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Exclusive: High speed, then a failed climb for doomed Ethiopia flight



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## French violence flares as yellow vest protests enter fourth month



Protesters wearing yellow vests clash with French riot police during a demonstration by the "yellow vests" movement in Paris

PARIS (Reuters) - Rioters set fire to a bank and ransacked stores on Paris's Champs Elysees avenue on Saturday, in a new flare-up of violence as France's yellow vest protests against President Emmanuel Macron and his pro-business reforms entered a fourth month.

Police fired tear gas and water cannon as the protests turned violent after weeks of relative calm, during which marches had attracted declining numbers of participants.

A Banque Parneaud branch spewed flames before firefighters arrived and rescued a woman and her infant from the building, with 11 suffering minor injuries, the fire department said.

Rioters also set fire to an upmarket handbag store and two news-stands on the Champs Elysees, while scattered bonfires burned on the thoroughfare.

Protesters hurled cobblestones at riot police through clouds of tear gas in front of the Arc de Triomphe monument, which was ransacked at the peak of the protests in December.

Police arrested nearly 240 protesters as rioters looted stores around the Champs Elysees and wrecked the high-end Fouquet's restaurant.

The canvas awning was later set on fire of the swanky brasserie, known in France as the place where conservative Nicolas Sarkozy celebrated his presidential election victory in 2007.

Several hundred meters (yards) down the Champs Elysees, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe told

journalists the latest violence was unacceptable and all would be done to bring perpetrators to justice.

"We are dealing with several hundred, several thousand in some cases, highly determined people who are there to create disorder," Philippe said. Police said 42 protesters, 17 of their own officers and one firefighter were injured.

The interior ministry estimated 10,000 people had participated in the protest in Paris, compared with 3,000 on the previous Saturday. Nationwide, protesters were estimated at 32,300, compared with 28,600 last week.

### ULTRA VIOLENT

Macron cut short a weekend ski trip in the Pyrenees to return to the capital on Saturday night after the violence, the Elysees presidential palace said.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said that although the protest was relatively small, there had been more than 1,500 "ultra violent" people out looking for trouble. "They decided, perhaps as a swansong, to come attack - and I use their words - Paris," Castaner said, adding that more than 1,400 police officers were mobilized.



Protesters clash with French riot police during a demonstration by the "yellow vests" movement in Paris

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## Exclusive: High speed, then a failed climb for doomed Ethiopia flight

ADDIS ABABA (Reuters) - Ethiopian Airlines flight 302, which crashed killing 157 people, had an unusually high speed after take-off before the plane reported problems and asked permission to climb quickly, said a source who has listened to the air traffic control recording.

A voice from the cockpit of the Boeing 737 MAX requested to climb to 14,000 feet above sea level - about 6,400 feet above the airport - before urgently asking to return, the source told Reuters on condition of anonymity because the recording is part of an ongoing investigation.

The plane vanished from radar at 10,800 feet.

"He said he had a flight control problem. That is why he wanted to climb," the source said, adding there were no further details given of the exact problem and the voice sounded nervous.

Experts say pilots typically ask to climb when experiencing problems near the ground in order to gain margin for maneuver and avoid any difficult terrain. Addis Ababa is surrounded by hills and, immediately to the north, the Entoto Mountains. The New York Times reported Captain Yared Getachew's voice was on the recording but the Reuters source was not familiar with his voice or that of the first officer Ahmed Nur Mohammad Nur to verify which man was speaking. However, it was the same voice throughout, the source said. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration on Wednesday followed other countries in grounding the 737 MAX, citing satellite data and evidence from the scene that indicated some similarities and "the possibility of a shared cause" with October's Lion Air crash in Indonesia that killed 189 people.

On Saturday, investigators began studying the cockpit voice recorder. Along with the flight data

recorder, the information will be evaluated by Ethiopian authorities, teams from Boeing, and U.S. and EU aviation safety authorities to try to determine the cause of the crash.

