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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Donald Trump's company sentenced to pay \$1.61 mln penalty for tax fraud

NEW YORK, Jan 13 (Reuters) - A New York judge on Friday sentenced Donald Trump's namesake real estate company to pay a \$1.61 million criminal penalty after it was convicted of scheming to defraud tax authorities for 15 years.

Justice Juan Merchan of the Manhattan criminal court imposed the sentence, the maximum possible under state law, after jurors found two Trump Organization affiliates guilty of 17 criminal charges last month.

Merchan on Tuesday sentenced Allen Weisselberg, who worked for Trump's family for a half-century and was the company's former chief financial officer, to five months in jail after he testified as the prosecution's star witness.

Susan Necheles, one of the defense lawyers, said Trump's company plans to appeal. No one else was charged.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, whose office brought the case, is still conducting a criminal probe into Trump's business practices.

U.S. rejects Bill Hwang's sandbagging claim in Archegos prosecution
'Uptown Funk' lawsuit seeks unpaid royalties for Bruno Mars hit
"The sentencing today, along with the sentencing earlier this week, closes this important chapter of our ongoing investigation into the former president and his businesses," Bragg told reporters. "We now will go on to the next chapter."

Joshua Steinglass, one of the prosecutors, appeared to lament the size of the punishment, telling Merchan the penalty was only a "tiny portion" of the Trump Organization's revenue.

Companies cannot be sentenced to jail or prison.

'ROUNDING ERROR'
Bill Black, a professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law specializing in white-collar crime, called the penalty a "rounding error" that offers "zero" deterrence.

"This is a farce," he said. "No one will stop committing these kinds of crimes because of this sentence."

Former U.S. President Trump holds rally in Georgia

The case has long been a thorn in the side of the Republican former president, who calls it part of a witch hunt by Democrats who dislike him and his politics.

Trump also faces a \$250 million civil lawsuit by state



Attorney General Letitia James accusing him and his adult children Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric of inflating his net worth and his company's asset values to save on loans and insurance.

Bragg and James are Democrats, as is Bragg's predecessor Cyrus Vance, who brought the criminal case. Trump is seeking the presidency in 2024, after losing his re-election bid in 2020.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks during her interview with Reuters in New Delhi, India, November 11, 2022. REUTERS/Altat Hussain

FRAUD 'SANCTIONED FROM THE TOP DOWN'



for executives without reporting them as income, and pretended that Christmas bonuses were non-employee compensation.

Trump himself signed bonus checks, prosecutors said, as well as the lease on Weisselberg's luxury Manhattan apartment and private school tuition for the CFO's grandchildren.

"A number of these fraudulent practices were explicitly sanctioned from the top down," Steinglass said at Friday's hearing.

Despite testifying for the government, Weisselberg said Trump was not part of the fraud scheme, and refused to help Bragg in his broader investigation into the former president.

At a four-week trial, prosecutors offered evidence that Trump's company covered personal expenses such as rent and car leases

The Trump Organization had put Weisselberg on paid leave until they severed ties this week. His lawyer said the split, announced on Tuesday, was amicable.

Weisselberg, 75, is serving his sentence in New York City's notorious Rikers Island jail.

Trump faces several other legal woes, including probes related to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, his retention of classified documents after leaving the White House and efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss in Georgia.

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LOCAL NEWS

U.S. business lobby group lambasts FTC over proposed ban on non-compete clauses

Jan 12 (Reuters) - The U.S. Chamber of Commerce criticized on Thursday a proposed rule of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) that seeks to ban companies from having non-compete clauses with workers, saying such a move would harm economic growth and limit competition.

The FTC proposed the rule last week that would ban companies from requiring workers to sign non-compete provisions in contracts, in the latest sign from the Biden administration of its support for labor.

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Report an ad Companies generally use these provisions to keep workers from leaving for better jobs.

"It is not the role of government to direct the behavior of business, redistribute power in our economy, or undermine the competition that fuels free enterprise," the largest U.S. business group's President Suzanne Clark said at the State of American Business event.

The Chamber also said it could mount a legal challenge.



HONG KONG, Jan 13 (Reuters) - Living under China's stringent COVID-19 restrictions for the past three years had caused Zhang Qi enough stress and uncertainty to consider not having babies in the country. When China abruptly dismantled its "zero COVID" regime last month to let the virus spread freely, the balance tilted to a definite "No", the Shanghai-based e-commerce executive said. Stories about mothers and babies not being able to see doctors as medical facilities were overwhelmed by COVID infections were the final straw for Zhang.

