

NO. D-1-GN-18-001842

LEONARD POZNER AND
VERONIQUE DE LA ROSA*Plaintiffs,*

V.

ALEX E. JONES, INFOWARS, LLC,
AND FREE SPEECH SYSTEMS, LLC*Defendants*§
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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

345th JUDICIAL DISTRICT**SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVITS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS
UNDER THE TEXAS CITIZENS PARTICIPATION ACT**

COME NOW, Defendants Alex E. Jones, Infowars, LLC and Free Speech Systems, LLC, (collectively, the “Defendants”), and hereby file these supplemental affidavits and attached evidence in support of their Motion to Dismiss Under the Texas Citizens’ Participation Act.

Defendants’ hereby file the Second Supplemental Affidavit of Alex E. Jones attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and Second Supplemental Affidavit of David Jones attached hereto as Exhibit “B.”

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

GLAST, PHILLIPS & MURRAY, P.C.

/s/ Mark C. Enoch

Mark C. Enoch
State Bar No. 06630360
14801 Quorum Drive, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75254-1449
Telephone: 972-419-8366
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fly63rc@verizon.net

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANTS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 30th day of July, 2018, the foregoing was sent via efiletcourts.gov's e-service system to the following:

Mark Bankston
Kaster Lynch Farrar & Ball
1010 Lamar, Suite 1600
Houston, TX 77002
713-221-8300
mark@fbtrial.com

/s/ Mark C. Enoch
Mark C. Enoch

NO. D-1-GN-18-001842

LEONARD POZNER AND
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ALEX E. JONES, INFOWARS, LLC,
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Defendants

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

345th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

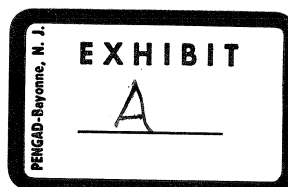
SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT OF ALEX E. JONES

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned notary public, on this day personally appeared Alex E. Jones, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed below, and who on his oath, deposed and stated as follows:

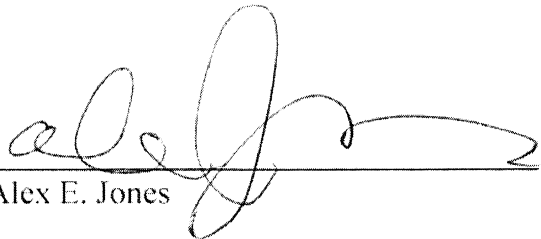
1. My name is Alex E. Jones. I am over the age of 21 years, have never been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude, am of sound mind, and am fully competent to make this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the facts herein stated and they are true and correct.

2. At the time I stated my opinion about CNN's use of a blue-green screen, I believed that Anderson Cooper was standing in front of a blue/green screen based upon the anomaly present in the video and based on my experience with blue-green screens and my knowledge of many well-known publicly available online reports from other

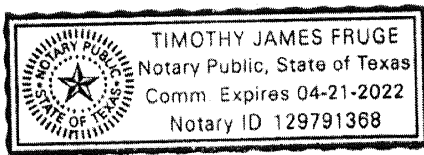


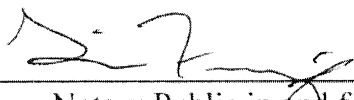
sources not affiliated with Defendants relating to CNN's previous use of blue-green screens to fake reporters' locations. I presented the video from which I based my opinion to the audience so that they could see exactly what I saw and why I believed that the video was shot using a blue-green screen.

Further Affiant Sayeth Not.


Alex E. Jones

SWORN TO and SUBSCRIBED before me by Alex E. Jones on July 30, 2018.




Notary Public in and for
the State of Texas

My Commission Expires:

4-21-2022

LEONARD POZNER AND
VERONIQUE DE LA ROSA,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ALEX E. JONES, INFOWARS, LLC,
AND FREE SPEECH SYSTEMS, LLC,

Defendants

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

345th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID JONES

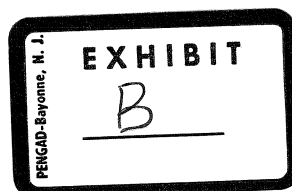
STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned notary public, on this day personally appeared David Jones, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed below, and who on his oath, deposed and stated as follows:

1. My name is David Jones. I am over the age of 21 years, have never been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude, am of sound mind, and am fully competent to make this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the facts herein stated and they are true and correct.

2. In preparing for this affidavit, I reviewed internet sites, articles and videos published on the internet and found several that are relevant to the issues in this case.

3. I downloaded these articles and videos and/or printed them directly from the internet websites. All of the attached exhibits are true and correct copies of the online articles and videos.



4. On the 30th day of July, 2018, I conducted a search on Google of the phrase “Pozner letter to facebook” and this resulted in 26,200 articles. These included articles posted on such widely read websites for *Forbes* (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/janetwburns/2018/07/27/sandy-hook-parents-decry-facebooks-weak-moderation-in-open-letter-to-mark-zuckerberg/#5bf23e075796>); Fox News (<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2018/07/25/facebook-slammed-by-sandy-hook-parents-over-lies-hoax-claims.html>); and the *San Francisco Chronicle* (<https://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/Letter-to-Mark-Zuckerberg-Facebook-News-Feed-12495018.php>). True and correct copies of those articles as they existed at those respective url addresses are attached hereto and marked as exhibits B-53, B-54 and B-55.

5. Attached hereto marked as Exhibit B-56 is a true and correct copy of a *Reuters* article announcing that Facebook has suspended Alex Jones from Facebook published Friday, July 27, 2018 at the url address <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-facebook-infowars/facebook-suspends-u-s-conspiracy-theorist-alex-jones-idUSKBN1KH2PN>. The attached exhibit is a true and correct copy of that article on that website as of the date of this affidavit.

6. Attached hereto marked as Exhibit B-57 is a true and correct copy of a February 27, 2018 *Vice* article about Mr. Pozner at the url address https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/a34axg/youtubes-parkland-conspiracy-crackdown-not-enough-says-sandy-hook-parent. The attached exhibit is a true and correct copy of that article on that website as of the date of this affidavit.

7. Attached hereto marked as Exhibit B-58 is a true and correct copy of a WFSB TV article about Mr. Pozner at the url address <http://www.wfsb.com/story/20578490/sandy-hook-promise-discusses-preventing-another-newtown>. The attached exhibit is a true and correct copy of that article on that website as of the date of this affidavit.

8. Attached hereto marked as Exhibit B-59 is a true and correct copy of a *News Times* article about Mr. and Mrs. Pozner at the url address <https://www.newstimes.com/newtownshooting/article/Sandy-Hook-parents-jumping-into-national-debate-4186526.php>. The attached exhibit is a true and correct copy of that article on that website as of the date of this affidavit.

9. Attached hereto marked as Exhibit B-60 is a true and correct copy of a *New Haven Register* article about the Pozner family at the url address <https://www.nhregister.com/connecticut/article/Parents-uncle-at-odds-over-efforts-in-Newtown-11425926.php>. The attached exhibit is a true and correct copy of that article on that website as of the date of this affidavit.

10. I am the manager of Human Resources and Corporate Governance of Free Speech Systems, LLC, (FSS) one of the Defendants in this case. I have worked in this position since 2013. I have had access to, reviewed and have become knowledgeable about FSS's, company records. I have also become knowledgeable about FSS's assets, business activities, operations and staff. Also since that time, I have been and remain Infowars, LLC's manager of Corporate Governance. I have worked on matters related to Infowars, LLC and have had access to, reviewed and have become knowledgeable about

its company records. I set up its original website. I have also become knowledgeable about Infowars, LLC's assets, operations and activities. Based on my personal knowledge and knowledge of all of Infowars, LLC's company records, I know that Infowars, LLC has never had any employees and has never owned or operated the domain or website located at <http://www.infowars.com>. Infowars, LLC does not operate, direct or control FSS and FSS does not operate, direct or control Infowars, LLC. Infowars, LLC does not own any interest in FSS and FSS does not own any interest in Infowars, LLC. Infowars, LLC has never employed Alex Jones, Owen Shroyer or Rob Dew. Neither has it ever employed David Knight who also appeared on the April 22, 2017 broadcast. Infowars, LLC did not have authority over or control of the content of any of the broadcasts or statements of the speakers which are alleged in Plaintiffs' petition to be defamatory, including those before April 2017.

