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Trump vows executive order requiring 'free speech' at colleges

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday he would soon sign an executive order requiring American universities and colleges to maintain "free speech" on campuses and threatened that schools not complying could lose federal research funds.

Trump made his remarks at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference after bringing to the stage Hayden Williams, a conservative activist who was punched at the University of California, Berkeley, last month while recruiting students for a conservative group.

"Today, I am proud to announce that I will be very soon signing an executive order requiring colleges and universities to support free speech if they want federal research funds," Trump said.

If universities do not comply "it will be very costly," he said. The U.S. government awards universities more than \$30 billion annually in research funds.

The White House did not immediately respond a request for comment on details of the order.



U.S. President Donald Trump hugs American flag at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) annual meeting at National Harbor near Washington, U.S., REUTERS/Yuri Gripas TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

Freedom of speech is enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

It is not the first time that Trump, who has repeatedly lashed out at the media with cries of "fake news" and has called current defamation laws "a sham and a disgrace," has threatened retaliatory action related to free speech.

Last September, he suggested in a tweet that the license of television networks could be at risk, though he offered no specifics in his tweet, which singled out NBC.

Broadcast networks do not receive general licenses, but they do hold licenses from the Federal Communications Commission for individual local stations they own.

In 2017, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said the agency does not have authority to revoke broadcast licenses over editorial decisions. "I believe in the First Amendment," said Pai, whom Trump appointed as the FCC chair.

Trump on Saturday suggested that Williams sue the man

who punched him and also "sue the college, the university. And maybe sue the state." He suggested that Williams was going to be "a very wealthy young man."

Trump slams Mueller probe at CPAC
If universities "want our dollars — and we give to them by the billions — they have to allow people like Hayden and many other great young people and old people to speak — free speech," Trump said.

Trump administration officials have

suggested that the rights of speakers on college campuses have been trampled by student protesters who find their views offensive and suggested conservatives have been unfairly targeted.

The U.S. Justice Department filed a statement of interest in 2018 in a free speech lawsuit filed against the University of California, Berkeley, accusing the school of discriminating against speakers with conservative views.

In a settlement announced in December, the university will modify its pro-

cedures for handling "major events," which typically draw hundreds of people, and agreed not to charge "security" fees for a variety of activities, including lectures and speeches. It will also pay \$70,000 to cover legal costs of the Berkeley College Republicans and the Tennessee-based Young America's

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Editor's Choice



A worker cleans up outside the Legislative Council, a day after protesters broke into the building in Hong Kong, China July 2, 2019. REUTERS/Jorge Silva TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Soccer Football - Copa America - Peru Training - Beira Rio Stadium, Porto Alegre, Brazil - July 1, 2019 General view outside the stadium before Peru's training REUTERS/Diego Vara TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Tennis - Wimbledon - All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, London, Britain - July 1, 2019 Cori Gauff of the U.S. in action during her first round match against Venus Williams of the U.S. REUTERS/Toby Melville TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A U.S. Border Patrol agent holds infant dolls in preparation for a demonstration during a 'Border Safety Initiative' media event at the U.S.-Mexico border in Mission, Texas, U.S., July 1, 2019. REUTERS/Loren Elliott TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



2019 UEFA European Under-21 Championship - Final - Spain v Germany



A Hindu devotee performs a stunt with fire during a rehearsal ahead of the annual Rath Yatra, or chariot procession, in Ahmedabad, India, June 30, 2019. REUTERS/Amit Dave



Tennis - Wimbledon - All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, London, Britain - July 1, 2019 Cori Gauff of the U.S. in action during her first round match against Venus Williams of the U.S. REUTERS/Toby Melville



FILE PHOTO: Former Canadian Olympians, rower Marnie McBean (R) and downhill ski racer Steve Podborski, carry torches during a Canadian Olympic Committee ceremony in Vancouver, British Columbia May 10, 2013. REUTERS/Andy Clark/ File Photo

National Geographic Launches Effort To Reduce Plastic Waste

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



“Planet or Plastic” is the cover story on the June 2018 issue of “National Geographic” magazine.

National Geographic launched a new campaign last week to reduce waste from plastic products like single-use bags and straws, which includes a major change: most National Geographic magazines will now be delivered in paper packaging instead of plastic.

The magazine reports that 18 billions pounds of plastic waste end up in oceans every year and that less than a fifth of plastic produced around the world is recycled. The launch of the “Planet or Plastic?” initiative coincides with National Geographic’s June issue, which has a photo of a plastic bag positioned like an iceberg on the cover.

Company officials said in a press release that from now on the U.S, U.K. and India editions of the magazine will be delivered in paper instead of plastic, which the release said will eliminate 2.5 million single-use plastic bags every month.

Several other companies have said they will either change or recycle more of their packaging to reduce plastic pollution in oceans, including Nestle, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, and Walmart.