"I heard that giving birth at a public hospital is just horrific. I really wouldn't consider having a baby,"

the 31-year-old said.

A glimpse of the scars caused by the pandemic to China's already bleak demographic outlook may come to light when it reports its official 2022 population data on Jan. 17.

Some demographers expect China's population in 2022 to post its first drop since the Great Famine in 1961, a profound shift with far-reaching implications for the global economy and world order.

Family members reunite in China after 3-year COVID separation

China COVID peak to last 2-3 months, hit rural areas next - expert

China's trade tumbles sharply in Dec, clouds 2023 growth outlook

China set for historic demographic turn, accelerated by COVID traumas

Editor's Choice



A competitor runs up the "gostra", a pole covered in lard, during the week-long celebrations of the religious feast of St. Julian, patron of the town of St. Julian's, Malta. REUTERS/Darrin Zammit Lupi



Ukrainian military officers travel on a Wheeled-BTR fighting vehicle, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continue, in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Ammar Awad



A boy cries outside his classroom on the first day of in-person classes at a public school in San Juan City, Philippines. REUTERS/Eloisa Lope



A migrant plays with a ball on his sixth day waiting for a safe port to disembark on board of NGO Proactiva Open Arms Uno rescue boat in central Mediterranean Sea. REUTERS/Juan Medina



62-year-old Ukrainian Arkadii drives a car after leaving his destroyed house, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Toretsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Ammar Awad



Police officers stand guard as supporters of Kenya's opposition leader and presidential candidate Raila Odinga, of the Azimio La Umoja (Declaration of Unity) One Kenya Alliance, gather while his legal team prepares to file a petition challenging the presidential election result at the Supreme Court in Nairobi, Kenya. REUTERS/Thomas Mukoya

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr. Martin Luther King Day 2023 "I Have A Dream"



Reverend Martin Luther King, American civil rights leader, was invited to Berlin by West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt and visited the Berlin Wall on September 13, 1964. Here (left) he is seen at the border Potsdamer Platz, West Berlin, Germany. (on right) The Stone of Hope at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, DC. (PhotoGraphic/John T. Robbins)

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

Today is the observance of the national holiday honoring the life and legacy of slain civil rights leader and advocate for nonviolent social change Martin Luther King Jr.

The holiday falls on the third Monday of January, near King's Jan. 15 birthday. He was born in 1929.

This month is the 91st anniversary of his birth.

Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to the nonviolent struggle for racial equality in the United States. The third Monday in January marks Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a U.S. holiday that honors King's legacy and challenges citizens to engage in volunteer service in their communities.



Beginning the journey

Born on January 15, 1929, to a long line of Baptist ministers, King grew up in Atlanta at a time when Jim Crow laws made segregation and discrimination a daily reality for blacks in the South. King attended

Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he came to view religion as a powerful catalyst for social change. He received his doctorate from Boston University's School of Theology before returning to the South, where he served as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Today, King's Atlanta birthplace is registered as a National Historic Site with the National Park Service.



Civil rights struggle in the 1950s

King helped organize the Montgomery bus boycott, a year-long campaign touched off when seamstress Rosa Parks was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. After the Supreme Court overturned Alabama's bus segregation laws in 1956, King co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and promoted nonviolent action for civil rights throughout the South. He was influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and traveled to India in 1959.

An iconic figure of the 1960s



Joining his father as co-pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, King continued to use his oratorical gifts to urge an end to segregation and legal inequality. Throughout the 1960s, he was arrested during nonviolent protests in Alabama, Florida and Georgia. While incarcerated after one such arrest, in 1963, King penned the Letter from Birmingham City Jail, outlining the moral basis for the civil rights movement. That August, he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech to more than 200,000 people gathered on the National Mall in Washington. March 7, 1965, known as Bloody Sunday because voting-rights marchers were beaten by state troopers and civilians as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. The violence turned them back, but the ordeal led King to call for another, longer march (pictured) — an 87-kilometer-long, Selma-to-Montgomery march for voting rights.



Civil rights victories

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, which banned discrimination in employment, public accommodations and other aspects of life. King attended the signing of the act into law (pictured). He continued to press for a law to ensure that blacks could not be denied the right to vote by discriminatory practices such as literacy tests, and, in 1965, Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.



