

wikistrike.com

An anonymously run website that routinely publishes false stories and hoaxes, including health-related conspiracy theories.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Ownership and Financing

WikiStrike does not disclose its ownership. According to media reports, the site is owned by Ghislain Hammer, a self-described poet from Nice who lives in the Seine-Saint-Denis department.

WikiStrike.com generates revenue from advertising and donations.

Content

The site's motto at the top of the homepage reads: "Nothing and no one is greater than the truth" ("Rien ni personne n'est supérieur à la vérité"). WikiStrike publishes articles on politics, science, and health topics, with a focus on alleged cover-ups and conspiracies. Many stories allege global financial conspiracies and often originate from blogs and websites that NewsGuard found repeatedly publish false and misleading news, including the conspiracist site Fr.Sott.net, Russian propaganda sites Sputnik and RT, and Iranian propaganda site PressTV.

Typical headlines have included "The strange, almost hidden continent of Zealandia reveals its secrets to scientists" ("L'étrange continent quasi-caché de Zealandia livre ses secrets aux scientifiques"), "Coronavirus: 40 to 70% of Humanity will be contaminated, according to a Harvard scientist" ("Coronavirus : 40% à 70% de l'humanité sera infectée, estime un scientifique de Harvard"); and "Low-energy particles discovered close to the Sun" ("Des particules à basse énergie découvertes au plus près du Soleil").

Credibility

WikiStrike stories are rarely based on credible sources, instead citing content from sites known for spreading conspiracies and false news. Many stories on the site promote widely debunked conspiracy theories or present unproven rumors as facts.

Score: 7.5/100

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)**
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)**
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)**
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)**
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)**
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)**
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)**
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)**
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)**

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

For example, a January 2020 article suggested that in April 2018, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates had predicted the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak, stating that Gates supposedly said at a conference hosted by the Massachusetts Medical Society that “a super-virus pandemic arising in China could kill 33 million people worldwide in the first six months” (“une pandémie de super-virus se déclarant en Chine pouvant tuer 33 millions de personnes dans le monde au cours des six premiers mois.”)

Gates did not make such a prediction. In April 2018, he discussed an animation created by the Institute of Disease Modeling, which projected the effects of a flu outbreak around the world. Although Gates advised that the world should prepare for a pandemic disease, he did not predict a super-virus outbreak in China, as the site claimed. (The Gates Foundation participated in a simulated emergency preparedness exercise in October 2019, but according to FactCheck.org, the exercise involved a mock coronavirus with different features than the Wuhan coronavirus.)

In a February 2020 article titled “New study finds coronavirus may have non-fortuitous links to HIV” (“Une nouvelle étude révèle que le coronavirus pourrait avoir des liens non fortuits avec le VIH”), the site claimed that China’s National Health Commission mentioned the use of two HIV treatments as potential treatments for the Wuhan coronavirus because “the two drugs target specific enzymes in the body that HIV and the coronavirus use to replicate.” (“Les deux médicaments ciblent des enzymes spécifiques dans le corps que le VIH et le coronavirus utilisent pour se répliquer.”)

This claim was attributed to a study posted on the website bioRxiv, which publishes scientific studies before they have undergone peer review. According to a February 2019 article on the fact-checking website HealthFeedback.org, the study’s finding that there is a similarity between the Wuhan coronavirus and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) “was detected using extremely short protein sequences, a practice that

often gives rise to false positive results," noting that those same sequences are found in many other organisms.

The site has also promoted false claims that vaccines can cause autism. A September 2019 article said that "research shows without a doubt that unvaccinated children enjoy much better health than vaccinated children." ("La recherche montre indéniablement que les enfants non vaccinés jouissent d'une santé bien meilleure que les vaccinés.")

Santé Publique France, French's national public health agency, and many other health and science authorities, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.K. National Health Service, and the World Health Organization, have repeatedly stated that there is no link between vaccines and autism, based on an abundance of scientific evidence.

WikiStrike has also falsely claimed that the AIDS virus was intentionally manufactured in a lab. An October 2019 article, titled "AIDS and other viruses were created in a lab by the United States for genocidal purposes" ("Le SIDA et d'autres virus ont bien été créés en laboratoire par les Etats-Unis dans un but génocidaire"), promoted the conspiracy theory that the AIDS epidemic was a government-led plot against African-Americans.

This claim goes against a broad scientific consensus about the origins of AIDS, which authorities say originated from the transmission of the simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) from chimpanzees to humans in west-central Africa.

Because WikiStrike frequently promotes fabricated stories and conspiracy theories, NewsGuard has determined that the site has repeatedly published false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

WikiStrike.com does not publish a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

The site does not disclose its agenda or political perspective. However, many news articles include negative opinions about French President Emmanuel Macron and his administration.

For example, in January 2020, WikiStrike posted an article from the site Vududroit.com, titled "Emmanuel Macron - Illegality, illegitimacy and imposture" ("Emmanuel Macron – Illégalité, illégitimité et imposture"), which criticised the French president for "the corruption that surrounds him, his political inanity, his unbearable character traits and his personal arrogance." ("La corruption qui l'entoure, sa nullité politique, ses traits de caractère insupportables et son arrogance personnelle...")

The same month, the site published a blog post from Le HuffPost titled "Macron doesn't govern French people, he brings them to heel" ("Emmanuel Macron ne gouverne pas les Français, il les soumet"), which stated that Macron "wants French people in his image, like the clones who revolve around him and adore him." ("Macron veut les Français à son image, à l'image des clones qui l'entourent et l'adorent.")

Because WikiStrike publishes unlabelled opinion articles and does not disclose its political perspective, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet the standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

WikiStrike.com declined to comment on NewsGuard's questions about its editorial practices, its publication of false content, its lack of corrections, and its mixing of news and opinion. A representative for the site told NewsGuard by email, "We regret that we're unable to respond to your interview request. Indeed, we simply do not accept any contact, it's our philosophy." ("Nous regrettons de ne pas pouvoir donner suite à votre demande d'interview. En effet, nous n'acceptons tout simplement aucun contact, c'est notre philosophie (sic).")

Articles do not generally include author names, and WikiStrike does not provide any information about its content creators.

Readers can contact the site via an online form.

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

History

Ghislain Hammer created WikiStrike in 2011, according to press accounts and to online registration data. "At its core, it is a form of freedom to talk about what the mainstream media doesn't cover, it's not unhealthy," he told local newspaper Nice Matin in March 2019, using a pseudonym. "It's up to people to choose articles. If they believe them, it's their problem." ("A la base, c'est une forme de liberté de parler de ce dont les gros médias ne traitent pas, ça n'est pas malsain. C'est aux gens de choisir les articles. S'ils y croient c'est leur problème.")

Written by: [Sophia Tewa](#)

Edited by: [Eric Effron](#), [Yves Clarisse](#), [Chine Labbe](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard:[Click Here](#)

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Ownership and Financing

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