestine torture program. "One of the things that Julian was adamant about was that he would not take a plea to an espionage charge and in the end, he did not take a plea to an espionage charge. He took a plea to a conspiracy charge and was given time served. So that's a win."

Press freedom advocates claimed a significant victory this week when it was announced Wikileaks founder Julian Assange would be released from prison.

The journalist had been held in the UK detention facility, often called "Britain's Guantanamo Bay," for five years after police stormed the Ecuadorian embassy in London where he had taken

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

refuge. The raid was reportedly spearheaded by Trump Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who drew up plans to kidnap and kill the firebrand transparency activist during his time at the CIA.

Assange's work helped spark a global debate over the conduct of the US intelligence and surveillance state, which has grown in power in recent decades. The journalist's publication of leaked diplomatic cables generated significant embarrassment for the United States government, which was revealed to have plotted covert regime change operations, engaged in economic espionage and even spied on allied world leaders and Western media outlets.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US intelligence kept Assange in UK dungeon for exposing war crimes – CIA analyst (Part 2)

The release of a video showing the US military's killing of several civilians and two Reuters journalists in Iraq, provocatively titled "Collateral Murder," provoked discussion about the consequences of the United States' decades-long military engagement in the Middle East, which has led to the death of an estimated 4.5 million people according to one study.

"What was shown in the Wikileaks video only begins to depict the suffering we have created," wrote two repentant US Army veterans depicted in the footage. "From our own experiences, and the experiences of other veterans we have talked to, we know that the acts depicted in this video are everyday occurrences of this war: this is the nature of how US-led wars are carried out in this region."

"I think that Joe Biden was under such pressure from the CIA, and probably by the FBI, that he just couldn't do that," said Kiriakou when asked why the US president did not seek Assange's release sooner.

"Or, if he were to do that, he would have had to wait until after the election. Julian's health has been precarious, both physically and mentally, and I think it's probably better that it worked out this way and he can be home."

Although Assange's family and multitude of supporters are celebrating his newfound freedom, his effective imprisonment for more than a decade still sends a stark message about the ruthlessness of the all-powerful US intelligence state and its determination to punish anyone who dares expose its misdeeds.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pursuit of Assange shows 'every citizen on the planet' subject to US persecution (Part 1 (https://t.me/geopolitics_live/27239))

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Various governments throughout history have violated their citizens' rights (https://t.me/geopolitics_live/21807), but few global powers have possessed the ability to bend the entire planet to their will. By the 2010s the United States had become just such a power, with political, technological, and economic might that could be imposed on any person at any place in the world.

🗣 "It sounds like they're now saying every citizen on the planet is susceptible to being charged under the US Espionage Act," said independent journalist Steve Poikonen on Sputnik's The Critical Hour program.

"The thing that I found most surprising about all of this is the way that the plea deal was written, mostly because it's a charge that we've historically only seen for government contractors or employees," he added. "If they're charging him as a private citizen for mishandling classified information, and that's something that before this they could only charge an employee or a contractor with, then doesn't that put the rest of us under even more of a hot tea than we were before?"

🗣 "He never should have been charged," insisted cartoonist and syndicated columnist Ted Rall of Assange's 12-year struggle against the US government. "He never committed a crime. He was never an American citizen and, therefore, not subject to American law. The Espionage Act is disgusting and probably unconstitutional and shouldn't be on the books, and certainly never should apply to journalists."

The United States' pursuit of Assange (https://t.me/geopolitics_live/16960) was frequently justified under the pretense that his activity endangered the lives of American citizens or service members. Similar claims were made decades prior against Pentagon Papers leaker Daniel Ellsberg, who former Secretary of State Henry Kissenger dubbed "the most dangerous man in America."

But no concrete details ever emerged of anyone targeted, or even placed under threat, by Julian Assange's journalism (https://t.me/geopolitics_live/27231). On the contrary, Assange worked meticulously with sources and partnered media outlets
to redact information that could've endangered or exposed anyone referenced within the leaked documents.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pursuit of Assange shows 'every citizen on the planet' subject to US persecution (Part 2)

🗣 "This idea that Julian Assange was putting lives in danger, etcetera, is completely fabricated in order to give a fig leaf of respectability to the war that has been conducted by the US government against this man who has been, by the way, let free not because suddenly Joe Biden decided to act out of the milk of human kindness," said economist Radhika Desai.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Desai sharply criticized mainstream media outlets who often played a role in vilifying Assange even as they produced journalism based on his work.

“The [Washington Post] story is just so completely hypocritical,” she said of an article in the Washington DC-based newspaper that reported that “reactions were divided” over Assange’s release from prison. “The only people criticizing Julian Assange are the US government and all the mainstream media who seem to be taking their cues from them for whatever reason best known to them.”

🗣 “It's also an irony that the newspapers that are now reporting his march towards freedom… published the very things that he was accused of, the very national security secrets that he was accused of having exposed,” said host Wilmer Leon.

🗣 “It stinks to high heaven,” agreed author and academic Gerald Horne. “I take it that's a veiled reference to organs like the New York Times, for example, The Guardian… Mr. Assange's reputation has been dragged through the mud. He has suffered unduly, and I wish him only the best.”

Desai insisted that future generations would value the journalist’s significant sacrifice made in order to inform the world of government abuses.

“Alongside Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden, Julian Assange is one of the heroes of our time. They are a small band of people who have spoken truth to power and they have believed in the truth, they have fought for the truth, they have sacrificed for the truth,” Desai emphasized.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Raises Reward for Bulgarian 'Cryptoqueen' Ignatova to $5Mln - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) – The US Department of State announced on Wednesday that it is now offering up to $5 million in reward for information leading to the arrest of cryptocurrency fraudster Ruja Ignatova.

"The Department of State is announcing a reward offer under the Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program of up to $5 million for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of German national Ruja Ignatova, wanted in the United States for her participation in one of the largest global fraud schemes in history," the department said in a statement.

Co-founder of OneCoin Ltd, Ignatova, lured investors by promoting the company through false statement and representations, the statement said. She is thought to have defrauded her victims of more than $4 billion by 2017.

In October 2017, she was indicted in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York and charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering, the statement said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Ignatova has been on the run since she traveled from Sofia, Bulgaria to Athens, Greece seeking to evade her arrest, later in October 2017. She has since been indicted of additional crimes of conspiracy to commit securities fraud and securities fraud. Ignatova was added to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives List in 2022. The FBI offered a $100,000 reward for information on the whereabouts of the Bulgarian-born German citizen.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Concerned About India's Engagement with Russia - Campbell

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said Wednesday that the United States is seeking a deeper technological relationship with India, while maintaining concerns about India's engagement with Russia.

"I think we are seeking to develop a much deeper and stronger technological relationship between the United States and India. We have been clear which areas are affected by the continuing relationship between India and Russia, militarily and technologically. I think we will take what steps we can to mitigate some of those engagements, and we have expressed some concerns, but at the same time, we have confidence and trust in India," Campbell said at a press briefing.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Senior US Diplomat to Visit Azerbaijan, Croatia - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) – US Assistant Secretary of State James O'Brien will travel to Azerbaijan this week to discuss progress on a peace agreement with Armenia and also visit Croatia for talks on the Western Balkans' Euro-Atlantic integration, the State Department said on Wednesday.

"In Baku, Assistant Secretary O'Brien will meet with senior Azerbaijani government officials, including Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, to highlight progress in the U.S.-Azerbaijan bilateral relationship and U.S. support toward the conclusion of a peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan," the statement said.

O'Brien will also meet with members of civil society to "reiterate the urgency of Azerbaijan adhering to its international human rights commitments," it added.

In Croatia, O'Brien will attend the Dubrovnik Forum and discuss the Western Balkans' Euro-Atlantic integration with European partners and allies, according to the statement.

"In remarks to the forum, the Assistant Secretary will highlight U.S. support for unlocking the region's reform potential," the statement said.

While in Dubrovnik, O'Brien will meet with senior Croatian government officials to discuss defense cooperation, energy security and other key priorities in the bilateral relationship.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Русская Зарубежная Церковь отметит 30-летие канонизации святого Иоанна Шанхайского

ВАШИНГТОН, 26 июн - РИА Новости, Дмитрий Злодорев. Русская Зарубежная Церковь (РПЦЗ) проведет серию праздничных богослужений и других торжеств в Сан-Франциско (штат Калифорния, США) по случаю 30-летия прославления святого Иоанна Шанхайского и Сан-Францисского, рассказал РИА Новости регент Архиерейского хора собора в честь иконы Божией Матери "Всех скорбящих Радость" Владимир Красовкский.