11. Attached hereto marked as Exhibit B-61 is a true and correct copy of an interview video entitled "Honouring Noah" by Journeyman TV of Veronique Pozner posted on Augusta July 18, 2016 at the url address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr4VnZz8B0M>. The attached video is a true and correct copy of that video as it is on that website as of the date of this affidavit.

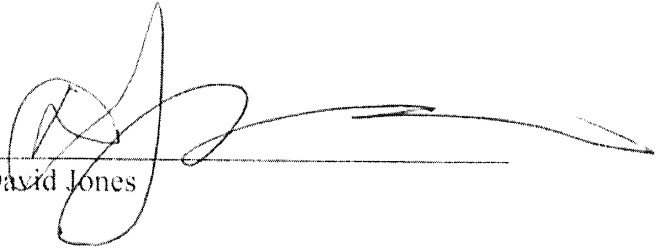
12. Attached hereto marked as Exhibit B-62 is a true and correct copy of a video of CNN Anderson Cooper's interview of Mr. Pozner posted at the url address: <https://www.facebook.com/AC360/videos/10157975907590533/UzpfSTQyMjMzOTQ5MTE4MTA2MDoxMjI3Nzg4MTYwNjM2MTg1/>. The attached video is a true and correct copy of the video as it is on that website as of the date of this affidavit.

13. Attached hereto marked as Exhibit B-63 is a true and correct copy of a video of Joshua Koskoff, Plaintiffs' attorney in the Bushmaster lawsuit, at a press conference posted on November 16, 2016 located at the url address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjVuXvG7Zjw>. The attached video is a true and correct copy of the video as it is on that website as of the date of this affidavit.

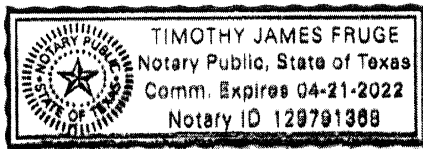
14. I have reviewed the transcripts attached to Plaintiffs' response to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss and marked as Exhibits A1-A32 and they are not true and correct copies of the referenced broadcasts, Instead they are transcripts of selected excerpts from those broadcasts and omit hours of statements from those broadcasts.


15. Attached hereto marked as Exhibit B-64 is a true and correct copy of a *Los Angeles Times* article published online on February 3, 2017 located at <http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-sandy-hook-conspiracy-20170203-story.html>. The attached exhibit is a true and correct copy of that article on that website as of the date of this affidavit

Further Affiant Sayeth Not.


David Jones

SWORN TO and SUBSCRIBED before me by David Jones on July 30,
2018.




Notary Public in and for
the State of Texas

My Commission Expires:

4-21-2022

Sandy Hook Parents Decry Facebook's Weak Moderation In Open Letter To Mark Zuckerberg

Janet Burns

PENGAD-Bayonne, N. J.
EXHIBIT
B-53



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg looks on during the VivaTech trade fair in Paris, on May 24, 2018. (Credit: GERARD JULIEN/AFP/Getty Images)

After years of being harassed by 'hoaxers,' the parents of a first-grader slain at Sandy Hook are demanding that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg better regulate misleading and hateful content on his platform.

In an open letter published this week, the parents of murdered 6-year-old Noah Pozner criticized Facebook and its CEO for not doing enough to prevent the spread of lies on the world's biggest social media platform. Published online by the Guardian, the letter was written by parents Leonard Pozner and Veronique De La Rosa, whose son was one of 25 victims in a fatal December 2012 shooting spree at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut.

"Almost immediately after the massacre of 20 little children, all under the age of seven, and six elementary school teachers and staff, the attacks on us began," Pozner and De La Rosa wrote.

"Conspiracy groups and anti-government provocateurs began making claims on Facebook that the massacre was a hoax, that the murdered were so-called 'crisis actors' and that their audience should rise up to 'find out the truth' about our families," they continued.

In April, Posner and De La Rosa [filed a lawsuit against commentator Alex Jones](#) and affiliates for promoting the theory that the 2012 massacre which claimed their son's life was entirely staged.



In this Jan. 28, 2013, file photo, Veronique De La Rosa places her hand next to artwork made by her son Noah before testifying at a hearing of a legislative subcommittee reviewing gun laws at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Conn. Leonard Pozner and Veronique De La Rosa, the parents of Noah Pozner, one of the 20 children killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, are asking Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg to remove hateful and harassing comments posted by conspiracy theorists who say the shooting never happened. (Credit: AP Photo/Jessica Hill, File)

See also: Report: Facebook CEO Congratulated Trump On 2016 Win After 'Innovative' Social Campaign

The pair have also spoken out on multiple occasions about the aggressive harassment they've received from trolls and other web users who believe the deadly shooting was a hoax, often spurred by a range of fictitious content that's been distributed online (and elsewhere) ever since.

In their letter, Pozner and De La Rosa further argued that Facebook and Zuckerberg's promises to combat so-called fake news on the platform, as well as hateful words from "fringe conspiracy groups," have ultimately led to little action.

“While you implied that Facebook would act more quickly to take down harassment directed at Sandy Hook victims than, say, the posts of Holocaust deniers, that is not our experience,” the parents wrote. “After feeling so much hope following your pledge in the Senate to make Facebook a safer and more hospitable place for social interaction, we are once again feeling let down by your recent comments supporting a safe harbor for Holocaust deniers and hate groups that attack victims of tragedy.”

Regarding the harassment they've endured, Pozner and De La Rosa offered Zuckerberg "some insight" into what can happen when a platform is allowed to be used "as an instrument to disseminate hate." They explained,

We have endured online, telephone, and in-person harassment, abuse, and death threats. In fact, one of the abusers was sentenced to jail for credible death threats that she admitted in court she had uttered because she believed in online content created by these 'fringe groups.' In order to protect ourselves and our surviving children, we have had to relocate numerous times. These groups use social media, including Facebook, to 'hunt' us, posting our home address and videos of our house online. We are currently living in hiding. We are far from alone in our experiences, as many other families who have lost loved ones in mass shootings and other tragedies have reported the same continuing torment.

In recent months, Facebook has faced increasing scrutiny over its management of content on the platform, whether political, hateful, and otherwise biased in nature.

Conservative groups have long argued that Facebook shows preferential treatment for 'liberal' causes and content, but researchers and human and digital rights activists have also uncovered evidence of the opposite on multiple occasions.

Facebook was reached out to for comment, which will be included here when and if available.

See also: Facebook Reveals It Shared User Data For Longer Than It Said, And With More Partners

Facebook slammed by Sandy Hook parents over lies, hoax claims

Christopher Carbone



Parents of Sandy Hook victim slam Facebook

The Parents of a Sandy Hook victim have written a letter to Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg asking to protect them from lies, abuse and harassment resulting from hoax claims.

In a letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg the parents of a Sandy Hook massacre victim are pleading with the social network to protect them from lies, abuse and harassment resulting from hoax claims on the platform.

Leonard Pozner and Veronique De La Rosa, parents of Noah Pozner, who at age 6 was killed by 20-year-old Adam Lanza along with 25 others five years ago, wrote on Wednesday how they have been subjected to a relentless barrage of false claims and conspiracy theories—including that the shooting was a hoax and the victims were “crisis actors.”

