

# NEWS BYTES

July 26, 2023

No. 1119

Since 2001

A ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

## Was There Just a Jihad Terror Attack in Fargo, North Dakota?

### And are the feds interested at all?

July 20, 2023 by Robert Spencer

Last Friday afternoon, police in Fargo, North Dakota, responded to a report of a car crash at 9th Avenue South and 25th Street South. Fargo Police Chief David Zibolski said it was a “routine traffic accident,” but what happened when they arrived on the scene was anything but routine. A Fargo resident named Mohamad Barakat, 37, opened fire on the officers, killing one and injuring three others. Zibolski said that Barakat attacked the officers “for no known reason,” and authorities have as yet offered no hints as to the shooter’s motive. One of the most obvious possibilities, however, is being steadfastly ignored, as one might expect given today’s media narrative.

A witness said, according to the Associated Press, that Barakat “appeared to have ambushed the officers.” He was standing behind a car that was parked in the parking lot of a bank near the scene of the crash, and he quickly opened fire on the police officers from about twenty feet away. The witness added, “He was holding up the trunk of the car with his arm, and then I see the gun come up, and he set it on his shoulder and just pointed it directly at an officer in front of him. It was like 10 shots right away.”

When Barakat began shooting, the police were busy with the traffic accident and weren’t even looking in his direction, but they quickly began to return fire. Another witness recounted, “I saw them firing at each other, both at once. But soon as the shooter took a break, the cop came walking towards him, letting off round after round. There was already an officer down, and a family hiding just on the other side of the vehicle next to the shooter.”

Zibolski, however, declined to confirm that Barakat had ambushed the officers, saying only, “The investigation into that is still ongoing.” He did reveal, however, that Fargo police had previously dealt with Barakat, although he downplayed these encounters as “not anything significant.”

Above all, Zibolski was puzzled. “The first thing we always want to know in a situation like this is, ‘Why?’” said Zibolski. “Why would somebody do this? What happened?” And he expressed amazement that such an incident could take place in Fargo, North Dakota: “This is an unconscionable act. It’s hard to fathom, it’s unbelievable that something like this would happen in our community. Many of us think this stuff can’t happen. It just happened.”

Yes, it did. And Zibolski added that the FBI had been called in, but given the fact that the feds are now far more interested in finding “domestic terrorists” at school board meetings and Catholic churches than in hunting down actual terrorists, Zibolski may still not get an answer to his question of why someone would do such a thing. FBI agents today would likely not recognize an Islamic jihadist if he stood behind a car and started shooting at them, but Mohamad Barakat may have been one. There is no indication that anyone is looking into this possibility, but it would provide an immediate explanation for the details of the case.

This is because the Islamic State (ISIS) has repeatedly called upon Muslims in the West to attack police officers as well as other authorities. Back in September 2014, the Islamic State exhorted Muslims in the West not to “let this battle pass you by wherever you may be.” It called upon them to “kill a disbelieving American or European — especially the spiteful and filthy French — or an Australian, or a Canadian, or any other disbeliever from the disbelievers waging war, including the citizens of the countries that entered into a coalition against the Islamic State, then rely upon Allah, and kill him in any manner or way however it may be.”

Specifically, the jihadis said: “Strike their police, security, and intelligence members, as well as their treacherous agents. Destroy their beds. Embitter their lives for them and busy them with themselves.” The jihadis should take advantage of all opportunities and means to kill: “If you are not able to find an IED or a bullet, then single out the disbelieving American, Frenchman, or any of their allies. Smash his head with a rock, or slaughter him with a knife, or run him over with your car, or throw him down from a high place, or choke him, or poison him.”

Now, Mohamad Barakat may have had entirely different reasons for his attack. But the possibility that this was a jihad terror attack in Fargo, North Dakota, cannot be dismissed out of hand, even as authorities appear disinclined even to consider it as a possibility. The FBI and the entire Biden regime have never given any indication that they’re aware that the global jihad continues. Unfortunately, it does.

## **Tornado Destroys Pfizer Facility in North Carolina, One of the Largest Sterile Injectable Facilities in the World**

By Jim Hoft

God has a sense of humor. A tornado wreaked havoc on a Pfizer plant in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, on Wednesday, causing extensive damage to the facility known for its production of medical supplies for hospitals worldwide.

