



## Border authorities use pandemic powers to expel immigrants

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — The Honduran woman was nine months' pregnant and exhausted with stomach pain when the Border Patrol found her in the Southern California mountains with her longtime partner and their 9-year-old son. What happened next illustrates how difficult it has become to seek asylum in the United States during the coronavirus pandemic. Alexy, 32, and his son Samuel were whisked to the border in the wee hours of June 28 and returned to Mexico. Two days later, after giving birth at a hospital in Chula Vista, California,

25-year-old Karina was returned to Tijuana in similar fashion with her newborn son, a U.S. citizen by birthright.

In normal times, the family would probably have been released in the United States with appointments in immigration court to argue for asylum. Instead, they were among those swept up by Customs and Border Protection using extraordinary power available during public health emergencies to expel Mexicans and many Central Americans immediately to Mexico and waive immigration laws that include rights to seek asylum.

Continued on Page 25



In this March 18, 2020, file photo, a Border Patrol agent walks along a border wall separating Tijuana, Mexico, from San Diego, in San Diego.

Associated Press



**Continued from Front**

The change made in March is evident in figures released Thursday: The Border Patrol in June put 27,535 people on a track to expulsion under the public health emergency and made only 2,859 arrests under immigration law.

Chad Wolf, the acting Homeland Security secretary, boasted that most expulsions are carried out within two hours.

The special powers will expire when the pandemic ends, but Trump administration officials have proposed a string of regulations over the last month to put asylum further out of reach. The proposals instruct judges to be more selective and deny some claims without a hearing. On Wednesday, the administration proposed denying asylum to people from countries with widespread communicable disease. Most of the people crossing the border illegally are now Mexican adults — a change from the recent past, when they were predominantly Central American families and children. The Associated Press agreed to identify the Honduran family using only their middle names because of fears for their safety.

A year ago, the family fled the steamy, tropical lowlands of northwest Honduras, where the father worked in a shoe factory and gang violence was rampant. The father was held with a gun to his head while his son cried, leading to a beating that required stitches to the boy's head, the father said.

They applied for refugee status in Mexico and were cleared for humanitarian visas in February but did not complete the process in the southern state of Chiapas, said Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez, Mexico's consul general in San Diego.

They had moved to the northern city of Monterrey because they were being followed by a man who said he wanted to take the 9-year-old under his wing and a Mexican official told them they could travel freely, according to Luis Gonzalez, an attorney for Jewish Family Service of San Diego who represents

the family.

The family waded across the Rio Grande to Eagle Pass, Texas, trapped in a strong current for hours. After surrendering to the Border Patrol, they were returned to Mexico to wait for a hearing in Laredo, Texas. More than 60,000 people have been forced to wait in Mexico for hearings under a policy introduced last year called "Migrant Protection Protocols."

Alexy said the family was held at gunpoint on a taxi ride to the Laredo border crossing by unidentified men in bulletproof vests who released them unharmed but forced them to miss their March 25 hearing. A judge rescheduled for Sept. 30.

After Alexy lost a job as a security guard, still rattled by the holdup and spooked by talk of child abductions, the family left Monterrey for Tijuana.

Alexy said drug dealers and users made going outside unsafe in Tijuana, prompting them to try the United States again to ask for asylum.

Alexy believes hiking in the San Diego mountains precipitated Karina's labor. He felt helpless when agents separated them as her pain intensified, shutting him and his son back to the border. "They didn't tell me anything. They said they might return my wife later," he said in a phone interview from Tijuana.

Karina was crying when she called two days later with their newborn in Tijuana.

In response to questions about the case, CBP said Friday that it does not comment on pending litigation — the expulsion authority is under legal challenge — but underscored that agents can make exceptions for humanitarian or other reasons.

The agency has only about 100 people in custody, down from more than 19,000 at the peak of last year's surge of asylum-seeking families from Central America.

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, said U.S. authorities handled the case properly and accused the family of trying to use the newborn to se-



**In this Nov. 10, 2019, file photo, migrants gather at the U.S.-Mexico border in Tijuana, Mexico, to hear names called from a waiting list to claim asylum in the U.S.**

**Associated Press**

cure legal status. He said they should have settled in Mexico.

"Asylum has been so widely used as a gambit for illegal immigration that honestly I don't believe it anymore," said Krikorian, echoing views of the president and other hard-liners. "I assume that anyone crossing through Mexico and applying for asylum (in the U.S.) is lying until proven otherwise."

Last week, a federal appeals court and a district judge blocked a Trump policy to deny asylum to anyone who passes through another country on the way to the U.S. border with Mexico without first seeking protection there.

Jewish Family Service wants the family released in the United States, where they have relatives, to argue their asylum case in court. Together with the American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego & Imperial Counties, the group on Friday asked the Homeland Security Department's internal watchdog to investigate what happened.

ACLU attorney Mitra Ebadolahi calls it "a perfect storm of inhumanity." The family waited in Mexico for months as instructed, leaving for San Diego only when they felt physically threatened, she said.

Ebadolahi said U.S. authorities should have exercised their significant discretion to keep the family togeth-

er in the U.S. to fight their case.