Святой Иоанн (Максимович), архиепископ Шанхайский и Сан-Францисский (1896-1966), является одним из наиболее почитаемых святителей в Русском зарубежье. Он окормлял паству в китайском Шанхае, в Западной Европе и в Сан-Франциско, где после революции 1917 года образовались крупные общины русских эмигрантов.

"Торжества начнутся в четверг вечером, когда верующие смогут исповедаться, а мощи святого Иоанна будут вынесены в центр собора. После этого мы отслужим перед ними акафист", - рассказал Красовский.

На следующий день в соборе встретят главную святыню русского православного зарубежья – чудотворную Курскую Коренную икону Божией Матери, а также первоиерарха РПЦЗ митрополита Николая (Ольховского). По словам Красовского, десять архиереев и множество священников отслужат Всенощную, во время которой будут петь Архиерейский хор под его управлением и хор Свято-Троицкой семинарии в Джорданвилле (штат Нью-Йорк).

Главные торжества состоятся в субботу 29 июня, когда будут отслужены две литургии, после которых духовенство и верующие пройдут с мощами святого Иоанна крестным ходом вокруг собора.

Красовский, который лично знал святого Иоанна и принимал участие в обретении его мощей 30 лет назад, сказал, что владыка был настоящим отцом для своей паствы, где бы он ни служил, будь то Китай, Западная Европа или США. "Святой Иоанн окормлял людей со всего света", - сказал он.

По его словам, число почитателей святого Иоанна с каждым днем растет не только в зарубежье, но и в самой России. "Совсем недавно, несколько недель назад, Церковь в России включила праздник обретения мощей святого Иоанна в свой церковный календарь", - сказал он.

Вспоминая о чувствах, переполнявших его при обретении мощей святого Иоанна 30 лет назад, Красовский признался, что для него это был священный и уникальный опыт.

"Я был очень серьезно вовлечен в процесс подготовки обретения мощей. Во время обретения я стоял на том же самом месте, на котором находился на похоронах владыки в 1966 году", - сказал он.

По его словам, "очень трудно описать словами все чувства". "Это был один из самых святых моментов моей жизни. И до сих пор у меня такое ощущение, как будто это было вчера", - признался Красовский.

Синод РПЦЗ канонизировал святого Иоанна Шанхайского и Сан-Францисского в 1994

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

году. Архиерейский Собор Русской Православной Церкви прославил его в 2008 году.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

ROCOR to Celebrate 30th Anniversary of Canonizing St. John of Shanghai, San Francisco

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - The Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the canonization of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco, Holy Virgin Cathedral Joy of all Who Sorrow Pontifical Choir Director Vladimir Krassovsky told Sputnik on Tuesday.

St. John (Maksimovich), Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco (1896-1966), is one of the most venerated saints in the Russian diaspora.

St. John served in Shanghai, China; in Western Europe; and in San Francisco, California, where a large Russian diaspora settled after the Bolshevik revolution in Russia.

"The festivities will start on Thursday evening when confessions will be held, and the relics of St. John will be transferred to the center of the cathedral, and the akathist hymn will be sang before the relics," Krassovsky said.

The following day, believers will greet the major relic of the Russian Orthodox diaspora - the miraculous Kursk Root icon of the Mother of God - and the ROCOR First Hierarch Metropolitan Nicholas (Olhovsky).

Krassovsky explained that a conclave of ten bishops and a multitude of clergy would be serving the Vigil.

"There will be two choirs singing - the cathedral's Pontifical choir and the Holy Trinity seminary choir is coming out from Jordanville, New York, to participate in the services. Both choirs will be singing antiphonally," Krassovsky said.

The main celebration will take place on June 29, when two liturgies will be served. The bishops, the clergy and the flock will also make a procession with St. John's relics around the cathedral.

Krassovsky, who knew St. John personally and participated in the finding of his relics 30 years ago, said that the archbishop was like a real father to his flock wherever he served.

"St. John has touched people from all over the world," Krassovsky said.

In addition to being venerated abroad, St. John is increasingly being venerated in Russia as well, he said.

"Just recently, only several weeks ago, the church in Russia has included in its ecclesiastical calendar the feast of the finding of the relics," Krassovsky said.

Participating in finding the relicts of St. John was a most holy and unique experience, he also said.

"I was very involved in orchestrating the finding of the relics. When they were found, I was staying at the very same place as I was the day we buried St. John. It is very difficult to describe all the feelings. It was probably the holiest, most sacred moment in my life. To this day, it is like it happened yesterday for me," Krassovsky added.

The ROCOR Holy Synod canonized St. John in 1994. The Bishop's Council of the Russian Orthodox Church glorified him in 2008.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Dedolarization Currently Underway Due to US Policies - Senate Candidate

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - The de-dollarization of the global economy is already underway and it is happening as a direct result of US policies, independent candidate for the US Senate Diane Sare told Sputnik.

"I think that is happening. It is happening. And it doesn't have to be that way, but because of our policies, I think people really don't have a choice," said Sare, who is running for one of New York's two US Senate seats.

When asked whether this process can be reversed, Sare said a "rational" US government might be able to reverse the tide.

"Or maybe not. You know, maybe it shouldn't be," she said. "Maybe it makes more sense to have a basket of currencies."

Sare noted that eight-time independent presidential candidate London Larouche, with whom she worked for 32 years, had called for fixed exchange rates to eliminate the ability of people to speculate against each others' currencies and destroy national economies.

"I think that if the United States would have a policy that was clearly intended by our founding fathers, by Hamilton, our first treasury secretary by John Quincy Adams, even Lincoln or John F. Kennedy, this would not be happening. But at the moment it is," Sare added.

In an interview with Tucker Carlson, Russian President Vladimir Putin called the US's use of the dollar as a foreign policy tool one of the biggest strategic mistakes by the US leadership. Even American allies are now downsizing their US dollar reserves, Putin pointed out.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in February that the de-dollarization of Russia's foreign trade is underway, with about 90% of all mutual payments with China and about 50% with India being made in national currencies.

US Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller said that the US dollar’s dominance is likely to stay despite headlines about trade blocs, cryptocurrencies and sanctions supposedly undermining its standing as the world’s reserve currency.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US, Russia Have Productive Ways to Cooperate For Benefit of Mankind - Senate Hopeful

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - There are potential ways for productive cooperation between Russia and the United States that could benefit mankind, independent candidate for the US Senate from New York Diane Sare told Sputnik.

"I think there are very, very productive ways in which Russia and the United States and other nations with advanced scientific capabilities could cooperate, which would have great benefits for mankind," Sare said. "If we began promoting that and relating to each other on that basis, we could put this war rhetoric and war actions behind us."

Sare pointed out, that an example of a successful cooperation between the countries was the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

work on the International Space Station.

In addition, Sare said that Moscow and Washington need to resume arms control talks.

"We really should be talking about getting rid of nuclear weapons altogether," she said. "You know, we do have certain threats that should be alarming to all of us, like comets, meteorites, asteroids, things that could collide with the Earth and be the end of us. And frankly, we don't have very good systems to detect all these things."

Earlier in April, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said the space agency requested additional emergency funding from Congress to start preparing a spacecraft to deorbit the ISS and bring its remains safely to Earth after 2030 if space cooperation with Russia breaks down before then.

Current plans anticipate that NASA and the Russian state space corporation Roscosmos will work closely together to safely deorbit the ISS so that its debris does not threaten any populated areas on Earth. However, given the current tensions in US-Russia relations, NASA cannot take for granted that the ongoing cooperation with Roscosmos will continue safely into the indefinite future.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Could Reform Global Economy With Russia, China Were It Not so Hostile - Senate Hopeful

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - The United States could cooperate with Russia, China and other powers to transform the global economic system if it abandoned its hostility and financial warfare, independent candidate for the US Senate from New York Diane Sare told Sputnik.

"I think really, if we were not so hostile to many nations, we would be happy to collaborate with Russia, China, other major economic powers, Japan, to reorganize the transatlantic system. If we don't do that and we keep putting sanctions on people and stealing their money, we're going see what we are seeing," Sare said.

Some countries are now abandoning the US dollar and find other means of trade that are more reliable, she observed.

"That's not because people are against the United States per se, but because they have no intention of having major disruptions to their economy because of financial warfare that we're trying to impose on them," Sare said.

She also warned about a bubble of derivatives obligations held by London and Wall Street that is estimated at two quadrillion dollars.

Sare called it "sort of a driver of the war" and rejected the idea that the US "can still be the global hegemon somehow by military force, even though that's not working out so well either."

"We're gonna have to face the fact that there is not two quadrillion dollars to meet these obligations. And this is where the government can step in and sort through the banks," she stated.

