

# Social Justice Watch 0730

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There is a 15 YEAR OLD BLACK GIRL in prison for NOT DOING HOMEWORK. This 19 YEAR OLD WHITE MAN, who is deemed a threat to society, is getting 24 months of PROBATION for PLOTTING A MASS SHOOTING [source news](#)

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[telegra.ph/Madonna-censored-by-Instagram-for-sharing-coronavirus-conspiracy-07-29](http://telegra.ph/Madonna-censored-by-Instagram-for-sharing-coronavirus-conspiracy-07-29)

Telegraph

Madonna censored by Instagram for sharing coronavirus conspiracy

Madonna has been flagged for spreading “false information” on Instagram after she shared the same coronavirus conspiracy video that got Donald Trump Jr suspended from Twitter. The Queen of Pop shared a video of the controversial anti-LGBT+ doctor Stella Immanuel...

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[telegra.ph/Gay-and-trans-Syrians-routinely-mutilated-and-raped-by-ISIS-militants-07-29](http://telegra.ph/Gay-and-trans-Syrians-routinely-mutilated-and-raped-by-ISIS-militants-07-29)

Telegraph

Gay and trans Syrians routinely mutilated and raped by ISIS militants

Queer people in Syria suffer extreme and humiliating forms of sexual violence at the hands of government officials and ISIS militants, according to an explosive report shared by one of the world’s top LGBT+ right organisations. In interviews with 40 LGBT+...

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When I say [#oversight](#), this is what I’m talking about. [source](#)

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This is one of the most disturbing videos I have seen out of Portland yet. If this is what federal troops will do to a woman when the world is watching, imagine what they would have done if they were alone.

This is not my America. [source](#)

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[telegra.ph/Rachel-Swann-Officer-mocked-by-homophobes-to-become-chief-constable-07-29](#)

Telegraph

Rachel Swann: Officer mocked by homophobes to become chief constable  
One of Britain's top police officers who faced a torrent of homophobic and sexist criticism for her short hairstyle is on track to become Derbyshire's next chief constable. Deputy chief constable Rachel Swann was a crucial lifeline for many Whaley Bridge...

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Never ridicule someone for mispronouncing a word. It means they learned it from reading a book. [source](#)

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[telegra.ph/Owen-Jones-says-the-attack-on-him-shows-the-UK-isnt-fighting-extremism-07-29](#)

Telegraph

Owen Jones says the attack on him shows the UK isn't fighting extremism  
Owen Jones has spoken out about the UK's problem with far-right extremism, after a man was jailed for a premeditated and violent attack on the Guardian journalist last summer. Jones, 35, was assaulted on his birthday last August outside a North London pub...

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[telegra.ph/Pose-Angelica-Ross-and-Indya-Moore-slam-Emmys-for-trans-snub-07-29](#)

Telegraph

Pose: Angelica Ross and Indya Moore slam Emmys for trans snub  
Indya Moore and Angelica Ross have slammed the Emmy awards for overlooking the Black trans cast and creators of Pose in its list of nominees once again. Despite receiving widespread acclaim from viewers and critics alike, Pose's trans stars have been shut...

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[telegra.ph/New-York-police-drag-trans-protester-Nikki-Stone-into-unmarked-van-07-29](#)

Telegraph

New York police drag trans protester Nikki Stone into unmarked van  
Black Lives Matter protesters were left stunned Tuesday evening (July 28) when New York City police officers, several in plain clothes, abruptly poured out of an unmarked minivan and dragged a trans femme demonstrator inside. In an incident likened to a “kidnapping”...

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[telegra.ph/Rina-Sawayama-isnt-British-enough-to-enter-UKs-biggest-music-awards-07-29](#)

Telegraph

Rina Sawayama 'isn't British enough' to enter UK's biggest music awards  
Rina Sawayama, the acclaimed pansexual British-Japanese music artist, has been told she “isn’t British enough” to enter the Mercury Prize and the BRITs. Sawayama, who used to identify as bisexual but describes herself as pan, has been praised by some of the...

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[telegra.ph/Adree-Edmo-Trans-prisoner-receives-gender-surgery-after-legal-battle-07-29](#)

Telegraph

Adree Edmo: Trans prisoner receives gender surgery after legal battle  
A transgender woman serving a prison sentence for sexual abuse in Idaho has undergone gender affirmation surgery, after a years-long legal battle and two attempts to castrate herself behind bars. Adree Edmo had pursued a successful legal challenge against...

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[telegra.ph/Propaganda-for-profit-targets-the-Baltic-states-on-YouTube-07-29](#)

Telegraph

Propaganda for profit targets the Baltic states on YouTube  
Fringe YouTube channels monetize pro-Kremlin narratives about the Baltic states

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<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-is-the-us-constitution-so-hard-to-amend-peter-paccone>

TED-Ed

Why is the US Constitution so hard to amend? - Peter Paccone  
When it was ratified in 1789, the US Constitution didn't just institute a government by the people – it provided a way for the people to alter the Constitution itself. And yet, of the nearly 11,000 amendments proposed in the centuries since, only 27 have...

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<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-happened-when-the-united-states-tried-to-ban-alcohol-rod-phillips>

TED-Ed

What happened when the United States tried to ban alcohol - Rod Phillips  
On January 17, 1920, less than one hour after spirits had become illegal throughout the United States, armed men robbed a Chicago freight train and made off with thousands of dollars worth of whiskey. It was a first taste of the unintended consequences of...

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<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-should-you-read-the-master-and-margarita-alex-gendler>

TED-Ed

Why should you read “The Master and Margarita”? - Alex Gendler  
The Devil has come to town. But don’t worry— all he wants to do is stage a magic show. This absurd premise forms the central plot of Mikhail Bulgakov’s masterpiece, “The Master and Margarita.” Its blend of political satire, historical fiction and occult mysticism...

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You Don't Have to Be Pretty.  
You don't owe prettiness to anyone.  
Not to your boyfriend/spouse/partner, not to your co-workers, especially not to random men on the street.  
You don't owe it to your mother, you don't owe it to your children, you don't owe it to civilization in general.  
Prettiness is not a rent you pay for occupying a space marked "female".

[telegra.ph/You-Dont-Have-to-Be-Pretty-07-30](https://telegra.ph/You-Dont-Have-to-Be-Pretty-07-30)

Telegraph

You Don't Have to Be Pretty

So the other day, folks in the comments were talking about leggings. I'm pretty agnostic about leggings, but the whole discussion (which centered on the fact that it can be \*really\* hard to look good in leggings) got me thinking about the pervasive idea that...

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<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-life-legacy-assassination-of-an-african-revolutionary-lisa-janae-bacon>

TED-Ed

The life, legacy & assassination of an African revolutionary - Lisa Janae Bacon  
In 1972, Thomas Sankara was swept into the revolution seeking to wrest control of Madagascar from France's lingering colonial rule. The protests inspired the West African native to read works by socialist leaders and seek wisdom from military strategy. Leaving...

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<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/social-animal-david-brooks>

TED-Ed

Social animal - David Brooks

Tapping into the findings of his latest book, NYTimes columnist David Brooks unpacks new insights into human nature from the cognitive sciences -- insights with massive implications for economics and politics as well as our own self-knowledge. In a talk full...