She believes the authorities broke the law by twice refusing to have an asylum officer interview the family about their fears of being returned to Mexico — first in Texas and again in California.

Ebadolahi is slower to opine on the legality of expelling the newborn, a U.S. citizen. She said it was done to keep him with his mother.

"To me that's less a pure question of law and more a question of what country we want to be," she said. "The cruelty is staggering." □

## Comet streaking past Earth, providing spectacular show

**By MARCIA DUNN**  
**AP Aerospace Writer**  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.**

**(AP)** — A newly discovered comet is streaking past Earth, providing a stunning nighttime show after buzzing the sun and expanding its tail.

Comet Neowise — the brightest comet visible from the Northern Hemisphere in a quarter-century — swept within Mercury's orbit a week ago. Its close proximity to the sun caused dust and gas to burn off its surface and create an even bigger debris tail. Now the comet is headed our way, with closest approach in two weeks.

NASA's Neowise infrared space telescope discovered the comet in March. Scientists involved in the mission said the comet is about 3 miles (5 kilome-

ters) across. Its nucleus is covered with sooty material dating back to the origin of our solar system 4.6 billion years ago.

The comet will be visible across the Northern Hemisphere until mid-August, when it heads back toward the outer solar system. While it's visible with the naked eye in dark skies with little or no light pollution, binoculars are needed to see the long tail, according to NASA.

It will be about 7,000 years before the comet returns, "so I wouldn't suggest waiting for the next pass," said the telescope's deputy principal investigator Joe Masiero of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. He said it is the brightest comet since the mid-1990s for stargazers in the Northern Hemisphere.



# Medical group cited by Trump denounces school funding threat

By COLLIN BINKLEY  
AP Education Writer

A medical association that the White House has cited in its press to reopen schools is pushing back against President Donald Trump's repeated threats to cut federal funding if schools don't open this fall. In a joint statement with national education unions and a superintendents group, the American Academy of Pediatrics on Friday said decisions should be made by health experts and local leaders. The groups argued that schools will need more money to reopen safely during the coronavirus pandemic and that cuts could ultimately harm students.

The statement comes at a time when schools across the nation are weighing decisions for the fall as Trump pushes them to reopen. Millions of parents are still waiting to hear if their children will be returning to school, but some of the nation's largest districts have said students will be in the classroom only a few days a week.

"Public health agencies must make recommendations based on evidence, not politics," the groups wrote in the statement. "Withholding funding from schools that do not open in person full-time would be a misguided approach, putting already financially strapped schools in an impossible position that would



President Donald Trump listens during a "National Dialogue on Safely Reopening America's Schools," event in the East Room of the White House, Tuesday, July 7, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

threaten the health of students and teachers."

Trump, however, repeated his threat on Friday, saying on Twitter that virtual learning has been "terrible" compared with in-person classes.

"Not even close! Schools must be open in the Fall. If not open, why would the Federal Government give Funding? It won't!!!" he wrote. Trump issued a similar warning on Twitter on Wednesday, saying other nations had successfully opened schools and that a fall reopening is "important for the children and families. May cut off funding if not open!"

Trump has not said what

funding he would withhold or under what authority. But White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany has said the president wants to use future coronavirus relief funding as leverage. McEnany said Trump wants to "substantially bump up money for education" in the next relief package, but only for schools that reopen.

"He is looking at potentially redirecting that to make sure it goes to the student," McEnany said at a Wednesday press briefing. She added that the funding would be "tied to the student and not to a district where schools are closed." Trump has been insistent

that schools reopen despite growing coronavirus outbreaks in parts of the U.S. The White House hosted a summit on the topic on Tuesday, gathering health and education leaders who said students should return to the classroom this fall to continue their academics and to regain access to meal programs and mental health services.

Among those at the event was Dr. Sally Goza, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, who called for schools to open.

"Being away from peers, teachers, and school services has lasting effects for children," Goza said at the

roundtable. "Although this will not be easy, pediatricians strongly advocate that we start with the goal of having students physically present in school this fall."

Her comments echoed guidelines issued by the group in June, which said time away from school can lead to social isolation and make it harder for schools to identify learning deficits, child abuse, depression and other problems.

Vice President Mike Pence, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and McEnany have repeatedly, and as recently as Wednesday, cited the American Academy of Pediatrics in defense of Trump's approach.

But Friday's statement acknowledged that it may be best for some schools to stay online. School leaders, health experts, teachers and parents should be at the center of reopening decisions, the groups said, "taking into account the spread of COVID-19 in their communities and the capacities of school districts to adapt safety protocols to make in-person learning safe and feasible."

"For instance, schools in areas with high levels of COVID-19 community spread should not be compelled to reopen against the judgment of local experts," the statement said. "A one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate for return to school decisions." □

# No bail for 2 accused of helping ex-Nissan boss escape Japan



In this Jan. 10, 2020, file photo, former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn speaks to Japanese media during an interview in Beirut, Lebanon.

Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — A Massachusetts father and son who prosecutors say helped smuggle Nissan's former chairman out of Japan last year were denied bail by a federal judge in Boston on Friday.

