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Inside C2

Tuesday, January 17 2023

## After 30 years, Italy arrests mafia boss Messina Denaro at Sicilian hospital

PALERMO, Italy, Jan 16 (Reuters) - Italy's most wanted mafia boss, Matteo Messina Denaro, was arrested by armed police at a private hospital in Sicily on Monday, where the man who has been on the run since 1993 was being treated for cancer.

Nicknamed "Diabolik" and "'U Siccu" (The Skinny One), Messina Denaro had been sentenced in absentia to a life term for his role in the 1992 murders of anti-mafia prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, crimes that shocked the nation and sparked a crackdown on Cosa

Messina Denaro, 60, was led away from Palermo's "La Maddalena" hospital by two uniformed carabinieri police and bundled into a waiting black minivan. He was wearing a brown fur-lined jacket, glasses and a brown and white woolly hat.

Judicial sources said he was being treated for cancer and had an operation last year, followed by a series of appointments under a false name.

"We had a clue to the investigation and followed it through to today's arrest," Palermo prosecutor Maurizio de Lucia said.

Magistrate Paolo Guido, who was also in charge of investigations into Messina Denaro, said dismantling his network of protectors was key in reaching the result following years of work.

A second man who had driven Messina Denaro to the hospital was arrested at the scene on suspicion of aiding a fugitive.

Images on social media showed locals applauding and shaking hands with police in balaclavas as the minivan carrying Messina Denaro was driven away from the suburban hospital to a secret location.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni travelled to Sicily to congratulate police chiefs after the arrest.

"We have not won the war, we have not defeated the mafia but this battle was a key battle to win, and it is a heavy blow to organised crime," she said.

Maria Falcone, sister of the murdered judge, echoed that sentiment.

### Mug shot of Matteo Messina Denaro

A screengrab taken from a video shows Matteo Messina Denaro the country's most wanted mafia boss after he was arrested in this handout photo obtained by Reuters on January 16, 2023. Carabinieri/Handout via REUTERS "It proves that mafiosi, despite their delusions of omnipo-

tence, are ultimately doomed to defeat in the conflict with the democratic state," she said.

### FAST CARS, FLASHY CLOTHES

Messina Denaro comes from the town of Castelvetrano



near Trapani in western Sicily, and is the son of a mafia boss.

Police said last September that he was still able to issue commands relating to the way the mafia was run in the area around Trapani, his regional stronghold.

Before he went into hiding, he was known for driving expensive cars and his taste for wearing finely tailored suits and Rolex watches.

He faces a life sentence for his role in bomb attacks in Florence, Rome and Milan that killed 10 people in 1993 and is accused by prosecutors of being solely or jointly responsible for numerous other murders in the 1990s.

In 1993 he helped organise the kidnapping of a 12-year-old boy, Giuseppe Di Matteo, in an attempt to dissuade his father from giving evidence against the mafia, prosecutors say. The boy was held in captivity for two years before he was strangled and his body dissolved in acid.

The arrest comes almost 30 years to the day since police arrested Salvatore "Toto" Riina, the Sicilian Mafia's most powerful boss of the 20th century. He eventually died in jail in 2017, having never broken his code of silence.

"It is an extraordinary event, of historic significance," said Gian Carlo Caselli, who was a prosecutor in Palermo at the time of Riina's arrest.

Despite the euphoria, Italy still faces a struggle to rein in organised crime groups whose tentacles stretch far and wide.

Experts say that Cosa Nostra has been usurped by the 'Ndrangheta, the Calabrian mafia, as the most powerful organised

A screengrab taken from a video shows Matteo Messina Denaro the country's most wanted mafia boss after he was arrested in this handout photo obtained by Reuters on January 16, 2023. Carabinieri/ Handout via REUTERS

crime group in Italy.

"There is a sense that the Sicilian Mafia is not as strong as it used to be, especially since the 90s, they have really been unable to enter the drug market and so they are really second-fiddle to the 'Ndrangheta on that," said Federico Varese, Professor of Criminology at Oxford University.