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a 16 year old was murdered for throwing a sandwich in a cafeteria. when the school staff heard that he threw a sandwich one of them sat on his neck for 12 minutes. he kept saying that he couldn't breathe and died of cardiac arrest. his name is cornelius fredericks. SAY HIS NAME. [source](#)

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# **Adree Edmo: Trans prisoner receives gender surgery after legal battle**

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Governor Brad Little has repeatedly denied transgender inmate Adree Edmo's request for surgery

A transgender woman serving a prison sentence for sexual abuse in Idaho has undergone gender affirmation surgery, after a years-long legal battle and two attempts to castrate herself behind bars.

Adree Edmo had pursued a successful legal challenge against Idaho and Corizon Health Inc, the provider of healthcare for the state prison system, over the refusal to permit her surgery.

She underwent surgery on July 10, according to the Idaho Press, after successfully arguing that depriving her of treatment violates the constitution's ban on "cruel and unusual punishment".

The surgery is estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000 — far less than the state is believed to have poured into legal battles to prevent it from taking place.

Edmo was sentenced to ten years behind bars in 2011 for sexual abuse of a minor after performing a sex act on a male 15-year-old. She was 22 at the time.



The inmate was diagnosed with gender dysphoria by prison doctors in 2012, but was denied access to gender affirmation surgery, leading her to attempt self-castration while in prison on two occasions.

She sued for the right to undergo surgery in 2017, and was ultimately victorious in federal district and appellate courts.

Idaho's Republican governor Brad Little had sought to appeal the ruling even further, to the US Supreme Court, but it declined to take up the case and permitted the lower court ruling to stand.

Despite burning through taxpayer dollars fighting the legal action, Little had argued: “The hardworking taxpayers of Idaho should not be forced to pay for a convicted sex offender’s gender reassignment surgery when it is contrary to the medical opinions of the treating physician and multiple mental health professionals.”

### **Appeals court found that denying treatment causes ‘ongoing harm’.**

The ninth circuit court of appeals found that prison doctors “knew of and disregarded an excessive risk to Edmo’s health by rejecting her request”, causing “ongoing harm” to her.

The ruling doesn’t mean that all trans inmates in Idaho will be eligible for state-

funded gender-confirmation surgery, but it could set a standard for providing surgery to certain inmates with severe gender dysphoria like Edmo.

Edmo is scheduled for release in 2021.

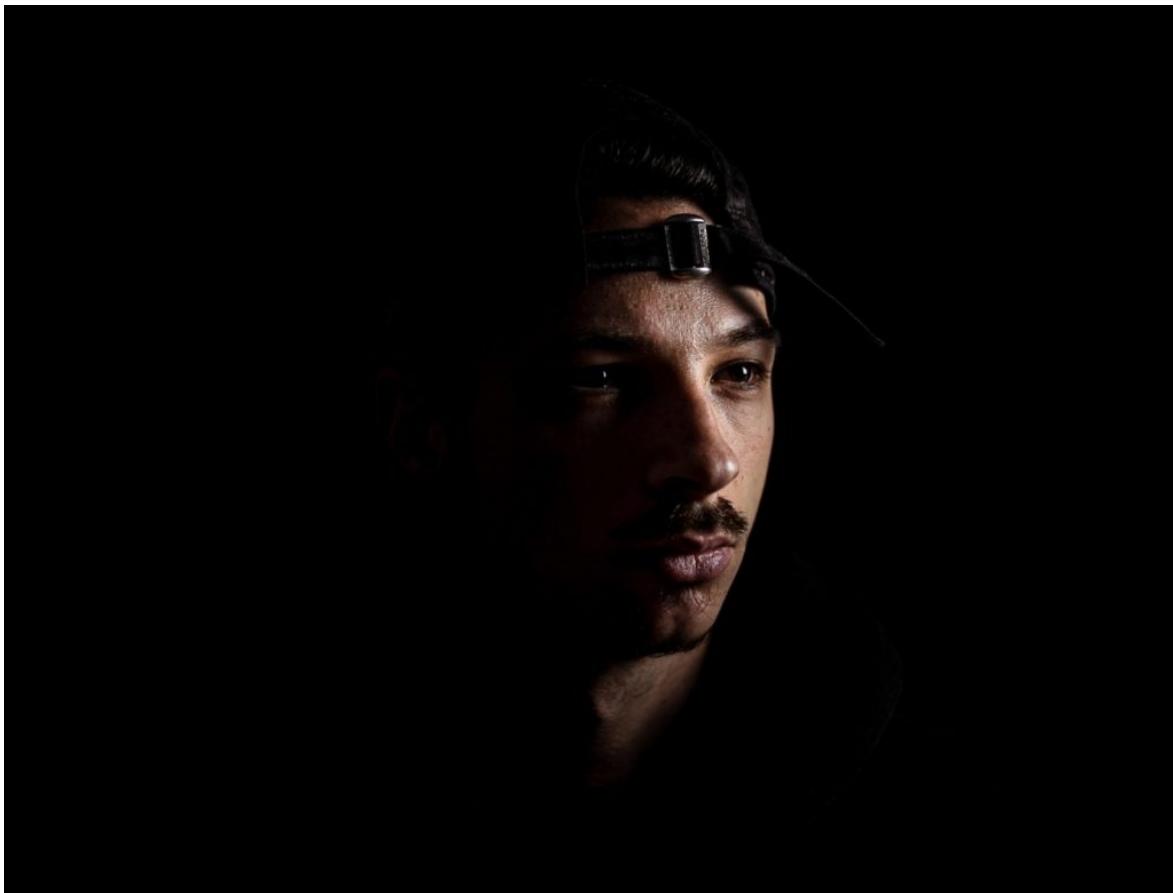
A trans woman serving a sentence for murder in California became the first inmate to be permitted gender affirmation surgery in 2017. As of 2019, a total of seven inmates in California have undergone gender affirmation surgery, according to public records.

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# **Gay and trans Syrians routinely mutilated and raped by ISIS militants**

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A Kurdish Syrian woman walks with her child past the ruins of the town of Kobane, also known as Ain al-Arab. (YASIN AKGUL/AFP via Getty Images)

Queer people in Syria suffer extreme and humiliating forms of sexual violence at the hands of government officials and ISIS militants, according to an explosive report shared by one of the world's top LGBT+ right organisations.

In interviews with 40 LGBT+ people and three heterosexual men as well as various caseworkers and humanitarian organisation representatives, the Human

Rights Watch found queer citizens are subjected to nauseating acts of brutality.

The 77-page report, published on Wednesday (29 July), details the horrendous playbook of sexual cruelty forced against queer civilians by government officials and non-state armed groups, including ISIS militants.

Mutilation. Mops inserted anally. Electric shock. Brutal beatings. Burning of genitals. Rape. Forced nudity. Horrifying acts that all occurred within the walls of state prisons, checkpoints and detention centres.

“They rape you just to see you suffering, shouting,” said Yousef, a 28-year-old gay man. “To see you are humiliated. This is what they like to see.”

A trans woman described the horrifying moment when ISIS militants threw her gay friend from a high-rise rooftop to his death.

**Queer Syrians perceived as ‘soft’ face rape, violence and torture at the hands of authorities and ISIS, report says.**

This spectre of violence shudders through survivors lives for years, the report said, as many suffer from depression, post-traumatic stress and a loss of hope, while others experience rectal bleeding, muscle pain or acquire HIV.