Michael Taylor, a 59-year-old U.S. Army Special Forces veteran, and his 27-year-old son, Peter Taylor, had sought immediate release while they challenge Japan's extradition request. But Judge Donald Cabell, in his 18-page ruling, said "there is a presumption against bail in extradition

cases" and defendants "must demonstrate 'special circumstances' that justify their release on bail."

Paul Kelly, a lawyer for the Harvard, Massachusetts residents, said his clients maintain they did not commit an extraditable offense. "We also believe that these two U.S. citizens, one a decorated Special Forces veteran, and the other an impressive young man with no criminal history, should not be held in custody during a pandemic while these issues are being litigated," he said in a statement.

The Taylors' lawyers had argued the pair were unlawfully arrested and can't be extradited because "bail jumping" is not a crime in Japan and, therefore, helping someone evade their bail conditions isn't a crime, either.

Prosecutors countered that the Taylors have the skills and resources to flee. They provided evidence that Carlos Ghosn wired two payments totaling more than \$860,000 to Promote Fox LLC, which prosecutors say is managed by Peter Taylor. □



# Dutch government to take Russia to European court over MH17

By MIKE CORDER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) —

The Dutch government is taking Russia to the European Court of Human Rights for its alleged role in the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine six years ago, the foreign minister announced Friday.

The move is intended to support individual cases being brought to the European court by relatives of some of the 298 people who were killed when a Buk surface-to-air missile fired from territory controlled by pro-Moscow Ukrainian rebels blew the Amsterdam-to-Kuala Lumpur flight out of the sky on July 17, 2014.

"Achieving justice for 298 victims of the downing of Flight MH17 is and will remain the government's highest priority," Foreign Minister Stef Blok said. "By taking this step today ... we are moving closer to this goal."

By launching the case against Russia, the Dutch authorities can share evidence with the Strasbourg-based European court so it can be considered in individual relatives' cases.

"As a government, we have information, evidence, that leads us to the conclusion of the involvement of the Russian Federation," Blok told The Associated Press.

"Of course, the relatives themselves do not have all this information so we can help them by starting this procedure."

Moscow has repeatedly denied involvement in the downing of the Boeing 777. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Russia sees Friday's announcement "in connection with the disaster of the Malaysian Boeing as another blow to Russian-Dutch relations."

Throughout the case, the Netherlands has acted "exclusively within the framework of anti-Russian logic, to which both technical and criminal investigations were subordinated," Zakharova said.

However, an international team of prosecutors investigating the case has, however, charged three Russians and a Ukrainian with involvement in bringing down the plane and the murder of all on board. The men are on trial in a Dutch court, although none have been extradited to the Netherlands to face justice. Blok said much of the evidence the government will submit to the human rights court also is part of that criminal case.

Prosecutors say they have evidence the missile that blew MH17 out of the sky was trucked into Ukraine



In this Friday, Aug. 1, 2014 file photo, Australian and Dutch investigators examine a piece of the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 plane, near the village of Hrabove, Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine.

Associated Press

from a Russian military base and the mobile launcher was later returned to Russia.

The Russian foreign ministry didn't immediately react. Konstantin Kosachev, head of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of Russia's parliament, called the Dutch move "a strange initiative from every aspect" in remarks carried by the Interfax news agency.

"The investigation isn't over yet, there have been no court verdicts on the national level yet and, finally,

what does the European Court for Human Rights have to do with it?" Kosachev said.

Friday's move is the latest legal maneuver by the Dutch government, which has long vowed to secure justice for victims and their loved ones. Separately, the government is pursuing Russia for state responsibility in the downing.

"The government attaches importance to continuing the meetings with Russia on the matter of state responsibility," the foreign ministry said in a statement. "The

purpose of these meetings is to find a solution that does justice to the enormous suffering and damage caused by the downing of Flight MH17."

Blok said the twin legal tracks are headed toward the same goal.

"From the onset, we have made clear that the downing of an airplane, civilian airplane, and 298 innocent casualties is such a severe breach of international law that we will pursue any venue to find the truth and bring justice to the relatives," he said. □

# Hundreds try to storm Serbian parliament as protests heat up

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) —

Hundreds of demonstrators tried to storm Serbia's parliament on Friday, clashing with the police during for the fourth night of protests against the president's increasingly authoritarian rule.

Demonstrators — who were defying a ban on mass gatherings amid a spike in virus infections — threw bottles, rocks and flares at the police guarding the domed parliament building in central Belgrade. Smoke rose above the entry stairway. Police used their shields to push back the protesters and prevent them from entering the building.

Some opposition leaders

have said the violence was the work of demonstrators controlled by the government — with an aim to discredit the protests that began in response to President Aleksandar Vucic's efforts to reimpose lockdown restrictions against the virus, but have mushroomed into an expression of wider frustration with his hard-line rule.

Vucic has denied that "hooligans," who were seen beating up the peaceful protesters earlier this week, are under his control, claiming they were brought in by the opposition.

