

04 DEC SCRIPT

It's December 4th. I'm Bryan Dean Wright, former CIA Operations Officer. And this is... The Wright Report.

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A good day to you, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Wright Report, your daily news podcast. I've got three briefs for you this morning that are shaping America / and the world.

First up, the latest out of the Middle East — with more US sailors and ships coming under fire. Plus, more cyber attacks to tell you about too, in Israel — and in the United States.

Second, there's a battle erupting between the richest man in the world — Elon Musk — and America's advertisers. I'll explain what's going on and why you should care.

Third, important updates for you about the illegal migration crisis — all from the State of Texas — with one update / that could profoundly change both the debate and the future of the border.

Later, a personal reflection today about a Supreme Court case you'll be hearing about / regarding opioids. I'll share my journey with injury, pain, and pain management — and why medical science now thinks there's a better way to handle that suffering / than pharmaceutical pills.

But first, let's get to our top stories of the morning:

The Government of Iran and its partner groups in terror / attacked a US warship and multiple commercial vessels over the weekend.

It's a major escalation, one that will challenge the White House's current policy of telling Iran and its proxy groups — "Don't Do It"

Well they are doing it, including again over the weekend. Here's what we know.

The USS Carney came under attack yesterday by Iran's rebel partners based in Yemen, called the Houthis. They took credit for the attack late yesterday after a five hour assault. The Houthis said they did it in defense of QUOTE "our brothers the Gaza Strip." END QUOTE

No reports yet of casualties of any US sailors or Marines, but the Pentagon is expect to provide additional details in the coming hours.

In the meantime, we know that the USS Carney had been in the Red Sea shooting down drones and cruise missiles fired by the Houthis, mostly directed at Israel or its commercial ships.

But the attack yesterday was a direct assault on a US naval asset — with the *last public attack / acknowledged back in 2016* under then Pres. Obama and then-VP Biden. At that time, the Houthis tried to sink the USS Mason, amongst other Naval assets.

Also important to know this morning: the Houthis / were labeled a terrorist organization under the Trump Administration but Mr. Biden reversed that decision as one of his very first acts as president in 2021.

I should also note that yesterday's attack / came hours after the Iranians also flew a drone over the USS Eisenhower in Persian Gulf. Though the drone didn't fire on the strike group, the US Navy called it / unprofessional.

Moving on to other developments in the Middle East, the war in the Gaza Strip / has started anew. That's because the Palestinian terror group Hamas violated the ceasefire — at least based on assessments by the US, Europe, and Israel. As you might expect, Hamas argues they did no such thing.

Regardless, Israel has launched new air assaults and some ground operations in mostly southern Gaza as of this morning. The city of Khan Younis is of initial focus.

The Israelis are telling Palestinians there to go further south, to the city of Rafah; that city shares a border with Egypt. And that is almost certainly going to put pressure on officials in Cairo, who have so far refused to accept any refugees. That's because Egypt fears that many will be Palestinians who embrace radical Islam and will terrorize / the Sinai Peninsula.

Nevertheless, this renewed attack by the Israelis against Hamas / will come as very bad news for // amongst others // the White House. Over the past five days, Biden's team told the Israelis that, in no uncertain terms, they should avoid escalation and do not repeat the wide-spread damage that they caused in the north.

Biden's team also pushed the Israelis to change their strategy to use fewer air strikes, with more ground operations, and narrow the scope of targets — sparing especially the hospitals, for instance.

Although that's an awkward request. Israel released more video over the weekend showing Hamas' tunnel networks were under not only hospitals, but also elementary schools, playgrounds, and mosques.

In all, 800 tunnel shafts have been found, 500 of them destroyed, and miles of tunnels / collapsed by explosives or otherwise filled.

Next, let's address the issue of hostages. Hamas continues to say they don't know how many hostages are still alive or where they might be. Part of the reason is because they gave hostages to other terror groups like Islamic Jihad — and they have those hostages or their bodies.

For what it's worth, Israeli intelligence says there are 137 people probably still alive, with the bodies of 13 held in the tunnel networks.

Amongst that group of 137 / are eight or so Americans, according to the White House. Spokesman John Kirby said that he's not entirely sure, but probably eight Americans are being held but it's unclear if they're alive or dead.

Meanwhile, we're learning more from the 108 hostages that have been released so far by Hamas, and details are horrific. Some were branded like cattle to mark them / just in case they escaped. That includes children.

They were also drugged to keep them quiet or compliant, and moved frequently so they couldn't be found.

Third, they were forced to watch videos of the October 7th terror attacks — watching the slaughter of their friends and family, being tortured, shot, or babies that were baked in ovens in one infamous case.