At a plenary session of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the US is breaking its own "tool of greatness" — the US dollar. The US "with its own hands" is pushing global economic players away from the dollar, he noted. The shift from the dollar will happen anyway due to the shrinking of the American economy, but the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

US is accelerating this process, Putin said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Federal Judge Sentences Assange to Time Served, No Supervised Release- Reports

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - A US judge has sentenced WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to time served and will not impose any period of supervised release after he pled guilty to one charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information relating to the national defense of the United States, the Guardian reported.

"You will be able to walk out of this courtroom a free man," the judge told Assange.

A federal prosecutor said that US barristers in the United Kingdom are "forthwith" withdrawing their extradition request for Assange, the report added.

The United States will next take steps to immediately overturn remaining charges against Assange in the Eastern District of Virginia, the report said.

Assange is in a federal courtroom in the Northern Mariana Islands on Tuesday after reaching a plea deal with the federal prosecutors.

Assange, an Australian citizen, was transferred to London's high-security Belmarsh prison in April 2019 on bail breach charges. In the US, he faced prosecution under the Espionage Act for obtaining and disclosing classified information that shed light on war crimes and human rights violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Federal Judge Accepts Assange's Plea Deal - Reports

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - A US judge has accepted WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's plea deal after he pled guilty to one charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information relating to the national defense of the United States, the Guardian reported.

The United States will next take steps to immediately overturn remaining charges against Assange in the Eastern District of Virginia, the report said.

Assange is in a federal courtroom in the Northern Mariana Islands on Tuesday after reaching a plea deal with the federal prosecutors.

Assange, an Australian citizen, was transferred to London's high-security Belmarsh prison in April 2019 on bail breach charges. In the US, he faced prosecution under the Espionage Act for obtaining and disclosing classified information that shed light on war crimes and human rights violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US House Rules Panel Advances Defense, Foreign Operations, Homeland Security Funding Bills

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - The US House Rules Committee on Tuesday advanced appropriations bills for defense, foreign operations, and homeland security matters.

The panel advanced a rule on Tuesday evening for the funding bills in a vote of 9 in favor and 4 opposed.

Earlier this week, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) said that US President Joe Biden would veto the defense appropriations bill if it passes the House of Representatives. The Biden administration opposes the elimination of funding for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, OMB said.

Biden would also veto the foreign operations and homeland security funding bills, OMB said.

House Republicans are wasting time with appropriations bills that include funding cuts and partisan policy provisions, OMB said. However, the Biden administration is prepared to work with lawmakers as the fiscal year 2025 appropriations process proceeds, OMB said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UPDATE- Assange Says No One Tried to Bribe, Coerce Him to Plead Guilty - Reports

(additional info in para 3)

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange told a US judge that no one tried to bribe or coerce him to plead guilty to one charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information relating to the national defense of the United States, the Guardian reported.

The report said on Tuesday that the US government is not pursuing any forfeiture from Assange.

Additionally, US attorney McKenzie said that once the sentence is pronounced the US will move to dismiss the indictment in the Eastern District of Virginia.

Assange is in a federal courtroom in the Northern Mariana Islands after reaching a plea deal with the federal prosecutors.

The US government is not pursuing any forfeiture from Assange.

Assange, an Australian citizen, was transferred to London's high-security Belmarsh prison in April 2019 on bail breach charges. In the US, he faced prosecution under the Espionage Act for obtaining and disclosing classified information that shed light on war crimes and human rights violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Seizing Russian Assets to Backfire on Washington, Deter Business With US - Senate Hopeful

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - The seizure of Russian assets in the West will create blowback for Washington as it will increase other nations' mistrust of the United States and deter business with the country, independent candidate for the US Senate Diane Sare told Sputnik.

"This is like our brilliant sanctions. Everything that we're doing in this way is just going to backfire, and that's what I'm saying about the delusional quality of some of our policymakers," Sare, who is vying for one of New York's two seats in the US Senate, said.

Sare likened the situation to one in which people put money in a bank that ultimately steals the funds.

"Pretty soon no one would want put their money in the bank," she explained. "So, if we are going to arbitrarily say that we can seize people's assets, then pretty soon, no one's going to trust us, and no one will want to have any business with us. I think that's sort of obvious, but somehow these people can't consider it."

Earlier in June, the G7 countries at a summit in Italy agreed on a loan structure to provide at least $50 billion to Ukraine by utilizing revenues generated from interest on Russia's frozen assets.

After the start of Russia's military operation in Ukraine in February 2022, the European Union and the G7 froze almost half of Russian foreign currency reserves, amounting to about 300 billion euros ($325 billion). Moscow has maintained that any attempts to confiscate Russian assets amount to theft and a violation of international law.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Assange Says No One Tried to Bribe, Coerce Him to Plead Guilty - Reports

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange told a US judge that no one tried to bribe or coerce him to plead guilty to one charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information relating to the national defense of the United States, the Guardian reported.

The report said on Tuesday that the US government is not pursuing any forfeiture from Assange.

Assange is in a federal courtroom in the Northern Mariana Islands after reaching a plea deal with the federal prosecutors.

The US government is not pursuing any forfeiture from Assange.

Assange, an Australian citizen, was transferred to London’s high-security Belmarsh prison in April 2019 on bail breach charges. In the US, he faced prosecution under the Espionage Act for obtaining and disclosing classified information that shed light on war crimes and human rights violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Julian Assange Pleads Guilty in US Federal Court to Espionage Charge - Reports

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange had pled guilty in a US federal courtroom to one charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information relating to the national defense of the United States, the Guardian reported.

Assange is expected to return to Australia after the court hearing.

Assange, an Australian citizen, was transferred to London's high-security Belmarsh prison in April 2019 on bail breach charges. In the US, he faced prosecution under the Espionage Act for obtaining and disclosing classified information that shed light on war crimes and human rights violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Hearing in Julian Assange's Case Begins on Saipan Island - Reports

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - The US court hearing for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has begun in a federal courtroom in the Northern Mariana Islands, the Guardian reported.

Assange is expected to plead guilty to one charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information relating to the national defense of the United States.

Assange is expected to return to Australia after the hearing.

Assange, an Australian citizen, was transferred to London's high-security Belmarsh prison in April 2019 on bail breach charges. In the US, he faced prosecution under the Espionage Act for obtaining and disclosing classified information that shed light on war crimes and human rights violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Lawmakers Say CIA Contractors Colluded with Biden Team to Discredit Hunter Laptop Story

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - US lawmakers released a congressional report revealing that CIA contractors allegedly colluded with President Joe Biden's 2020 presidential campaign team to discredit the Hunter Biden laptop story.

"The Committee on the Judiciary, its Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence have revealed how, in the final weeks before the 2020 presidential election, 51 former intelligence officials coordinated with the Biden campaign to discredit serious allegations about Biden family influence peddling," the report said.

The report specifically highlights a public letter former US intelligence officials put out to label a

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

New York Post story about Hunter Biden's abandoned laptop as "Russian disinformation."
According to the report, the letter would not have been possible if it were not for a call from top Biden campaign official, and now Secretary of State, Antony Blinken to former Deputy Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Michael Morell.
"The statement was conceived following a conversation with a senior Biden campaign official and designed explicitly to provide talking points to the Biden campaign to discredit politically damaging allegations, " the report said.
Some of the signatories of the letter were on the CIA payroll at the time as contractors and others had special access to CIA facilities, the report noted.
The lawmakers point out that Morrell told the committees that it is inappropriate for a currently serving staff officer or contractor to be involved in a political process.
Three days after the letter was published, Joe Biden cited it during a debate with Trump, saying, "There are 50 former national intelligence folks who said that what he's accusing me of is a Russian plant."
US officials have repeatedly accused Russia of meddling in US elections, a charge that Moscow has firmly and consistently denied.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Austin, Israeli Counterpart Discuss Efforts to Reduce Tensions With Hezbollah - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant discussed efforts to de-escalate tensions with Hezbollah on the Israel-Lebanon border, Defense Department spokesperson Patrick Ryder said in a press release.
"Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III met with Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant at the Pentagon today to discuss efforts to de-escalate tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border, to surge more humanitarian aid into Gaza, and to stand together against Iranian and Iranian-supported attacks against Israel and destabilizing activities throughout the Middle East," Ryder said in a release on Tuesday.
Austin emphasized that Hezbollah's military activity on Israel's northern border threatened to spark a new conflict that would be catastrophic for Israel and Lebanon, the release said.
The two officials also discussed ongoing efforts to reach a ceasefire deal with the Palestinian movement Hamas and Austin emphasized that diplomacy is the only way to prevent any further escalation of tensions in the region, the release said.
Austin urged Israel to bolster efforts to protect Palestinian civilians and humanitarian-aid workers in Gaza, the release added.
The situation on the Israeli-Lebanese border worsened after the resurgence of hostilities in the Israel-Palestinian conflict in October 2023. Israel and Lebanon, which supports Palestine, have regularly exchanged fire across the border since then. Israel recently said it had approved operational plans for an offensive in Lebanon, while the United States reportedly reassured Israel of its full support in the event of a full-fledged war with Hezbollah.
Hamas warned that a possible offensive by Israel in Lebanon threatens the start of a regional

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

war with the involvement of US forces.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Oil at Risk of Returning Below $80 Per Barrel as US Consumer Sentiment Fades

NEW YORK, June 26 (Sputnik) - US crude prices are at a risk of returning below $80 per barrel after a selloff on Tuesday triggered by data showing consumer sentiment fading in the United States.