In the wake of assassination

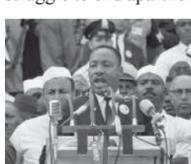
On April 4, 1968,

King was assassinated on the balcony outside his Memphis, Tennessee, hotel room. At his funeral, thousands of mourners marched through Atlanta behind a mule-drawn wagon bearing his coffin. In a posthumously published essay titled "A Testament of Hope," King urged black Americans to continue their commitment to nonviolence, but also cautioned that "justice for black people cannot be achieved without radical changes in the structure of our society."



King's legacy: Nonviolent protest

In a 1959 radio address during his visit to India, King said: "Today we no longer have a choice between violence and nonviolence; it is either nonviolence or nonexistence." His philosophy was inspired by Gandhi's nonviolent action to end British rule in India. In his turn, King inspired others to change their societies through nonviolent means, from the Solidarity movement's cracking of Soviet occupation in Poland to Nelson Mandela's struggle to end apartheid in South Africa.



King's legacy: Fighting prejudice

During the 1963 March on Washington, King declared that all people should be judged not "by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." The King Center in Atlanta is a living memorial to King's vision of a free and equal world dedicated to expanding opportunity, fighting racism and ending all forms of discrimination.



King's legacy: Pursuing social justice

The Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University is home to the King Papers

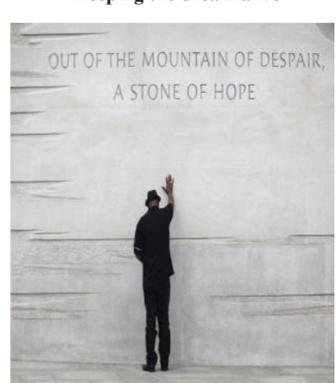
Project, a comprehensive collection of all of King's speeches, correspondence and other writings. The institute is also involved with the Liberation Curriculum Initiative and the Gandhi-King Community, both of which use King's life and ideas to connect social activists around the world working to promote human rights.

King's legacy: Service to others



President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama paint Martin Luther King Jr. quotes as part of a volunteer community service project. In the U.S., Martin Luther King Day is designated a national day of service. Americans are urged to celebrate "a day on, not a day off" in honor of King's commitment to improving the lives of others. President Obama promotes volunteerism as a way to help meet the challenges facing our world.

Keeping the dream alive



A national memorial to King was built near the Lincoln Memorial, where King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. The memorial invites visitors to reflect on King's life and legacy. (Courtesy shareamerica.gov) (© AP images)

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COMMUNITY

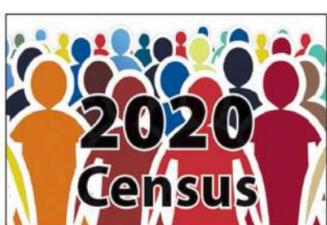
Were Many People Of Color Left Out Of The 2020 Census? COVID Makes It Harder To Tell



A person wearing a mask walks past posters encouraging census participation in Seattle in April 2020. The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted not only last year's national head count, but also a critical follow-up survey that the U.S. Census Bureau relies on to determine the tally's accuracy. (Photo/Ted S. Warren/AP)

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

The U.S. Census Bureau is extending a final round of door knocking into early 2022 for a key survey that is expected to help determine the accuracy of last year's national head count, NPR has learned. The change is the latest in a series of delays to the little-known but critical follow-up survey. The disruptions have raised concerns about whether the bureau can produce important indicators about who was missed and which groups were over- or undercounted in a census that was upended by both the coronavirus pandemic and interference by former President Donald Trump's administration. The results of the Post-Enumeration Survey are factored into population statistics that guide how an estimated \$1.5 trillion a year in federal funds are distributed to local communities, as well as how to better carry out future once-a-decade counts that are used to reallocate each state's share of congressional seats and Electoral College votes.



In a statement on Friday, the bureau confirms what was expected to be a month-long operation for gathering information on housing units starting in late October, is now set to begin sometime in November and end in February. "We adjusted the start date and operational length as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the schedule of the preceding census operations," the bureau said of the change to the Post-Enumeration Survey, which does not involve college dorms, prisons or other group-living quarters and is not conducted in-

remote areas of Alaska. About 1,100 of the bureau's field representatives — who, like all federal government employees, must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by Nov. 22 — will try to interview people at some 14,000 housing units while wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

Some census watchers outside the bureau say they're worried the difficulties of conducting in-person interviews during the pandemic could limit the usefulness of the survey's findings, which the bureau has said it plans to start releasing within the first three months of 2022.