Finally, it wasn't just Hamas who targeted or tortured them. Palestinian civilians did too. For instance, a 12 year old hostage was beaten by a

mob of Palestinians shortly after he was kidnapped and being transported to the tunnel networks. He did survive.

For what it's worth, some Palestinians who were released from Israeli jails as part of the hostage swap // they say that sometimes the Israelis tortured them too. For instance, they took blankets and food from them as a form of punishment. Sometimes prison guards allowed muzzled dogs barked at them. Sometimes they were hit with sticks as well.

One other piece to note on this issue of how civilians are being treated:

The Wall Street Journal is reporting a dramatic uptick in violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians / specifically in the West Bank. About 1,000 Palestinians have been forced from their homes by angry or vengeful Israeli settlers / who say they want to take more land or / simply as an act of revenge.

Next, an update on how Israel is moving forward with its military operations. And it involves Artificial Intelligence.

And to understand the potency of this war-time AI, let me give you this fact: In past years, Israeli targeting teams could identify about 50 Hamas targets per year. But now, with AI, they're identifying 100 targets per day.

And it's all because of an AI system called / The Gospel.

Exact details are classified but here's the upshot: This AI-infused computer system / is processing pictures, video feeds, captured emails and phone calls — all at the speed and processing power of AI. It's comparing that data to the 30K to 40K known or suspected Hamas fighters in the Gaza Strip.

And from that mix of intel and potential targets, The Gospel comes up with 100 targets per day. About half of those / are eventually hit.

And that is why, two months after the October terror attacks, Israeli forces say they've eliminated more than 12,000 targets. It also helps us understand the widespread destruction that we've seen so far in the north of Gaza — and are likely to see in the South too.

And speaking of AI and all things cyber, I've got an update to last Wednesday's brief on Iran.

As a quick refresh, Iranian cyber teams attacked a water facility in Pennsylvania. No harm was done; no water was affected.

But as it turns out, that facility was not the only one hit. The Biden Administration briefed Congress late Thursday that there were upwards of 10 water utilities across the country that were hacked in all, with the culprit of each called the Iran Cyber Avengers.

Once the hackers took control, the computer screens read this: QUOTE "You have been hacked. Down with Israel! Every equipment Made in Israel is a legal target." END QUOTE

US cyber officials are now issuing urgent warnings to states and companies across America who use these same systems — all made by an Israeli firm, and often used in the fields of energy, food, and healthcare.

And that / takes us to our final update of the morning related to the Middle East. And it's about politics.

American Muslim organizers have announced a new initiative called Abandon Biden. They've launched a multi-state effort in Michigan, Minnesota, Arizona, Wisconsin, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania.

And their message to fellow Muslims is this: Do not vote for Joe Biden or Kamala Harris. Leave that part of your ballot blank when you vote next fall.

That's according to leaders of the movement who met on Saturday in Dearborn, MI to launch the effort. And they made it pretty clear about their next steps.

QUOTE "We are [going to] constantly work together to ensure that Muslim Americans will come out in all of these states, and that Mr. Biden / will lose each and every one of them." END QUOTE

One of the organizations involved in this effort is called the Council on American-Islamic Relations or CAIR. For those unaware, countries like the UAE have branded this outfit as a terror organization / given their affiliation with Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood.

For the record, CAIR denies their connections to those terror organizations, and to radical Islam in general.

So those are the latest facts and data this morning out of the Middle East. Let me pivot now to my analysis and opinion.

First, let's step back for a second — take in the big picture. And here's what I see: you and I / are living in one of the most dangerous times in modern history. And this morning's news show us at least two reasons for why that's true.

First, our adversaries are not afraid of us.

And we see that this morning in the Red Sea attacks against the USS Carney. Iran and its terror partners continue to attack us because they think they can get away with it; they see Biden and his team as weak.

We also see it in the homeland. Iran is increasing it's cyber attacks because they think they don't fear consequences.

Second, we face enemies not only foreign but domestic. Remember back on October 23rd / when I told you about the poll of Muslim Americans that showed a strong majority of those folks / support the terror group Hamas or the terror attacks against Israel.

The split was about 60 percent in favor vs. 40 percent opposed.

And it is now that group that the White House is chasing / not out of the country, but for political support. They need them to win the Presidency.

That's why you'll see this Abandon Biden movement / grab attention.

Bottom line, folks: We live in a dangerous era, and you have a very clear choice. You can decide next November if this is the America you deserve, or, if you and your ancestors have fought for something else.

More to come.

With that, let's take our first break of the morning. For subscribers listening at WrightReport.Substack.com — thank you.