The paper’s authors said this continues when fleeing queer Syrians enter Lebanon and beyond, where providers lack the physical and mental services to deal with their distress.

Exhausted queer Syrians stream out of the besieged country, escaping what they say is a culture where if men are perceived as “soft” they are subjected to gruelling acts of torture, both physical and psychological.



“Individuals who are seen to fall short of dominant masculine ideals, including by exhibiting traits or behaviours that are typically viewed as feminine, are perceived as weak and hence vulnerable to abuse,” the report said.

At checkpoints and in the military, queer men described officials subjecting them to sexual and verbal abuse and sexual harassment if they were seen to be “soft”, often inciting them to censor and suppress who they are.

While during house raids searching for opposition supporters in the early years of the conflict, the report stated, troops and militias raped queer men, non-binary people and trans women.

### **‘Then they brought the stick of a mop and they inserted it in our anus.’**

Trans women are regularly misgendered by perpetrators. Pro-opposition activist Naila, a 21-year-old trans woman, was deeply involved in the 2011 anti-government demonstration that roiled the country.

She told researchers that plain-clothed men stormed her house, decked with anti-government materials and pamphlets on gender identity she imported from

neighbouring Lebanon.

Imprisoned and thrown into a men's jail, Naila said guards, inmates and high-ranking officials raped her several times. In one testimony, she described staff relocating her to another cell with 30 men.



Displaced Syrians ride in the back of a truck towards the Deir al-Ballut checkpoint to return to their villages in Afrin's countryside in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo. (RAMI AL SAYED/AFP via Getty Images)

“As soon as I entered the room I understood why I was there,” she recalled. “I wasn’t alone experiencing this.

“There was a gay person in room nine and he was also in the middle of the room and going through the same things I went through.

“When [the prisoners] saw that there are two ‘soft’ people among them, they put us in the middle of the room of course without food or water and the series of rapes started again.

“They forced me with the gay person to have sex in front of them while beating

us and cutting us with blades.

“Then they brought the stick of a mop and they inserted it in our anus. A strong bleeding started, and we were mutilated.”

**In years of conflict, rate of sexual violence on queer people has reached dizzying heights, human rights organisation warns.**

The report found that within detention centres, invasive searches, rape, burnings, electric shock and mutilation to extract information out of men and boys as young as 11 was commonplace.

Men were raped, the report said, with objects including batons, wooden sticks, pipes, and bottles.

Activists have long feared that against a beleaguered backdrop of a nine-year-long war, where civilians have suffered at a great cost as president Bashar al-Assad’s government bombed the remnants of the rebel movement that sought to topple his family’s reign, this undercurrent of sexual torture has been buried.

The embattled region has seen, they said, animosity towards LGBT+ people tangle with the intensity of the civil conflict. Human rights monitoring groups say that the surveillance and entrapment of gay man have rocketed in the throes of war.

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# Madonna censored by Instagram for sharing coronavirus conspiracy

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Madonna has been flagged for spreading “false information” on Instagram after she shared the same coronavirus conspiracy video that got Donald Trump Jr suspended from Twitter.

The Queen of Pop shared a video of the controversial anti-LGBT+ doctor Stella Immanuel, whom she described as her “hero”. Immanuel believes, among many other outlandish ideas, that people get sick because of sex with demons who talk about coronavirus.

The video showed Immanuel supporting Trump’s baseless claim that hydroxychloroquine should be used to treat coronavirus. The FDA has warned

that the drug carries dangerous side effects and is not an effective treatment for COVID-19.

“The truth will set us all free! But some people don’t want to hear the truth,” Madonna wrote in her caption, also claiming that authorities were hiding the cure for the coronavirus.

The post appeared blurred with a “False Information” warning over the video. The text from Instagram continued: “Reviewed by independent fact-checkers.”

When users clicked further, they were shown a list of falsehoods in Madonna’s post. Fact-checkers note that there is not yet a cure for COVID-19 and that the drug hydroxychloroquine is not a cure, as Immanuel claims.

Unfortunately this isn’t the first bizarre coronavirus announcement we’ve seen from the star: earlier this year she delivered a surreal monologue about the pandemic being a “great equaliser” while sitting in a bubble bath strewn with rose petals.

Her soapy sermon remained on Instagram despite attracting criticism, but her latest post now appears to have been removed altogether.

The social media platform started flagging content for inaccuracies late last year as part of the social app’s commitment to “reducing the spread of false information”.

Twitter has begun doing the same, and yesterday the president’s son was suspended for posting a tweet in which he declared the video of Stella Immanuel a “must watch”.

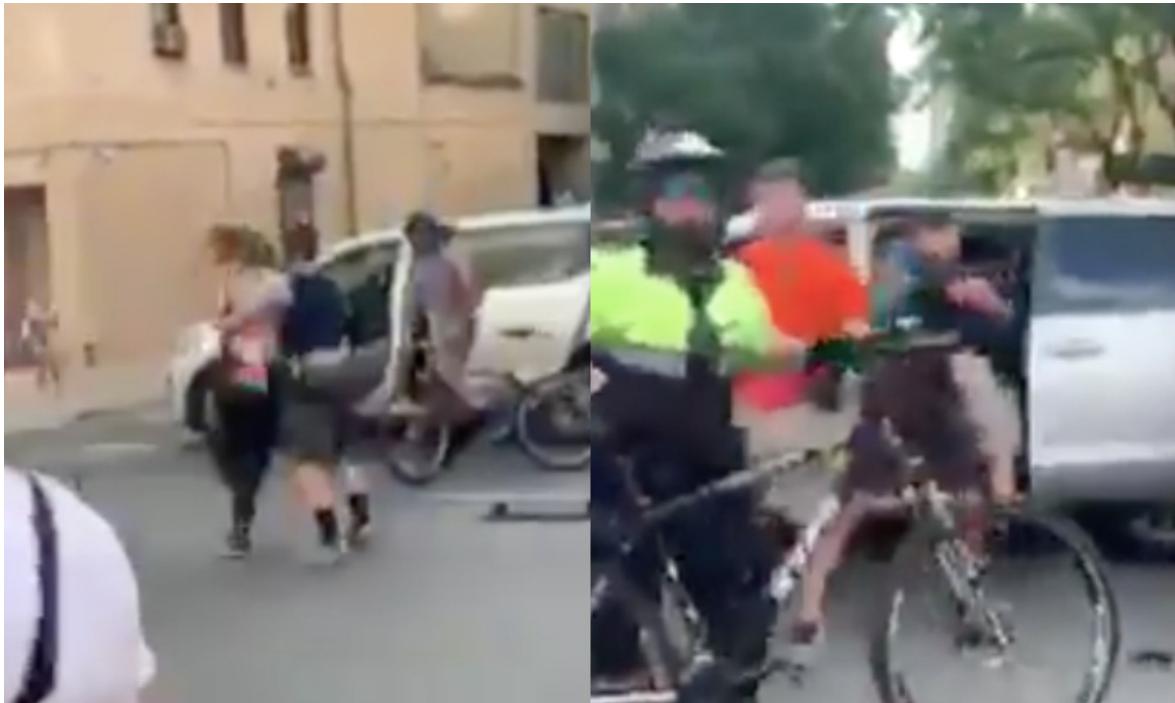
The video was retweeted by the president himself and was also boosted by a string of right-wing figures. It has been pulled down from Twitter and also removed from Facebook for violating COVID-19 misinformation policies, but only after it racked up millions of views between the two websites.