The National Weather Service reported that the tornado, which touched down near the town at approximately 12:30 p.m., was classified as an EF3, with wind speeds reaching up to 150

mph. This extensive power resulted in significant damage to a key building at the pharmaceutical plant.



One Pfizer employee described the tornado's rapid onset to ABC 11, saying it happened in a span of 60 to 90 seconds, giving little time to react.

First, the lights flickered inside the facility and then it sounded like a "bomb went off," according to the employee. He and his group promptly ran to a designated safety area.

According to Nash County Sheriff Keith Stone, the Pfizer plant houses large quantities of medicine, much of which was scattered by the tornado's force. The plant's warehouse area suffered the brunt of the damage.

"I've got reports of 50,000 pallets of medicine that are strewn across the facility and damaged through the rain and the wind," Stone said.

Despite the destruction inflicted on the facility and its stockpile, there were no injuries reported as of Wednesday evening, according to a statement from Pfizer.

In their statement, Pfizer confirmed the damage, stating, "We can confirm that the Pfizer Rocky Mount facility was damaged by the tornado."

"Pfizer colleagues at the site followed our established safety protocol and were able to evacuate. They are safe and accounted for."

## **Restraint, Derision, and Reprobate Minds**

Looking at the surface of evil in the world taking place, it appears that this world is out of control. No one can be faulted for having such a view of world conditions.

When we see things like young children being considered legal/legitimate fodder for sexual predators (now called "minor-attracted persons" instead of "pedophiles"), things really do look out of control.

When we see one of the two major political parties championing those who push agendas the MAP advocates embrace, what other conclusion can be drawn other than that this world has gone insane?

Without meaning to get political, in the sense of promoting one party over another, we remember a biblically pronounced end to this kind of turning one's back on the God of Heaven.

During a convention a decade or so ago, when someone asked the Democrat Convention attendees whether God should be mentioned within the proceedings, the loud and definite answer by all in attendance was a resounding “No!” There was no doubt whatsoever that they wanted any mention of God left out of proceedings.

As I’ve mentioned numerous times, here is what God says about those who turn their backs on Him:

*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those Things which are not convenient. (Romans 1:28)*

Again, not intending to stray far into politics, what I see through the prism of God’s prophetic Word must be interjected here. Anyone being honest as they watch this presidential administration surely has questions like the following: *How have we reached such a place in this nation that the top three people in the presidential administration are seemingly unable to demonstrate normal mental function?*

These—the president, the vice president, and the press spokesperson—have actually become almost laughingstocks to observers outside their political party, their leftist ideology, and the mainstream media (which, mentioning in the same breath is perhaps redundant). Their mental acuity is, it seems to me, inadequate to the challenge in addressing legitimate issues on the national and international scene.

These are avid adherents of the platform presented by the political party that verbally shouted God out of their midst.

Of course, kicking God out of anything isn’t possible with the omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent God of Heaven. To that end, He continues to have that anti-God party in “derision,” just as He indicated He will do to anyone against Him:

*The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.” He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.” (Psalms 2:2–4)*

A careful dissection of things going on over recent years shows time after time that the Lord has intervened to slow down the Ephesians 6:12 minions, both demonic and human, in their effort to hurry the process of bringing Antichrist to the end-times world stage.

One of the signals the Restrainer was involved in during the American political process is illustrated, I believe, by the following observation from one prophecy writer:

*Apparently, the evil forces behind these arenas of the falling away believe that as long as America stands, their cause will not climax in victory. Thus, we see a concentrated effort to bring America down to an entity without sovereignty.*

*One cannot deny the true meaning of that statement muttered by President Obama at the annual DC Correspondents’ Dinner on April 30, 2016: “The end of the Republic has never looked better!” He was so caught up with anticipation that Hillary Clinton would be the winner of the 2016 presidential election that he could not contain himself. Thus, the goal of destroying the United States from her perch at the top of the nations is Satan’s plan in his drive to pose as God in the place of the God of the universe...*

*Topple the United States and the whole world will go down. Why? America is the only nation which allows its citizens the freedom of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” as individual rights coming from God, not the state. That arrangement just cannot be allowed by those who envision a New World Order and a one-world government where no such freedom is planned—except for the elite. (“Is the Real Restrainer Now Restraining?” Gene Lawley, <https://www.raptureready.com/2019/06/11/real-restrainer-now-restraining-gene-lawley>)*

The Lord intervened in that 2016 presidential election in ways that drove those thinking they had things that would “fundamentally transform America” insane and spewing every sort of vitriol against the candidate who won that election. And the insanity continues to this moment, as indeed, the anti-America-as-founded forces seem to be making significant headway in their drive to fundamentally change this nation.

