



AMIR HAMJA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Msgr. Jamie J. Gigantiello and his financial deals are at the center of a fight that has reached the highest levels of the Brooklyn diocese.

The Priest, the Pop Star and the Mayor’s Power Broker

By KATHERINE ROSMAN
Just a few days after Mayor Eric Adams was indicted on corruption charges, the pop star Sabrina Carpenter stood onstage at Madison Square Garden and said something startling into her glittery microphone: “Should we talk about how I got the mayor indicted?” Ms. Carpenter’s quip was both tantalizing and quite obviously false: The singer played no role in the investigation and prosecution

of Mr. Adams. But her offhand remark in front of 20,000 fans in September did pull back the curtain, ever so slightly, on a bizarre side plot in the Adams affair — a story whose contours sound almost like the beginning of a joke: Did you hear the one about the pop star, the politician and the priest? The priest is Msgr. Jamie J. Gigantiello, who has led three Brooklyn parishes over his 30-year career and has known Mr. Adams, the former Brooklyn borough president, for decades. The

Brooklyn Church Brawl Draws Prosecutors

priest is also a close friend of Frank Carone, the mayor’s former chief of staff. Now the monsignor is at the center of an unholy brawl. The fight has reached the highest levels of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and the offices of federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York, who have

subpoenaed records from transactions worth nearly \$2 million between the monsignor’s parish and businesses connected to Mr. Carone. The nature of the federal investigation — or who its target might be — is not publicly known. Nobody has been charged with a crime, and it is unclear whether the priest or Mr. Carone did anything improper or illegal. Monsignor Gigantiello had already been demoted over his decision to allow Ms. Carpenter to film
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Hack by China: Long Unknown, Tough to Expel

This article is by David E. Sanger, Julian E. Barnes, Devlin Barrett and Adam Goldman.
WASHINGTON — Leaders of the top telecommunications companies were summoned to the White House on Friday to discuss a security problem that has been roiling the government: how to expel Chinese hackers from the deepest corners of the nation’s communications networks. The meeting in the Situation Room came after weeks in which officials grew increasingly alarmed by what they had uncovered about the hack. They now believe the hackers from a group called “Salt Typhoon,” closely linked to China’s Ministry of State Security, were lurking undetected inside the networks of the biggest American telecommunications firms for more than a year. They have learned that the Chinese hackers got a nearly complete list of phone numbers the Justice Department monitors in its “lawful intercept” system, which places wiretaps on people suspected of committing crimes or spying, usually after a warrant is issued. Officials do not believe the Chinese listened to those calls, but the hackers were probably able to combine the phone numbers with geolocation data to create a detailed intelligence picture of who was being surveilled.
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TAIWU AINA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Daring Escape
Abducted by a Boko Haram offshoot years ago, two women made a bold flight to freedom. Page 8.

Bathing in Oil Might Seem Crude Near a Climate Summit, but Locals Swear by It

By ANTON TROIANOVSKI
NAFTALAN, Azerbaijan — I bathed in oil during the U.N. climate summit. It was crude oil from a half-mile underground, pumped into a bathtub at a hotel in Azerbaijan. It crept into every crevice of my submerged body and every fold of my skin. It smothered the hair

on my limbs, making me look a little like an animal stuck in an oil spill. Then came an attendant to scrape it all off. Just a day earlier, I had been covering the United Nations’ annual climate conference, COP29, which is being held this month in Baku, Azerbaijan, a place that helped give rise to the modern oil industry more than a

century ago, enabling and endangering our civilization. Much has been made of the incongruity of those fighting to reduce fossil-fuel emissions gathering in a petrostate, but Azerbaijanis are proud of their oil, whatever conference attendees might think of it. For instance, it fueled the

Soviet defeat of the Nazis in World War II. Another point of pride lies beneath the dusty, shrub-dotted hills of Naftalan, a city a four-hour drive from Baku. The chocolate-colored oil extracted there doesn’t burn. Instead, the locals and Azerbaijani scientists say, it heals. If you bathe in it.
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EMILE DUCKE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

People flock to oil health resorts in Naftalan, Azerbaijan.

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Sorcery and Retribution
In a brutal cycle, tragedies in Papua New Guinea are often followed by accusations of sorcery and unspeakable acts of violence. PAGE 4

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A Jacked Up Tournament
Aron D’Souza, a venture capitalist, is hoping to start the Enhanced Games, a major athletic competition that would embrace doping. PAGE 12

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Olympian’s Broken Promises
Michael Hyatt persuaded a string of women to open up their homes and wallets to him. He left them bitter, disillusioned and in debt. PAGE 6

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The Giant of Late Night
A new biography of Johnny Carson, who hosted “The Tonight Show” for 30 years, prompts the critic Jason Zino-man to reassess his legacy. PAGE 10

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Holidays

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