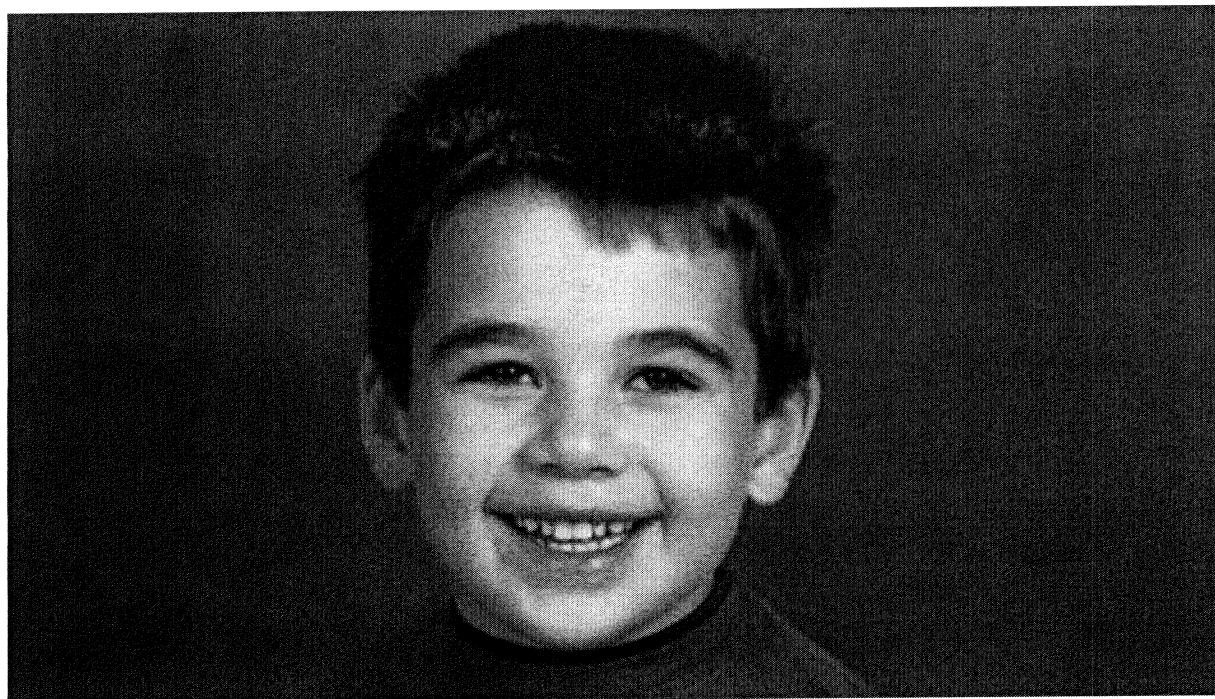
Facebook, which has consistently struggled to manage the spread of fake news and outright lies on its platform, has said that it is beefing up its monitoring of posts and dramatically expanding its fact-checking efforts.

However, Noah’s parents write that terms like “fake news” are too innocuous for what they’ve gone through.

FACEBOOK CENSORSHIP: NUDE PAINTINGS BY RUBENS RUN AFOUL OF SOCIAL NETWORK

“We have endured online, telephone, and in-person harassment, abuse, and death threats. In fact, one of the abusers was sentenced to jail for credible death threats that she admitted in court she had uttered because she believed in online content created by these ‘fringe groups,’” they wrote in the letter published by the Guardian.

The parents also call out Zuckerberg, who in a recent interview with Recode said Facebook would not take down the posts of Holocaust deniers—although he did say if Sandy Hook victims were being directly targeted for harassment, those posts would come down.



The parents of Noah Pozner, who was killed in the Sandy Hook massacre in December 2012, penned a letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

“In fact, you went on to suggest that this type of content would continue to be protected and that your idea for combatting incendiary content was to provide counterpoints to push 'fake news' lower in search results,” Noah’s parents wrote. “This provides no protection to us at all. It would require people writing articles and making posts about our family and the massacre in the same quantity and read and spread by the same numbers as those who post and publish the hoax content.”

Facebook provided a lengthy statement to Fox News concerning the matter:

“Our hearts go out to them and all families who have lost people as a result of senseless shootings.

Although we do see people come together on Facebook in very positive ways around tragedies, some of what we see is truly abhorrent and represents the worst of the internet and humanity.

We recognize victims of mass shootings and other tragedies are vulnerable to offensive and incendiary

comments, and we don't allow attacks against them. For example, we don't allow people to mock, harass or bully the victims of tragedies. This includes the types of claims in the letter that victims are crisis actors. We also don't allow people to celebrate, justify or defend the tragedy in any way.

We want to make ourselves available to victims and families and be responsive to their needs in a way that's best and easiest for them. We do have channels through which they can reach out to people at Facebook. Following tragedies, victims and families have used these channels to escalate content to us and raise questions and concerns.

It's important to get this right and we know we can always do better here."

As remedies, the parents suggest making all victims of mass shootings a "protected group," so that attacks against them are prohibited by the tech giant, and giving victims access to Facebook staffers who will remove hateful or harassing posts immediately.

FACEBOOK SUSPENDS CRIMSON HEXAGON TO INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL MISUSE OF DATA

In addition, they founded HONR.com to combat the consistent harassment, doxing and death threats that they say Facebook has ignored in the wake of the 2012 massacre. Pozner's parents have also filed a lawsuit against Alex Jones, who runs InfoWars, which claimed that the Sandy Hook shooting was a hoax.

In the letter to Zuckerberg, Noah's parents describe their enduring pain. "We are unable to properly grieve for our baby or move on with our lives because you, arguably the most powerful man on the planet, has deemed that the attacks on us are immaterial, that providing assistance in removing threats is too cumbersome, and that our lives are less important than providing a safe haven for hate."

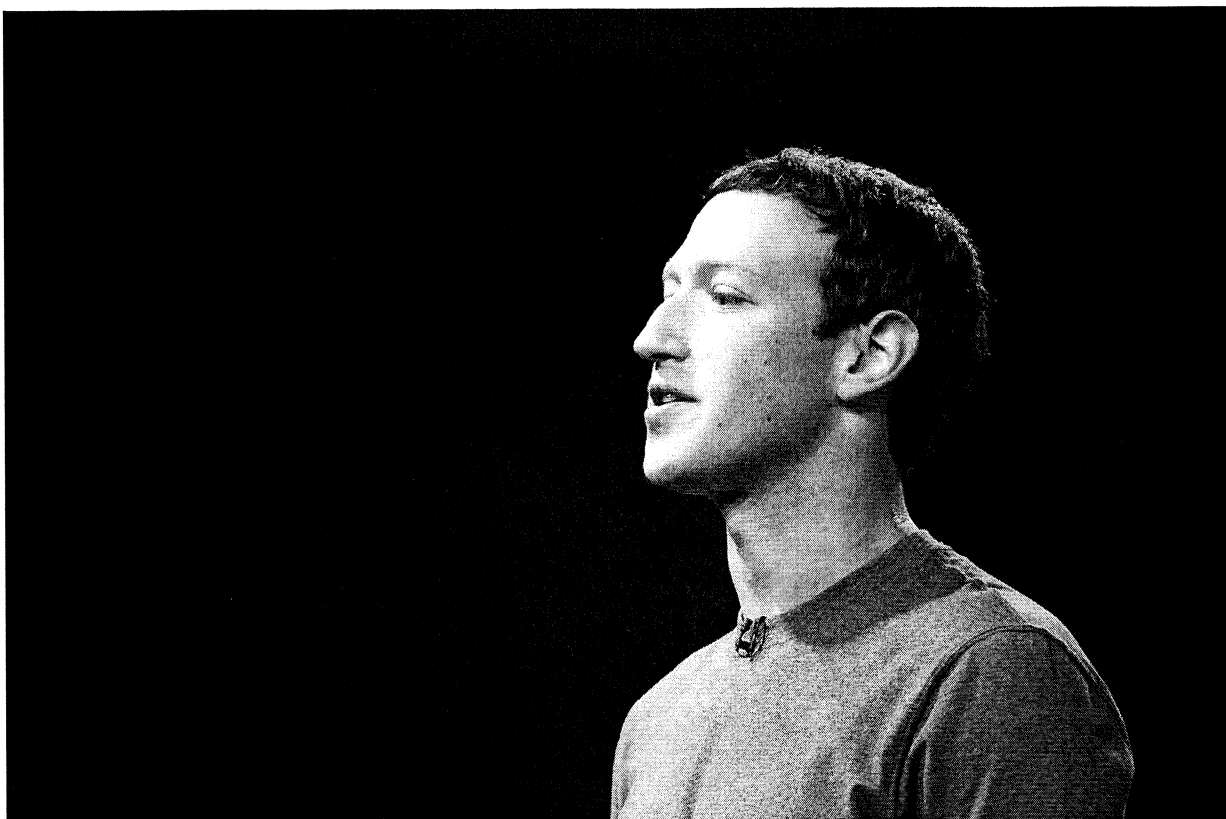
Christopher Carbone is a reporter and news editor covering science and technology for FoxNews.com. He can be reached at christopher.carbone@foxnews.com. Follow him on Twitter [@christocarbone](https://twitter.com/christocarbone).