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# New York police drag trans protester Nikki Stone into unmarked van

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Black Lives Matter protesters were left stunned Tuesday evening (July 28) when New York City police officers, several in plain clothes, abruptly poured out of an unmarked minivan and dragged a trans femme demonstrator inside.

In an incident likened to a “kidnapping” by some protesters, 18-year-old Nikki Stone was jockeyed by officers into a plain white vehicle. Stone is, according to those who knew them, homeless.

The New York City Police Department said in a Twitter statement that Stone was singled out and taken into custody for “damaging police cameras during five separate criminal incidents in and around City Hall Park”.

The statement alluded to Stone’s alleged involvement in the earlier Occupy City Hall protests, a 24-hour emplacement where 100 people sought to pressure city

officials to cut police funding.

Police added that officers in the warrant squad, a unit of the force that tracks down those facing open arrest warrants, were simply following standard procedure.

Yet those advocating for an overhaul of police administrations were quick to dispute the official version of events.

NYC is taking after Portland – a trans femme protestor was pulled into an unmarked van at the Abolition Park protest – this was at 2nd Ave and 25th Street pic.twitter.com/1PDhSYuK9h

— michelle lhooq (@MichelleLhooq) July 28, 2020

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# Owen Jones says the attack on him shows the UK isn't fighting extremism

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Owen Jones has spoken out about the UK's problem with far-right extremism, after a man was jailed for a premeditated and violent attack on the *Guardian* journalist last summer.

Jones, 35, was assaulted on his birthday last August outside a North London pub by James Healy, 40, who on 24 July was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison.

Healy, who has a string of convictions for football violence, admitted assault but claimed that he attacked Jones for spilling his drink. Jones told the court he

“absolutely did not” knock Healy’s drink.

A judge ruled that the attack on Jones was because of his “widely published left-wing and LGBT+ beliefs”.

Speaking to *LBC*’s James O’Brien four days after Healy was jailed and two other men were given suspended sentences in connection with the assault, in which he suffered cuts, swelling to his back and head, and bruises down his body, Owen Jones said that “prison isn’t a solution”.

“He’ll go into prison a far-right thug and he’ll probably leave the same,” Jones said, adding that “we don’t deal with rehabilitation, de-radicalisation in the way we should” in the UK.

O’Brien noted that after his arrest, police searched Healy’s home and found “a photograph of him performing a Nazi salute, other items connected to far-right ideology and some particularly pungent homophobic material”.

Discussing the onset of far-right radicalisation in the UK, Jones said that we must think about “who are the hate preachers in society radicalising far-right extremists”.

“We have migrants, Muslims, refugees, demonised and attacked often in the most vicious way often based on outright lies,” Jones continued.

He went on to claim that there is an issue with “the way minorities and people on the progressive side of politics” are portrayed by the press, saying that the way minorities are criticised by mainstream media is a factor in extremism.

“Vilification has, I think, legitimised this sort of hatred that leads to far-right extremism,” he said.

Jones also revealed that he “wasn’t surprised” by the attack. “I do think we need that wider discussion because as I’ve said, there are people in this country who have been killed by extremists.”

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# Propaganda for profit targets the Baltic states on YouTube

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*Fringe YouTube channels monetize pro-Kremlin narratives about the Baltic states*



(Source: Военный Арсенал/archive)

Seven of the 10 most viewed Russian-language YouTube channels that post news stories about the Baltic states are from fringe outlets or individual YouTubers rather than established Kremlin-supported media, according to a DFLab analysis conducted using social media listening tool BuzzSumo. These channels use content from Kremlin media and repeat the same hostile narratives pushed by the Russian state, but they appear to be doing so for profit rather than ideological reasons.

These anti-Baltic narratives can be seen as part of the ongoing effort by pro-Kremlin actors to convince Russian-speaking audiences that countries in the region that embrace a pro-European course end up in decline. And while conventional wisdom suggests that Kremlin-aligned media dominate the publishing of hostile narratives about the Baltic states, this new evidence suggests that these types of stories are by no means exclusive to well-known actors with ties to the Kremlin.

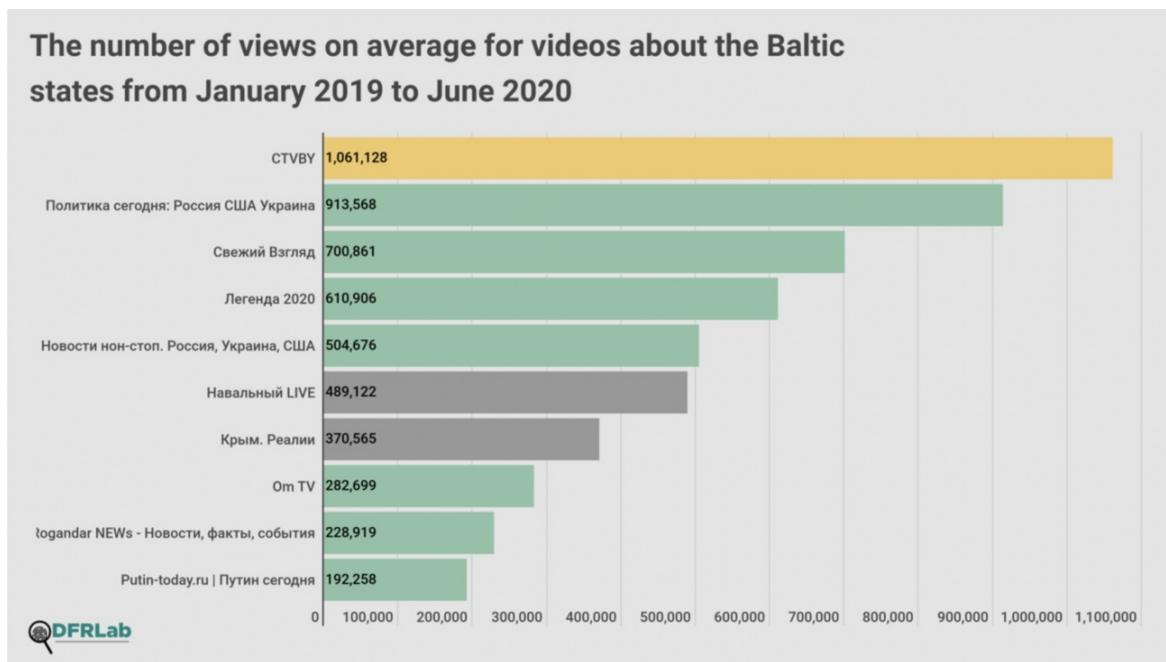
Fringe outlets that propagated anti-Baltic narratives monetized their efforts by

promoting ad placement, donation opportunities, and even branded merchandise. In addition, they cross-promoted via each other's channels as a means of manipulating the YouTube algorithm to amplify their videos to a broader audience.

## Fringe outlets dominate

The DFRLab used the social media monitoring tool BuzzSumo to look for YouTube videos that mentioned "the Baltic states," "Estonia," "Latvia," or "Lithuania," in their varying Russian-language noun forms over an 18-month period, from January 2019 through June 2020. The research analyzed videos tagged by authors under the categories "Politics," "Society," and "Military," but did not include other categories such as "Travel," "Entertainment," "Sports," and "Lifestyle," to avoid stories that were not political.

