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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Jury awards \$45.2 million in punitive damages in Alex Jones Sandy Hook trial

Aug 5 (Reuters) - U.S. conspiracy theorist Alex Jones must pay the parents of a 6-year-old boy killed in the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre \$45.2 million in punitive damages - on top of \$4.1 million in compensatory damages already awarded - for falsely claiming the shooting was a hoax, a Texas jury decided on Friday.

Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis, separated parents of slain 6-year-old Jesse Lewis, testified that followers of Jones harassed them and sent them death threats for years in the false belief that they were lying about their son's death in the Dec. 14, 2012, shooting that killed 20 children and six staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

The 12-person jury on Thursday decided on the compensatory damages following a two-week trial in the defamation lawsuit presided over by Judge Maya Guerra Gamble in state court in the Texas capital of Austin, where Jones' radio show and webcast Infowars are based.

The parents had sought \$145.9 million in punitive damages and \$150 million in compensatory damages. Compensatory damages are awarded to cover a plaintiff's suffering and losses. Punitive damages are awarded to punish a defendant's actions.

Jones, who has been a prominent figure in American right-wing circles and a supporter of former President Donald Trump, had called the Sandy Hook massacre a hoax by the U.S. government staged using crisis actors to serve as a pretext for taking away Americans' guns.

"We ask that you send a very, very simple message, and that is: stop Alex Jones. Stop the monetization of misinformation and lies," Wesley Todd Ball, a lawyer for the parents, told jurors earlier on Friday before they began deliberations on punitive damages.

The Sandy Hook gunman, Adam Lanza, used a Remington Bushmaster rifle to carry out the massacre. It ended when Lanza killed himself with the approaching sound of police sirens.

An attorney for Jones, Federico Andino Reynal, asked jurors to return a verdict of \$270,000 based on the number of hours Infowars devoted to Sandy Hook coverage.

Forensic economist Bernard Pettingill testified on Friday on behalf of Lewis' parents that Jones "promulgated some hate speech and some misinformation" and "made a lot of money." Jones and Infowars are worth between \$135 million and \$270 million combined, Pettingill said.



Jones sought to distance himself from the conspiracy theories during his testimony, apologizing to the parents and acknowledging that Sandy Hook was "100% real."

Jones' company, Free Speech Systems LLC, declared bankruptcy last week. Jones said during



a Monday broadcast that the filing will help the company stay on the air while it appeals. The bank-

ruptcy declaration paused a similar defamation suit by Sandy Hook parents in Connecticut where, as in Texas, he has already been found liable.

During closing arguments on Wednesday, Kyle Farrar, a lawyer for the parents, urged the jury to end what he called their nightmare and hold Jones accountable for profiting off their son's death. Reynal acknowledged during his closing argument that Jones and Infowars reported "irresponsibly" on Sandy Hook but said his client was not responsible for the harassment.

The plaintiffs also have accused Jones of approaching the trial in bad faith, citing broadcasts in which he said the proceedings were rigged against him and that the jury pool was full of people who "don't know what planet they're on."

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/05/2022

H.D. Chambers, Thank You For Your Service



Last Thursday at the monthly meeting of the Houston International District, our board member, Mr. H.D. Chambers, who has served on the board for the past several years, announced his retirement after thirty-seven years of service at his education post.

H.D. has served as superintendent with a career of thirty-seven years in Texas public education. Prior to taking on the leadership role as the superintendent of the Alief School District, in the spring of 2011, he also served as superintendent for the Stafford School District.

H.D. has created a meaningful and useful opportunity for educators to prepare students for higher education, the workforce and the armed services.

In the last twenty years since the establishment of the Houston International District, our board members have come from business, education and local community leaders. The district has made great contributions to promoting the economic prosperity of the local community while developing the culture and improving the public safety. At the farewell party for H.D., we presented him with a plaque of appreciation and expressed our heartfelt thanks for his service to our community.

In the last twenty years we have had support from people representing all walks of life. Many newcomers are still coming to our area to start their new lives. We always open our arms to welcome all of them. This is a great nation which will continue to benefit from all the newcomers.