The most-active August contract for West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude settled at $80.83 per barrel, down 80 cents, or 1%, on the day. The US crude benchmark has lost almost 2% in three days of trading since Thursday, when it hit a two-and-a-half-month high of $82.41.

Thursday marked the official start of the northern hemisphere summer, the busiest season for driving in the United States.

Since then, there has not been any major bullish news in the oil market. On the contrary, the Conference Board, which groups key US business groups, reported on Tuesday that consumer sentiment slowed to a reading of 100.4 in June from 102 in May. That triggered worries about economic growth in the near-term and demand for gasoline, the primary automobile fuel in the United States.

Aside from US crude, UK-origin Brent's most-active contract for August settled Tuesday's trade at $85.01 per barrel, down $1, or 1.2% on the day. On Thursday, Brent, the global crude benchmark, peaked at $85.96, its best since a May 1 high of $85.89.

"Brent still has a $5 buffer above $80 but US crude is uncomfortably close to below $80, and another day of declines on Wednesday can send it to $79 territory," John Kilduff, partner at New York energy hedge fund Again Capital, said.

Analysts said June's weak consumer sentiment reading could be due to Americans' concerns about inflation having made everything from rent to food more expensive over the past two years.

The Federal Reserve says it intends to cut interest rates to bring costs down for consumers but it is wary of doing so due to inflation still being above the target rate of 2% per year. Inflation, as indicated by the US Consumer Price Index (CPI), stood at 3.3% per year in April.

The current range for rates, at between 5.25% and 5.5% is at the highest since 2002, compared with the pre-pandemic low of between zero and 0.25%.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Syrians Should Decide Negotiation Venue as Switzerland Lost Neutral Status - Nebenzia

UNITED NATIONS, June 26 (Sputnik) - Syrians should determine the next venue to organize the Constitutional Committee considering that Switzerland has lost its neutral status after applying sanctions against Russia and Syria, Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said.

"Bearing in mind the fact that Switzerland has lost its neutral status following its joining of the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

anti-Russian and anti-Syrian unlawful unilateral sanctions, Syrians should determine this venue for themselves with cooperation with the special envoy of the Secretary-General on Syria Geir Pederson," Nebenzia said to the Council members on Tuesday.

Russia believes it would be wise to revive the constitutional track leading to a political settlement in Syria, the envoy added.

The United Nations has repeatedly stated that it remains open to any alternative venues to discuss a political settlement in Syria. The United Nations proposed earlier this year Nairobi as a venue for negotiations of the Syrian Constitutional Committee but no agreement has been reached on the matter.

In June 2022, Russia suggested that a new venue should be chosen for meetings of the Syrian Constitutional Committee after Switzerland lost its impartiality and neutral status. Syria has been in a state of conflict since 2011 after the US-led collective West tried to topple the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad. Parts of Syria's oil wells are controlled by US troops, which have been in the country illegally since 2016 under the pretext of fighting terrorists and their allied militants.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) -

US-RUSSIA MILITARY CHIEFS TALKS

* US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke by telephone with Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov in a first such call since March 15, 2023, Pentagon spokesperson Pat Ryder said on Tuesday.
* Austin initiated the call earlier in the day with Belousov, Ryder said.

JULIAN ASSANGE

* The release of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is a victory for journalists around the world, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) told RIA Novosti on Tuesday.
* The US Justice Department expects Assange's guilty plea and sentencing will happen on Wednesday, according to a court document provided to Sputnik.
* Assange's legal defense team is pondering filing a lawsuit with the European Court of Human Rights or the United Nations for torture against the journalist, Assange's lawyer Carlos Poveda told Sputnik.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

* The United States has not made any decisions on lifting a ban on US military contractors deploying to Ukraine, a US Defense Department spokesperson told Sputnik on Tuesday.
* Representatives of the Russian Commissioner for Human Rights discussed with Ombudsman of Ukraine representative Dmitro Lubinets the possible options for mutual return of civilians who are in places of forced detention, Russian Ombudswoman Tatiana Moskalkova said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

* Russia has negotiated the release of 90 of its soldiers taken prisoner in Ukraine-controlled territories, who have already returned home, the Russian Defense Ministry said.
* The White House is very cautious about how deeply NATO is engaged in Ukraine and is seeking a balance, National Security Council Director for Europe Michael Carpenter said.

PROTESTS IN KENYA
* At least eight people were killed during protests in Kenya's Nairobi on Tuesday, the KTN News broadcaster reported on Tuesday.
* All Kenyan security forces have been mobilized to counter the protests in the country, President William Ruto said.
* Ruto said that he is prepared to hold dialogue with those protesting against tax increases in the country.
* The Kenyan Red Cross said that its ambulances have been attacked by protesters and its employees have been injured.

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT
* Russia urges Israel to stop its operation in Rafah and calls on all parties to accept the ceasefire, Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said on Tuesday.
* US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said that Hezbollah's alleged provocations threaten to drag Israel and Lebanon into another war that could easily become a regional war.
* The United Nations is alarmed by the deadly attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank carried out by Israeli settlers as well as by armed Palestinians attacks' on Israelis and calls for the swift prosecution of all perpetrators of violence, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland said.

ICC ARREST WARRANTS AGAINST RUSSIAN OFFICIALS
* The pre-trial chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu and Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov due to the situation in Ukraine, the ICC said on Tuesday.
* The decision of the ICC to issue an arrest warrant for Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu is void, the Russian Security Council said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Says Crimea Beach Not Intended Target of Ukraine Attack That Killed Civilians

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The United States assesses that a beach in Sevastopol was not the intended target of a Ukraine strike that killed civilians this past weekend and that Ukraine makes its own decisions on what targets to strike, a US Defense Department spokesperson told Sputnik on Tuesday.
On Sunday, the Ukrainian armed forces attacked Sevastopol, the largest city on the Crimean Peninsula, with what Russia says were US-made ATACMS missiles with cluster warheads, four of which were shot down and one deflected and exploded over the city. According to the latest

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

data, four people were killed and 153 others were injured in the attack, including children. Russia claims the United States provided Ukraine with intelligence support and targeting data to conduct the strike.

"The beach was not the intended target and Ukraine was firing its missile at a military target and those beachgoers were reportedly harmed by the result of the intercept. Ukraine chooses its own military targets and makes its own military decisions about what to strike," the spokesperson said.

The United States assesses that a Russian air defense missile intercepted a Ukrainian missile that was heading towards a military target in Crimea, and the shrapnel from the intercept is what fell on the beach injuring civilians, the spokesperson said, adding that he could not verify whether a US-supplied Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missile was involved in the strike.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Says Crimea Beach Not Intended Target of Ukraine Attack That Killed Civilians

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The United States assesses that a beach in Sevastopol was not the intended target of a Ukraine strike that killed civilians this past weekend and that Ukraine makes its own decisions on what targets to strike, a US Defense Department spokesperson told Sputnik on Tuesday.

On Sunday, the Ukrainian armed forces attacked Sevastopol, the largest city on the Crimean Peninsula, with what Russia says were US-made ATACMS missiles with cluster warheads, four of which were shot down and one deflected and exploded over the city. According to the latest data, four people were killed and 153 others were injured in the attack, including children. Russia claims the United States provided Ukraine with intelligence support and targeting data to conduct the strike.

"The beach was not the intended target and Ukraine was firing its missile at a military target and those beachgoers were reportedly harmed by the result of the intercept. Ukraine chooses its own military targets and makes its own military decisions about what to strike," the spokesperson said.

The United States assesses that a Russian air defense missile intercepted a Ukrainian missile that was heading towards a military target in Crimea, and the shrapnel from the intercept is what fell on the beach injuring civilians, the spokesperson said, adding that he could not verify whether a US-supplied Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missile was involved in the strike.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon tells Sputnik beach was not intended target of Ukraine attack on Crimea that killed four civilians, but adds Kiev chooses targets itself

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US, Allies Demand Expert Briefing on North Korean Weapons Transfers - Statement

UNITED NATIONS, June 25 (Sputnik) - The United States and its partners are requesting an open briefing by an external expert on North Korean weapons transfers and their threat to global security, the US Mission to the United Nations said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The United States and its partners are calling for an open briefing by an outside expert on weapons transfers from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the threats such transfers pose to global peace and security," the statement said.