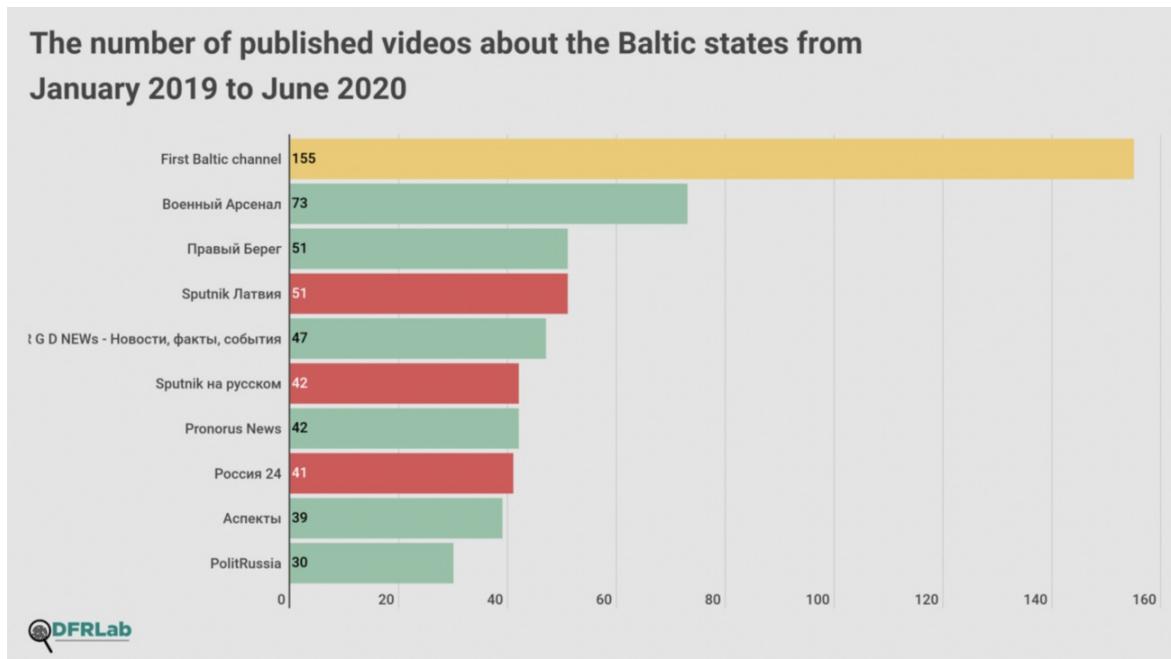
Below is the list of the top 10 channels that garnered the most views per video on average about the Baltic states.



Top 10 most-viewed channels according to average video viewership, based on data from January 2019 through June 2020. The yellow bar represents a pro-Kremlin account, while the grey bars show anti-Kremlin accounts. The other seven accounts are fringe accounts and individual YouTubers. (Source: @nikaaleksejeva/DFRLab via BuzzSumo)

Seven of the 10 channels listed above can be characterized as fringe news outlets or individual YouTubers. Among the others are STV BY (CTVBY) YouTube channel, which is a mainstream pro-Kremlin TV channel in Belarus, as well as the anti-Kremlin channels Navalny LIVE (Навальный LIVE), associated with Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny, and Krim.Realii (Крым. Реалии), a Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty channel about Crimea.

The DFRLab also investigated which channels were the most active in publishing videos about the Baltic states in Russian. Two Kremlin-owned outlets (Sputnik and Rossiya 24) and one pro-Kremlin outlet (First Baltic) appeared on the list of the top 10 most active content producers.

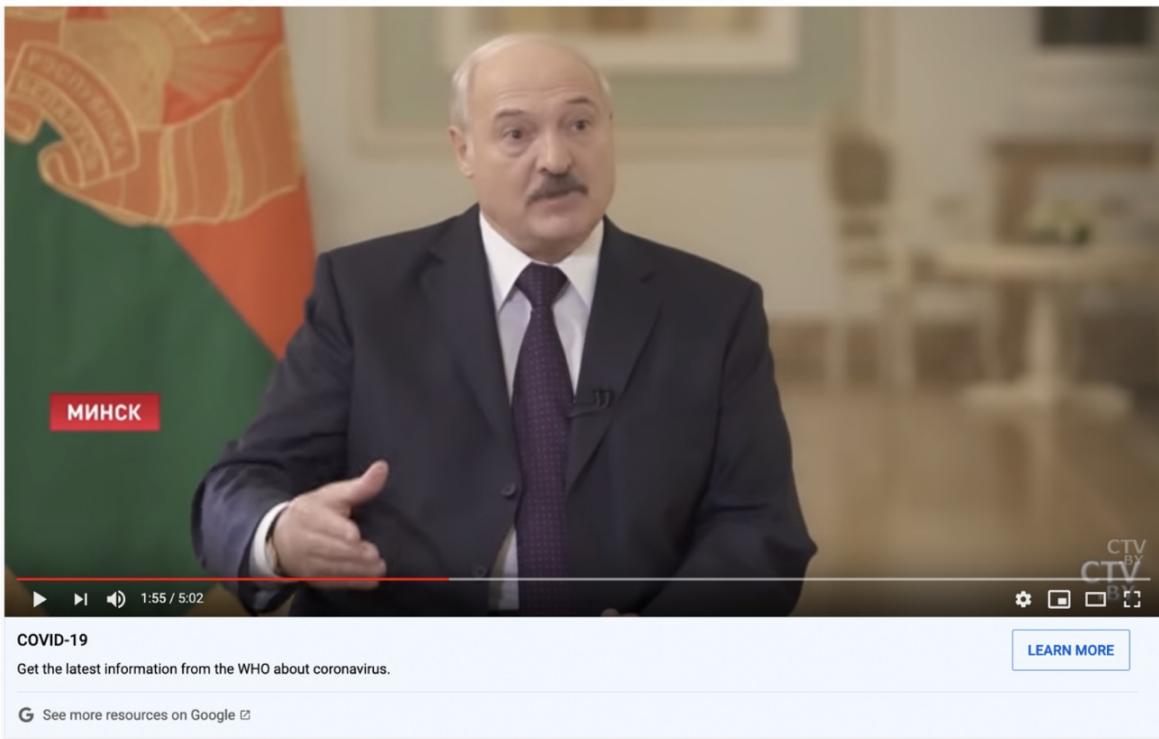


Top 10 most active content producers based on the data on the number of videos per channel that were about the Baltic states from January 2019 through June 2020. (Source: @nikaaleksejeva/DFRLab via BuzzSumo)

## Hostile content

The most popular fringe channels did not cover the Baltic states exclusively. Most of the channels described themselves in their “About” section as generic news channels covering Russia and abroad. Many channels also covered Ukraine, Belarus, the European Union and its member states. The content of the videos was predominantly hostile toward Russia’s Western neighbors.

For example, the most viewed video in the set, which garnered over 3 million views, was published by the STV Belarus channel and showed Aleksander Lukashenko, the President of Belarus, explaining how Belarus is tackling COVID-19. It also published a verbal attack by Lukashenko on Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda titled “Lukashenko was harsh in response to Lithuanian President: You better deal with your own virus, you have many issues!”



