

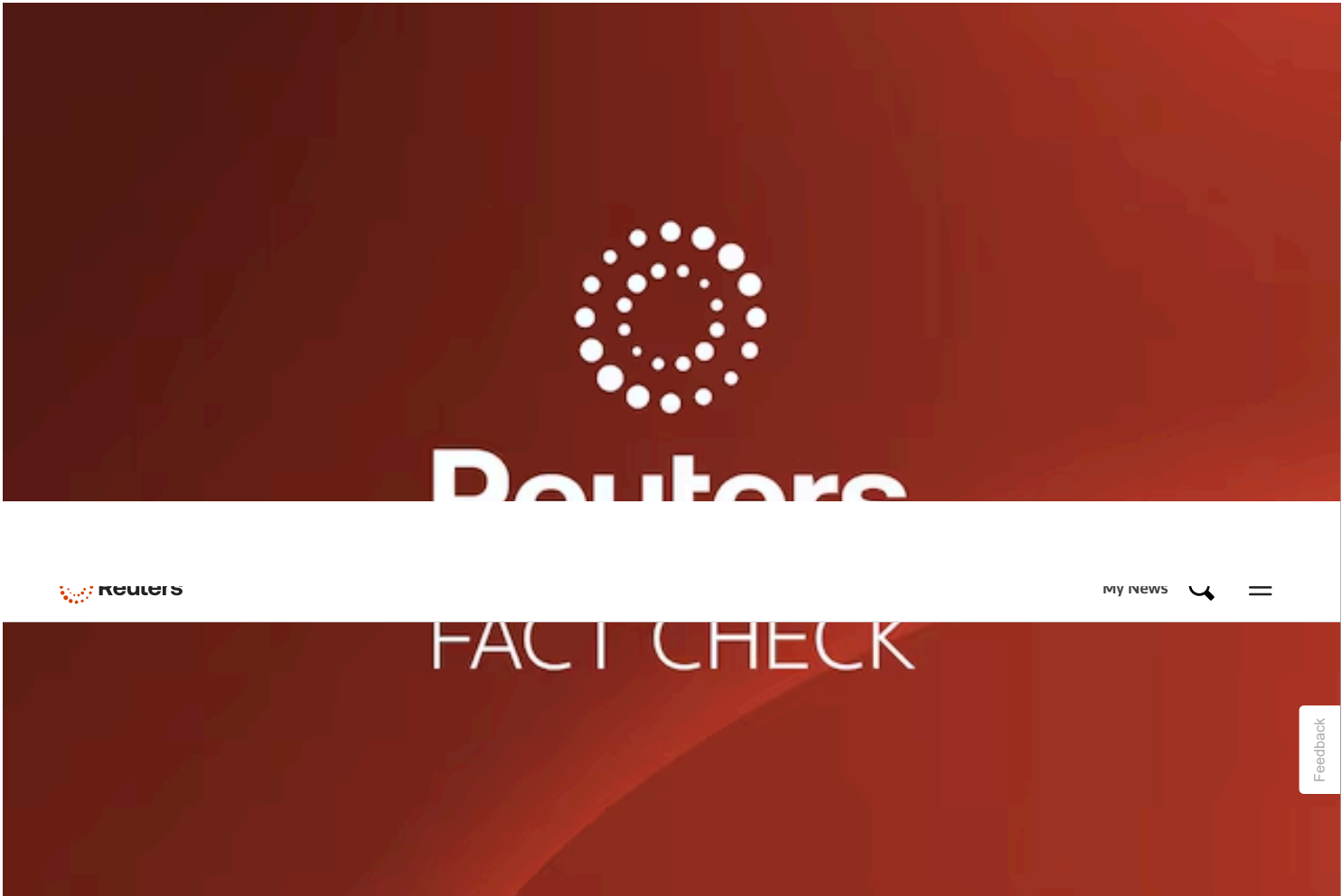
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Fact Check


Fact Check: Paulette Harlow convicted for blocking abortion clinic, not praying


By Reuters Fact Check


June 11, 2024 12:22 PM CDT · Updated 3 months ago



Anti-abortion campaigner Paulette Harlow was convicted for blocking access to an abortion clinic in Washington DC, not for praying outside it, as claimed by some social media accounts.

A [post on Facebook](#)  said: “BREAKING! A DC judge just sentenced 75-year-old Paulette Harlow, who is in poor health, to 2 years in prison for praying outside an abortion clinic.”

The posts surfaced online after the 75-year-old Harlow, who is referred to as “Paula Paulette Harlow” in official documents, was [sentenced](#)  to 24 months in prison on May 31, 2024, for blocking access to a Washington DC area reproductive health clinic [on Oct. 22, 2020](#).

According to a [press release](#)  on the U.S. Department of Justice website, Harlow, along with her co-conspirators, “forcefully entered the clinic and set about blockading two clinic doors using their bodies, furniture, chains, and ropes. Once the blockade was established, they live-streamed their activities.”

Harlow’s attorney Allen Orenberg said in an email that the reference to Harlow praying is “not accurate” and that “the DOJ press release is correct.”

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The press release also noted that Harlow was the 10th and the final “member of the conspiracy to be sentenced on charges of civil rights conspiracy and Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act violations.”

The [1994 FACE Act](#) prohibits the use of force and physical obstruction to interfere with a person obtaining or providing reproductive health services. Former President Bill Clinton backed the legislation in response to violence by anti-abortion activists in the 1980s and 90s.

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VERDICT

Misleading. Paulette Harlow was convicted to two years in prison for blocking access to an abortion clinic, not for praying in front of a clinic.

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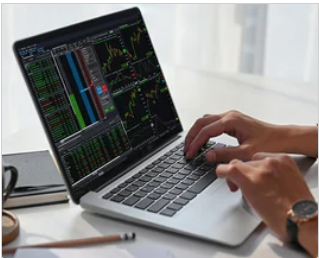
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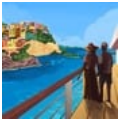
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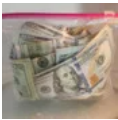
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Fact Check · September 7, 2024 · 10:14 AM CDT

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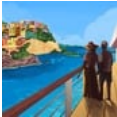
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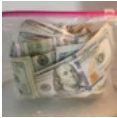
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