Mr. H.D. Chambers, we all wish you well and much joy in your retirement life.



Alief
Independent School District
Message from the Superintendent



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



The Trump Tribe of Texas participates in a prayer at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Dallas, Texas. REUTERS/Shelby Tauber



Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary, gestures to the audience after speaking. REUTERS/Brian Snyder



U.S. Senator Chris Murphy checks his phone in an elevator outside the Senate floor in the United States Capitol building in Washington. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein



Birds fly on a smoggy morning in Jakarta, Indonesia. REUTERS/Willy Kurniawan



U.S. Representative Jim Jordan (R-OH) autographs a book for man wearing a shirt showing former U.S. President Donald Trump and the words "Sexiest Man Alive". REUTERS/Brian Snyder



A cardboard cutout of former U.S. Donald Trump. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

Highlights From The United Nations' Latest Release Of Its World Population Estimates

Key Findings From The 2022 United Nations Population Prospects Study

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



By Hannah Ritchie, Edouard Mathieu, Lucas Rodés-Guirao and Marcel Gerber

#1. The World Population Will Pass 8 Billion At The End Of 2022

Since 1975 the world has been adding another billion people every 12 years.

It passed its last milestone - 7 billion in 2011. And, by the end of 2022, it will pass another one: there will be 8 billion people in the world.

While this rate of absolute growth is similar to previous decades, the growth rate continues to fall. Since 2019, the global population growth rate has fallen below 1%.



That's less than half its peak rate of growth - of 2.3% - in the 1960s.

As global fertility rates continue to fall (see below), this rate will continue to fall.

#2. The UN Estimates Around 15 Million Excess Deaths In 2020 And 2021 From The COVID-19 Pandemic

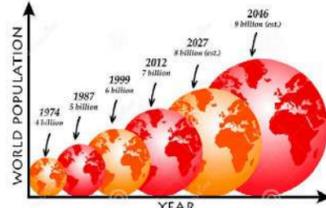
The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a significant impact on global population and migration trends.

We know that the confirmed death toll from COVID-19 is likely to significantly underestimate the true number of deaths because of limited testing. One way to get a better estimate of the total mortality impact of the pandemic is to look at excess mortality data. We can look at the total number of deaths and compare this to the number we expect to occur in a non-pandemic year.

In its latest population dataset, the UN estimates that in 2020, there were approximately 5 million excess deaths. In 2021, this figure was 10 million.

This estimate of 15 million excess deaths over 2020 and 2021 is in line with estimates from other organizations. The Economist put its central estimate of excess deaths at 17.6 million. The World Health Organization, which is a UN organization, estimated 14.9 million excess deaths.

These death figures are highly uncertain. But what's clear is that the number of confirmed deaths - which was just 5.4 million by the end of 2021 - captures just a fraction of the true impact of the pandemic.



#3. The Global Population Is Projected To Peak At Around 10.4 Billion In 2086

The world population has increased rapidly over the last century. When will it come to an end? Previous versions of the UN World Population Prospects showed a significant slowdown in population growth, with very slow growth - almost reaching a plateau - by the end of the century. In its previous release, it projected that the world population would be around 10.88 billion in 2100, and would not yet have peaked.

In this new release, the UN projects that the global population will peak before the end of the century - in 2086 at just over 10.4 billion people.1

There are several reasons for this earlier, and lower, peak. One is that the UN expects fertility rates to fall more quickly in low-income countries compared to previous revisions. It also expects less of a 'rebound' in fertility rates across high-income countries in the second half of the century.

#4. The Global Fertility Rate Has Continued To Decline To 2.3 Births Per Woman

A key determinant of the global population rate is the average number of children that women have over their lifetime - the 'fertility rate'.

Fertility rates have fallen rapidly across the world in recent decades. In 1950, the average woman gave birth around 5 times. Since then, fertility rates have more than halved. In 2021, this global figure was 2.3 births per woman.