LOCAL // NEWS

Letter to Mark Zuckerberg: Facebook News Feed change hides news, hurts nation

Audrey Cooper

Jan. 12, 2018 Updated: Jan. 14, 2018 12:16 p.m.

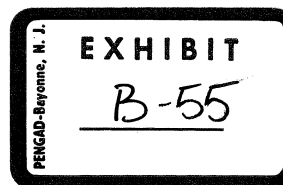


Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg in Barcelona, Spain, in 2016.

Photo: David Ramos, Getty Images

Hi Mark. We met last year, but you probably don't remember. Let me remind you about what we discussed: You told me how important The Chronicle's work is in the Bay Area and how invested Facebook was in helping us to do it.

I believed you. I really wanted to, and, frankly, I didn't have much of a choice. Fifteen years ago, people were more likely to use newspapers to pass time — they provided information and entertainment. When you created Facebook in 2004, it became that and more: Long-forgotten high school friends reappeared. Relatives in other states posted photos of new babies. I got news from a variety of outlets, both ones that I purposefully followed and ones my friends shared. Facebook was both a time suck and saver. The ultimate convenience.



Journalists adapted. Advertising dollars flowed out of our companies and over to you, but we struggled along, trying to anticipate the seemingly capricious changes in your news-feed algorithm. We created new jobs in our newsrooms and tried to increase the number of people who signed up to follow our posts on Facebook. We were rewarded with increases in traffic to our websites, which we struggled to monetize. A repeated admonition at journalism conferences became “reach readers where they’re at.”

We were successful in getting people to “like” our news, and you started to notice. Studies show more than half of Americans use Facebook to get news. That traffic matters because we monetize it — it pays the reporters who hold the powerful accountable.

After you and I met, your work life got harder. Just as we had learned how to market real news on Facebook, so too did more nefarious operations. It became clear foreign agents and domestic partisans used Facebook to spread fabricated news. I know your San Francisco employees were mortified — they told me so. You and your No. 2, Sheryl Sandberg, seemed less bothered.

How to set “See First” preferences on Facebook for desktop and mobile.
Video: San Francisco Chronicle

Still, I naively hoped that your corporate conscience might move you to realize that Facebook has an obligation to more than its shareholders. You grew it by getting people to rely on it for both the baby photos and the real news.

Then this week you announced that the news makes people cranky and anxious, so Facebook would suppress all publishers’ posts. Never mind that many of our subscribers made a conscious, proactive decision to follow us on Facebook. News is too messy, too much of a bummer, and because you haven’t been able to stop click-bait shops or the Russians, you shrugged and gave up. Maybe you’ll put news posts on a separate stream somewhere else within the app. Maybe.

The thing is, my relatives will still share fake news on Facebook, and it will show up in my “news” feed under your new rules. I’ll still see the partisan opinion pieces that my friends share. But I won’t see posts from responsible news outlets I choose to follow unless I take several steps to force the newsfeed to prioritize it.

Simply put: You’re making the country’s absolutism worse and abdicating your responsibility to improve public discourse. Facebook likes to say it’s a creative company. Surely there is a more creative solution.

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This isn’t an academic point. The San Francisco Chronicle won’t go out of business because of this decision. But smaller publications very likely could, and virtually all news organizations will lose money that pays for reportage. Efforts to band news organizations together to address this could violate antitrust laws, so many of us feel helpless. We might speak to Facebook’s middle managers on a regular basis, but they’re starting to seem pretty ineffectual.

So I’m saying this to you as your neighbor and a user of your product: You can do better than this. Each decision you make that limits the reach of our journalism hurts our ability to effect positive change in our city and state.

Eventually, you’re going to realize that’s not good for anyone.

Audrey Cooper is the editor in chief of The San Francisco Chronicle. Email: acooper@sfchronicle.com. To comment, submit your letter to the editor at [SFChronicle.com/letters](https://www.sfchronicle.com/letters).

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TECHNOLOGY NEWS JULY 27, 2018 / 6:51 PM / 2 DAYS AGO

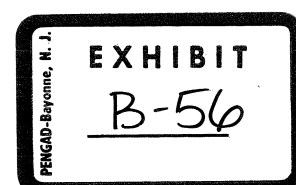
Facebook suspends U.S. conspiracy theorist Alex Jones

Reuters Staff

2 MIN READ



(Reuters) - U.S. conspiracy theorist Alex Jones has been suspended from Facebook for bullying and hate speech and is close to having pages tied to him and his Infowars website removed from the platform, the social media network said on Friday.



FILE PHOTO: Alex Jones from Infowars.com speaks during a rally in support of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump near the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S., July 18, 2016. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson/File Photo

The radio host's personal profile was banned for 30 days after it was found to have uploaded four videos published on pages maintained by Jones and Infowars that went against community standards, Facebook said.

The videos have been removed and Infowars and Jones' pages "are close to being unpublished given recent community standards violations," Facebook said in a statement.

Content removals count as "strikes" against individual pages. Pages maintained

by Jones and Infowars have remained active because they have not crossed ‘certain threshold of strikes’ necessary for them to be unpublished, Facebook

YouTube removed four Alex Jones videos earlier this week and said Jones’ Infowars website faced permanent removal if his content was given three community strikes within 90 days.

“Our Community Standards make it clear that we prohibit content that encourages physical harm [bullying], or attacks someone based on their religious affiliation or gender identity [hate speech],” Facebook said. “We remove content that violates our standards as soon as we’re aware of it.”

Infowars did not respond to a request for comment. Jones has defended the videos on Twitter as being “critical of liberalism.”

Since founding Infowars in 1999, Jones has built a vast audience. Among the things he has promoted is that the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington were staged by the government.

The Facebook suspension means Jones cannot post on his personal profile or group pages and cannot message, comment or post anywhere else on Facebook. Once people are notified that he is banned, the company said.

Reporting by Paresh Dave Writing by Andrew Hay

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#).



All quotes delayed a minimum of 15 minutes. See [here](#) for a complete list of exchanges and delays.

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YouTube's Parkland Conspiracy Crackdown Not Enough, Says Sandy Hook Parent

News|by Mack Lamoureux|Feb 27 2018, 5:17pm

Lenny Pozner and his son, Noah, left. Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, right. Photos via handout.

On Valentine's Day, a 19-year-old man walked into Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida with an AR-15 and killed 17 people. It was the ninth deadliest shooting in modern US history and, as with other recent tragedies, many worried it would only amount to a blip on the news cycle radar.

However, more than a week later, this one feels different thanks to the students of Stoneman Douglas.

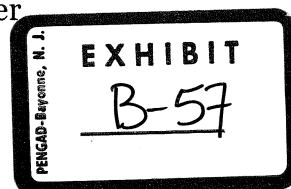
The teens who suffered through the tragedy are mad as hell and standing up to keep gun control in the mainstream press. President Donald Trump held a meeting with survivors of the tragedy, teens marched for gun control across the country, and some companies have been pulling their support from the NRA.