According to the statement, the United States has frequently highlighted Russia's procurement of arms from North Korea and believes North Korea is seeking military, economic, and technological assistance from Russia, both of which are violations of the United Nations arms embargo.

"All Member States have an obligation to implement the legally binding Security Council resolutions related to the DPRK and should uphold and strengthen – not undermine – the global nonproliferation regime," the statement read.

The statement added that the United States will continue cooperating with allies to identify, expose, and counter Russia's attempts to obtain military equipment from North Korea or any state willing to support Russia.

On June 19, Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement on Wednesday during the Russian president's visit to Pyongyang.

The North Korean leader said the agreement provides for the development of cooperation in the economic, political, and military areas. The Russian president, for his part, said Moscow did not rule out the development of military and technical cooperation with Pyongyang following the signing of the agreement.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

House Panel Introduces Measure to Hold Biden Ghost Writer in Contempt of Congress

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee said it introduced a resolution on Tuesday to hold President Joe Biden's ghostwriter, Mark Zwonitzer, in contempt of Congress.

"@Jim_Jordan Releases Report Recommending that the House of Representatives Cite Joe Biden's Ghost Writer, Mark Zwonitzer, for Contempt of Congress," the committee said in a statement via X.

The resolution seeks to hold Zwonitzer in contempt of Congress for defying a congressional subpoena requesting records related to Biden's classified documents case.

The committee said Zwonitzer, while writing a memoir for Biden, was provided access to classified materials.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

According to the resolution, the committee subpoenaed Zwonitzer for certain records to determine if legislation is needed to codify procedures governing clear statutory guidelines related to the handling, storage, and disclosure of classified materials or modify criminal penalties for the unauthorized dissemination and disclosure of classified materials.

Media reported that the committee is expected to hold a meeting on the resolution on Thursday, which could include a vote to advance the measure to the House floor.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Car Sales Could Slow in 2nd Half of 2024 if Rate Cuts Do Not Kick In - Cox Automotive

NEW YORK, June 25 (Sputnik) - US car sales could slow in the second half of 2024 if consumers' expectations for lower borrowing rates are not met, industry surveyor Cox Automotive said on Tuesday.

New-vehicle sales volume through June is forecast to increase by nearly 225,000 compared to the first half of 2023 - an increase of 2.9% - Cox said in an outlook of sales surveyed by its Kelley Blue Book guide.

"Sales have been relatively strong over the last few months thanks in large part to lower prices. Incentives are rising, which are helping vehicle buyers, but only somewhat," Cox Senior Economist Charlie Chesbrough said in the survey. "We are concerned that the second half of the year cannot maintain the growth we've seen so far."

New-vehicle sales remained steady in June compared with a year ago but high prices and interest rates also hindered the market too, Cox said.

For June, sales pace is expected to finish near 16 million, down slightly from the 16.1 million in June 2023 but slightly higher than last month's 15.9 million.

Underperformers in sales included Tesla, which is expected to post a 14.3% drop in the first half this year versus a year ago, along with Stellantis, which is forecast to be down 16.5%.

Stellantis CEO Carlos Tavares was quoted as saying earlier this month that the company is correcting what he called "arrogant" mistakes that led to sales declines, bloated inventories and investor concerns.

Chesbrough said that consumers' expectations for a US interest rate cut could also hold up purchases.

"The expectation of falling prices coupled with rising uncertainty around interest rate policies may lead some vehicle buyers to wait," Chesbrough said. "There's a lot of uncertainty that lies ahead, and it may make recent sales successes hard to build upon."

US interest rates have been at two-decade highs, in a range between 5.25% and 5.5% per year, since July 2023. The Federal Reserve has indicated that it would likely cut interest rates before the end of the year if inflation returns to its target of 2% per year from current levels of around 3%.

Chesbrough also pointed to rising costs that may squeeze profits at auto dealerships. Rental, commercial and leasing were among costs showing signs of double-digit growth, he added.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Has Not Made Any Decisions on Lifting Ban on Military Contractors in Ukraine - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The United States has not made any decisions on lifting a ban on US military contractors deploying to Ukraine and any such discussions are premature, a US Defense Department spokesperson told Sputnik on Tuesday.

"We have not made any decisions and any discussion of this is premature," the spokesperson said. "The President is absolutely firm that he will not be sending US troops to Ukraine. I'm not going to comment on any reports of internal discussions or proposals that may or may not be under consideration."

Earlier, CNN reported that the Biden administration was leaning toward lifting the ban.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Austin Initiated Call With Russian Defense Minister Belousov – Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) – US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin initiated the call earlier in the day with Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov, Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said on Tuesday.

"The Secretary [Austin] initiated the call," Ryder said during a press briefing.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Austin Spoke by Phone With Russian Defense Minister Belousov - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) – US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin spoke by phone with Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov on Tuesday, marking the first such call since March 15, 2023, Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said on Tuesday.

"Secretary Austin also spoke by phone today with Russian Minister of Defense Andrei Belousov. The Secretary emphasized the importance of maintaining lines of communication amid Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine," Ryder said during a press briefing.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Foes Engaging in Sabotage, Attacks on Defense Industrial Base - Cyber Command Chief

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - China, other nations and non-state entities are engaged in widespread campaigns of espionage, sabotage and intellectual theft against companies across the US defense industrial base, Cyber Command and National Security Agency (NSA) chief

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Timothy Haugh said on Tuesday.

Haugh made the remark at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association CyberNet Conference in Baltimore.

"Enemies are engaged in campaigns of espionage, sabotage, theft and disruption against the defense industrial base (DIB) targets with the potential to disrupt the Department of Defense's capability to defend the nation," Haugh said.

The NSA chief said that defending the defense industrial base against cyberattacks is critical for the United States.

"The DIB must enhance its cyber security," Haugh said.

Since 2021, US researchers have identified over 20,000 cyber vulnerabilities each year, with 29,000 documented in 2023, he said.

Haugh pointed out that China is engaged in a sustained and deliberate campaign to challenge the United States and its allies' technological base while putting our critical systems and national infrastructure at risk.

"China is commissioning thousands of intelligence, military and commercial personnel to threaten the [US] defense industrial base and gain critical footholds in critical infrastructure," Haugh said.

China was acting "with agility and sophistication" to make itself globally dominant across the range of key industries and technologies and a US national priority had to be the goal of defending the national defense industrial base, Haugh added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Needs to Help Train, Equip Ukraine Military to Retake Lost Territories Next Year - NSC

WASHINGTON, June 24 (Sputnik) - The United States needs to help rebuild, train and equip the Ukrainian military so that it can retake next year the territories it had lost, US National Security Council (NSC) Senior Director for Strategic Planning Thomas Wright said on Tuesday.

"We need to help build their strength this year, that includes mobilization, but not just that, but also training, weapon systems, so they would be in the position next year to be able to retake a territory," Wright said during a discussion at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The United States needs especially to work on improving Ukraine’s offensive capabilities, he said.

Wright expressed hope that if Russia understands that continuing the conflict carries a cost, it would allow Washington to moderate Moscow to be more realistic in negotiating a settlement in line with the United Nations Charter.

Earlier in June, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia would immediately cease fire and begin negotiations with Ukraine if Kiev withdraws its troops from the regions incorporated into Russia in 2022 and if officially abandons plans to join NATO.

Russia demands a neutral, non-aligned, nuclear-free status for Ukraine, as well as its demilitarization and denazification, Putin added.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Advisers Urge Him to Avoid Talking About Himself Too Much in Debate - Reports

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - President Joe Biden's campaign advisers are urging him to avoid talking about his own policy record and instead focus on an offensive strategy against former President Donald Trump during the first presidential debate this week, CNN reported on Tuesday, citing sources.

CNN will host the first presidential debate between Biden and Trump on Thursday at 9 p.m. Eastern Time. The event will run for 90 minutes.

The report said that advisers are concerned that Biden's efforts to highlight his own policy achievements are not resonating with voters.

Biden's team suggests the US president go on an offensive by challenging Trump on the economy, especially on his alleged close ties with corporate America and the "inflationary nature" of his proposed policies, the report said.

A recent ABC News/Ipsos poll found that more than 80% of likely US voters said the economy and inflation were important in determining their vote in the November election, and on both issues Trump had a 14-point lead over Biden.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Condemns Violence During Anti-Government Protests in Kenya - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) – The United States condemns the violence during protests in Kenya and urges restraint to restore order and provide space for dialogue, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"We condemn the violence reported during protests in Nairobi and around Kenya. We mourn the loss of life and offer our condolences to the families who lost loved ones. We urge restraint to restore order and provide space for dialogue," Miller said during a press briefing.