Despite the growing wickedness that certainly must make this like the days of Lot in Sodom in the holy eyes of God, His judgment and wrath continue to build, reserved for that promised “twinkling of an eye” moment—the glorious fraction of a second when Christ calls the Church—all born-again believers—to Himself.

Here is how to be part of that call so that you can, along with all saints of this Age of Grace, have joy in the Heavenly Father’s presence forever:

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9–10)*

## **Where Is Everyone? Disney World "Just About Empty"**

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, JUL 12, 2023 - 04:45 AM

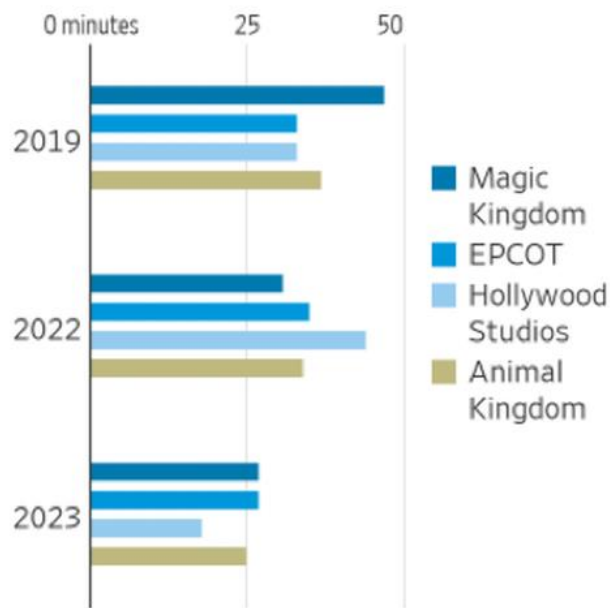
A trip to Walt Disney World or Disneyland with the whole family is too expensive. Former and current Walt Disney Company CEO Bob Iger recently admitted customer affordability issues at an investor conference. And the direct consequences of price-gouging families, plus the 'woke' backlash, might have led to one of the slowest periods at Walt Disney World in Orlando on July 4 in a decade.

The Wall Street Journal cited new data from Touring Plans, a company that tracks wait times at theme parks, which reported Disney World and Disneyland in California had significantly lower wait times to get on rides on Independence Day weekend.

According to Touring Plans, Disney's Hollywood Studios theme park in Central Florida experienced the third-slowest day in the past year. The average wait time at the Magic Kingdom park was around 27 minutes, down from 31 minutes in 2022 and 47 minutes in 2019.

## Lighter Wait at Disney

Average wait times at the four Walt Disney World parks on July 4



Source: Touring Plans analysis

Source: WSJ

"It's something that nobody would have predicted—just unfathomable," said Len Testa, a Touring Plans data analyst.

Disney executives have warned about expected weaker earnings from the US park segment. Days ago, KeyBanc Capital Markets downgraded Disney over fears of stalled growth due to lower attendance at its theme parks and lower streaming viewership.

Disney's market capitalization has been halved since peaking at \$335 billion in March 2021.

## MORE NATIONS ROLLING OUT DIGITAL IDs MAKING THEM MANDATORY TO ACCESS BANK ACCOUNTS

*Leo Hohmann*

The nation of Ethiopia has announced it will make the transition to mandatory digital IDs for all citizens, with the chief enforcement tool being the major banks. Using a World Bank-supported digital ID system with standards also approved by an eight-nation working group within the United Nations, all citizens of Ethiopia will need to have a digital ID in order to use banking services in the country by 2025.

This is just the latest evidence that banks are driving the digital identity agenda. We'll break it all down in this article and show why digital identity must precede digital money in the reset to a completely digital global economy.

*Biometric Update* reported, "Ethiopia is implementing a World Bank-supported MOSIP-based digital ID project which intends to have all eligible citizens enrolled by 2025. The country also recently contracted IrisGuard to support benefits payments to citizens with iris biometrics."

So if you want a bank account or wish to access government benefits, you will need a digital ID in Ethiopia. This is the plan for all nations. Eventually, you will need the digital ID to buy and sell and log onto the internet.