The conspiracies surrounding the event feel different as well. It appears the lasting power of the Parkland shooting has led to increasingly intense conspiracies. Led by the usual idiot brigade of the conspiracy movement, the "false flag" theories surrounding the Parkland shooting are littered across social media but, unlike many other times before it, there have been consequences. Just today, InfoWars had their account frozen on YouTube after pushing conspiracies regarding the Parkland shooting and going after the teenaged survivors.

Noah Pozner who was killed in the Sandy Hook shooting. Photo courtesy of Lenny Pozner.

Lenny Pozner, who lost his six-year-old son in the Sandy Hook shooting and has been plagued by truthers ever since, knows these conspiracy theories all too well and he's not at all surprised they popped up after the Parkland shooting. Even years removed from the murder of his son, Pozner is still dealing with Truthers—one conspiracy die-hard was sentenced to five months in prison last summer for threatening Pozner. After his experience dealing with truthers, Pozner founded Honr, an anti-hoaxer organization, where he works to combat online truther movements and the people affected by them.

Pozner is adamant that, at the end of the day, the responsibility for these



conspiracies rests on the shoulders of the platforms. He told VICE that some are responsive (Google) while some ignore complaints (Wordpress). VICE called up Pozner to talk about the similarities between the Parkland and Sandy Hook shootings, what lasting damage “false flag” conspiracies leave behind, and how to combat them.

VICE: America has been reeling from a steady stream of gun violence. Does the Parkland shooting in Florida feel different?

Lenny Pozner: It's very similar to Sandy Hook as far as conspiracy theorists and people's outrage for gun violence. I don't know if this is a tipping point but this last tragedy has hooked a specific age category to get involved in gun control advocacy and I hope this will be lasting but it's hard to tell.

What was it like watching this shooting unfold?

It's a little closer to home because it was a school but with that in mind these tragedies usually unfold in the same way. The press starts paying attention and everyone starts looking for a total number of fatalities for any given mass shooting. Unfortunately, that's usually how a shooting is remembered—by the number of fatalities. I felt for the parents that were waiting to be reunited with their kids because it took place in a school, it felt similar to what I lived through. I also sensed that there must be a large number of fatalities when the number of victims was being withheld.

What about the conspiracies afterwards that targeted some of the survivors?

That's par for the course now, there is no surprise there. It's a normal state of affairs right now. I expected them. I've always suggested that this hoaxer reality show revolves around whoever they see on television. So whether it's a sheriff or someone representing the school or witnesses those become part of the conspiracy narrative. That's the way these things unfold.

There are a couple of kids who are really outspoken and gun control has become their mission and that's great, but those are the people that are visible and they are the ones who get the hoaxer attention.

That's incredibly depressing.

Nowhere near as depressing as the parents who sent their kids to school that morning and then had to make funeral arrangements as they're being called liars.

What kind of steps can be taken to curb this?

I think everyone has a responsibility to reporting online content because that's how platforms are operating right now. They depend on a volunteer base to report and flag content. Members of the general public need to spend a few minutes reporting when they come across it. Harassment, abuse, and bullying of people connected to a mass shooting should not be ignored.

A lot of people have family members or friends who follow these ideas and they need to call them out. We all come across these types of individuals in our

everyday lives and choose to ignore them because nobody wants to confront these people. They might be our cousins, our uncles, siblings and so on. We all know who they are. There are volunteers who work with Honr that have severed their relationships with family members who follow these beliefs, even to the extent that children have severed relationships with parents.

It comes down to the regulators, right?

YouTube and Google have been a thousand times more proactive than Facebook and Twitter who are still years behind Google. WordPress (owned by Automattic) is the absolutely worst online hosting platform because they ignore copyright claims and requests to remove images of children.

The platforms are the main issue because they're not regulating themselves. The inevitable reality is that these platforms will be regulated. Within five or ten at worst they will be regulated. They are utilities like a phone company, like an electric company, we use them for information feeds, we use them to communicate with one another, they are absolutely a utility and they are not regulating themselves so the government will step in.

What would you say to people who say it's a free speech issue to have this hoaxer content online?

That's an unrefined understanding of freedom of speech, that's from the University of YouTube. Hate speech isn't free speech, free speech is to criticize your government and have an open press but to target and harass people is not free speech.

Because this is a new platform and laws haven't caught up to it. If someone were to do this in the real world—so if someone stood outside your apartment with a portable billboard sign over their head and letting all your neighbours see that you're a criminal and making all these accusations about you, that you're a traitor that should be hung or killed. If someone were doing this on the sidewalk, in an open public space, the police would be called and the person would be told to go away.

Movements like this don't just end when Alex Jones or another conspiracy theorist decide to shut up. They last, right?

Once these ideas are introduced they cannot be undone so that's a lot of what we see with hoaxers. We will see one unbalanced person with a distorted model of the world creating an idea and then planting the seed of this thought virus in the collective of this network of equally unbalanced individuals who are sharing these ideas. It takes life and the seeds of misinformation won't just disappear.

I've been trolled by people who are conspiracy minded but they acknowledge that Sandy Hook was real and the children died but they still targeted me because I was outspoken. They've made Department of Children and Family Services reports against me that were wholly disqualified. These people have made reports with the CPS, the FBI and several local police departments against me as a form of targeted harassment because that's what they do since they have zero compassion.

These ideas are permanent when they are introduced, the same way as if there is a photo of someone on the web it will live on forever once it's been posted

What are your thoughts on Alex Jones having his account frozen for two weeks?

I don't think Alex Jones getting strikes is anything new, the media just picked up on it recently. I've given him many strikes in the past.

What advice do you have for these kids dealing with these hoaxes?

Well, the first advice would be to reduce your online footprint and lock down your social media as everything you do and say will be used against you and every image of you will be turned into memes and twisted hoax theories.. It's important to lock down social media, even that of relatives—controlling your social footprint is paramount.

Some people are outspoken though, they're in the press. They're being driven by this event and unfortunately, it's a double-edged sword. They're getting a lot done but at the same time their character is being assassinated online and that won't go away.

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Sandy Hook Promise discusses preventing another Newtown

NEWTOWN, CT (WFSB) - One month after 20 children and six adults were killed inside Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, a non-profit group, Sandy Hook Promise, has unveiled its plan to help prevent similar tragedies.

According to the Sandy Hook Promise [website](#), the group said it wants to bring to the table serious solutions on how another mass shooting, such as the one at Sandy Hook, can possibly be prevented in the future.

"Doing nothing is no longer an option," said Tom Bittman, co-founder of Sandy Hook Promise. "Children deserve to wake up in the morning unafraid to go to school. Parents deserve to know that when their kids head off to school that they are going to come home."

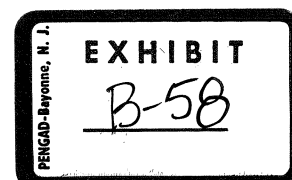
Parents continue to deal with the tragedy, but they said their spirit is still very much alive.

"I still find myself reaching for Dylan's hand when we walk through a parking lot or expect him to climb into bed for early-morning cuddles before going to school," said Nicole Hockley. "It's so hard to believe he's gone."

The family of victims and survivors, along with first responders, took the stage along with the group's co-founder on Monday morning. For some of the parents who lost their children, it was the first time that they had spoken publicly since the shooting.

[Click here to read the Sandy Hook Promise](#)

"Parent is defined as a 'point of origin,'" said David Wheeler, whose son Ben was among the 20 children killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. "What I have recently come to realize is that I am not done being the best parent I can be for Ben. Not by a very long measure. If there is something in our society that clearly needs to be fixed or healed or resolved, that resolution needs a point of origin. It needs parents."