-至五每晚7點專題節目

每晚7點播出 專題節目

至五下午6:30播出《美南新聞聯播》

《生活》節目(《生活故事會》、《丁師傅私房菜》和《修車師姐》三個單元輪流播出)

《美南時事通》、《美南名人堂》 ,主持人:Sky,《子天訪談錄》或馬健《J&J論壇》

每周五晚7點,主持人:蓋軍,《美南時事通》

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主持人: 黄梅子











主持人: 陳鐵梅 主持人: 王潔

主持人: 馬健

主持人: Sky

星期二

2023年1月17日

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

# WEALEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

01/14/2023

## **The Education Crisis Is The Misfortune Of Our Country**



The poor management of the Houston Independent School District may have to be taken over by the State of Texas again which is also a great misfortune for our education system.

Last night I attended the reception at ITC to greet Dr. Mays, the new superintendent of the Alief School District. He also is the first African American to become the school district's leader. In his speech he emphasized that education is almost the only way to change our lives. Today, most people from poor families can become

leaders in society and elites if they study hard and work hard in their early life.

Today the school districts in America, especially in big cities, because of the high population of poor families and low incomes, result in less tax money to fund the schools. Some of them are already bankrupt and don't even have enough resources to function.

Many families are now moving to the suburbs because most of the good schools are in the suburban areas now.

This is our education crisis that is facing us. We need to urge the federal government to find ways to help. This is the most important and urgent issue for our future generation.



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





















## **Editor's Choice**



A view shows the destroyed Antonivskyi bridge over the Dnipro river after Russia's retreat from Kherson, in Kherson, Ukraine. RE-UTERS/Stringer



Jeff Bridges accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 28th annual Critics Choice Awards in Los Angeles, California, January 15. REUTERS/ Aude Guerrucci



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) pose for a picture after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in an unknown location, Ukraine. Courtesy: Head of Ukraine's Presidential Office Andriy Yermak via Telegram

Bahrain Raid Xtreme's Sebastien Loeb and co-driver Fabian Lurquin in action during stage 13 of the Dakar Rally Shaybah to Al-Hofuf, Saudi Arabia, January 14. REUTERS/Hamad I Mohammed



Bahrain Raid Xtreme's Sebastien Loeb and co-driver Fabian Lurquin in action during stage 13 of the Dakar Rally Shaybah to Al-Hofuf, Saudi Arabia, January 14. REUTERS/Hamad I Mohammed



Emergency personnel evacuate a woman at the site where an apartment block was heavily damaged by a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Dnipro, Ukraine January 15, 2023. REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne

## Southern Make Today Different **BUSINESS**

Egg Prices Have Nearly Tripled Since November

Fast-Spreading Bird Flu May Be Here To Stay

### Avian Flu Has Spread To 30 States, **Sharply Driving Up Egg Prices**

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



A newly arrived bird flu is sweeping through wild bird populations in the United States, and that may mean trouble for poultry farmers who have been doing their best to control this flu outbreak in their

Approximately 24 million poultry birds including chickens and turkeys have already been lost, either because they died from the virus or were killed to prevent its spread. But unlike a similar bird flu outbreak seven years ago, this one is unlikely to just

ble of hanging around in populations of wild birds, which can pass the virus on to poultry farms. While chickens and turkeys with the virus quickly sicken and die, some waterfowl can remain healthy with the virus and carry it long distances.

Scientists believe that wild migratory birds brought this virus to North America a few months ago. Since then, more than 40 wild bird species in more than 30 states have tested positive. This strain of bird flu virus has turned up in everything from crows to pelicans to bald eagles.

"It's somewhat surprising how widespread it is already in North America," says Jonathan Runstadler, mans. an influenza researcher at Tufts University. "It's clearly able to persist and transmit from year to year in parts of Asia, Europe, Africa, and I don't think we should be surprised if that's going to be the case

H5N1 Bird Flu Detections Across The **United States (Backyard And Commercial)** Updated April 15, 2022

Summary **Birds Affected** 

27,016,123

viruses have been detected in U.S. wild aquatic birds, commercial poultry and backyard or hobbyist flocks beginning in January 2022. These are the first detections of HPAI A(H5) viruses in the U.S. since 2016. Preliminary genetic sequencing and RT-PCR testing on some virus specimens shows these viruses are HPAI A(H5N1) viruses from clade 2.3.4.4.

As the virus moves across the country, and potentially settles in for the long haul, it will encounter new animal species that could get infected. This This is because this particular flu virus seems capapathogen will also get a chance to genetically mingle with the flu viruses that are already circulating in the U.S.