### HIGH SPEED, FAILED CLIMB

The Ethiopian flight was set to follow the Standard Instrument Departure (SID) from the airport and followed standard procedure with a first contact just after departure, the source said. Everything appeared normal. After one or two minutes, the voice on the air traffic control recording requested to remain on the same path as the runway and to climb to 14,000 feet, the source said. The aircraft's ground speed after departure was unusually high, the Reuters source said, reaching around 400 knots (460 miles per hour) rather than the 200 to 250 knots that is more typical minutes after departure. "That is way too fast," the source said. No more than two minutes later, the air traffic controller was in communication with other aircraft when the voice from Ethiopian Airlines flight 302 interrupted, saying "break, break" - signaling that other non-urgent communications should cease. He sounded very scared, the source said. "He requested permission to return. Air traffic control granted him permission to turn on the right because to the left is the city," he said. "Maybe one minute passed before the blinking dot on the radar disappeared."

After starting the turn, the plane disappeared from radar at an altitude of 10,800 feet above sea level, the highest it reached during the six-minute flight. Addis Ababa's runway is at a high elevation of around 7,600 feet, suggesting the doomed jet made it about 3,000 feet into the sky.



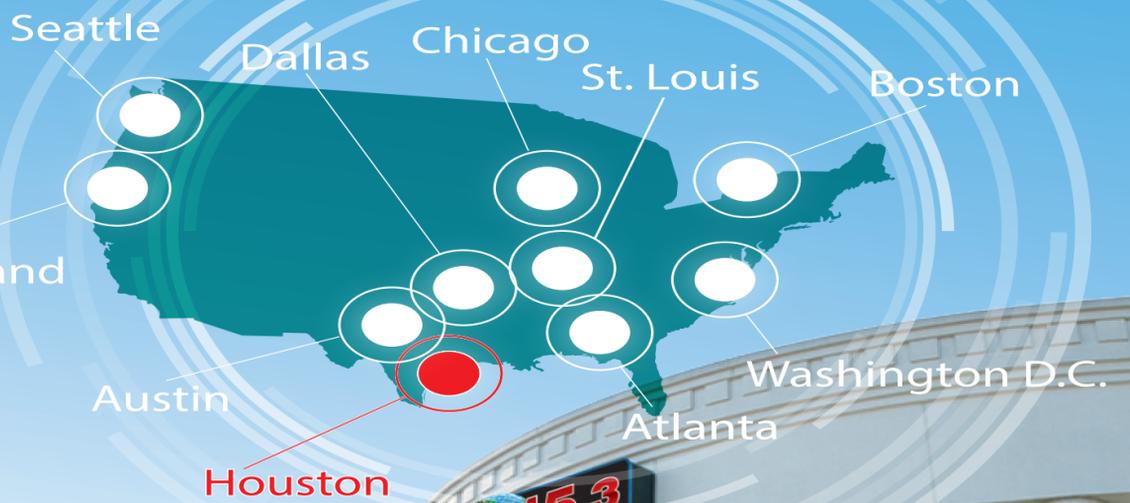
A relative carries a portrait photograph of Ethiopian Airlines pilot Yared Getachew as he mourns at the scene of the Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET 302 plane crash, near the town Bishoftu



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# Editor's Choice



A woman pays at a vegetables and fruits stall on the street in Caracas



FILE PHOTO: A U.S. dollar and Venezuelan bolivar notes are seen next to cigarettes on sale during an ongoing blackout in downtown Caracas



Activists hold up a sign supporting socialism during a "Hands Off Venezuela" rally outside the White House in Washington



FILE PHOTO: A cashier counts U.S. dollar and Venezuelan bolivar notes received from a customer in a bakery during an ongoing blackout in Caracas



FILE PHOTO: Potential 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Gillibrand arrives for a campaign stop in Manchester



A woman holds up a picture of a nurse in a hospital as opponents of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro rally outside the White House in Washington



Slovakia's presidential candidate Zuzana Caputova talks to reporters as she arrives at the party's headquarters to observe the ongoing election results in Bratislava, Slovakia, March 16, 2019. REUTERS/ David W Cerny



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro takes part in a video conference with members of the government and military high command members in Caracas

# Three Texas Residents Charged In National Academic Cheating Scandal

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

Three Texas residents have been indicted in a college testing scheme that helped arrange bribes, facilitated cheating on major college entrance exams, and coordinated under-the-table recruitment in order to get students into elite universities around the country.