Several family members of the victims of the mass shooting took turn speaking about their lost children, and what they hope to accomplish by establishing Sandy Hook Promise.

The family of the youngest victim, Noah Pozner, is also suggesting some reforms, even reaching out to Vice President Joe Biden.

Biden is heading the task force on gun safety.

Pozner turned 6 years old just three weeks before the tragic shooting inside the school. Now his family is proposing some laws, and suggesting federal funding to improve school security.

In a letter to the White House, the family suggests a law that would require anyone with knowledge of an "imminent threat of physical harm or death" to notify law enforcement within 24 hours.

To read Gov. Dannel Malloy's letter to Vice President Joe Biden, [click here](#).

The family is also proposing giving grants to schools so they can improve their security.

Their announcement comes just one day before Biden is expected to give his recommendations to President Barack Obama. The suggestions are expected to include a renewed ban on assault weapons and high-capacity clips along with background checks for all gun buyers.

Even in the wake of the shooting, the gun control debate continues to divide many.

"I think there are more rational, reasonable people who understand the difference between assault weapons and other types of guns you might have for hunting purposes," said protester Erica Sciarra.

David Keene, president of the National Rifle Association, said "I would say that the likelihood is that they're not going to get an assault weapons ban through the Congress."

Biden is offering to personally meet with any of the families of the victims of the Sandy Hook and White House officials said the families will have an opportunity to share their views before Obama makes any decisions.

Hockley said their "hearts are broken," but their "spirit is not."

"And though we continue to be filled with unbearable pain, we choose love, belief and hope instead of anger," she said. "This is a promise to do everything in our power not to be remembered as a town filled with grief and victims but to be the town where real change began."

Parents who lost loved ones in other shootings throughout the country were also present at the press conference Monday.

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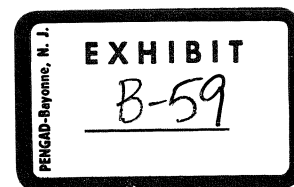
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Sandy Hook parents jumping into national debate

Nanci G. Hutson





FILE - In this Dec. 17, 2012 file photo, Veronique Pozner waves to the assembled media as she leaves after a funeral service for her 6-year-old son Noah Pozner, in Fairfield, Conn. Noah Pozner was killed in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14. Veronique Pozner, said Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013, that she wondered why she hadn't received more information about legislative proposals regarding guns in the weeks after the shooting. (AP Photo/Jason DeCrow, File) less

FILE - In this Dec. 17, 2012 file photo, Veronique Pozner waves to the assembled media as she leaves after a funeral service for her 6-year-old son Noah Pozner, in Fairfield, Conn. Noah Pozner was killed in the ... more

Photo: Contributed Photo

Some of the Sandy Hook Elementary School families who lost children and loved ones at the Dec. 14 mass shooting appear poised to become public advocates in the national debate over how to curb gun violence, make schools safer and improve mental health care.

Newtown United, a local group that formed after the shootings to help the families and to establish a community dialogue, is rebranding itself as Sandy Hook Promise. The group says it has members of victims' families among its supporters.

In another sign of some families' willingness to take on public roles, Veronique Pozner, one of the parents of a first-grader slain at the school, has been contacted by White House officials after criticizing President Barack Obama's task force on gun violence earlier this week for not providing an opportunity for Sandy Hook families to participate in its discussion.

"As the mother of a 6-year-old victim of a cold-blooded massacre of schoolchildren, I am puzzled and disappointed by the fact that I have had no information or opportunity to be heard regarding the upcoming legislative proposal in Washington," Pozner said in a statement released by her brother, Alexis Haller, Thursday.

Haller said Friday that the White House has reached out to him and his sister, and "we intend to speak with the White House about the proposals being made and now we have the means to do that."

He added that while much of the debate in past weeks has been on gun control and armed guards in schools, he believes the bigger picture should be addressed.

"This is not a political issue, it's a human issue: How do you stop the killing of children in schools?" he said. "That's the issue my sister and I are focused on and where we will try to have a voice. Reducing the debate to things like assault rifles and armed guards is unfortunate. There needs to be a multifaceted approach."

In past tragedies of national scope -- including the 9/11 terrorism attacks, the Oklahoma City bombing and the Columbine school shooting -- some of the most powerful and influential activists have been people and survivors personally

touched by those events.

Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who survived an attack by a deranged shooter two years ago, is emerging as a national spokeswoman for gun-control initiatives.

The Obama administration said Friday it would welcome Sandy Hook parents' involvement. Asked about Pozner's comment, Matt Lehigh, a White House spokesperson, issued this statement: "There is no perspective more meaningful in this process than that of a parent who has lost a child. We remain in touch with families from Newtown and will present an opportunity for all of them to share their views before the president makes any decisions."

Sandy Hook Promise leader Tom Bittman, who has been its liaison with the victims' families, said Friday that the group's sole intent is to represent the interests and voices of these families.

"We are representing, as much as standing with, the families. This isn't about us; this is for them," said Bittman who like the other founders have neighbors and friends who lost children in the Sandy Hook Elementary slayings of 20 first-graders, four teachers and two administrators.

A news conference has been scheduled for Monday to unveil the organization's leadership and goals. Some families of victims will be there, though their names were not disclosed Friday.

It's not clear how many families of the 26 Sandy Hook victims are participating in the group's activities or what their viewpoints are. A number of families have signaled their desire to be left alone for now as they mourn their lost ones and rebuild their lives.

One member of a victim's family, who asked not to be identified, said that while Sandy Hook Promise has an "honorable intent" the events of Dec. 14 remain "a big blur" for many families.

The parent said that while some victims' relatives are likely to speak out on such issues as gun violence, mental health care and even video game content, others will take a wait-and-see approach.

"Maybe in the future, but now the wounds are so raw," the parent said.

Beyond public advocacy, the founders of Sandy Hook Promise have sought to identify how best to connect some of the donations that have poured in from across the country to those families of the victims who need help, Bittman said.

"We don't want our friends or neighbors to have financial issues," he said. "Wherever we saw a (need), we helped. We passed on what generous donors did."

Newtown United held two forums at the public library where community

members gathered to talk about the aftermath of Dec. 14.

The Los Angeles Urban Policy Roundtable made a donation to the organization to assist with its initial start-up efforts. The roundtable, a spokesperson said, wants to encourage the Connecticut group to "combat gun violence and fight for tougher gun laws" and, in general, to help with "their fight to spread their message of peace and healing."

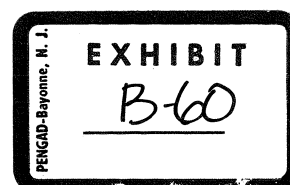
"We are our brother's keeper," said Deborah Washington, the West Coast policy group's spokesman.

Though gun-control legislation is at the forefront of many conversations, Sandy Hook Promise intends to be more than a one-issue lobby, Rob Cox, one of its founders, said earlier this week.

The nonpartisan organization's "fervent hope" is that families of the victims and survivors, and all those personally affected by the tragedy, have a national platform "that resonates in Washington," Cox said.

Parents, uncle at odds over efforts in Newtown victim Noah Pozner's name

Mark Zaretsky





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NEWTOWN -- In the days following the Dec. 14 Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings, Washington State attorney Alexis Haller, uncle of 6-year-old victim Noah Pozner, spoke on behalf of the family at least twice to Anderson Cooper on CNN.

After reading a eulogy at Noah's Dec. 17 funeral, Haller also spoke to the New York Daily News against opportunistic scammers he said were preying on the family.

He submitted anti-gun violence proposals to President Barack Obama that were covered by the Washington Post, CBS News and the Seattle Times, and for the past several months has been one of the most visible representatives of the Sandy Hook families.

Now Noah's parents say they never gave Haller permission to speak on their behalf and that after failing to rein him in privately, they are publicly telling him to stop.

But Haller says his sister, Noah's mother Veronique Pozner, was aware of his efforts from the start, supported them and worked hand-in-hand with him on various things for weeks after Sandy Hook and that many of the Pozners' claims are "demonstrably false."