If you switch to the map tab in the interactive chart you see that most people in the world now live in countries where fertility rates are at - or below - the 'replacement level'. This is the level at which populations would stabilize or shrink over the long-term. The UN reports that two-thirds of people live in countries where the fertility rate is below 2.1 births per woman. In some high-income countries such as South Korea, Japan, Spain, or Italy, it is as low as 1.3 births per woman.

#5. Next Year India Is Expected To Take Over From China As The World's Most Populous Country

China has been the world's most populous country for decades. It is now home to more than 1.4 billion people. However, its population growth rate has fallen

significantly following a rapid drop in its fertility rate over the 1970s and 80s.

The fertility rate in India has also fallen substantially in recent decades - from 5.7 births per woman in 1950 to just 2 births per woman today. However, the rate of this decline has been slower.

Because of this, India will very soon overtake China as the most populous country in the world. The UN expects this to happen in 2023. (Courtesy https://ourworldindata.org/) For more information, go here: https://ourworldindata.org/world-population-update-2022.

Related

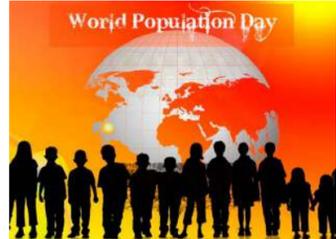
World Population Highlights The Current World Population 7.961,890,500 TOP 20 LARGEST COUNTRIES BY POPULATION

Table listing top 20 largest countries by population with their respective populations.

World Population: Past, Present, and Future

At the dawn of agriculture, about 8000 B.C., the population of the world was approximately 5 million. Over the 8,000-year period up to A.D. it grew to 200 million (some estimate 300 million or even 600 million, suggesting how imprecise population estimates of early historical periods can be), with a growth rate of under 0.05% per year.

A tremendous change occurred with the industrial revolution: whereas it had taken all of human history until around 1800 for world population to reach one billion, the second billion was achieved in only 130 years (1930), the third billion in 30 years (1960), the fourth billion in 15 years (1974), and the fifth billion in only 13 years (1987).



- During the 20th century alone, the population in the world has grown from 1.65 billion to 6 billion.
• In 1970, there were roughly half as many people in the world as there are now.
• Because of declining growth rates, it will now take over 200 years to double again.

Population Growth Rate

Population in the world is, as of 2020, growing at a rate of around 1.05% per year (down from 1.08% in 2019, 1.10% in 2018, and 1.12% in 2017). The current average population increase is estimated at 81 million

people per year.

Annual growth rate reached its peak in the late 1960s, when it was at around 2%. The rate of increase has nearly halved since then, and will continue to decline in the coming years.

World population will therefore continue to grow in the 21st century, but at a much slower rate compared to the recent past. World population has doubled (100% increase) in 40 years from 1959 (3 billion) to 1999 (6 billion). It is now estimated that it will take another nearly 40 years to increase by another 50% to become 9 billion by 2037.



The latest world population projections indicate that world population will reach 10 billion persons in the year 2057.

World Population Forecast (2020-2050) 10 Billion (2057) The United Nations projects world population to reach 10 billion in the year 2057.

9 Billion (2037) World population is expected to reach 9 billion in the year 2037.

8 Billion (2023) World population is expected to reach 8 billion people in 2023 according to the United Nations (in 2026 according to the U.S. Census Bureau).

7.96 Billion (2022) The current world population is 7.96 billion as of July 2022 [1] according to the most recent United Nations estimates elaborated by Worldometer. The term "World Population" refers to the human population (the total number of humans currently living) of the world.



7 Billion (2011) According to the United Nations, world population reached 7 billion on October 31, 2011.

The US Census Bureau made a lower estimate, for which the 7 billion mark was only reached on March 12, 2012.