Seahorse uses a q-tip to ride the ocean currents.

In addition to changing the packaging on its own magazine, the National Geographic initiative will include an awareness campaign about plastics pollution, investment in research programs and partnerships with companies like S’Well and The North Face, which will sell shirts made from recycled bottles collected from National Parks. The partnership between The North Face and the National Park Foundation also provides a dollar for every product sold to support projects in National Parks, according to the foundation’s website.

Nick Mallos, the director of the Trash Free Seas program for the advocacy group Ocean Conservancy, said it’s important to emphasize that there is no single solution to the issue of plastic pollution but that the commitment from National Geographic and other companies is a positive step.

“I think it’s fantastic that they’ve covered this issue so holistically – specifically, to see all the facets of ocean plastic that they’ve explored in this piece. These initiatives can have a tremendous impact,” Mallos said.



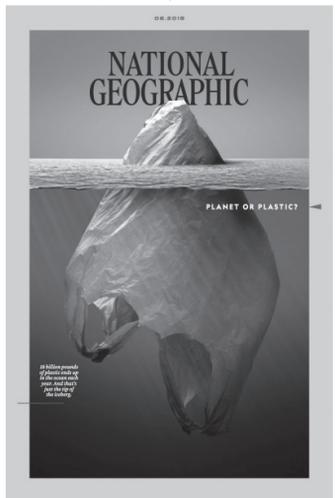
Plastic bottles choke the Cibeles fountain, outside city hall in central Madrid. An art collective called Luzinterruptus filled this and two other Madrid fountains with 60,000 discarded bottles last fall.

Related

This National Geographic Cover Has People Buzzing For An Important Reason The striking cover certainly makes you think.

They say you shouldn’t judge a book by its cover, but magazines — including Nation-

al Geographic — have long been known for their iconic covers that spark conversation. Now, the 130-year-old publication has new cover art to add to the collection of images that get people buzzing. The June 2018 issue, “Planet Or Plastic?”, features what appears to be an iceberg. But look more closely:



“Plastic Bag” magazine cover

Yep, it’s a plastic bag. The artwork, called “Iceberg Plastico,” was actually created in 2017 by Mexican artist Jorge Gamboa, but National Geographic saw the illustration and decided it would be the perfect image to kick off its “Planet or Plastic” campaign, the magazine’s “multiyear effort to raise awareness about the global plastic trash crisis.”

The amazing cover has already done a great job of prompting discussion all over the internet. Vaughn Wallace, the magazine’s senior photo editor, tweeted out the cover on May 16 and it has already gotten more than 57,000 retweets.



Gerald Butts

✓@gmbutts Brilliant cover. This one will be an icon. Well done, @Nat-

Geo. <https://twitter.com/NatGeoMag/status/996752298822037505> 2:06 PM - May 16, 2018

And National Geographic is walking the walk itself. Starting with this issue, Wallace said the magazine will no longer be shipped to readers in a plastic bag, but will be sent out in a paper envelope instead. “This change alone will save more than 2.5 million single-use plastic bags every month,” wrote Editor-in-Chief Susan Goldberg. “We’ve also challenged all our international partners — who publish 36 local-language editions of National Geographic around the globe — to get rid of plastic wrappers by the end of 2019.”



Under a bridge on a branch of the Buriganga River in Bangladesh, a family removes labels from plastic bottles, sorting green from clear ones to sell to a scrap dealer. Waste pickers here average around \$100 a month.

Goldberg went on to assert that the plastic wrappers effort is just the first step in a larger campaign. “Under the campaign banner of ‘Planet or Plastic?’ we’ll deploy content across all our platforms to raise awareness and encourage consumers to act,” she wrote.

The cover story was written by Laura Parker and features data, stories and even more photos of just how bad the plastic problem is.

“The miracle material has made modern life possible,” Parker wrote. “But more than 40 percent of it is used just once, and it’s choking our waterways.”

Reducing the amount of plastic in our environment is an enormous issue that will require a global commitment to change. Luckily, National Geographic isn’t tackling this issue solo. Other efforts to reduce the amount of plastic in the environment are underway



On Okinawa, Japan, a hermit crab resorts to a plastic bottle cap to protect its soft abdomen. Beachgoers collect the shells the crabs normally use, and they leave trash behind.



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More than 10,000 illegal immigrants from countries that the United States has designated as state sponsors of terrorism have been ordered removed or have pending final orders of removal, but are still currently living in the U.S., Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) records show.

Included are illegals from Iran, Syria, Sudan and North Korea, according to the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI), which obtained the records via the Freedom of Information Act. All four of those countries have been designated as state sponsors of terrorism by the U.S. State Department. More than 6,000 of the illegals on ICE's National Docket are from Iran, which adds up to 61 percent of the removal orders of illegals from terror states. Iran is followed by Syria with 20 percent, Sudan with 18 percent, and North Korea with less than one percent.