COVID-19  
Get the latest information from the WHO about coronavirus.  
[LEARN MORE](#)  
G See more resources on Google ↗

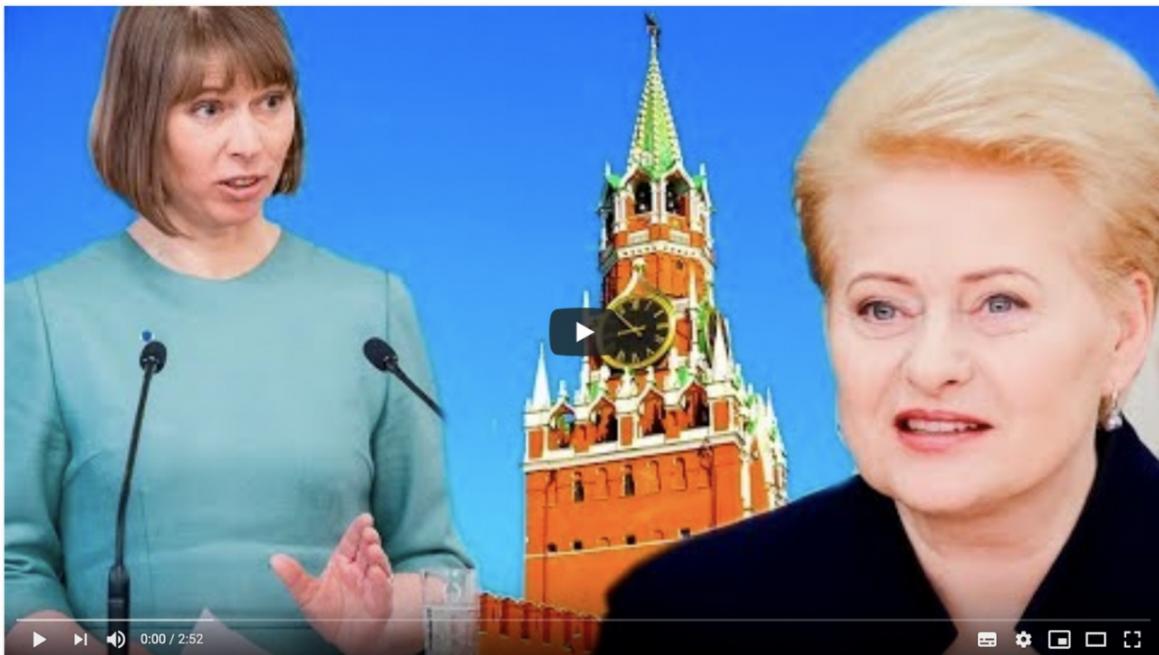
Лукашенко жёстко ответил Президенту Литвы: Ты своим вирусом займись, у тебя там куча вопросов!

3,136,838 views • 2 Apr 2020

71K 9.5K SHARE SAVE ...

Video of President Lukashenko attacking the Lithuanian president.  
(Source: STVBY/archive)

Many videos in the set discussed real news events that concerned the Baltic states and Russia. For example, the fringe channel “Aspekte” published a video mocking Estonian President Kersti Kaljuland’s meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in April 2019. In the video, which included photos from the meeting between Putin and Kaljuland, the narrator read a blog entry by Sergey Filatov, a pro-Kremlin commentator. The blog entry mocked a statement made by Kaljuland and later reported by the Kremlin-owned news outlet *RIA Novosti*. According to the publication, Kaljuland said that after her meeting with Putin, Estonia could be on the same level as other NATO member states. The commentator implied that Estonia was a small and irrelevant country that had now become “braver.”



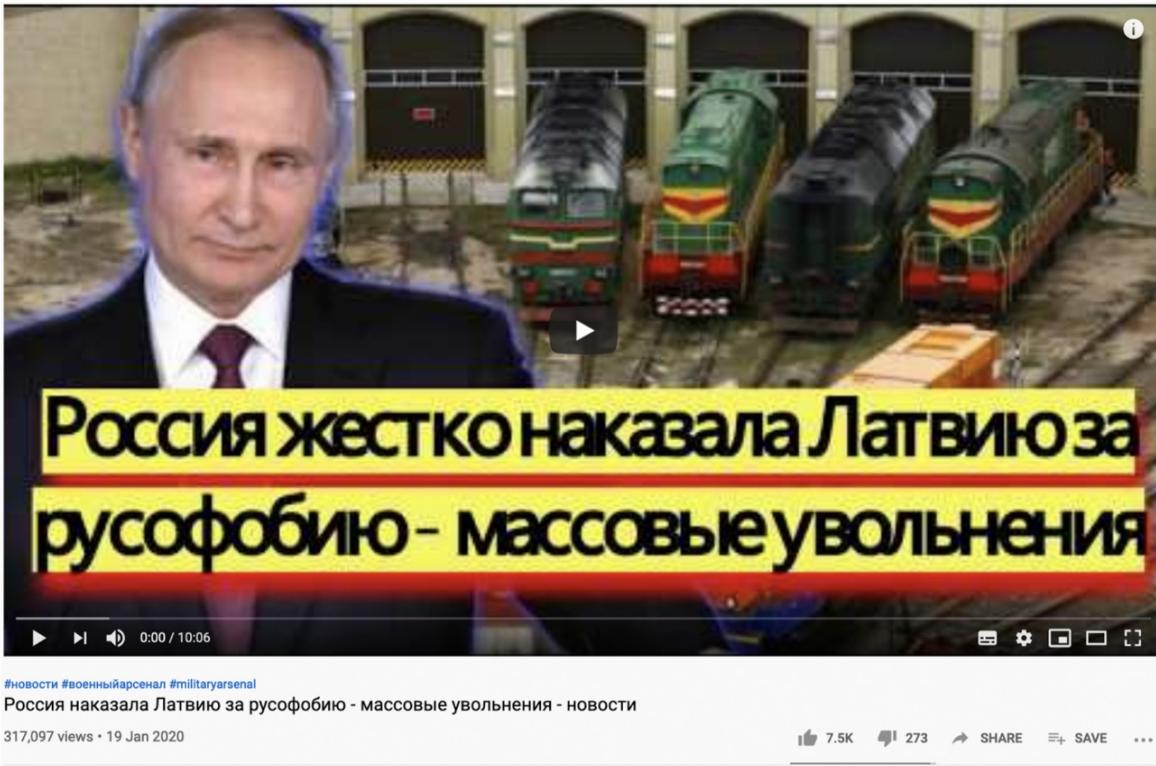
После визита к Путину Эстония не на шутку осмелела и спровоцировала борьбу за встречу с Путиным...

613,686 views • 23 Apr 2019

1K 4K 287 SHARE SAVE ...

Example of a video about a real news event involving Russia and the Baltic states. Translated from Russian: “After meeting with Putin, Estonia became very brave and provoked a fight to meet Putin.”  
(Source: Аспекты/archive)

Many other videos suggested that the pro-European and anti-Russian positions held by the Baltic states hurt their economies. For example, the fringe channel “Voennyi Arsenal” published a video suggesting that Latvia was forced to lay off 1,500 railway workers because Russia had stopped exporting its cargo through Latvia. While Latvia had laid off the workers, the Latvian government never clarified the rationale for doing so beyond highlighting a need to stabilize the company and reduce operating costs. The video description mentioned that the source of the news story was *RuBaltic.ru*, a pro-Kremlin outlet that focuses on the Baltic states.