Houston resident Lisa “Niki” Williams, who administered the exams at a test center at a local public high school, was indicted on charges of conspiracy to commit racketeering for “facilitating cheating on ACT and SAT exams in exchange for bribes,” and allowing a third party to take tests for students and provide or correct students’ responses on exams, according to court documents.

Martin Fox, a Houston resident described as a president of a private tennis camp, was indicted on a conspiracy to commit racketeering charge. According to court documents, Fox arranged and organized several bribes, including bribes to Williams and to University of Texas at Austin tennis coach Michael Center.

Center, charged with “conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud,” accepted roughly \$100,000 in bribes in exchange for recruiting a student to the tennis team despite the applicant not playing competitive tennis, the indictment says.

Around 50 people across the country involved with the case have been charged and more than a dozen arrests have been made, according to a release from the Department of Justice.



California resident William “Rick” Singer (on right above) is at the center of the alleged cheating schemes.

For-profit college counseling and preparation program the Edge College and Career Network, also known as “The Key,” was behind the nationwide scheme, for which parents paid anywhere between \$15,000 and \$75,000 per test, according to documents.

ts owner, William “Rick” Singer, 58, of Newport Beach, Calif., served as CEO of nonprofit corporation Key Worldwide Foundation, a purported charity which funneled payments and disguised bribes as charitable payments between 2011 and February 2019, court documents stated.

Singer worked with parents and coached them on forms of fraud and bribery to get their children into colleges. He was charged with racketeering conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

in which the U.S. Department of Justice claims wealthy Americans, including Hollywood celebrities, tried to get their children into prestigious schools by cheating.

The charges involve 50 people, most of them wealthy parents allegedly trying to scam top schools to gain admission for their children, according to a March 12 press release from the Department of Justice. Among those charged were actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin.

California resident William “Rick” Singer is at the center of the alleged schemes, which the DOJ claims took place between approximately 2011 and February 2019 and involved a wide range of universities including Yale, Stanford,

Georgetown and UCLA. The alleged schemes included cheating on the SAT and ACT exams and facilitating students’ admission “to elite universities under the guise of being recruited as athletes,” per the release.



Hollywood actresses Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman are among 50 people charged in a \$25 million college entrance exam cheating scheme, according to court documents unsealed in Boston last Tuesday.

One of the DOJ indictments alleges Singer was generally paid between \$15,000 and \$75,000 per test to facilitate the alleged cheating. The FBI said Singer was the head of “a purported charity” called Key Worldwide Foundation, and the alleged payments were typically structured as purported donations to KWF, per the indictment.

The indictment alleges that “Singer used the purported charitable donations from

parents, at least in part, to bribe” California resident Igor Dvorskiy and Houston resident Lisa “Niki” Williams, who administered the SAT and ACT exams in Los Angeles and Houston, respectively. Williams and Dvorskiy “caused the falsified exams to be returned to Act Inc. and the College Board via Federal Express and UPS, respectively, so that they could be scored,” the indictment alleges. Williams was an assistant teacher at an unnamed public high school in Houston, per the indictment.

“Singer initially funneled the bribe payments to Williams through (Martin Fox), but in July 2018, Singer sent Williams a \$5,000 check directly,” the indictment alleges. Another Houston resident, Fox was president of a private tennis academy and camp in Houston, per the indictment.

The indictment also alleges Fox arranged bribes between Singer and Michael Center, head coach of men’s tennis at the University of Texas at Austin, and an unspecified varsity sports coach at the University of San Diego to facilitate students’ admissions to the schools as athletic recruits, even though they did not play the associated sports.

“Integrity in admissions is vital to the academic and ethical standards of our university. The University of Texas at Austin is cooperating with federal investigators and is concerned by the allegations raised, which run counter to the university’s values,” J.B. Bird, media relations director for UT Austin, said in a statement. “Men’s Tennis Coach Michael Center was placed on leave as soon as we learned of the charges against him, which are being fully investigated. We are continuing to gather information and review our processes. Based on what we know at present, we believe this was an isolated incident in 2015 that involved one coach and no other university employees or officers.”