Speaking earlier Friday, Vucic said he's not worried about losing political power amid the protests,

considered the most intense since the overthrow of former Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic in 2000. He instead expressed his fear about the spread of the virus by the demonstrators.

"It is so irresponsible to call upon people to gather and demonstrate when we are faced with the most horrific numbers of infections from the coronavirus," Vucic told reporters during his state visit to France.

"I beg people, please let's keep our health safe. Nobody is going to take power by force. Power is taken at the elections. You can protest as much as you want when the epidemic is over," he said. □

## LAST MINUTE

### FOR RENT

One (1) week at the  
Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino  
(Ocean Suites)

Including: Complete Kitchenette, 2 TV

Other facilities: Kids' Room, Renaissance Island,  
Casino, Restaurants, Swimming Pools, Cinemas

Check in: Friday 24 July 2020 (04:00 p.m.)  
and/or: Friday 31 July 2020 (04:00 p.m.)

For only: US\$ 715.00 a week (incl. 65% discount)  
up to four (4) adult persons

Also possible two weeks, or two rooms same week

CONTACT: +297 593-6817 (cell.)

(English - Dutch - Papiamentu - Spanish)



# China vows retaliation against U.S. sanctions over Xinjiang

**BEIJING (AP)** — China said Friday it will retaliate against U.S. officials and institutions following Washington's imposition of sanctions on three local officials of the ruling Communist Party over human rights abuses in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

China will "definitely fight back" against actions it considers interference in its internal affairs and that which threaten its sovereignty, security and development interests, foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told reporters at a daily briefing.

Zhao said China "strongly opposes and condemns" the Trump administration's decision to bar the three officials from entering the U.S., the latest in a series of moves taken against China as relations deteriorate over the coronavirus pandemic, human rights, Hong Kong and trade.

"In response to the wrong practice of the U.S., China decided to take reciprocal measures against the relevant U.S. institutions and individuals who performed badly on the Xinjiang-related issues," Zhao said.

The U.S. administration's Thursday announcement comes a day after it slapped visa bans on Chinese officials deemed



In this June 10, 2020, file photo, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks during a news conference at the State Department in Washington.

Associated Press

responsible for barring foreigners' access to Tibet. Thursday's step, however, hits a more senior level of leadership, targeting Chen Quanguo, Xinjiang's ranking leader and a member of the party's Politburo, along with regional security officials Zhu Hailun and Wang Mingshan.

They and their immediate family members are banned from entering the United States. The Associated Press profiled Zhu as part of a package of stories

last year.

The sanctions were announced a week after an AP investigation showed forced population control of the Uighurs and other largely Muslim minorities, one of the reasons cited by the State Department for the sanctions.

"The United States will not stand idly by as the Chinese Communist Party carries out human rights abuses targeting Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs and members of other minority groups in

Xinjiang, to include forced labor, arbitrary mass detention, and forced population control, and attempts to erase their culture and Muslim faith," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement.

China has detained an estimated 1 million or more members of its Muslim ethnic minority groups in internment camps, described by the government as vocational training facilities aimed at countering Muslim radicalism and separat-

ist tendencies. It says those facilities have since been closed, a claim impossible to deny given the restrictions on visits and reporting about the region.

Camp veterans and family members say those held are forced, often with the threat of violence, to denounce their religion, culture and language and swear loyalty to party leader and head of state Xi Jinping. China says vast, resource-rich Xinjiang has long been its territory and claims it is bringing stability and prosperity to the region. Many Uighurs and others among the region's native population say they are being denied economic options in favor of migrants from elsewhere in China and that the party wishes to eliminate their separate cultures. In October 2019, the United States imposed visa restrictions on Chinese officials "believed to be responsible for, or complicit in" the detention of Muslims in Xinjiang. It also blacklisted more than two dozen Chinese companies and agencies linked to abuses in the region — including surveillance technology manufacturers and Xinjiang's public security bureau — effectively blocking them from buying U.S. products. □

# Lawmakers vote to shut down Philippines' largest TV network

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — Philippine lawmakers voted Friday to reject the license renewal of the country's largest TV network, shutting down a major news provider that had been repeatedly threatened by the president over its critical coverage.

The House of Representatives' Committee on Franchises voted 70-11 to reject a new 25-year license for ABS-CBN Corp. The National Telecommunications Commission had ordered the broadcaster to shut down in May after its old franchise expired. It halted broadcasting then, but the vote takes it off the air permanently.

Only the House of Repre-



A supporter holds a slogan that reads: "ABS-CBN workers, Fight continues" during a rally outside the ABS-CBN headquarters in Quezon City, Philippines, Friday July 10, 2020.

Associated Press

sentatives, which is dominated by President Rodrigo Duterte's allies, can grant such franchises and the

chance of any reversal of Friday's vote is extremely low, lawmakers said.

The network, which used to

be viewed by millions of Filipinos on free TV, has been able to continue broadcasting some of its TV and radio news programs over paid cable channels, but with a small fraction of its former viewership.

"We are deeply hurt," ABS-CBN President and CEO Carlo Katigbak said, but he suggested the company will try to find other ways to return to business.