Screencap of a video alleging that the Baltic states suffered economically after turning away from their partnership with Russia. Translated from Russian, both the title and the yellow text reads: “Russia punished Latvia for Russophobia hard — mass lay-offs.” (Source: Военный Арсенал/archive)

The fringe YouTube channels analyzed for this article do not appear to be affiliated with pro-Kremlin or Kremlin-funded outlets. Rather, they repackage content from such outlets in order to make their videos, thus amplifying Kremlin narratives to a broader audience.

## Monetizing propaganda

Profit appeared to be an important incentive driving the fringe channels to publish hostile content targeting the Baltic states. Four out of the seven most viewed fringe channels on YouTube contained links for donations or an email address for business inquiries.

For instance, one of the 10 most-viewed channels was “Rogandar NEWS — News, facts, events,” which was linked to two other channels with similar names and email addresses for business inquiries. It offered businesses space in its

videos to advertise, information on how to donate money (to three different bank accounts), and details on how to buy a generic, unbranded t-shirt.

**Rogandar NEWSs - Новости, факты, события**

**Description**

Канал Rogandar NEWSs - независимый новостной видео канал в Youtube, на котором Вы найдете оригинальные и самые свежие новости со всего мира на тему: новости России, новости Украины, обзоры и публикации Западных СМИ, политика и история без цензуры, острая аналитика, происшествия и расследования. Канал обновляется каждый день и каждый день Вы будете находить для себя что-то новое и интересное!

**РЕКЛАМА НА КАНАЛЕ:** [https://vk.com/nischagurazad?w=wall-93304975\\_5907%2Fall](https://vk.com/nischagurazad?w=wall-93304975_5907%2Fall)  
**ЗАХОДИТЕ В КЛЕВЫЙ МАГАЗИН ОДЕЖДЫ ROGANDAR** <http://rogandar.myprintbar.ru/>

Информация для финансовой поддержки проекта:  
 Кarta Сбербанка: 5484 5200 1014 6158; WebMoney (в рублях) - R762388567442; WebMoney (в долларах) - Z310243090030

Не думайте, что 10, 50 100, 500 или 1000 рублей не будут иметь значения: каждое пожертвование со стороны наших читателей для нас очень важно и будет сразу направлено на тысячу важных дел

**Details**

For business enquiries: [andrwarrior@yandex.ru](mailto:andrwarrior@yandex.ru)

Location: Russia

**R G D NEWSs - Новости, факты, события**

**Description**

Канал R G D NEWSs - независимый новостной видео канал в YouTube, на котором Вы найдете оригинальные и самые свежие новости со всего мира на тему: новости России, новости Украины, обзоры и публикации Западных СМИ, обзоры вооружений и военной техники России и стран мира, политики и истории без цензуры, острая аналитика, происшествия и расследования. Канал обновляется каждый день и каждый день Вы будете находить для себя что-то новое и интересное!

**andrwarror@yandex.ru**

**RG NEWSs**

**Description**

На нашем канале вы найдете информацию о последних новостях и событиях в России и мире. Хроника событий, острая аналитика, обзоры западной прессы и многое другое не оставит вас равнодушными

**andrwarrories@gmail.com**

**Details**

For business enquiries: [andrwarmore@gmail.com](mailto:andrwarmore@gmail.com)

Location: United States

Youtube channels linked to Rogandar NEWSs. The green box highlights a call to support the channels financially. The pink boxes highlight the similar email addresses for business inquires. (Source: Rogandar NEWSs — Новости, факты, события/archive, left; R G D NEWSs — Новости, факты, события/archive, top right; RG NEWSs/archive, bottom right)

Cross-promotion as “featured channels” was another strategy that the fringe channels used to reach viewers. The channel Voennyi Arsenal (Военный Арсенал), for example, featured another channel, Novostnoy Efir (Новостной Эфир), which returned the favor by cross-promoting Voennyi Arsenal. When a channel lists another channel as “featured,” it increases the likelihood that YouTube’s algorithm will suggest the listed channel to viewers of the original channel.



### Военный Арсенал

245K subscribers

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Срочно - В Киеве рассказали о тайном говоре России ... 11:42

Срочно views • 4 hours ago



Срочно - Конец всем переговорам - Эрдоган не выдержал ... 10:06

Срочно views • 8 hours ago



Такого позорища мир еще не видел - Коронавирусный майдан ... 10:07

Такого views • 8 hours ago



Срочно - Дончане поймали Зеленского в больнице ... 10:09

Срочно views • 21 hours ago

**ИНТЕРЕСНЫЕ КАНАЛЫ**
  

[Новостной Эфир](#)

SUBSCRIBE

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### Новостной Эфир

40.9K subscribers

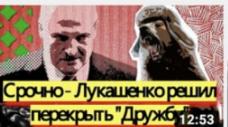
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**Uploads** ▶ PLAY ALL



Герническая небесная сотня - посыпалась как карточные ... 12:43

Сказка о Майдане views • 9 hours ago



Срочно - Лукашенко решил перекрыть "Дружбу" ... 12:53

Срочно - Лукашенко views • 1 day ago



Украина обращает трущобами, лучше бежать в Европу ... 11:45

Украина обращает views • 2 days ago



Такого в США не было более 60 лет - Boeing рушит ... 11:23

Такого в Штатах не было views • 3 days ago

**ИНТЕРЕСНЫЕ КАНАЛЫ**
  

[Военный Арсенал](#)

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Fringe channels Voennyy Arsenal and Novostnoy Efir cross-promoted each other. Pink boxes mark their featured channel section. (Source: Военный Арсенал/archive, top; Новостной Эфир/archive, bottom)

The Rogandar NEWS channel also ran a larger scale cross-promotion network, as can be seen in the following screenshot.

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for "Rogandar NEWS - Новости, факты, события". The channel has 355K subscribers. A video thumbnail for "Кто проспал начало Путинской революции" is displayed, with 121,021 views and posted 11 months ago. The video's description includes links to various channels and social media.

**Popular uploads**

- 1:17 (Thumbnail: A destroyed military aircraft)
- 6:57 (Thumbnail: F-15 and Su-27 fighter jets)
- 6:23 (Thumbnail: Military personnel in uniform)
- 5:49 (Thumbnail: Two military personnel)

**Featured channels** (Promoted by Rogandar NEWS):
 

- Good Family House (green box)
- RT (green box)
- Дмитрий Завьялов (green box)
- Roman Sanych (middle left)
- Captain Crimea (middle right)
- RGD NEWS (pink box)
- 24 NEWS plus (bottom right)

**Interests** (Promoting Rogandar NEWS):
 

- RGD NEWS (green box)
- Factorium Room (green box)
- Captain Crimea (green box)
- К.Э.П. (green box)
- Дмитрий Завьялов (pink box)
- Rogandar NEWS (pink box)
- ФактЫ (pink box)
- Россия 24 (pink box)
- GrenFi NEWS (pink box)

The cross-promotion network of “Rogandar NEWS — News, facts, events.” The channels they promoted and promoted them in return are in green boxes. The channels that promoted Rogandar NEWS without reciprocation are in pink boxes. (Source: Rogandar NEWS — Новости, факты, события/archive, top; Роман Саныч/archive, middle left; Captain Crimea/archive, middle right; Дмитрий Завьялов/archive, bottom left; 24 NEWS plus/archive, bottom right)

Disinformation and propaganda that employ political narratives are not always

politically motivated; sometimes, the primary motivation is financial. While established Kremlin-owned outlets publish anti-Baltic narratives regularly as a means of furthering the Kremlin's geopolitical interests, this analysis revealed a constellation of fringe YouTube channels that push similar stories, often compiled directly from Kremlin sources, but likely for their own financial profit.