The United States has classified Iran as the foremost state sponsor of terrorism, alleging that Iran provides "a range of support, including financial, training, weapons, and equipment to [terrorist] groups around the world — particularly Hizbullah." The Trump administration has focused on Iran's activities, including recently officially designating that nation's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.



U.S. Intelligence officials and security experts recently testified in Congress about the existence of Iranian terrorist "sleeper cells" operating within the United States. According to Congressman Peter King, New York Republican and member of the House Homeland Security Committee, there is mounting evidence that Iran poses a "direct threat to the homeland."

Growing Number Of Illegals From Terror Nations Now Reside In U.S.



Illegals from Iran, Syria, Sudan and North Korea are on ICE's National Docket for removal.

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

Thomas Homan, former acting director of ICE, recently commented on the issue, stating, "My biggest concern isn't how many terrorists have been arrested entering the country illegally, but how many got through? How many did Border Patrol not catch? That's what Americans should be thinking about."

IRLI noted that "State and local law enforcement agencies used to be a force multiplier for ICE when they ran a person's name through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and learned that the person was wanted on an administrative warrant for removal from the United States, but sanctuary laws prevent law enforcement agencies from detaining and even contacting ICE."

Although sanctuary laws have prevented the apprehension of illegal aliens with removal orders, ICE was still able to remove on average about 44 per year who were known or suspected terrorists in fiscal years

2017 and 2018.



Recent reports House Homeland Security Committee indicate that there is mounting evidence that Iran poses a "direct threat to the homeland."

"It's simply unacceptable that we have more than 10,000 illegals here from terrorist states that are sworn enemies of America. We saw on 9/11 the damage that only 19 sleeper cell terrorists could cause. This is just the latest example of the disaster of sanctuary laws, which force ICE agents to operate with one hand tied behind their backs while making our communities inherently more danger-

ous," said Dale L. Wilcox, executive director and general counsel of IRLI.

During the Obama administration, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) admitted that dozens of Syrian nationals suspected of having terrorist ties slipped into the U.S.

DHS claimed that federal agents missed "possible derogatory information" about the immigrants due to "a lapse in vetting." Judicial Watch noted that "Among those who slipped through the cracks is a man who failed a polygraph test after applying to work at a U.S. military installation and another who communicated with an Islamic State leader. Regardless, President Obama let thousands of Syrians settle in the U.S. even as his own intelligence and immigration officials warned that individuals with ties to terrorist groups used the program to infiltrate the country and that there was no way to properly screen refugees."

Along the U.S.-Mexico border, federal agents routinely encounter individuals from terrorist nations and DHS considers them one of the top threats to the United States. The government classifies them as Special Interest Aliens (SIA) and they are flowing north via Latin America in huge numbers thanks to established Transitional Criminal Organizations (TCO) that facilitate travel along drug and migrant smuggling routes.

A congressional investigation earlier this year found that tens of thousands of SIAs — from the Middle East, Asia and Africa — entered Panama and Colombia in the past few years. Nearly all the SIA migrants were headed to the United States and most came from Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Bangladesh and India. Encounters with the special interest individuals resulted in the seizure of tens of thousands of fraudulent documents — including passports and visas — that facilitated travel from their countries of origin through the Americas, according to a January report by the House Homeland Security Committee.

The famously porous Mexican border is an easy pathway into the U.S. for many SIAs. In Laredo, Texas alone authorities report a 300 percent increase in immigrants from Bangladesh, a south Asian Islamic country well known as a recruiting ground for ter-

rorist groups such as ISIS and Al Qaida Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

According to Mexican media reports, hundreds of illegal immigrants from Africa, India, Bangladesh and other non-Central American nations are currently in Mexico awaiting asylum in the U.S.

Most are holed up in Tapachula, which is in the southeast Mexican state of Chiapas bordering Guatemala. One group featured recently in a Mexican newspaper article took nine months to reach Chiapas. They went from Angola to Brazil where they spent four months before traveling to Peru,



Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica then Nicaragua. Once they reached Honduras, the African illegal aliens took three days to purchase a photo identification and bus ticket to Guatemala, where they say it was easy passage to Mexico.

Another group featured in the same story came from Cameroon, home of the extremist groups Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa (ISWA). The illegal aliens say they flew from Cameroon to Ecuador before traveling through Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala and finally Mexico.

All of the Africans plan to continue into the United States where they expect to "achieve refuge," according to the news report.

According to the Mexican media reports, tens of thousands of Central Americans and Cubans, around 800 migrants from Congo, Cameroon, Guinea, Pakistan, Syria, Nepal and Pakistan, among others, await U.S. asylum in Mexico. (Courtesy www.worldtribune.com.)

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