"Together with our employees and our audiences all over the world, we share in your sadness over this setback," Katigbak said. "We look forward to the day when we can again reunite."

In the network's newsroom, journalists hugged each

other and wept. "We lost our voice," Irish Vidal, a news staffer, said in tears. Outside its headquarters, journalists and TV and movie celebrities lit candles and held protest placards.

Duterte and his allies had questioned the network's compliance with the law and the terms of its franchise, including its alleged use of a dummy corporation and large numbers of non-regular workers without employment security. The company denied any wrongdoing in a dozen televised House hearings. International media watchdogs condemned the closure of ABS-CBN, which was founded in 1953, as a major blow to press freedom. □



# Reports: Amazon bars video app TikTok on workers' phones

By TALI ARBEL  
AP Technology Writer

Amazon has told employees to delete the popular video app TikTok from phones on which they use Amazon email, citing security risks from the China-owned app, according to reports and posts by Twitter users who said they were Amazon employees. The notice said employees must delete the app by Friday to keep mobile access to Amazon email. Workers would still be allowed to use TikTok from an Amazon laptop browser.

Amazon is the second-largest U.S. private employer after Walmart, with more than 840,000 employees worldwide. Amazon did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

In an emailed statement, TikTok said that Amazon did not notify it before sending the email. "We still do not understand their concerns," it continued, adding that the company would welcome a dialogue to address Amazon's issues.

Chinese internet giant ByteDance owns TikTok, which is designed for users outside of China, as well as a Chinese version called Douyin. The app is popular with young people, including millions of American users, but is the subject of national security concerns. TikTok has been trying to appease critics in the U.S. and distance itself from its Chinese roots, but finds itself caught in an increasingly sticky geopolitical web.

TikTok recently named a new CEO, top Disney executive Kevin Mayer, which experts said could help it navigate U.S. regulators. And it is stopping operations in Hong Kong because of a new Chinese national security law that led Facebook, Google and Twitter to also stop providing user data to Hong Kong authorities.

But a top Trump administration official said this week that the government remains concerned about the national-security threat to the app's millions of U.S. users. When Fox News TV



This Feb. 25, 2020, file photo, shows the icon for TikTok in New York.

Associated Press

host Laura Ingraham suggested that the U.S. ban Chinese social media apps, "especially TikTok," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that "We're certainly looking at it."

Pompeo said the Trump administration has "worked on this very issue for a long time," including its stance against Chinese telecom firms Huawei and ZTE. The government has tried to convince allies to root Huawei out of telecom networks, saying the company is a national-security threat, with mixed success; Trump has also said he was willing to use Huawei as a bargaining chip in trade talks. Huawei has denied that it enables spying for the Chinese government.

"With respect to Chinese apps on people's cell phones, I can assure you the United States will get this one right too," Pompeo said, and added that if users downloaded the app their private information would be "in the hands of the Chinese Communist Party."

A U.S. national-security agency has been reviewing ByteDance's purchase of TikTok's precursor, Musical.ly, while U.S. military branches banned the app from government-issued phones. Meanwhile, privacy groups say TikTok has been violating children's

privacy, even after the Federal Trade Commission fined the company in 2019 for collecting personal information from children without their parents' consent.

TikTok, like YouTube, relies on its users for the videos that populate its app. They are under a minute long, and many feature dancing and lip-syncing. TikTok has a reputation as a fun, goofy video destination, but it has racked up concerns ranging from censorship of videos, including those critical of the Chinese government, the threat of sharing user data with Chinese officials and violating kids' privacy.

Amazon is likely concerned about a Chinese-owned app's access to employee data, said Susan Ariel Aaronson, a professor at George Washington University and a data governance and national-security expert. China, according to the U.S. government, regularly steals U.S. intellectual property.

Part of Amazon's motivation with the ban may also be political, Aaronson said, since Amazon "doesn't want to alienate the Trump administration."

Amazon and its founder, Jeff Bezos, are frequent targets of President Donald Trump. Bezos personally owns The Washington Post,

which Trump has referred to as "fake news" whenever it publishes unfavorable stories about him. Last year, Amazon sued the U.S. government, saying that Trump's "personal vendetta" against Amazon, Bezos and the Post, led it to lose a \$10 billion cloud computing contract with the Pentagon to rival Microsoft. Meanwhile, federal regulators as well as Congress are pursuing antitrust investigations at Amazon as well as other tech giants.

TikTok has content-moderation policies, like any social network, but says its moderation team for the U.S. is led out of California and it doesn't censor videos based on topics sensitive to China and would not, even if the Chinese government asked it to. As for sharing U.S. user data with the Chinese government, the company says it stores U.S. user data in the U.S. and Singapore, not China; that its data centers are outside of China; and it would not give the government access to U.S. user data even if asked.

Concerns about China are not limited to the U.S. India this month banned dozens of Chinese apps, including TikTok, because of tensions between the countries. India cited privacy concerns that threatened India's sovereignty and security for the

ban. India is one of TikTok's largest markets and had previously briefly banned the app in 2019 because of worries about children and sexual content.