Earlier on Tuesday, the KTN News broadcaster reported that at least eight people were killed during protests in Nairobi with more than 50 injured. The Citizen TV broadcaster reported that protesters in Kenya had broken into the parliament building in Nairobi, adding that a fire had broken out in part of the building.

Last week, a protest against tax hikes broke out in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, which prompted police to use tear gas to disperse demonstrators.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

New York Court Partially Lifts Gag Order on Trump Ahead of Debate - Filing

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - New York judge Juan Merchan partially lifted a gag order on former US President Donald Trump, according to a court order filed Tuesday.

Merchan lifted two parts of a gag order limiting Trump's ability to speak about witnesses, jurors, prosecutors and court staff, the filing said.

The order, which was filed ahead of a debate between Trump and US President Joe Biden on Thursday, allows Trump to talk about witnesses and jurors.

However, Trump is still banned from talking about prosecutors and court staff, the filing said.

Last month, a New York jury found Trump guilty of falsifying business records to cover up an alleged hush-money payment to adult film actress Stormy Daniels. Sentencing in the case is scheduled for July 11.

Trump denied the accusations against him and condemned the case as a form of election interference amid the 2024 US presidential election. Trump said that he will appeal the verdict.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

The Loss of Toronto-St. Paul Byelection 'Not Result We Wanted' – Trudeau

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) – The results of the overnight byelection in Toronto-St. Paul is "not the result we wanted," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Tuesday.

Earlier, Elections Canada announced that Conservative candidate Don Stewart had won the Toronto-St. Paul's federal byelection by approximately 500 votes, surprising Liberals and Conservatives alike. The seat had been held by the Liberals for over 30 years and was considered to be one of its politically "safest" areas.

"I want to thank the people of Toronto-St. Paul for exercising your right to vote and making your voice heard," Trudeau said during a press conference. "Now, this was obviously not the result we wanted, but I want to be clear that I hear people's concerns and frustrations."

The Premier recognized that Canadians are going through challenging times, and the results of the byelection are clear proof that he and the Liberal Party have significant work to do to deliver the "tangible and real" progress that Canadians long for.

"My focus is on your success, and that's where it's going to stay," Trudeau stressed.

Earlier on Tuesday, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland reaffirmed the party's support for Trudeau despite the electoral loss and said he would lead the Liberals into the next election.

The next Canadian federal elections are scheduled to take place on or before October 20, 2025. Trudeau has expressed his intention to run for another term in what would be his fourth general election.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russian Economy Resilient to Sanctions, US Needs to Inflict More Costs - White House

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The Russian economy has proven to be resilient to US sanctions so Washington must look for additional measures to inflict more costs on Moscow

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

over its special operation in Ukraine, White House National Security Council Director for Europe Michael Carpenter said on Tuesday.

"One of the things that we have failed to adequately forecast, to be a little self critical, is the sustainability of the Russian economy and its resilience," Carpenter said. "It has proven rather resilient over the last two and a half years, and so we need to look to additional measures to inflict more costs on Russia for what it's doing."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Administration Eyes Allowing US Military Contractors to Deploy to Ukraine - Reports

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration is considering allowing US military contractors to deploy to Ukraine, CNN reported on Tuesday.

The administration is looking at lifting a de facto restriction on the deployment of US military contractors to Ukraine in an effort to hasten maintenance and repairs of weapons systems, the report said, citing four US officials familiar with the matter.

However, the administration has not made any final decisions on the potential move, one official reportedly said, adding that US President Joe Biden is still firm on his decision not to send US troops to Ukraine.

Companies bidding for contracts to operate in Ukraine would have to develop robust risk mitigation strategies, the report said. Lifting the ban on contracting activity in Ukraine would likely result in a few dozen to a couple hundred contractors working in the country, the report said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

White House Says 'Very Cautious' About How Deeply NATO Engaged in Ukraine

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The White House is "very cautious" about how deeply NATO is engaged in Ukraine and is seeking to balance, National Security Council Director for Europe Michael Carpenter said on Tuesday.

"There will always be critics, but we're also very cautious about how deeply engaged NATO is in Ukraine. I think we're gonna get quite engaged with this deliverable, but, but there's always a need to balance," Carpenter said.

Carpenter added that he does not expect the alliance to issue a membership invitation to Ukraine at its summit in Washington in July.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Freeland Says Trudeau Has Liberals' Support Despite Losing 'Safest Seat' in Byelection

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has the Liberal party's support and will lead it into the next election despite losing the "safest seat" in the overnight byelection, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland said on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, Elections Canada announced that Conservative candidate Don Stewart had won the Toronto-St. Paul's federal byelection by approximately 500 votes, surprising Liberals and Conservatives alike. The seat had been held by the Liberals for over 30 years and was considered to be one of its politically "safest" areas.

"Yes, he certainly can," Freeland said when asked whether Trudeau was still fit to lead the Liberal party into the next federal election following the Toronto-St. Paul's defeat.

Freeland noted that Trudeau is focused on "working hard for Canada" and reiterated that he continues to have the Liberal party's support.

"The Prime Minister is committed to leading us into the next election, and he has our support," Freeland added.

The next Canadian federal elections are scheduled to take place on or before October 20, 2025. Trudeau has expressed his intention to run for another term in what would be his fourth general election.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Ukraine Will Not Receive Invitation for Upcoming NATO Summit in Washington - White House

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - An invitation will not be extended to Ukraine for the upcoming NATO leaders' summit in Washington next month, White House National Security Council Director for Europe Michael Carpenter said on Tuesday.

"There won't be an invitation to Ukraine at the summit, I think that's been telegraphed very clearly," Carpenter said. "However, what we intend to do with the Ukraine deliverable that gets unveiled at the summit is to provide Ukraine with the institutional bridge to NATO membership."

This deliverable is designed to get Ukraine ready so that any potential accession process can happen as quickly as possible, Carpenter added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Baltics Among Priority for US Air Defense Aid With Ukraine, Taiwan - Congressional Source

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The Baltic states are on the US priority list for air defense needs alongside Ukraine and Taiwan, a US congressional source told Sputnik on Tuesday.

Last week, the White House announced that it had decided to divert to Ukraine planned deliveries of munitions for Patriot and National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS) that were initially destined for other US allies and partners.

The congressional source said it's not clear what countries will be impacted by the new

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

reprioritization plan but underscored that the United States is focused on helping Ukraine first and foremost followed by Taiwan and the states in the Baltics.

Another congressional source told Sputnik last week that NATO countries like Germany could be expected to have their deliveries of Patriot missiles delayed.

The US defense firm Raytheon declined to comment on the matter.

A US Defense Department spokesperson told Sputnik that they cannot disclose which countries will have their deliveries delayed because some of them may wish to keep that information private

However, other countries expected to be impacted by this new plan include South Korea, Poland, Romania and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), according to media reports.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

there won't be invitation for Ukraine at nato summit - white house

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Says Kenyan Forces in Haiti Best Way to Ensure Safety, Democratic Freedoms

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that the people of Haiti deserve safety, better lives and democratic freedoms but these goals will not be achieved overnight and the Multinational Security Support mission strengthened by the newly arrived Kenyan forces offers the best chance for success.

"The people of Haiti deserve to feel safe in their homes, build better lives for their families, and enjoy democratic freedoms. Haiti's future depends on the return to democratic governance. While these goals may not be accomplished overnight, this mission provides the best chance of achieving them," Biden said in a statement.

The Kenyan forces arrived in Haiti earlier on Tuesday as part of the Multinational Security Support mission to help provide security in the country.

Biden said in the statement that the mission will support the Haitian National Police as they increase anti-gang operations, build their capacity to maintain public safety and ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches those in need.

"[W]e've worked with Kenya and other partners to integrate critically important accountability and oversight measures into the mission," Biden added.

Haiti has long been mired in a social and political crisis that escalated after the assassination of President Jovenel Moise on July 7, 2021. The country has faced an unprecedented increase in the activities of criminal groups, while the humanitarian situation has further deteriorated due to a series of natural disasters.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Joly to Meet Sheinbaum in Mexico, Discuss Bilateral Relations - Global Affairs Canada

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly will travel to Mexico June 25-27 where she will meet with President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum to discuss bilateral relations, Global Affairs Canada said on Tuesday.

"The Honorable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today announced that she will travel to Mexico City, Mexico, for a bilateral visit from June 25 to 27," Global Affairs Canada said in a statement.

Joly will hold discussions with Sheinbaum on the Canada-Mexico bilateral relationship and will reiterate Ottawa's commitment to working with the Mexican government as a close strategic partner in North America, the statement said.

Joly will also meet with her counterpart Alicia Barcena and with incoming Foreign Secretary Juan Ramon de la Fuente to discuss common priorities, the statement said.