He released a series of text messages and e-mail correspondence between Veronique Pozner, himself and other people that appear to back up his claim.

He also released a statement from his mother -- who is Veronique Pozner's mother and Noah's grandmother -- supporting what Haller did for the family in the days after the tragedy.

From the standpoint of Noah's father, Lenny Pozner, "My son was murdered" and Haller "sought to profit from it in any way that he could," Pozner said Friday. "He never even bothered to talk to me about it."

Haller "positioned himself early on, and without our consent as our spokesperson and representative," Pozner said in a written statement that preceded the interview. "He made declarations and statements in the media, submitted legislative proposals, collected money and registered domain names and email addresses in our murdered son's name in the wake of our tragedy, even though neither of us signed any retainer agreement with him or gave him permission to do so.

"He continues to use the events of December 14th to further his career as an attorney," Pozner said. "If you Google his name ... he's a celebrity. He's a big attorney all of a sudden."

Nevertheless, "they live basically a continent away from us" and "we basically have and have continued to have no relationship with him," Pozner said.

Haller said, however, that he acted in concert with, and with the full support of, his sister.

Veronique Pozner asked Haller to speak publicly on behalf of the family after Dec. 14 and "I did so with her permission and support," he said. "My public statements helped raise money for my sister's children. They also exposed the fraud that was being perpetrated against the family" and "at the time, both my sister and Lenny thanked me for my efforts."

Once the Pozners "informed me in late January that they no longer wanted me to speak publicly for their family, I made no further statements to the media on their behalf," Haller said. But "I, like anybody else, have a right to speak about matters that are important to me, and I reserve the right to exercise it on my own behalf."

Haller called "absurd" the suggestion "that I am somehow using Noah's death to further my career. ... Nothing about Noah's death or its aftermath has or ever will do anything to advance my professional career."

He said he hasn't profited in any way from the tragedy -- and actually spent substantial amounts of his own money on things like renting a mailbox, registering Internet domains, plane tickets for his family and even renting a house in Newtown in the process of helping his sister and her family.

Among the documents Haller shared in his effort to prove the Pozners' charges were "demonstrably false" were copies of texts or e-mails in which Veronique Pozner discussed photos to be put on a memorial website, wished Haller "Good Luck" before he was interviewed by CNN's Anderson Cooper and thanked him several times for his actions on the family's behalf.

Haller also said it was "demonstrably false" that he submitted legislative proposals on his sister's behalf without her permission. He forwarded correspondence in which they discussed contact and shaped discussions with government officials, with Haller saying he would hold off on talking to them until Veronique Pozner gave the go-ahead.

Haller said that a trust created for the benefit of the family's surviving children "was set up with the assistance of a prominent trust attorney and with the involvement and knowledge of my sister and her husband. I set up the trust with help from Lenny's friends. I have served and continue to serve as trustee of that trust without compensation, and have helped raise funds for the benefit of the four children."

Noah Pozner's four siblings include two older siblings from Veronique Pozner's previous marriage and two from her marriage with Lenny Pozner.

Veronique Pozner said that when Haller initially offered to help, "I was absolutely grief-stricken," and while she did initially approve of his involvement, the idea was that he would work with other relatives and close family friends to

set up a trust for their children.

She thanked him, "never imagining that he would make himself judge, jury and executioner of the whole thing...and essentially take the reins of the effort...

"In my weakened state, I allowed him to help ... not realizing that as it snowballed, it become self-serving ... it sort of went to his head," Veronique Pozner said. "He became intoxicated by the media exposure. ... It became very apparent to me very soon...maybe about two or three weeks into the efforts, that he was using this as a springboard ... for his efforts.

Since then, "We've asked Alexis repeatedly to cease and desist ... and he has repeatedly refused to do so..." she said.

"I would much rather have had this just go away, quietly. But it hasn't," she said.

The mother of Veronique Pozner and Haller, Marie-Claude Duytschaever, said in a written statement, "I never thought I would ever have to contradict my own daughter publicly but the declarations she and her husband made to the press last week give me no choice: I must speak up.

"I am horrified and disgusted by their calumnious attack on my son Alexis' integrity," Duytschaever wrote. "The truth is that Alexis rushed across the country to his sister's side on the day of the shooting and provided her and her family with invaluable help and support at a time of terrible turmoil."

Haller called the written statement that his sister and brother-in-law released Friday "another consequence of the horror of December 14th. Families were devastated by the tragic event, and that devastation continues to this day. It plays out in different ways in different families, and in mine it has led to the sad and untrue accusations made by my sister and her husband today.

"Noah's death was horrible for all family members," Haller said. "Noah and my son spent a week together last April, and they became fast friends. ... Before this tragedy struck, my sister was planning to move to the Northwest, where my wife and I live. We looked forward to Noah and my son growing up close to each other. Tragically, none of that ever happened."

Lenny Pozner said in the written statement, however, that "the sad truth is that Alexis had virtually no relationship with Noah. He met our son all of three times in his short life," he said, "and never had communications with either my wife, myself or any of our three children prior to taking a parasitic interest in Noah's death, immediately realizing that such a high-profile case could bring him prominence and fame."

Lenny Pozner told the Register that he has tried privately to get Haller, to stop. "There are lawyers involved, and all that," he said.

Call Mark Zaretsky at 203-789-5722.

Exhibit B-61 is a true and correct copy of an interview video entitled “Honouring Noah” by Journeyman TV of Veronique Pozner posted on August 18, 2016 at the url address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr4VnZz8B0M>.

Exhibit B-62 is a true and correct copy of a video of CNN Anderson Cooper's interview of Mr. Pozner posted at the url address:
<https://www.facebook.com/AC360/videos/10157975907590533/UzpfSTQyMjMzOTQ5MTE4MTA2MDoxMjI3Nzg4MTYwNjM2MTg1/>

Exhibit B-63 is a true and correct copy of a video of Joshua Koskoff, Plaintiffs' attorney in the Bushmaster lawsuit, at a press conference posted on November 16, 2016 located at the url address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjVuXvG7Zjw>.

In an age of 'alternative facts,' a massacre of schoolchildren is called a hoax

Barbara Demick

Sandy Hook parents suffered their first loss when their children were killed. Now, they are tormented by further by conspiracy theorists who question what happened.

If there is anything worse than losing a child, it is losing a child and having people taunt you over the loss.

That is what happened to the family of Noah Pozner, a 6-year-old with tousled brown hair and lollipop-red lips, the youngest of the 26 children and staff members gunned down in 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

In the years since the massacre that shook the country and opened new anxiety over gun violence, the family has received hate-filled calls and violent emails from people who say they know the shooting was a hoax. Photos of their son — some with pornographic and anti-Semitic content — have been distributed on websites.

These outlandish theories, which hold that the Newtown school shooting was a staged mass murder engineered by gun control advocates, have lived until now in the dark corners of the Internet.

But they have gained fresh momentum in the last several months, residents here say, at a time when conspiracy theorists across the country have attained the status of celebrities, and the nation as a whole is engaged in a contentious debate over the nature of truth.





President Trump and his national security advisor, Michael T. Flynn, have been open enthusiasts of Alex Jones' Infowars, a Web-based radio and video network that has relentlessly pushed the theory that Sandy Hook was staged by Democrats to advance a gun control agenda.

An unabashed Trump supporter during the campaign, Jones says he received a personal call of thanks from the president-elect days after the election.

Although Trump has not spoken publicly about Sandy Hook, many residents here say he is nurturing the culture of exaggeration and paranoia on which conspiracy theorists thrive.

"Maybe it has nothing to do with Donald Trump, but somehow these hate creeps have been less shy about their beliefs," said Noah's father, Lenny Pozner, an information technology specialist. "They've been emboldened."