Amazon's move on TikTok may foretell actions by other companies. "If we are concerned about TikTok, we should be concerned about thousands of other apps that collect, sell, and give access to our location data, contacts, and photos on our phones," said Kirsten Martin, a professor of technology ethics at the University of Notre Dame. □

ARUBA  
TODAY

## Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

## Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

## Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

## Editors

Richard Brooks

## Sales

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Sulaika Croes

## Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

## Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

## Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto  
Pilar Flores

## Columnists

Anthony Croes  
Joris Zantvoort  
Shanella Pantophlet  
Steve Franceses  
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
@arubatoday



# 35 years after Live Aid, Bob Geldof assesses personal toll

By JOHN CARUCCI  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The legendary Live Aid concerts 35 years ago did a lot of good — helping reduce African famine and putting a spotlight on the world's poorest nations. But it wasn't always good for one of its key organizers.

Irish rock star Bob Geldof may have earned awards and cheers for pulling off 1985's transcontinental music event, though it took a toll on his personal life and career.

Live Aid changed Geldof from frontman of the Boomtown Rats singing their hit "I Don't Like Mondays" to something more divine. "I became Saint Bob," Geldof told The Associated Press in an interview earlier this year.

He said he wasn't happy about the glory that came with his charity work. "I hated it. It became impossible," Geldof said. "For a while I was bewildered. I didn't have much money at the time. It impinged entirely on my private life. It probably ended up costing me my marriage."

The whole thing began with Band Aid, an all-star group in the U.K. organized by Geldof and recording artist Midge Ure that included Bono, Phil Collins, George Michael and numerous



In this Nov. 21, 2016 file photo, Jeanne Marie, left, and Bob Geldof attend the Angel Ball benefiting Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research in New York. Geldof's Live Aid concerts have raised millions.

Associated Press

others on the 1984 single, "Do They Know It's Christmas?" with proceeds going to Ethiopian famine relief.

Geldof then appeared on follow-up American version, "We Are the World" in 1985. Later that summer, he helped organize Live Aid, the most ambitious global television event of its time. He suddenly found himself an unlikely celebrity.

"It wasn't because of my superior musical excellence, like Elvis or the Beatles," Geldof said. "Billions of peo-

ple made me the man of the hour."

The Live Aid concerts held in London and Philadelphia raised over \$100 million. Those shows included performances by Queen, U2, Led Zeppelin, Madonna, and dozens of others. Twenty years later, he hosted the Live 8 concerts and got the industrialized nations to pledge an increase in aid to Africa by \$25 billion.

While Geldof's altruism helped make the world a

little better, he said he was no longer able to do what he loved: play music.

"I wasn't allowed go back to my job. I'm a pop singer. That's literally how I make my money. That's my job. I get up in the morning, if I'm in the mood. I'll try and write tunes. I'll go and try and rehearse," he said. "And I couldn't. And no one was interested. Saint Bob, which I was called, wasn't allowed to do this anymore because it's so petty and so meaningless. So, I was lost."

Geldof is glad he and his fellow musicians pulled off their activist concerts because he doesn't believe the world is the same today as it was during the time of Live Aid or even Live 8.

"It was the end of that political period of cooperation and consensus and compromise. Would that happen today? No. You just have to look at the clowns running the planet to understand that could never happen again," Geldof said.

Earlier this year, Geldof finally got back to music and released a new album with the Boomtown Rats, "Citizens of Boomtown," their first album since 1984's "In the Long Grass."

Thirty-five years after Live Aid, Geldof remains humbled by his accomplishments, and proud he's followed a tradition of activist-musicians, like Woody Guthrie, who Geldof cites as one of the main influences of the Boomtown Rats, a band that started during one of Ireland's most tumultuous times.

"We made a series of records, which became hits — which, of course, helped to change the country a bit. It helped to change music. And then through Band Aid and Live Aid we helped to change the world a little bit, and then we stopped." □



In this April 20, 2018 file photo, Joy Reid attends the Tribeca TV screening of "Rest in Power: The Trayvon Martin Story" during the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

Associated Press

## Reid says she wants different perspectives on MSNBC show

By DAVID BAUDER  
AP Media Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Joy Reid says she wants to bring some different perspectives to MSNBC's evening lineup — lots of them.

As anticipated, the host of MSNBC's weekend "AM Joy" show was appointed Thursday to succeed former "Hardball" host Chris Matthews in the 7 p.m. Eastern time slot on weekdays.

"We are going to try to fire out of the gate with whatever is the most important thing that's happening that night, and try to frame it and contextualize it," Reid

said in an interview. "Hopefully, I have a very unique frame."

As a Black woman, Reid addresses a somewhat embarrassing oversight at a news and talk network aimed at a mostly liberal audience.

Before her selection, the 5 p.m. to midnight hours were hosted by five white men and one white woman.

"She's earned this, spot on," said NBC Universal News Group Chairman Cesar Conde, who has said his goal is a workforce with 50 percent minorities at NBC News, MSNBC and CNBC.

"I happen to think she's the right person for the right moment in time."

Reid was a news junkie, a sixth grader who convinced her mother to let her stay up late to watch Ted Koppel's "Nightline" reports on the Iran hostage situation in 1979.