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Nika Aleksejeva is a Research Associate with the Digital Forensic Research Lab (@DFRLab) and is based in Latvia.

Follow along on Twitter for more in-depth analysis from our #DigitalSherlocks.

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# Rachel Swann: Officer mocked by homophobes to become chief constable

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One of Britain's top police officers who faced a torrent of homophobic and sexist criticism for her short hairstyle is on track to become Derbyshire's next chief constable.

Deputy chief constable Rachel Swann was a crucial lifeline for many Whaley Bridge residents in England's north after a damaged dam broke, leading to evacuations and major thoroughfare closures in 2019.

But after speaking to reporters, she entered the firing line of internet trolls. The virtual viriol proved so grating to Swann that she quit Twitter altogether, shocked her "mere existence could cause such a depth of feeling".

But months on, and Derbyshire police and crime commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa

announced Tuesday (28 July) that Swann is his preferred candidate for the top job.

She will now be subject to a confirmation hearing by Derbyshire's Police and Crime Panel, the Daily Mail reported.

### **Rachel Swann: Deputy police chief led a British town out of disaster. Yet people mocked her spiky hairstyle.**

As the senior officer in the Toddbrook Reservoir operation, locals of the northwest English town grew to know Swann's face well.

Days after the county was pummelled with intense rainfall, the reservoir crumbled. Resulting in around 1,500 residents leaving their homes.

However, after she did a press conference in August discussing the dam, trolls took to Twitter to decry her.

She told *BBC Radio Derby* at the time: "Yes, I am a woman. Yes, I might have a slightly different hairstyle.

"Yes, I am quite small.

"The bit that astounded me was I could not believe that my mere existence could cause such a depth of feeling.

"I can take a bit of banter but then it became sexist and homophobic, and really, really insulting.

"The bit that really hurt was when people said I had no standards and I was letting policing down."

"They were saying, 'she's not wearing a hat'. Often we would get advised not to wear hats – you can see our eyes, so you can gain trust."

Now she's in line to become the town's police chief.

"I'm absolutely delighted and feel extremely privileged to be the preferred candidate [for] the post of chief constable," she said.

“Derbyshire constabulary is a really good force with great people working in it and I look forward to working with the PCC [Derbyshire police and crime commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa] to deliver a good level of service to our communities.”

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# Rina Sawayama 'isn't British enough' to enter UK's biggest music awards

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Rina Sawayama, the acclaimed pansexual British-Japanese music artist, has been told she “isn’t British enough” to enter the Mercury Prize and the BRITs.

Sawayama, who used to identify as bisexual but describes herself as pan, has been praised by some of the biggest names in the music world since her debut album *SAWAYAMA* in 2019.

Elton John described it as a “phenomenal record”, and said when it was released that the queer artist had created “the strongest album of the year so far”.

But when the Mercury Prize announced the artists that had been shortlisted on Thursday, 23 July, Sawayama was missing from the list.

Despite having lived continuously in the UK for the last 25 years and having “indefinite leave to remain”, Sawayama is not a British citizen and so will not be considered for the Mercury Prize or the BRITs, according to their terms and conditions.

The pansexual artist told VICE that not being eligible to enter was “heartbreaking”, and added: “I rarely get upset to the level where I cry. And I cried.”

Having moved to the UK when she was a child, Sawayama said: “All I remember is living here. I’ve just lived here all my life.

“I went to summer school in Japan, and that’s literally it. But I feel like I’ve contributed to the UK in a way that I think is worthy of being celebrated, or at least being eligible to be celebrated.

“I’m signed to a UK label. I’ve lived here uninterrupted for the last 25 years. I’m only tax registered in this country.

“The whole album was recorded in the UK as well as in LA. It was mixed in the UK. My lyrics are in English, except for one verse in one song.”

### **Rina Sawayama found being unable to enter the Mercury Prize and the BRITs ‘othering’.**

Because Japan does not allow dual citizenship, to become a British citizen she would have to denounce her Japanese citizenship, but the technicality doesn’t stop Rina Sawayama from identifying as British.

“[As an immigrant], you get to a level when you don’t have to worry about your nationality and your status and whether you fit into this country,” she said.

“Things like that bring into sharp focus, like, whether I am even British. It’s just very upsetting.”

She believes that the awards are “creating their own sort of version of border control around their eligibility”, and decided to speak out to stop other artists from going through the same “othering” experience.

“I don’t ever want anyone to ever feel like this,” Sawayama said, “when they’ve worked so hard on something and everyone can see that you’ve worked really hard, but the people who reward excellence in this country don’t.”

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# You Don't Have to Be Pretty

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So the other day, folks in the comments were talking about leggings. I'm pretty agnostic about leggings, but the whole discussion (which centered on the fact that it can be *\*really\** hard to look good in leggings) got me thinking about the pervasive idea that women owe it to onlookers to maintain a certain standard of decorativeness.

Now, this may seem strange from someone who writes about pretty dresses (mostly) every day, but: You Don't Have to Be Pretty. You don't owe prettiness to anyone. Not to your boyfriend/spouse/partner, not to your co-workers, especially not to random men on the street. You don't owe it to your mother, you don't owe it to your children, you don't owe it to civilization in general.

Prettiness is not a rent you pay for occupying a space marked “female”.

I’m not saying that you SHOULDN’T be pretty if you want to. (You don’t owe UN-prettiness to feminism, in other words.) Pretty is pleasant, and fun, and satisfying, and makes people smile, often even at you. But in the hierarchy of importance, *pretty* stands several rungs down from *happy*, is way below *healthy*, and if done as a penance, or an obligation, can be so far away from *independent* that you may have to squint really hard to see it in the haze.

But what does you-don’t-have-to-be-pretty mean in practical, everyday terms? It means that you don’t have to apologize for wearing things that are held to be “unflattering” or “unfashionable” — especially if, in fact, they make you happy on some level deeper than just being pretty does. So what if your favorite color isn’t a “good” color on you? So what if you are “too fat” (by some arbitrary measure) for a sleeveless top? If you are clean, are covered enough to avoid a citation for public indecency, and have bandaged any open wounds, you can wear any color or style you please, if it makes you happy.

I was going to make a handy prettiness decision tree, but pretty much the end of every branch was a bubble that said “tell complainers to go to hell” so it wasn’t much of a tool.

Pretty, it’s sad to say, can have a shelf life. It’s so tied up with youth that, at some point (if you’re lucky), you’re going to have to graduate from pretty. Sometimes (as in the case with Diana Vreeland, above, you can go so far past pretty that you end up in *stylish*, or even *striking* (or the fashion-y term *jolie laide*) before you know it. But you won’t get there if you think you have to follow all the signs that say “this way to *Pretty*. ” You get there by traveling the route you find most interesting. (And to hell with the naysayers who say “But that’s not PRETTY”!)

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