6 Billion (1999) According to the United Nations, the 6 billion figure was reached on October 12, 1999 (celebrated as the Day of 6 Billion). According to the U.S. Census Bureau instead, the six billion milestone was reached on July 22, 1999, at about 3:49 AM GMT. Yet, according to the U.S. Census, the date and time of when 6 billion was reached will probably change because the already uncertain estimates are constantly being updated. (Courtesy https://www.worldometers.info/)

United Nations

July 11, 2022 Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division World Population Prospects 2022 The 2022 Revision of World Population Prospects is the twenty-seventh edition of official United Nations population estimates and projections that have been prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. It presents population estimates from 1950 to the present for 237 countries or areas, underpinned by analyses of historical demographic trends. This latest assessment considers the results of 1,758 national population censuses conducted between 1950 and 2022, as well as information from vital registration systems and from 2,890 nationally representative sample surveys. The 2022 revision also presents population projections to the year 2100 that reflect a range of plausible outcomes at the global, regional and national levels.

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

Russian War In World's 'Breadbasket' Threatens Global Food Supply



Farmers harvest with their combines in a wheat field near the village Tbilisskaya, Russia, July 21, 2021. The Russian tanks and missiles besieging Ukraine also are threatening the food supply and livelihoods of people in Europe, Africa and Asia who rely on the vast, fertile farmlands known as the "breadbasket of the world." Russia and Ukraine combine for about a third of the world's wheat and barley exports and provide large amounts of corn and cooking oils. (Photo/Vitaly Timkiv, AP File)

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

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — The Russian tanks and missiles besieging Ukraine also are threatening the food supply and livelihoods of people in Europe, Africa and Asia who rely on the vast, fertile farmlands of the Black Sea region — known as the "breadbasket of the world." Ukrainian farmers have been forced to neglect their fields as millions flee, fight or try to stay alive. Ports are shut down that send wheat and other food staples worldwide to be made into bread, noodles and animal feed. And there are worries Russia, another agricultural powerhouse, could have its grain exports upended by Western sanctions.

dairy if farmers are forced to pass along costs to customers.



Farmers harvest with their combines in a wheat field near the village Tbilisskaya, Russia, July 21, 2021. The Russian tanks and missiles besieging Ukraine also are threatening the food supply and livelihoods of people in Europe, Africa and Asia who rely on the vast, fertile farmlands known as the "breadbasket of the world." Russia and Ukraine combine for about a third of the world's wheat and barley exports and provide large amounts of corn and cooking oils. (Photo/Vitaly Timkiv, AP File)

Russia and Ukraine combine for nearly a third of the world's wheat and barley exports. Ukraine also is a major supplier of corn and the global leader in sunflower oil, used in food processing. The war could reduce food supplies just when

prices are at their highest levels since 2011.

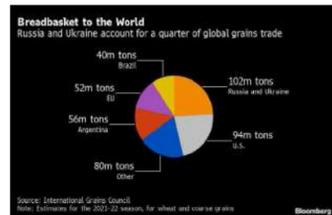
A prolonged conflict would have a big impact some 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) away in Egypt, the world's largest wheat importer. Millions rely on subsidized bread made from Ukrainian grains to survive, with about a third of people living in poverty.

"Wars mean shortages, and shortages mean (price) hikes," Ahmed Salah, a 47-year-old father of seven, said in Cairo. "Any hikes will be catastrophic not only for me, but for the majority of the people."

Anna Nagurney, a professor of supply chains, logistics and economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, said, "Wheat, corn, oils, barley, flour are extremely important to food security ... especially in the poorer parts of the globe."

With Ukrainian men being called on to fight, she said, "Who's going to be doing the harvesting? Who'd be doing the transportation?"

Egypt's state procurer of wheat, which normally buys heavily from Russia and Ukraine, had to cancel two orders in less than a week: one for overpricing, the other because a lack of companies offered to sell their supplies. Sharp spikes in the cost of wheat globally could severely affect Egypt's ability to keep bread prices at their current subsidized level.



"Bread is extremely heavily subsidized in Egypt, and successive governments have found that cuts to those subsidies are the one straw that should be kept off the camel's back at all costs," Mirette Mabrouk, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute, wrote in a recent analysis.