Meanwhile, for my other loyal listeners — you have my gratitude as well.

We'll be right back.

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AD BLOCK ONE
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Welcome back to the Wright Report. Let's continue with our briefs this morning with a pivot towards domestic news.

And we start this segment with something that you might not know:

Thirteen percent of Americans get their news from Twitter, now known as X. Compare that percentage of 13 / to America's print newspapers — which reach 7% of us.

In other words, what happens to Twitter — or X — is quite important to the news and what you think of it.

And that / takes us to our update.

Major US advertisers — including Walmart, Disney, Apple, and others — have announced they will no longer advertise on X / because they accuse the owner — Mr. Elon Musk, the world's richest man — of making antisemitic remarks several weeks ago.

Mr. Musk has clarified in a post rejecting anti-Semitism, but the damage from that post — say his critics — has been done. Advertisers should leave him.

Well, Musk is now saying that if this advertising boycott by Walmart, Disney and others continues, it's going to kill his company.

And that would mean 13% of Americans will need to go to other social media platforms like Facebook for their news.

But if that happens, they will see more than news. And that takes us to a warning. Listener discretion is advised for this next piece of news. It involves some very adult and difficult topics.

Here we go.

According to an investigation by the Wall Street Journal, from both June and again late last week, the social media platforms Facebook and Instagram / are connecting a global network of pedophiles to each other to share images, videos, and even their own children.

As the Journal showed, it's not just that pedophiles are using these platforms / but rather that the algorithms themselves of Facebook and Instagram are programmed to promote this stuff and related accounts.

I won't go into details here — because they're just too gross — but for subscribers on Substack (paid and unpaid) I'm going to unlock today's episode. Because I want you to click on the links in the transcripts and read about the investigations. Remember, the links are the underlined words; that'll take you to the original source website.

Fair warning, though: it's horrific stuff. We need to know it, but it's awful.

As just one small sanitized example, I'll share this: when Journal investigators saw and flagged pedophilia for Facebook's content moderators, they got a response that said the pedophilia / did not violate their community standards.

Eventually Facebook and its parent company Meta took down the content, but only after public outrage.

Finally, one more thing for you to know. Most of the companies leaving Twitter or X because of the allegation of anti-Semitism / they continue to advertise on Facebook and Instagram despite the rampant pedophilia on those platforms.

So those are the facts and data this morning regarding this on-going social media fight between X-owner Elon Musk and America's corporations.

Just one quick piece of analysis and opinion.

Disney's CEO Bob Iger / was interviewed about why he dropped his company's advertising on X. And he said that he didn't want to associate Disney with anti-Semitic views. And that's certainly laudable in the general sense.

But it's curious that Disney and others in Corporate America are apparently fine with advertising on platforms that encourage pedophilia — it's built into their algorithms.

Now it's true that Meta has teams that try to ferret some of this stuff out. And it's also true that trying to find and remove these ever-sneaky pedophiles is hard. Evil is hard to defeat.

But it's curious, I think, that Disney can be so sensitive about one category of outrage — anti-Semitism — and yet far less outraged about another — pedophilia.

Especially in Disney's case.

That seems important to both understand — and ask more questions about.

And we should. That's why I'll be watching how this plays out / and will bring you the latest as we get more details.

In the meantime, folks: watch your kids as ever when they use their phones and computers. Because, sure, we have all known for a long time that social media platforms can be an absolute garbage dumps of humanity. But — in the case of Instagram and Facebook — it appears that the trash there / is actually being promoted by their algorithms.

That's both vile — and dangerous.

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Next up, we pivot now to other domestic news / this related to America's on-going migration crisis.

Three big pieces of news from Texas this morning, the first two involving US courts blocking attempts to stop illegal migrants.

First up, on Friday, the 5th Circuit Court of appeals ruled 2 to 1 that the State of Texas must remove the floating buoys they had placed on the Rio Grande to stop or slow illegals from crossing the border.

The Biden White House had sued Texas to stop the use of those barriers, saying they blocked navigation and presented humanitarian concerns.

Texas Governor Greg Abbot said he was disappointed with the ruling, and that he will appeal.

Next, late Thursday another US court ruled that the razor wire that Texas had put up along the border with Mexico / could come down, saying that the Federal Government had the authority to remove it.

And that is what the Biden White House plans on doing.

Unless, of course, the State of Texas prevails in its appeal. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton / plans to do just that.

Third and finally, the Governor of Texas plans to sign into law something called Senate Bill Four. The law is set to come into force in March, and here's what it'll address:

As of right now, if you cross into America illegally through Texas, the only thing that the State can do is charge you for trespassing on private property.

But SB4 will change that.