What that means for the virus in terms of how it evolves, how it changes, we just don't really know," says Richard Webby, a flu researcher at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

There has been only one known human case So far, the risk to humans seems low

But since related bird flu viruses have repeatedly jumped into people in the past, public health experts are watching for any signs of genetic changes that could make the virus able to move into hu-

'We're concerned with any avian influenza virus that's circulating in domestic poultry or wild birds." says Todd Davis, an expert on animal-to-human diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "Because humans have no prior immunity to these viruses typically, if they were to be infected and spread the virus to other humans, then we could have another pandemic virus on our

This virus doesn't have genetic features previously associated with related bird flus that have infected Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5) humans. And the only person known to have contracted this particular bird flu virus was an elderly person in the United Kingdom who lived in close quarters with ducks: while some of the ducks got sick and died, their owner never had any symptoms. The CDC has been monitoring the health of more than 500 people in 25 states who were exposed to infected birds, says Davis. Although a few dozen people did develop flu-like symptoms, all were tested and none were positive for this virus.

Raptors could be especially hard hit

Wildlife experts have long known that highly pathogenic bird flus like this one were circulating in Europe and Asia. And they have worried about the possible threat these viruses might pose to American birds.

Then, in December of 2021, chickens and other fowl got sick and started dying on a farm on the island of Newfoundland, Canada. Tests showed this deadly bird flu virus had made it across the



"The very first moment it got to North America, it was a heads up to us," says Bryan Richards, the emerging diseases coordinator at the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center.

In January, government officials announced its arrival in the U.S. after a wigeon duck in South Carolina tested positive. The last time a dangerous bird flu entered the country, Richards says, "the number of instances where we picked that particular virus up in wild birds was very, very limited.'

In contrast, this latest bird flu virus is being detected in sick and dying birds all over.

"This outbreak in the wild bird population is a lot more extensive than we saw in 2014 and 2015," says David Stallknecht, an avian influenza researcher with the University of Georgia. "Just a lot more birds appear to be affected."

Waterfowl, and raptors that eat their dead bodies, are bearing the brunt of it.

In Florida, for example, more than 1,000 lesser scaup ducks have succumbed to the virus. In New Hampshire, about 50 Canada geese died in a single event. In the Great Plains states, wildlife experts have seen mass die-offs in snow geese.

"In addition, there's a host of other species, including black vultures and bald eagles and some of the other scavenging species, that were likely infected by consuming the carcasses of those waterfowl.' says Richards

It remains to be seen how much of a toll this virus will take on American bird species.

In Israel, when this virus hit an area where about 40,000 common cranes had gathered for the winter, "they lost a reported 8,000 of these birds over the course of a couple weeks," says Richards. "So when you start thinking about losing 20% of a specific population of wild birds, that's a pretty substantial impact.

Poultry farmers cull their flocks

Chickens and turkeys raised by the poultry industry have suffered the most deaths, and farmers are bracing themselves for even more

The bird flu that struck in 2014 and 2015 resulted in the deaths of more than 50 million birds and cost the industry billions of dollars. Back then, the greatest number of cases occurred in the month of



"So I think I am kind of holding my breath this month," says Denise Heard, director of research programs for the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association. The virus has a number of ways to get from wild birds into poultry, says Heard. Since the last outbreak, the industry has worked to educate farmers about how to protect their flocks.

Wild migratory waterfowl are always flying over the top and when they poop, that poop gets on the ground," she says, explaining that the virus can then get tracked into bird houses on boots or inadvertently moved from farm to farm on vehicles Heard says there currently seems to be less spread of the virus from farm to farm than was seen during the last major outbreak. Instead, there are more isolated cases popping up, perhaps because wild birds are bringing the viruses to farms and

If this virus sticks around in wild bird populations which some scientists think is likely — poultry farmers may need to just learn to live with this

I hope that this is not the case. I hope that in the U.S. this infection will die off soon, and the virus will go away again like it did in 2014" says Ron Fouchier, a virologist at Erasmus Medical Center in the Netherlands.