Were people of color undercounted by the census? Decade after decade, the U.S. census has overcounted people who identify as white and not Latino, while undercounting other racial and ethnic groups. That unevenness often translates into inequities when census data is used to redraw voting districts and inform research and planning.

"I'm just worried that we're going to have a starting point for the next 10 years of enumeration counts that undercount people of color," Robert Santos, president of the American Statistical Association and President Biden's pick for the next Census Bureau director, told NPR in an interview before his April nomination. Santos, who is waiting for the Senate to vote on whether to confirm him, added that not having reliable PES results runs the risk of baking racial inequities into other government statistics that rely on census data. "I don't think that that's acceptable," Santos said.



Many people don't want to talk to Census Bureau workers because of COVID-19

Door knocking for the PES, which takes place in multiple phases, started as originally planned in January 2020. It was supposed to wrap up by mid-2021. But COVID-19 quickly intervened. Lower-than-expected levels of participation from the public in the final months of 2020 led the bureau to add another round of interviews about people's demographic information. Those early response rates were hurt by a devastating new reality — "people don't want to open their doors to talk to a stranger during a pandemic," the bureau acknowledged in a March presentation to its scientific advisory committee. That raises

the risk of the bureau missing certain people not only in the census, but also in the follow-up survey that determines who was not counted.



Could COVID-19 stop the bureau from releasing survey results?

The delays to the survey make it harder for the bureau to collect accurate data. Tallying for the 2020 count has been over for nearly a year, and some people interviewed for the PES may have a hard time remembering exactly where they were living on Census Day, which was April 1, 2020. People who moved during the pandemic may not know who used to live at their current address. And many households are experiencing census fatigue. Data quality issues brought on by the pandemic have already forced the bureau to cancel a release of American Community Survey results this year and replace them with "experimental" estimates. Some census watchers fear the Post-Enumeration Survey may be headed toward a similar fate.



There are early signs of a likely undercount of Black people

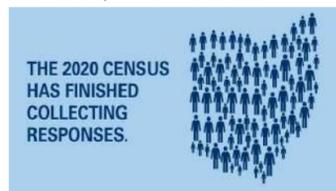
In the meantime, researchers outside the bureau have been comparing the latest census numbers with a set of benchmark data based on birth and death certificates, Medicare enrollment files and other government records about the country's residents. "It does look like the 2020 census had some undercount problems for some groups," says Citro, who recently conducted an independent analysis that was not part of her work with the committee. Using publicly available data and a method that is different from what's used for the PES, Citro estimates that nationally, the 2020 census may have produced a net undercount rate for Black people similar to what the bureau's PES estimated for the 2010 count (2.05%) or more than two times as high (4.36%). "The Census Bureau did just a heroic and really outstanding job, but they faced a combination of circumstances for conducting a census that was unprecedented in our history," Citro, who once worked as a social science analyst at the bureau

in her career, says of the pandemic and the push by Trump officials to end counting early.



Children were likely undercounted in 2020, too

There are also signs the 2020 census likely didn't correct a decades-long flaw with the national tally: undercounting children. "All the evidence I'm seeing from the 2020 census suggests that that's going to be a continuing problem," says Bill O'Hare, a demographer and former research fellow at the bureau who wrote the book The Undercount of Young Children in the U.S. Decennial Census. O'Hare, who is currently consulting with the Count All Kids Campaign, estimates that the net undercount rate for children bumped up to 2.1% last year, while adults had a net overcount rate of less than a percent for the 2020 census, according to a report released this week. The report also cites preliminary estimates by Citro that suggest the net undercount rates for Black and Latinx children were about double that for all children. Still, both Citro and O'Hare say they're waiting for the PES results to reveal a more comprehensive look at the count's accuracy. Jeri Green, a former senior adviser for civic engagement at the bureau, remains concerned that the 2020 census — which the agency recently estimated to cost around \$14.2 billion — will repeat the undercounting of Black people and Latinos, as well as Native Americans who live on reservations, in the 2010 census.



"The American taxpayer is being cheated, the congressional appropriators who funded the census also are not getting their dollars' worth, if the PES and the undercount are not accurate," Green says. "And we have to live with this for the next 10 years." (Courtesy npr.org)