Ethiopia follows Canada, Nigeria, China, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, South Korea, Sri Lanka and a host of other countries that have already rolled out biometric digital identities or are in the

process of doing so. Some are mandatory and some still voluntary. This puts them in compliance with United Nations Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 16.9. Most of these digital IDs apply to banking, healthcare and other services. Less than a dozen U.S. states also have issued fully digital ID drivers' licenses containing a person's facial scan, iris scan or other biometric data, although these are still voluntary and not mandatory.

The World Bank system appears to be the gold standard for a globally recognized digital identity, fulfilling the forecast more than three years ago by World Economic Forum founder Klaus Schwab that everyone would eventually have a digital identity, and that the so-called Fourth Industrial Revolution would "lead to a fusion of our physical, biological and digital identities."

According to Wikipedia, the World Bank's entire strategy is "influenced by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, as well as environmental and social safeguards." It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see where the establishment power elites are heading with this. They need to get the global digital IDs in place and mandated before they roll out the new global digital money system. The two together will combine to form the crux of the global beast system.

The global movement toward digital IDs, which had largely stalled out, was catapulted forward by the Covid crisis.

In April 2022, eight U.N.-member states formed a working group on digital identity tasked with drafting "a set of high-level principles to support the development of mutually recognized and interoperable digital ID systems and infrastructure," according to a report by the *Global Government Forum*. The eight nations leading the way on globalized digital IDs are Israel, New Zealand, Australia, Finland, Canada, Singapore, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The working group is chaired by Australia's Digital Transformation Agency. The group was initially formed to allow its members to "share experiences and opportunities for the use of digital identity initiatives, with a focus on the response to and recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 on governments and people."

In its report, the Digital Government Exchange (DGX) Digital Identity Working Group (DIWG) said its goal is to enhance trade agreements and to "facilitate economic recovery from COVID-19, for example to support the opening of domestic and international borders".

The 11 principles call for digital ID infrastructure to be open; transparent; reusable; user-centric; inclusive and accessible; multilingual; secure and private; technologically neutral and compatible with data portability; administratively simple; able to preserve information; and effective and efficient.

"A common set of definitions and universal taxonomy for digital identity is critical to enable mutual recognition of digital identities and interoperability of digital identity systems... This set of common definitions will evolve as trust frameworks and digital identities are further developed," the report said.

The United Nations' World Food Program recently announced plans to install biometric checkpoints at food distribution centers in an effort to cut down on the high levels of theft in Ethiopia.

In a further move, the National Bank of Ethiopia announced last week that the national digital ID known as "Fayda" will be mandatory for all citizens in order to use national banking services.

The National ID Program explained the move in a July 10 press release, which states: The first initiative is set to onboard all financial sector customers onto the digital ID platform in the upcoming fiscal year, offering a more robust and secure financial ecosystem for all parties. The purpose of this initiative will not only benefit the existing customer base, but will increase financial inclusion by removing barriers to entry. This process will follow legal and technical safeguards guided by cybersecurity and personal data protection principles enshrined within the existing legal framework.

As such, a Digital ID will serve as a primary Bank ID and will have legal acceptance in all financial institutions.

By offering a reliable and real-time identity verification system, this new digital ID platform called “Fayda” can serve as a basis for new digital products while mitigating associated financial risks.

The implementation of this National ID as a Bank ID in Ethiopia, will not only help the finance sector, it will also accelerate the country’s transition towards more transparency and inclusion serving as a key pillar for national development plans and journey towards a digital economy.

Just days before this announcement the government’s National ID Program began accepting registrations at eight different banks.

The department said in a statement, “The integration of Fayda ID into the existing financial service provided by banks will have a significant impact on the reduction of fraudulent activities, which is expected to enable banks to save millions in costs also related to manual operations and customer due diligence. It will also reduce the time taken to clearly identify individuals, register their data and provide a more efficient, secure, and reliable service transforming the banking ecosystem.”

In a op-ed piece published in April, Nohaila Ibn El Farouk for the *Addis Standard* noted that “change is coming to Ethiopian banking,” writing:

“Digital banking solutions can also serve as a catalyst for turning the tide of what has long been the elephant in the room when it comes to African banking: the large percentage of the population is unbanked.

“Like in many other countries in Africa, only a minority of Ethiopian adults have registered for any sort of bank account, but digital banking has proven that it can quickly redress the imbalance.