"But there's no guarantee for that, as we've seen in Europe now that this virus has remained present for several years in a row. Since December, farmers in Europe have had to

cull more than 17 million birds. "So that's very similar to the situation in the U.S.," says Fouchier. "And we are seeing massive die-offs in wild



ly killed hundreds of birds at a lake northwest of Chicago, and at least three bald eagles in Georgia. Two cases of H5N1 were also found in birds at

Since January, the USDA has detected H5N1 among tens of millions of wild birds and domestic and commercial flocks, predominantly in the South, Midwest and the East Coast. Nearly 27 million chickens and turkeys have been killed to prevent the virus's spread.

So far, no cases have been reported among people in the U.S., and the risk to public health is low, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Just one recent human infection has been documented: a person in England who raised birds got sick. That case, reported in January, was asymptomatic.

But the bird flu outbreak is affecting consumers' lives in the form of rising egg and poultry prices. The average weekly price for large eggs is up 44 percent compared with this time last year, the USDA reported Monday. Wholesale poultry prices rose 4 percent in February, and the USDA predicts they could climb between 9 and 12 percent



Watchful people working in poultry facilities'

number of people could contract the virus. Past versions of H5N1 flu infected 864 people between 2003 and 2021, according to the World Health

Organization. About half of those cases were fatal Sporadic human infections with current H5N1 bird flu viruses would not be surprising, especially among people with exposures who may not be taking recommended precautions," the CDC says on its website. But Andrew Bowman, an associate professor at Ohio State University's College of Veterinary

Medicine, said he'd be surprised to see this particular bird flu spill over into people on a large scale. Ancestors of this virus have been circulating in other parts of the world for a while, he said, and people have been relatively spared. "The current lineage we're seeing is really not fit

to go into mammalian hosts, so it's got to be pretty unlikely," Bowman said.

If a person does get infected, disease experts should be able to quickly test them, he added.

"We have a lot of watchful eyes around people working in poultry facilities, especially if they're involved in a flock that becomes infected," Bowman said. (Courtesy https://www.npr.org/ and nbc-

(Article Continues Below)



## COMMUNITY

(Article Continues From Above)

### Avian Flu Has Spread To 30 States, **Sharply Driving Up Egg Prices**

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



What We Know Now About The Deadliest U.S. Bird Flu **Outbreak In Seven Years** 



The price of eggs has risen sharply since the start of a bird flu outbreak that has resulted in millions of birds being culled. (Photo/Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

A highly pathogenic bird flu virus is tearing its way through U.S. farms and chicken yards, spreading A bald eagle perches on a branch in Milpito at least 24 states less than two months after the first outbreak was reported in a commercial flock. Nearly 23 million birds have died. It's the worst U.S. outbreak of the avian flu since 2015, when more than 50 million birds died. The outbreak is driving up consumer prices for eggs and chicken avian virus. No human infections of the highly meat that, like many costs, had already been rising pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which indue to inflation.

#### Here's what you need to know about the outbreak. 22,851,072 birds have been wiped out

Some birds have died from the disease itself, but the vast majority are being culled to try to stop the deadly and highly infectious virus from spreading. That includes millions of chickens and tur- er handling and heating food to an internal keys in barns and backyards that had been raised temperature of 165°F kills any bacteria and

than 5 million birds died at an egg-laying facility in Osceola on March 31, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Overall, more than 13 million birds have been culled in the state. As of around noon ET on Tuesday, 72 commercial flocks and 46 backyard flocks were reported



tas, Calif., on Mar. 12. (Photo/Liu Guanguan / China News Service via Getty Images file) The bird flu poses only a low risk to humans, the CDC says

It's rare for a human to become infected with the cludes the H5N1 bird flu virus, have ever been reported in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The virus does not pose a special risk in the nation's food supply, either, the CDC states that like any poultry or eggs, propviruses present — including any HPAI viruses. One of the worst-hit states is Iowa, where more There have been only four human infections of

ever in the U.S., the CDC says, noting that those cases resulted in only mild or moderate illness.

The virus was first reported in wild birds The first U.S. warning of the new outbreak came on Jan. 13, when the USDA announced a strain of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus had been found in wild birds for the first time since 2016. Many of those first cases were in South Carolina and North Carolina, in birds killed by hunters.



The cases then spread north as wild birds migrated and spread the virus to farms. On Feb. 9, an outbreak was confirmed at a commercial turkey flock in Dubois County, Ind.

Ben Slinger, whose family raises turkeys for a meat processor, recently told Iowa Public Radio that he's taking precautions to protect his flocks from infection, after they had to cull tens of thousands of birds in 2015. In addition to using disinfectant, workers wear separate pairs of boots for each barn.