Federal officials from the U.S. Department of Justice have prosecuted multiple individuals nationwide in a scheme whereby allegedly bribes were paid of up to \$6.5 million to get their children into elite colleges.

Those indicted in the investigation, dubbed “Operation Varsity Blues,” allegedly paid bribes of up to \$6.5 million to get their children into elite colleges, including Yale, Stanford, Georgetown and the University of Southern California, federal prosecutors said.

“This case is about the widening corruption of elite college admissions through the steady application of wealth combined with fraud,” Andrew Lelling, the U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts, said at a news conference.

“There can be no separate college admissions system for the wealthy and, I’ll add, there will not be a separate criminal justice system either,” Lelling said.

“The University of San Diego has been cooperating with the United States Department of Justice’s investigation involving an alleged criminal conspiracy to facilitate cheating on college entrance exams and admission into colleges and universities,” the school said in a statement to San Diego’s Fox 5 TV station. “We have no reason to believe that any members of our admissions team, our administration or staff, or our current coaching staff were aware of or involved in the alleged wrongdoing. We believe the federal government agrees with this assessment.”

The indictment against Williams, Fox, Dvorskiy and nine others includes charges of racketeering conspiracy. Center was charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud. (Courtesy bizjournals.com)

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## Billionaire Musk Releases All Tesla Patents To Help Save The Earth

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



**Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Shanghai's Mayor Ying Yong attend the Tesla Shanghai Gigafactory groundbreaking ceremony in Shanghai, China Jan. 7, 2019. Aly Song, Reuters**

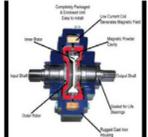
SAN FRANCISCO - Elon Musk announced Thursday he had released all of the electric carmaker Tesla's patents, as part of an effort to fight climate change.

In a blog post, the colorful billionaire founder of Tesla promised the company "will not initiate patent lawsuits against anyone who, in good faith, wants to use our technology." It was a remarkable move in an industry where the smallest idea or seed of invention is carefully guarded to protect its monetary value.

And it in fact came on the same day US prosecutors charged a Chinese national with stealing secrets from Apple's self-driving vehicle project.

"Tesla Motors was created to accelerate the advent of sustainable transport," Musk said. "If we clear a path to the creation of compelling electric vehicles, but then lay intellectual property landmines behind us to inhibit others, we are acting in a manner contrary to that goal."

In fact Musk said he was now skeptical of patents which too often only served "to stifle progress" and helped enrich giant corporations and lawyers rather than inventors.



He said he had earlier felt compelled to file patents for Tesla to prevent big car companies from copying the technology and using the

huge marketing and sales apparatus to take over the market.

"We couldn't have been more wrong. The unfortunate reality is the opposite," he said, noting that electric or clean-fuel cars "at the major manufacturers are small to non-existent."

But with car production continuing at 100 million a year "it is impossible for Tesla to build electric cars fast enough to address the carbon crisis," Musk said.

Have other companies making electric cars and the world would benefit from rapid advances in technology.

"We believe that applying the open-source philosophy to our patents will strengthen rather than diminish Tesla's position," and ability to attract talented engineers, he said. Shares of Tesla declined again Thursday after dropping Wednesday following mixed results for 2018. (Courtesy <https://news.abcn.com>)

### Related Why Elon Musk reminded the world about Tesla's patents being available for good use Overview

Elon Musk released Tesla's patents four years ago for the world to speed up electric vehicle technology. Last week, he reiterated that mankind should be able to share knowledge and not hide it behind the walls of large corporations. There was a reason he

came out on social media about protecting the environment.



**Tesla Founder and CEO Elon Musk. (Image: Flickr)**  
This past week, the polar vortex saw temperatures plummet across the northern hemisphere. Several parts of the US were reportedly colder than Antarctica. Eight people were killed as a result and flights across northern and western America were cancelled. It prompted Tesla Founder Elon Musk to tweet a reminder about the need to look hard at sustainable energy in a bid to save the planet.