Starting in March, if a Texas police officer has probable cause to believe a person crossed the Rio Grande illegally into Texas, that person will be charged with a Class B misdemeanor. And that serious misdemeanor carries a punishment of up to six months in jail.

Additionally, if the person has been previously convicted of entering Texas illegally, the second charge can be increased to punishment of two to 20 years in prison.

I should note that the bill does allow a judge to drop the charges if a migrant agrees to return to Mexico.

And here's why this is a big deal: When an illegal migrant applies for asylum, their applications are automatically rejected if they have a criminal history like a serious misdemeanor or felony.

So if Texas moves forward with this and starts charging and convicting illegals, an untold number of asylum seekers / will face immediate expulsion. At least on paper. It's a tool, a form of leverage.

And that's why Leftist immigration activists are outraged at this SB4 law. They promise to fight it.

FWIW, the Biden White House has so far said nothing about SB4 / but analysts predict Democrats will be opposed.

So let's put this on our radars. It could be an important tool if it's upheld by the courts // Supreme Court probably.

One loophole to note: if illegals go through California, Arizona, or New Mexico, they'll likely get in scott free. And that's because immigration activists say that the Democrat Governors there / will not create or enforce bills like SB4.

With that, ladies and gentlemen, we conclude this morning episode of the Wright Report. But I've got one more thing before I let you go.

We'll be right back.

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AD BLOCK TWO
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Welcome back to the Wright Report, with one more thing before I let you go. It's a personal reflection, with something you might not know...about me.

A little over 10 years ago, I was in a pretty bad accident. I broke both my legs, one seriously. I was in a wheelchair for a while. I had to face the unhappy choice of either keeping my left leg or amputating it. Not fun.

And while I chose to keep my leg, it came with a serious consequence: and that is / pain. A lot of it, for many years.

Of course I'm not alone in facing that challenge — about 20% of America suffers from chronic pain.

And that creates a great challenge for people like me — how do you manage that pain, how do you enjoy life when you hurt?

Some doctors have encouraged the use of opioids over the years, with horrific results. Addiction has skyrocketed. In fact today the Supreme Court will hear a case against opioid manufacturer Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family who owned it; there's a \$6B bankruptcy settlement at stake today.

Well, with those headlines back in the news, I wanted to share an alternative to the Sackler Family's pills. And the field of medicine is joining me in this next call to action.

It's all about // exercise.

And here's why: What science is now discovering — or re-discovering — is that being inactive / tends to reinforce pain sensitivity pathways in the nerve system. In other words, by sitting or avoiding movement — certainly in the medium to long term — you actually make the pain worse.

And this understanding or re-discovery // is a big change in the way that modern medicine views pain and pain management. Just six years ago, there was a study of studies showing that most doctors actually encouraged people like me — chronic pain sufferers — to avoid movement and remain mostly sedentary for the long haul.

And that's terrible medical advice.

So what's better advice? Well, just move. In whatever way that works for you.

From walking to weight lifting, to gardening, yoga, tai chi... just moving the body with whatever limitation you might have / it helps the body with things like inflammation, bone density, and nerve pathway pain.

Speaking of the nervous system, movement is also about tricking the mind. There's some brilliant data involving doctors telling patients that a particular exercise would help to lessen pain — even though it wasn't necessarily true.

But, as it turns out, if patients believed the doctor, then it helped.

In other words, the placebo affect. But who cares if it was a mind trick. It worked!

And that actually matches my experiences / and what a doctor told me once when I was going through my many surgeries. And here was his counsel:

“Bryan,” he said, “strong people are harder to kill. So keep moving and stay strong.”

And he was right. Pretty simple advice, actually.

He also offered me this: Start slow, warm up, and find exercises that you enjoy doing. And if you can't get motivated, get a work out buddy or dog. Have them partner along with you on your walks or to the gym.

And if your pain is worse / two hours after finishing exercise than it was before you started, you probably overdid it. Dial it back some for the next time.

So the point folks is this: Today you'll probably see headlines about opioids and that Sackler Family's pumping us full of opioids for pain management. And maybe that'll cause some anxiety / if you're dealing with chronic pain and related pills this morning.

Just know that data show exercise is a great replacement for that stuff. And, I know, trust me... at first, it's hard to get going. I've been there. But once you do, the data are right.

You'll feel better. And you'll hurt a lot less.

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And with that, ladies and gentlemen, we conclude your morning brief.

As always, I will see you tomorrow, God willing. Until then, I leave you with the creed of every good spy and every wise American.

They're the words from the Gospel of John / Chapter 8 // Verse 32.

"And you / shall know the truth, and the truth / shall make you free."

Good day.