Mark Fenster, a law professor at the University of Florida and author of a book about conspiracy theories in American politics, said the Sandy Hook hoax theory was a response to a Democratic-controlled White House of a kind that often shows up in political extremist circles.

"Conspiracy theories are pervasive in American politics and they target whoever is in power," Fenster said. "I think it won't be long before the Alex Joneses of this world are saying that Trump is part of some conspiracy."

The town of Newtown is drafting an official letter to the White House demanding that Trump sever his ties to Jones.

Maybe it has nothing to do with Donald Trump, but somehow these hate creeps have been less shy about their beliefs. They've been emboldened.

Lenny Pozner, Noah's father

Share quote & link

"Jones repeatedly tells his listeners and viewers that he has your ears and your respect. He brags about how you called him after your victory in November. Emboldened by your victory, he continues to hurt the memories of those lost, the ability of those left behind to heal," reads an excerpt of the letter that was shared recently with the news media.

Family members who lost children at Sandy Hook say they find themselves twice victimized.

An unemployed waitress was arrested in December in Florida on charges of making death threats against Pozner, with repeated phone calls to his home in which she muttered ethnic and racial slurs and profanities. Another man is in Rikers Island prison in New York fighting transfer to Connecticut for a deluge of harassing phone calls to the home and office of the medical examiner who

signed the coroner reports for Sandy Hook victims.

At a memorial run in 2015 in honor of slain teacher Vicki Soto, a 33-year-old Brooklyn, N.Y., man was arrested after police said he shoved a photo in the face of the victim's younger sister, Jillian Soto, and demanded to know whether her sister really died.

Another man was convicted of stealing memorial signs erected in playgrounds to commemorate the dead children. He later called the children's parents and said they shouldn't mind because their children never existed.

Most of the families associated with Sandy Hook have removed or protected their social media accounts and unlisted their telephone numbers; some have changed homes.

Newtown residents are distrustful of outsiders. On the fourth anniversary of the massacre in December, there was a low-key prayer vigil in a Catholic Church. An unmarked police car was stationed outside the elementary school to keep an eye out for hoaxers who show up frequently, photographing children and confronting families.

"This cloud of disinformation and misinformation and fake news has been harmful to the community," said Patricia Llodra, a Republican selectwoman for Newtown. "I'm not an angry person, but when I think about the hurtful things these hoaxers say, I want to ask, 'How could you? How dare you question the pain that these families experience every day.'"

Other tragedies have inspired conspiracy theories: The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the moon landing, the John F. Kennedy assassination. What distinguishes Sandy Hook is that the theories revolve around people who were utterly ordinary. None would have become public figures if not for 20-year-old Adam Lanza's rampage through an elementary school that fateful morning.

Pozner and his then-wife, Veronique, had moved to the Connecticut suburb, an 80-mile drive from New York City, for its tree-lined cul-de-sacs and quality public schools.

Noah Pozner, the youngest child killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. Some people contend he wasn't killed, or claim he never existed, and are tormenting his parents. (Courtesy of Pozner family)

On the morning of Dec. 14, 2012, Pozner drove Noah and his twin sister and another daughter to school. Noah, wearing a Batman shirt, sang along to his favorite song, "Gangnam Style."

Less than an hour later, he was shot in the face with such force that his jaw was blown off. His sisters cowered in another classroom and survived.

Pozner didn't pay attention to anything outside the fog of his grief in the first weeks. But when he went online again, he was stunned to realize that many people seemed to think the massacre had been a hoax.

The "Sandy Hook truthers," as they called themselves, tormented not only the grieving families, but teachers, police, photographers, first responders, neighbors, government officials and witnesses — they all were said to be part of the ever-expanding conspiracy to fake the massacre.

"This was specifically a plot to steal America's weapons in order to neutralize its power. The chief perpetrators are powerful Zionists," declared one website barely a month after the massacre.

The hoaxers claimed Sandy Hook children had been taught to play victims that day, and frequently cruised into town with cameras to "expose" the "child actors."

Pozner believes his family became a particular target because they were the most openly Jewish family, and because his wife (from whom he is now divorced) was speaking publicly about gun control.

At first, Pozner was almost sympathetic to the disbelievers, in part because he had flirted with conspiracy theories himself in the past. "A lot of these people couldn't fathom that somebody would look a 6-year-old in the face and pump bullets into his head," he said.

He chatted online with those who thought the shooting had been faked. He fought back with facts. He released Noah's death certificate, the medical examiner's report on his death and, for those who insisted Noah didn't exist, his birth certificate and his kindergarten report card. ("Noah is a sweet, inquisitive boy and I feel very fortunate to have had him in my class this year," wrote his teacher.)

But it didn't work. One of the doubters told Pozner he ought to exhume the body to prove he really had a child who died.

Eventually, Pozner gave up. He set up an organization called the HONR Network, devoted to fighting hoaxes. He and volunteers now operate a series of websites that duel with the websites of conspiracy theorists.

He has filed a lawsuit against the most prolific hoaxers and succeeded in getting Florida Atlantic University to fire a professor who had set up a website pushing the hoax theory. Free-speech laws protect much of the online rumor-mongers, but Pozner has had success removing pictures of children.

"My objective is to reduce the footprint of the hatred and the most disgusting content," he said.

It took nearly a year to remove a video that featured photos of Noah over the soundtrack from a porn movie. He is currently pressing YouTube about a video with maps and directional arrows pointing to an apartment where he used to live, chillingly zooming in on him through a balcony door as though a sniper was aiming a shot.

Fearful for his safety, he has moved six times since Noah's death (he now lives in Florida) and has all mail sent to post office boxes.

The conspiracy theorists have shown unflagging energy. The most persistent, Wolfgang Halbig, a 70-year-old Florida man who describes himself as a retired school safety expert, said he had made 22 trips to Connecticut, wiped out his pension and spent more than \$100,000, which he raised online.

Wolfgang Halbig asks questions about the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting during a public participation section of a Board of Education meeting May 6, 2014, at the Newtown Municipal Center Council Chambers in Newtown, Conn. (Tyler Sizemore / News-Times)

His theory is that between 500 to 700 people were involved in the "conspiracy" — including the schoolchildren, parents, teachers and police, all the way up to President Obama.

In a telephone interview, he said he was encouraged by Trump's election and was expecting that the new administration would open an investigation into not only Sandy Hook but also the Boston Marathon bombing and the Sept. 11 attacks.

"You have a president who is open and he wants the truth. He called out CNN for doing fake news," Halbig said. "This opens up a whole new avenue for these events to be investigated."

Sandy Hook became an issue late in the presidential campaign when Hillary Clinton ran an ad attacking Trump for his support of Alex Jones.

... I've watched a lot of soap operas, and I've seen actors before. And I know when I'm watching a movie and [when] I'm watching something real.

Alex Jones, Infowars

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A week after the election, Jones doubled down on Sandy Hook with a lengthy special report.

"Children were lost at Sandy Hook. My heart goes out to each and every one of those parents and the people that say they're parents that I see on the

news," Jones declared.

Then he turned, in Pozner's view, maddeningly ambiguous. "The only problem is that I've watched a lot of soap operas, and I've seen actors before," Jones told his listeners. "And I know when I'm watching a movie and [when] I'm watching something real."

Barbara Demick is New York correspondent of the Los Angeles Times, formerly head of the bureaus in Beijing and Seoul. She is the author of *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* and *Logavina Street: Life and Death in a Sarajevo Neighborhood*. Demick has won Britain's Samuel Johnson Award for best nonfiction, the George Polk Award and the Robert F. Kennedy Award, as well as the Osborn Elliot Prize for Journalism from the Asia Society and the Overseas Press Club, the American Academy of Diplomacy's Arthur Ross Award and Stanford University's Shorenstein Award for best Asia reporting. She has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. She was a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Feb 3, 2017 | 3:10 PM

An earlier version of this story said a professor at Florida State University had been fired after setting up a website pushing the Newtown hoax theory. The professor had worked at Florida Atlantic University.