**Elon Musk** ✓ @elonmusk

Our true competition is not the small trickle of non-Tesla electric cars being produced, but rather the enormous flood of gasoline cars pouring out of the world's factories every day. All our patent are belong to you <https://www.tesla.com/blog/all-our-patent-are-belong-to-you> ... [pic.twitter.com/t99riofcI](https://pic.twitter.com/t99riofcI) 20.1K

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All of this has a back story. Musk warned everyone of the changes happening thanks to gasoline cars way back in 2014. Back then he only wanted to ensure that the world understands the value of sharing patents and why the world could be a better place if one opened up patents that were otherwise locked in corporate vaults for years.

Now here is why only Elon Musk can make the world think of how to make our planet a better place. Tesla finished 2018 with an 83 percent share of the U.S. battery-electric vehicle market, Musk told reporters this week. The last time this happened was when the Ford Model T was launched 100 years ago.

**Elon Musk** ✓ @elonmusk

Exciting to see all the new electric vehicles coming to market! We created Tesla to accelerate a sustainable future & it's happening! <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/31/automakers-flood-market-with-electric-vehicles--potentially-creating-pile-up-of-epic-proportions.html> ...

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Tesla's founder and CEO Elon Musk speaks at a Tesla event. (Image: Flickr)

Tesla now plans to increase production of the Model 3 and also plan the launch of three new product lines in 2019. However there are serious contenders. Automaker like Zotye and Acura are plugging into electric vehicles, with industry analysts expecting to see nearly a dozen new all-electric vehicles in U.S. showrooms by the end of 2019, with dozens more coming to market in 2020. Jaguar, Mercedes and Volkswagen are working on cars that can give Tesla a real run for their money.

But for Musk, market share is secondary. He wants the world to use his technology and build solutions that can save the planet. To know more [one must go back to the blog he put out in 2014](#), where he said:

"Yesterday, there was a wall of Tesla patents in the lobby of our Palo Alto headquarters. That is no longer the case. They have been removed, in the spirit of the open source movement, for the advancement of electric vehicle technology."

His blog post also said, "Tesla Motors was created to accelerate the advent of sustainable transport. If we clear a path to the creation of compelling electric vehicles, but then lay intellectual property landmines behind us to inhibit others, we are acting in a manner contrary to that goal. Tesla will not initiate patent lawsuits against anyone who, in good faith, wants to use our technology."

In an age where technology is patented as soon as it is invented, Elon Musk's philosophy seems formidable - and thought provoking.

He had said that when he started out with his first company, Zip2, he thought patents were a good thing and worked hard to obtain them. "And maybe they were good long ago, but too often these days they serve merely to stifle progress, entrench the positions of giant corporations, and enrich those in the legal profession, rather than the

actual inventors. After Zip2, when I realized that receiving a patent really just meant that you bought a lottery ticket to a lawsuit, I avoided them whenever possible," he wrote.

In fact, the early Tesla was all about patents as Musk went after them to protect himself from large corporations.

"At Tesla, we felt compelled to create patents out of concern that big car companies would copy our technology and then use their massive manufacturing, sales, and marketing power to overwhelm Tesla. We couldn't have been more wrong. The unfortunate reality is the opposite; electric car programmes (or programmes for any vehicle that doesn't burn hydrocarbons) at major manufacturers are small to non-existent, constituting an average of far less than 1 percent of their total vehicle sales," he added on the blog.

Musk took a dig at conventional automakers for producing electric cars with limited range and volume. The electric vehicle technology and business is huge. Unfortunately, pointed out Musk, with annual new vehicle production at 100 million per year, "it is impossible for Tesla to build electric cars fast enough to address the carbon crisis".

"We believe that Tesla, other companies making electric cars, and the world would all benefit from a common, rapidly-evolving technology platform," Musk had written.

Clearly, to Musk, life is about making big changes around us. "Technology leadership is not defined by patents, which history has repeatedly shown to be small protection indeed against a determined competitor, but rather by the ability of a company to attract and motivate the world's most talented engineers. We believe that applying the open-source philosophy to our patents will strengthen rather than diminish Tesla's position in this regard," he stated on his blog.

The serial entrepreneur has set a precedent, but will others follow suit and change the way companies function? (Courtesy your-story.com)

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A Tesla Model S car.

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The serial entrepreneur has set a precedent, but will others follow suit and change the way companies function? (Courtesy your-story.com)

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