"It almost didn't even sink in until I was older that I was watching a parade of white men tell me what's happening in the world, explaining the world to me," she said.

She naturally brings a different perspective to stories, particularly with the current debate over policing. □

**Honey Dolls**  
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

**Beautiful Latin Girls**  
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

**+297 565-9535**

**WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM**

24/7



## Coral spawning predictions for the South Caribbean

**KRALENDIJK, BONAIRE** — Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity (CARMABI) has released its annual coral spawning prediction calendar for the south Caribbean. This calendar plays a central role in studying the reproductive biology of Caribbean corals and guiding coral restoration efforts for the southern Dutch Caribbean islands. Based off these predictions, researchers are able to harvest coral gametes that are reared to larvae that can be used to cultivate future coral colonies.

Coral spawning is a miraculous event where entire coral colonies, prompted by the lunar cycle, sunset time and water temperature, release gametes (eggs and sperm) simultaneously. Gametes of one species fertilize another to become fertilized embryos that settle on the ocean floor after days to weeks. Being able to witness a spawning event is a unique opportunity for scuba divers to enjoy the breath-taking scene as the entire reef becomes engulfed in a blizzard of future corals.

Each year, Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity (CARMABI) releases a calendar to predict when each species of coral is expected to spawn. During these events, researchers from CARMABI and Reef Restoration Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) also collect gametes to be used to grow new corals in a laboratory setting.

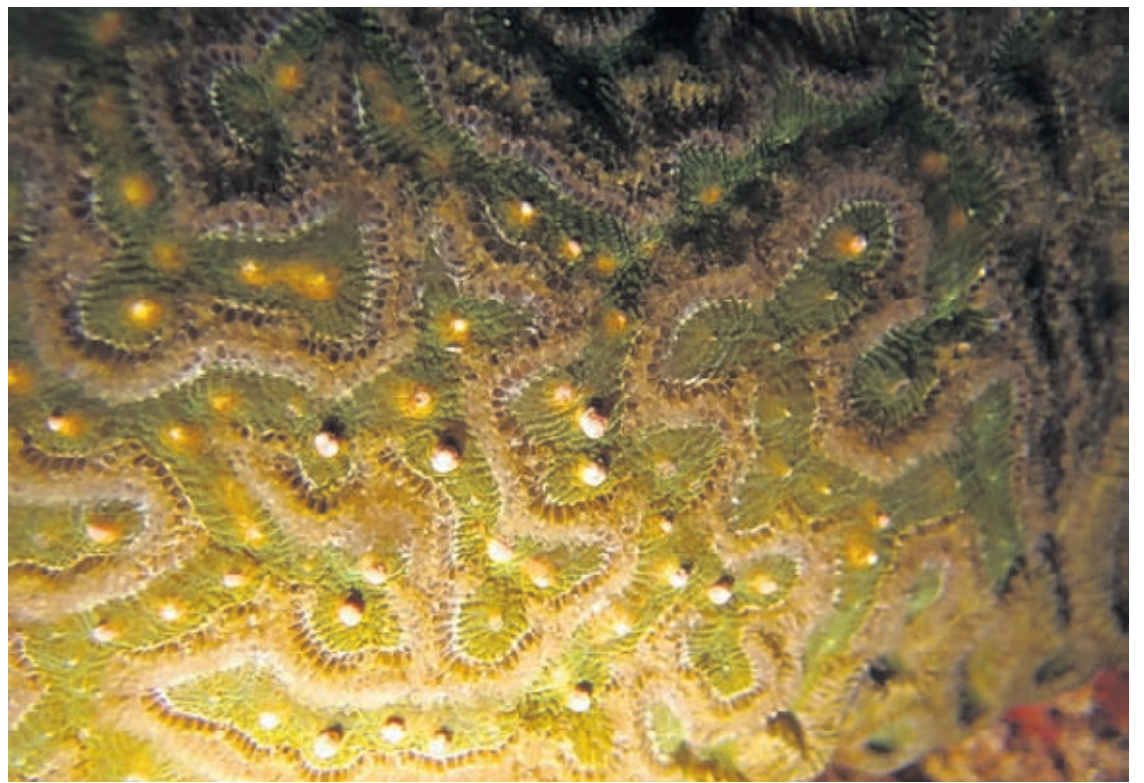
One such project, which has been very successful, has been the restoration efforts centred on the elkhorn (*Acropora palmata*) corals. Historically, elkhorn coral could be found throughout the shallow waters of the Caribbean, however, this species is now listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List as critically endangered. Starting in 2010, CARMABI together with SECORE International initiated a project to study the reproduction of these corals leading to the first outplant of lab raised *Acropora* corals in 2011 that grew rapidly and spawned themselves “in the wild” in 2015.

The benefit of this approach using gametes rather than fragments harvested from existing colonies, is that colonies reared from larvae represent a large variety of new genetic combinations, including some that allow corals to survive despite changing (worsening) environmental conditions on reefs. Fragmented corals represent existing genetic varieties that have not experienced the selective pressures operating on reefs at present.