In addition, Joly is scheduled to meet with the incoming Secretary of Economy Marcelo Ebrard, to reaffirm the importance of strong bilateral economic ties and the trilateral North America trade and investment relationship.

In early June, Sheinbaum won the Mexican presidential election by gaining 59.75% of the vote. Sheinbaum is set to become the first woman to assume the presidency in Mexico.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Romania Orders New Black Hawk Helicopter From Lockheed Martin Firm in Poland - Statement

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - Romania has ordered an additional Black Hawk ground support helicopter from a Lockheed Martin subsidiary company in Poland, the US defense contractor announced in a release on Tuesday.

"Romania's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Department of Emergency Situations, has awarded PZL Mielec, a Lockheed Martin company, a contract to procure an additional new-generation Black Hawk utility helicopter for emergency and firefighting services," the release said.

This additional aircraft will join Romania's fleet of European manufactured Sikorsky S-70M Black Hawk utility helicopters that already provides maritime and land search and rescue, firefighting, transport and medical emergency support, the release said.

"In 2023, Romania received seven S-70M helicopters as part of a framework agreement for up to twelve Polish-built S-70M Black Hawks. With this additional aircraft, the fleet of S-70M helicopters will grow to eight," the release added.

The new Black Hawk purchase was financed by European Union RescEU funds as part of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, according to the release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Assange Plea Deal Sets Dangerous Precedent by Criminalizing Journalism - US Senator

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - A tentative plea deal between the US Justice Department and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange sets a dangerous legal precedent by criminalizing journalistic activities, US Senator Rand Paul said on Tuesday.

Assange is expected to plead guilty on Wednesday to unlawfully obtaining and disseminating classified information related to the national defense of the United States.

"I'm relieved Assange is finally free and reuniting with his family after years of wrongful persecution. Yet, this plea deal sets a dangerous precedent, criminalizing journalism and damaging our First Amendment rights," Paul said in a statement via the social media platform X.

The First Amendment of the US Constitution protects the right to freedom of speech and the press, among others.

Assange faced prosecution under the Espionage Act for disclosing classified information that revealed war crimes and human rights violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Earlier this week, WikiLeaks said that Assange was released from prison in the United Kingdom, where he was transferred in April 2019.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Assange Case Highlighted Importance of Protecting Free Speech, Free Press - Congressman

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The US government's case against WikILeaks founder Julian Assange brought to light the importance of protecting free speech and freedom of the press in the United States, Congressman Paul Gosar's office said in a statement to Sputnik on Tuesday.

Earlier, WikiLeaks said that Assange had been released from prison in the United Kingdom and was flying to Australia. Court documents revealed that Assange was expected to plead guilty to US espionage charges as part of a plea deal with federal prosecutors.

"The case against Julian Assange brought to light the importance of protecting free speech and free press and the consequences of restricting them," the statement said. "Assange had been unjustly imprisoned for daring to expose government misconduct and the true nature of the United States military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan and for releasing emails showing the Democratic National Committee colluded with Hillary Clinton."

Gosar's office added that although Assange will be free, he spent five unnecessary years in prison in the United Kingdom.

The US Justice Department expects Assange's guilty plea and sentencing to happen on Wednesday morning at a federal court in the Northern Mariana Islands, according to a court document provided to Sputnik.

Assange is expected to return to Australia at the conclusion of the proceedings, the Justice Department noted.

Assange, an Australian citizen, was transferred to London's high-security Belmarsh prison in April 2019 on bail breach charges. In the US, he faced prosecution under the Espionage Act for obtaining and disclosing classified information that shed light on war crimes and human rights

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Court Suspends Hunter Biden From Practicing Law in Washington - Order

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The US Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia has suspended Hunter Biden's license to practice law in Washington after he was found guilty on all counts in the federal gun case against him, according to a court order filed on Tuesday.

"[I]t is ORDERED, pursuant to D.C. Bar Rule XI, § 10(c), that the respondent is suspended immediately from the practice of law in the District of Columbia pending resolution of this matter," the order said.

According to the order, the court also directed the Board on Professional Responsibility to hold a proceeding to determine whether Hunter Biden's crime involves moral turpitude.

Earlier in June, a jury in the US state of Delaware found Hunter Biden guilty of making a false statement for the acquisition of a firearm; making a false statement with respect to information required to be kept in records; and possessing a firearm as an unlawful user of or addicted to a controlled substance.

Hunter Biden faces up to 25 years in prison and a $750,000 fine, although first-time offenders often receive a lighter sentence than the maximum.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russia Demands Israel Halts Operation in Rafah, Releases Hostages - UN Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, June 25 (Sputnik) - Russia urges Israel to stop its operation in Rafah and calls on all parties to accept the ceasefire, Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said on Tuesday.

"We demand that Israel halt the operation and Rafah, we also call upon all parties to immediately unconditionally cease fire, release hostages and the detained Palestinians," Nebenzia told the Security Council members during a meeting on Gaza.

Nebenzia added that now is the time to think about how to prevent the escalation of the conflict.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Western Expansionism Destabilizes World, Russia Seeking to Form Better System - Antonov

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The expansionist activities by Western countries like the United States destabilize the Eurasian continent and the world, Russian Ambassador in Washington Anatoly Antonov said on Tuesday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

"Such pretension and expansionism, based on military force, economic sanctions and political pressure, certainly destabilize the situation in Eurasia and in the world as a whole, exacerbating controversies, new and old contradictions between countries in the South Caucasus, Central Asia, Middle East and Asia-Pacific region," Antonov said in remarks to Newsweek.

The interests of Russia and other countries were ignored, since there was apparently no alternative to the dominance of the United States and its satellite states, Antonov said.

The United States' refusal to seriously consider Russian initiatives introduced at the end of 2021, which were based on the principle of indivisible security, was symbolic of Western arrogance, Antonov said.

Russia intends to eliminate the regulatory and institutional vacuum in the sphere of Eurasian security, as well as sincerely recognize the movement toward a multipolar world order, Antonov said.

The future system should be based on the principles of the UN Charter and the supremacy of international law, Antonov said.

It is important to prevent the fragmentation and the forming of opposing alliances, and ultimately to stop the emergence of large-scale armed conflict, Antonov said.

Although diminishing Western influence is a critical objective, Russia does not intend to form a new coalition against any one country or alliance, Antonov said.

Russia's initiative will require "colossal efforts" and political determination, which could take years, Antonov said.

However, humanity is obliged to undertake such efforts for the sake of peace, stability and economic prosperity for future generations, Antonov added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Chief Says Hezbollah's 'Provocations' Threaten to Drag Israel, Lebanon Into War

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) – US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said on Tuesday that Hezbollah's alleged provocations threaten to drag Israel and Lebanon into another war that could easily become a regional war.

"Lebanese Hezbollah's provocations threaten to drag the Israeli and Lebanese people into a war that they do not want. Such a war would be a catastrophe for Lebanon, and it would be devastating for innocent Israeli and Lebanese civilians. Another war between Israel and Hezbollah could easily become a regional war with terrible consequences for the Middle East," Austin said at the top of his bilateral meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

Austin added that he is extremely concerned by the rise in rocket attacks on Israel's north from Lebanese Hezbollah and the recent surge in tensions.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Joly Urges Canadians to Leave Lebanon Amid Unpredictable Security Situation - Statement

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly on Tuesday urged Canadians to leave Lebanon as soon as possible given the increasingly volatile and unpredictable situation.

"The safety and security of Canadians at home and abroad is Canada's top priority. The security situation in Lebanon is becoming increasingly volatile and unpredictable due to sustained and escalating violence between Hezbollah and Israel and could deteriorate further without warning," Joly said as quoted in a statement by Global Affairs Canada.

Joly noted that her advice to Canadians has been the same since the renewal of hostilities in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - Canadian nationals should avoid traveling to the region and those already there must depart while commercial flights remain available.

In the event of further escalation of hostilities, Canadians might face challenges leaving Lebanon and Ottawa may be unable to provide consular services, Joly said.

Canadians should enroll with the Registration of Canadians Abroad service to receive important updates and must ensure that their travel documents are up to date and secure.

The situation on the Israeli-Lebanese border worsened after the resumption of hostilities between Israel and the Palestinian movement Hamas in October 2023. The Israeli army and the Lebanese Hezbollah, which supports Palestine in the conflict with Israel, have regularly exchanged fire across the border since then.

Last week, Israel said it had approved and validated operational plans for a military offensive in Lebanon. On Saturday, US media reported that the United States reassured Israel of its complete support in the event of a war with Hezbollah.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

CORRECTION - UN Alarmed by Lethal Attacks Against Palestinians in West Bank - Official

(Corrects the location in headline; modifies headline and lede)

UNITED NATIONS, June 25 (Sputnik) - The United Nations is alarmed by the deadly attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank carried out by Israeli settlers as well as by armed Palestinians attacks' on Israelis and calls for the swift prosecution of all perpetrators of violence, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland said on Tuesday.