"We know what the aftermath of that is like, and it is pretty disheartening," Slinger said. Known cases now range from Maine to Texas, where the virus was found in a commercial pheasant flock in Erath County on Sunday.

#### Grocery prices for chicken are rising For the current week, the average U.S. price of

chicken breasts rose to \$3.93 per pound at major supermarkets — sharply higher than last week's \$3.14 price. A year ago, the price was \$2.48, the Agriculture Department says.

Egg prices have also gone up compared to 2021, and breast tenders cost a full dollar more now than they did a year ago, according to the

"Prices for white parts are on the rise" with a few exceptions, the department said. "The cost for dark meat items are also increasing; bulk pack drumsticks, thighs, and leg quarters take up most of the spotlight."



Land is prepared for the disposal of nearly 3 million chickens after avian influenza was recently discovered at a commercial egg opera-

**Getty Images**)

The last outbreak lasted about 6 months The bird flu outbreak that peaked in the late spring of 2015 was "the largest poultry health

disaster in U.S. history," the USDA says. Many of those infections were reported in Iowa and neighboring states near "the intersection of the Central and Mississippi flyways used by wild birds during seasonal migration," the agency said. That's the same region that's now being

hit hard by the virus. In the 2015 outbreak, fomites—objects that can transfer disease — were seen as a key source of viral transmission. Such items include the boots and clothing of poultry industry employees and vehicles used to spread feed. Officials also pointed to the dense concentration of some pro-

duction facilities as a source of case clusters. The 2015 outbreak tapered sharply and ended in June of that year — but 3 million birds still died in that final month. Because of the lingering effect on the supply chain, it wasn't until several more months later that some poultry prices peaked and then normalized, according to the USDA.

### The history and spread of H5N1

Ancestors of the current H5N1 bird flu were first detected in geese in China in 1996. The current set of H5N1 bird flu viruses was identified in Europe in 2020, then found in North and South Carolina in January. The recent U.S. outbreak is the worst since

2015, when multiple bird flu strains, including some H5N1 viruses, spread across the country. Nearly 50 million birds were slaughtered or died. Bowman said this new outbreak appears to be even more geographically widespread. Experts attribute the spread of H5N1 to the migration of wild birds, which pass the virus through saliva, mucus and droppings



The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota recently recommended in a Facebook post that people to stop using bird feeders or bird baths to stop birds from congregating. But experts said songbirds aren't the main driv-

ers of the spread. "There's 10,000 species of birds and (the virus)

doesn't infect them all the same," Bowman said. "For the primary transmission, we're really focused on the waterfowl, especially the dabbling

Buckles said it's important to keep chickens and

low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) viruses tion near Palmyra, Wis. (Photo Scott Olson/ turkeys away from wild birds to prevent the virus from entering our food supply. As a precaution, people should cook poultry and eggs to a temperature of 165 degrees Fahr-

enheit, according to the CDC. If you've come into contact with a bird, wash

your hands. Buckles added. "Anytime that you have animals — I don't care whether it's your pet dog or your chicken — you need to practice good hand hygiene." she said. "We all know how wash for 20 seconds with soap and water. That applies to this as as well." (Courtesy npr.org)

Related The United States is seeing its largest outbreak of Avian Influenza since 2015.

Who's Most At Risk For The Latest U.S. Bird Flu Outbreak?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the good news with this outbreak is that human transmission is low. It hasn't reported any cases of serious illness. ABC10 Health Expert Dr. Payal Kohli said previous versions had a more easily mutated virus that could spread from one host to another. Typically humans that come into close contact with livestock or poultry are the most like likely to catch it.



"For the average person that doesn't handle livestock, this is not a big threat in my mind right now. If it does end up being reported in humans, that will change entirely, and then I think we have to be very careful because we know from previous experience that previous versions of the bird flu can actually cause more severe illness and can be more virulent in humans," Kohli said.

The CDC said in order to protect themselves, people should observe all wild birds from a distance. Birds can be infected even if they don't look sick. the CDC also recommends staying away from surfaces that could be contaminated with the feces of a wild or domestic hird

For more information on Bird Flu, visit the CDC website here: (https://www.cdc.gov/ flu/avianflu/index.htm). (Courtesy abc10.