War-ravaged Syria recently announced it would cut spending and ration staples. In nearby Lebanon, where a massive explosion at the Beirut port in 2020 destroyed the country's main grain silos, authorities are scrambling to make up for a predicted wheat shortage, with Ukraine providing 60% of its supply. They are in talks with the U.S., India and Canada to find other sources for a country already in financial meltdown.

Even before the war threatened to affect wheat supplies in sub-Saharan Africa, people in Kenya were demanding #lowerfoodprices on social media as inflation eroded their spending power. Now, they're bracing for worse. African countries imported agricultural products worth \$4 billion from Russia in 2020, and about 90% was wheat, said Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist for the Agricultural Business

Chamber of South Africa.

In Nigeria, flour millers believe a shortage of wheat supplies from Russia would affect the price of products like bread, a common food in Africa's most populous country.



"All of us need to look elsewhere" in the future, said Tope Ogun with Honeywell Flour Mills Plc, one of Nigeria's biggest flour milling companies. "We might not get what we need to, and there is likely going to be an increase in the price."

Nigeria has taken pains to reduce its reliance on Russian grains, with farmers moving to plant more wheat fields to try to meet 70% of the country's demand in five years, said Gambo Sale, national secretary of the Wheat Farmers Association of Nigeria.

"We have the land, we have the people, we have the money, we have whatever we can need in Nigeria" to grow wheat, he said. "All we need now is time."

The disruption can be felt as far away as Indonesia, where wheat is used to make instant noodles, bread, fried foods and snacks.

Ukraine was Indonesia's second-largest wheat supplier last year, providing 26% of wheat consumed. Rising prices for noodles, in turn, would hurt lower-income people, said Kasan Muhri, who heads the trade ministry's research division.

Ukraine and Russia also combine for 75% of global sunflower oil exports, accounting for 10% of all cooking oils, IHS Markit said. Raad Hebsi, a wholesale retailer in Baghdad, said he and other Iraqis are bracing to pay more for their cooking oil.



"Once the items stored are sold, we will see an increase in prices of these items," he said. "We will likely purchase alternatives from Turkey, and Turkey will no doubt take advantage of the situation in Ukraine and raise its prices." Farmers in the United States, the world's leading corn exporter and a major wheat supplier, are watching to see if U.S. wheat exports spike. In the European Union, farmers are concerned about rising costs for livestock feed.

Ukraine supplies the EU with just under 60% of its corn and nearly half of a key component in the grains needed to feed livestock. Russia, which provides the EU with 40% of its natural gas needs, is similarly a major supplier of fertilizer, wheat and other staples.

Spain is feeling the pinch both in sunflower oil, which supermarkets are rationing, and grains for the all-important breeding industry. Those imported grains go to feed some 55 million pigs. Jaime Bemis, a 58-year-old breeder with 1,200 swine on his farm in northeast Spain, fears the war will further increase the pain his business is facing because of climate change and drought. Since October, Spanish pork products have been taking a loss from high costs, Bemis said. Those costs are driven by China stockpiling feed for its pigs as it claws its way out of a devastating outbreak of African swine fever.



In the first two days of Russia's assault on Ukraine, the price of grain for animal feed jumped 10% on the open market in Spain.

"We are facing a moment of very elevated costs, and we don't know what lies ahead," Bemis said. "This is another cost of waging a war in the 21st century." (Courtesy https://thewestern-news.com)

Related/Summary Russian Invasion Threatens Global Food Supply

The big picture: The two countries combine for nearly one-third of global wheat and barley exports, AP reports. Ukraine is a major exporter of corn.

• Lebanon, Egypt and Syria are among the countries most dependent on affordable wheat. "Any [price] hikes will be catastrophic not only for me, but for the majority of the people," Ahmed Salah, an Egyptian father of seven, told AP.

• Supplies were already tight because of droughts hitting the wheat belts of North America.

European livestock farmers are heavily reliant on Ukraine for corn and other grain additives for animal feed.

Between the lines: This also threatens efforts to help famine-stricken countries like Afghanistan, Yemen and Ethiopia, the Financial Times reports.

The bottom line: Ukraine and Russia "account for about 12% of the calories the world trades," NPR reports. (Courtesy axios.com)