"I am alarmed by the lethal attacks carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinians and by armed Palestinians against Israelis. All perpetrators of violence must be held accountable and swiftly brought to justice," Wennesland said during a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Palestine.

Wennesland also urged the Israeli authorities "to ensure the safety and security of the Palestinian population."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

US Justice Dept. Expects Assange's Plea, Sentencing Will Happen Wednesday - Filing

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The US Justice Department expects WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's guilty plea and sentencing will happen on Wednesday, according to a court document provided to Sputnik on Tuesday.

The Justice Department said in the court document that Assange is expected to plead guilty on Wednesday morning in a US federal court in the Northern Mariana Islands to a charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information relating to the national defense of the United States.

"We appreciate the Court accommodating these plea and sentencing proceedings on a single day at the joint request of the parties, in light of the defendant's opposition to traveling to the continental United States to enter his guilty plea and the proximity of this federal US District Court to the defendant's county of citizenship, Australia, to which we expect he will return at the conclusion of the proceedings," the court document stated.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Sanctions Some 50 People, Entities Tied to Iranian 'Shadow Banking' Network - Treasury

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The United States is imposing sanctions on nearly 50 individuals and entities allegedly tied to a so-called "shadow banking" network used by the Iranian military and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the US Department of the Treasury said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Today, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is sanctioning nearly 50 entities and individuals that constitute multiple branches of a sprawling 'shadow banking' network used by Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL) and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to gain illicit access to the international financial system and process the equivalent of billions of dollars since 2020," the statement said.

MODAFL and the IRGC use networks of exchange houses and foreign cover companies to disguise revenue generated abroad, the statement said.

Some of the sanctions target cover companies based in Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates and the Marshall Islands, the statement also said.

The funds are used for the procurement and development of advanced weapons systems and drones, the statement added.

The funds are also used to support the provision of weapons for Iranian proxy groups and the transfer of drones to Russia, according to the statement.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

UN Alarmed by Israeli Settlers' Lethal Attacks Against Palestinians in Gaza - Official

UNITED NATIONS, June 25 (Sputnik) - The United Nations is alarmed by the deadly attacks against Palestinians in Gaza carried out by Israeli settlers and urges the Israeli authorities to ensure the safety and security of the Palestinians, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland said on Tuesday.

"I am alarmed by the lethal attacks carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinians and by armed Palestinians against Israelis. All perpetrators of violence must be held accountable and swiftly brought to justice. I urge Israel to ensure the safety and security of the Palestinian population," Wennesland said during a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Palestine.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Assange Should Have Never Been Forced to Accept Trumped-Up Charge - CODEPINK

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is a "giant of journalistic integrity" who should have never been forced to accept a trumped-up charge under the US Espionage Act in exchange for freedom, co-founder of the peace group CODEPINK Medea Benjamin told Sputnik.

"While Julian pleads guilty to espionage, a trumped-up charge he should never have been forced to accept, we uphold him as a giant of journalistic integrity," Benjamin said.

On Monday, WikiLeaks said that Assange had been released from prison in the United Kingdom and departed the country. Court documents revealed that he is expected to plead guilty to US espionage charges as part of a plea deal with federal prosecutors. The trial will be held on Wednesday on Saipan island at the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, a self-governing commonwealth of the United States.

Benjamin pointed out that she and her organization, CODEPINK, are thrilled at the news that Assange is regaining his freedom after the 14-year torturous ordeal.

"Without Julian Assange's critical journalism, the world would know a lot less about war crimes committed by the United States and its allies," Benjamin said. "He is the reason so many anti-war organizations in the United States like ours have the proof we need to fight against wars and militarism. We celebrate Julian's release and commend his brave journalism. "

Assange, an Australian citizen, was transferred to London's high-security Belmarsh prison in April 2019 on bail breach charges. In the US, he faced prosecution under the Espionage Act for obtaining and disclosing classified information that shed light on war crimes and human rights violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Canada Sanctions 9 Individuals, 2 Entities Involved in Hamas' Financial Network - Ministry

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - The Canadian government has sanctioned nine individuals and two entities for their alleged involvement in the Palestinian movement Hamas' financial network, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) said on Tuesday.

"Today's sanctions apply to nine individuals and two entities with roles in Hamas' financial network," GAC said in a statement. "They have directly or indirectly participated in facilitating, supporting, and providing funding assessed as having been integral to the planning and execution of the attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023."

The targeted individuals comprise Hamas and Palestinian Islamic-Jihad related financiers or operatives, whereas the entities are financial exchanges affiliated with Hamas, GAC said in another statement.

The latest measure was another step in Canada's response to violence in the region, the statement said.

"The regulations impose a prohibition on dealings related to the listed individuals and entities, effectively freezing any assets they may have in Canada," the statement said.

Canada listed Hamas as a terrorist organization under the Criminal Code in November 2002. Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, which are part of so-called the Axis of Resistance, have also been listed.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Nobel Winners Say Trump's Win Will Reignite Inflation, Harm Global Economy - Reports

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) – Sixteen prize-winning economists said in a joint letter that if former US President Donald Trump wins the November election, his economic agenda would reignite inflation and hurt the global economy, Axios reported on Tuesday.

"While each of us has different views on the particulars of various economic policies, we all agree that Joe Biden's economic agenda is vastly superior to Donald Trump," the economists were quoted as saying in the letter obtained by Axios.

The authors claimed that "there is rightly a worry that Donald Trump will reignite this inflation, with his fiscally irresponsible budgets."

"We believe that a second Trump term would have a negative impact on the U.S.'s economic standing in the world, and a destabilizing effect on the U.S.'s domestic economy," the letter said.

The warning from the Nobel prize winners comes as Biden and Trump are set to face off on Thursday night in the first debate of the 2024 election, with the economy expected to be high on agenda.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Surgeon General Declares Firearm Violence Public Health Crisis Amid Record Fatalities

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said on Tuesday that he declared firearm violence a public health crisis in the United States amid a record increase in the number of firearm-related deaths.

"Today, for the first time in the history of our office, I am issuing a Surgeon General's Advisory on Firearm Violence. Firearm violence is a public health crisis in America that poses a serious threat to the health and well-being of our country," Murthy said via the social media platform X.

In 2022, 79% of all homicides, or 19,651 of 24,849, and 55% of all suicides, or 27,032 of 49,476, were carried out with a firearm, the advisory said.

A record increase in fatalities in the United States was due to gunshot wounds between 2012 and 2022, including a 20% increase in suicides with the highest increase among young people, the advisory added.

Available data from 2015 reveals that the number of firearm-related deaths in the United States was almost 12 times higher than in 28 other wealthy countries.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Hillary Clinton to Warn American Voters, Share Insights About Putin in New Book - Reports

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) - Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is going to talk about threats to American democracy and share insights about Russian President Vladimir Putin in her new book coming out soon, the publisher of the book, Simon & Schuster, announced on Tuesday.

According to the publisher, the book entitled "Something Lost, Something Gained: Reflections on Life, Love, and Liberty" and billed as "Hillary like you haven't seen her before" will be released on September 17, just weeks before the presidential election.

The book will be Clinton's opportunity to share with readers her "fervent and persuasive warning to all American voters" ahead of the election, the book's description said.

She will also tell her story of the evacuation operation of Afghan women to safety during the US withdrawal from the country in 2021.

Simon & Schuster says the book will "describe the strength she draws from her deepest friendships, her Methodist faith, and the nearly fifty years she's been married to President Bill Clinton."

In March, Hillary Clinton claimed that the support for ex-US President Donald Trump is equal to backing the "team" of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Department of Justice Declines Comment on Assange Plea Deal - Spokesperson to Sputnik

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Sputnik) – The US Department of Justice on Tuesday declined to provide any comments on Julian Assange's plea agreement resulting in his release from prison in the United Kingdom.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM

"[T]he Department declined to comment," a Department of Justice spokesperson told Sputnik in a statement.

Earlier in the day, WikiLeaks said that Assange had been released from prison in the United Kingdom and was flying to Australia. Court documents revealed that he is expected to plead guilty to US espionage charges as part of a plea deal with federal prosecutors. The trial will be held on Wednesday on Saipan Island at the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, a self-governing commonwealth of the United States.

Assange, an Australian citizen, was transferred to London's high-security Belmarsh prison in April 2019 on bail breach charges. In the US, he faced prosecution under the Espionage Act for obtaining and disclosing classified information that shed light on war crimes and human rights violations committed by US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/26/2024 10:12:43 AM