The approaches developed by CARMABI have been extended to other coral species and at present 12 coral species that release gametes (i.e., in contrast to brooding species that release larvae) are successfully grown at CARMABI. Similar projects have started by Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire.

There are a variety of other species which are also of great importance but have been a bit more challenging to cultivate within the lab. These species include important reef-building corals, which have separate male and female colonies, and thus require different techniques for harvesting their gametes. Examples of these types of corals include the great star coral, *Montastraea cavernosa*, the round starlet coral, *Siderastraea sidereal* but in recent years CARMABI has also developed the methods to harvest and rear gametes of these species and all of them are currently grown in the CARMABI labs on Curaçao.

The calendar for the coral spawning predictions for the southern Caribbean can be found here: <http://www.researchstationcarmabi.org/predictions-for-coral-spawning-events-in-the-southern-caribbean-for-2020/>. □



Release of gamete bundles by *C. nana*. Photo credit: M Vermeij



**TO ORDER YOU CAN:**

- 1 VISIT [WWW.KFC.AW](http://WWW.KFC.AW)**
- 2  [KFC/SHOP NOW](https://www.facebook.com/KFCShopNow)**
- 3 CALL: SANTA CRUZ 5975798  
BOULEVARD 5975799**  
\*WE DON'T ACCEPT WHATSAPP CALLS

**\*MINIMUM TO ORDER AWG 25,00**



**ORDER NOW  
WE DELIVER**

**MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 2:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

KFC, Colonel Sanders' image and related marks are trademarks owned by KFC. © 2019 Kentucky Fried Chicken, all rights reserved. Images for illustrative purposes only. Price in KFC outlets includes tax and can be changed without prior notice.



## Two great American ladies on the first flights to Aruba



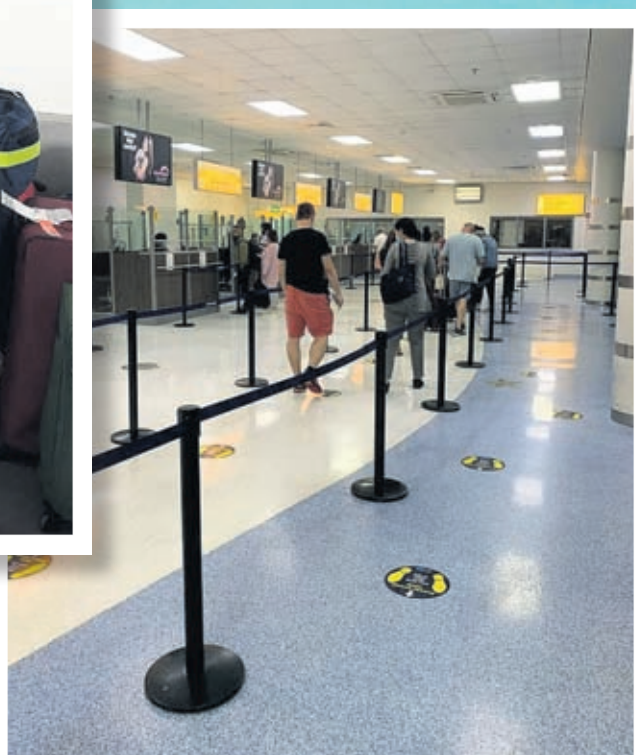
GAE BAILEY



LUGGAGE BELT ARUBA



LOIS LANDAU LEEDS



IMMIGRATION ARUBA

**ORANJESTAD —** They both are in love. With their second home, their escape to paradise, their heaven on earth. Yes, we are talking about Aruba. For Lois Landau Leeds and Gae Bailey it was an exciting day yesterday as they arrived on Aruba with the first flights from Newark and Boston after the COVID-19 lockdown. Welcome home ladies!

Lois was on the first flight in from USA, this was the 1.25pm arrival with United Airlines coming from Newark, New Jersey. "I own a house in Aruba for thirteen years. My experience with the preparation for the trip was a little crazy, I have taken the COVID-19 test in New Jersey in the hope that Aruba would accept this test but just to be sure I also bought the \$ 75 test. Honestly I just wanted to get this ED card ready and get my green check." She is so excited and so happy everything is open again. "I absolutely love Aruba, I have travelled to Aruba for 40 years already." Lois will be accompanied by her daughter and boyfriend and her granddaughter.

Gae Bailey flew in from Boston Logan International Airport with JetBlue and let us know that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) was very busy but furthermore the Boston airport was empty with restaurants closed. Upon boarding she had to show her ED Card while the flight attendant handed out paper ED Cards during the flight which caused some confusion. Passengers were questioning about it and the flight attendant said she did not know why either but it was no big deal, says Gae. Upon arrival in Aruba they had to stand in one line which took a long time. She was expecting two lines, one for testing and the other for people that had done the test home. Social distancing was in place for this line, but at the luggage belt people were standing close to each other.

Outside of the airport building a steelpan band and carnival dancer welcomed the arrivals to One Happy Island. "I am exhausted, but excited," Gae states. Ready to go to her relaxing vacation home to let the Caribbean vibes take over. □