Patriote.info does not disclose its ownership. It was founded by the late French-Gabonese ex-rapper Patrick D’Hondt, more commonly known as Tepa. D’Hondt was the founder and publishing director of the web channel Meta TV.

In April 2019, D’Hondt announced on Patriote.info that he would suspend his activities indefinitely on the site after being diagnosed with cancer. He asked readers to donate money to help him afford “alternative treatments”. A press release posted on the website in November 2019 announced that D’Hondt had died of the disease.

Patriote.info derives revenue from advertising, reader donations, and affiliate book sales on Amazon. The site sells patriotic-themed clothes through an online store.

A statement at the bottom of the website reads, “Patriotic news is priceless, uncompromising and vital to the survival of its people.” (L’information patriote n’a pas de prix, elle est sans concession et vitale pour la survie de son peuple.) The donation page states that “France has never faced such threat” from “globalized elites.” (“la France n’a jamais vécu pareille menace. Survivra-t-elle au plan des élites mondialistes?”)

The site republishes a mix of video commentary and articles on French politics and social issues. It regularly promotes nationalist ideology and far-right political groups and parties, such as Marine Le Pen’s Rassemblement National, the identitarian movement Génération Identitaire, and anti-EU parties such as the Union populaire républicaine party.
On the homepage, content is grouped under headings including News (Actualité), Videos (Vidéos), Globalization (Mondialisme), and Security (Sécurité). The site features past episodes of “Libéré sur parole,” a video talk show that was hosted by D’Hondt.

Although the homepage invites readers to contribute content, most articles are republished from other sources, including the police news site Profession-Gendarme.com, radio station Sud Radio, news website le HuffPost, and the Russian news and propaganda site RT France. Patriote.info shares many videos from French political YouTube channels, video blogs, and information sites, such as LeMediaPourTous.fr and Independenza WebTV.

Typical headlines have included “With the coronavirus, beware of scams that spread” (“Avec le coronavirus, attention aux arnaques qui se propagent”); “Worrying numbers: more than 120 knife attacks happen everyday in France while the media remain completely silent” (“Chiffres inquiétants : Plus de 120 agressions à l’arme blanche ont lieu chaque jour en France dans le silence complet des médias”); and “World Trade Center: plans are found in a trash can sold at an auction” (“World Trade Center : des plans retrouvés dans une poubelle vendus aux enchères (Vidéo)”).

Patriote.info does not appear to produce original content. Most stories are republished from other sources, with the source often listed at the bottom of the text. The site often lifts content from publications that are known for promoting conspiracy theories and disinformation, such as the anti-Islam site Resistance Républicaine, the conspiracy site Reseauinternational.net, and the site Bvoltaire, which has often published false information to advance far-right viewpoints. Patriote.info also relies heavily on content provided by the French-language versions of Russian government-owned Sputnik and RT, which publish Russian-state propaganda.
The site itself has promoted unsubstantiated conspiracy theories and misleading information on a number of topics, including the COVID-19 virus.

For example, in March 2020, Patriote.info linked to a video from conspirationist German website Kla.tv that promoted the claims of two virologists who argue that the virus likely originated in a Chinese laboratory, where it was said to have been genetically modified. “The conclusions from these two virologists ... are supported by the fact that several patents on coronaviruses have officially been registered,” the video claimed. (“Les constatations des deux virologues (...) sont étayées par le fait que plusieurs brevets sur les coronavirus ont été officiellement enregistrés”).

In another video published on the website in February 2020, an Algerian blogger said that “this is not a natural mutation that created this virus.” (“ce n’est pas une mutation naturelle qui a conduit à ce virus”).

Neither video included evidence backing their claims. There is no evidence that the coronavirus was artificially created. According to a February 2020 report by the World Health Organization, “increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats.” A study published the same month in Nature found that the virus is “96% identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

Screenshots of several patents related to viruses have been circulating online. However, as multiple international fact-checking organizations, including FactCheck.org, have shown, these patents were related to different viruses in the family of coronaviruses. “There is no patent related to the new virus,” FactCheck.org wrote in January 2020.

In April 2019, Patriote.info republished a Sputnik story titled “Paris and Brussels may be preparing a provocation using chemical weapons: Moscow explains” (“Paris et Bruxelles prépareraient une provocation à l’arme chimique : Moscou explique”), advancing Russia’s claim that French and Belgium secret services were implicated in the staging of a
chemical attack in the Idlib province of northwest Syria. The article claimed that, according to the Russian Defense Ministry’s Centre for Reconciliation in Syria, “radicals are preparing this provocation under the supervision of the Belgian and French services to then accuse the Russian Aerospace Forces and the Syrian government army of carrying strikes against civilians.” (“des radicaux préparent cette provocation sous la supervision des services belges et français pour accuser par la suite les Forces aérospatiales russes et l’armée gouvernementale syrienne d’avoir porté des frappes contre les civils”)

The Belgian Ministry of Defence has denied the allegations, telling the news site RTBF Info that “Belgium respects the Chemical Weapons Convention and does not participate in this kind of military action.” (“La Belgique respecte la convention sur l’interdiction des armes chimiques et ne participe pas à ce genre d’actions militaires.”) On its website, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the story, which was first published by RT France in March 2019, an “outright lie, which is typical of this center set up by Russian and Syrian authorities” (“mensonge grossier, dont ce centre mis en place par les autorités russes et syriennes est coutumier.”) In September 2019, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the United States found that the Russian-backed government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had used chlorine as a chemical weapon in a May 2019 attack against insurgents in Idlib.

In July 2019, Patriote.info published another Sputnik story, titled “Did the FBI want to seize the black boxes of the MH17?” (“Le FBI voulait s’emparer des boîtes noires du MH17 ?”) about Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, which crashed and killed 298 people in eastern Ukraine in July 2014. The article claimed that, according to Russian officials, “the plane was hit by a missile that is no longer used in Russia, but still equips the Ukrainian army” (“l’avion a été touché par un missile qui n’est plus utilisé en Russie, mais équipe toujours l’armée ukrainienne”). This contradicts evidence from an independent international criminal investigation
conducted by a Dutch-led team in May 2018, which found that the missile originated from a Russian anti-aircraft missile brigade.

In September 2019, an article from the populist German site Deutschland Kurier was republished on Patriote.info under the headline “Climate protests. The child soldiers of Soros & Cie” (“Marches pour le climat. Les enfants soldats de Soros & Cie”). It claimed, without citing any sources, that 23-year-old German climate activist Luisa-Marie Neubauer, one of the organizers of the global climate change demonstrations Fridays For Future, indirectly works for the American businessman and philanthropist George Soros and helped him secure a “close relationship” with teenage climate change activist Greta Thunberg. The article also suggested that Neubauer probably receives money for her work as a youth ambassador for the ONE Campaign, an organization that fights extreme poverty and disease. “She also does not really need to work. She enjoys almost a diplomatic status: she is a ‘youth ambassador’ for ONE... We can assume that she is also paid, and not just a little,” the article read. (“Elle n’a pas vraiment besoin de travailler non plus. Elle jouit presque d’un statut diplomatique : elle est ‘ambassadrice jeunesse’ pour ONE (...) On peut supposer qu’elle est aussi payée, et pas qu’un peu.”)

Soros’s Open Society Foundations is one of about 50 donors listed on the One Campaign’s website. But there is no evidence that Neubauer is directly controlled by Soros, according to reports by the BBC and Factcheck.org. Neubauer told the fact-checking site Lead Stories that she never received any money from her position at ONE, adding that “since climate striking, I don’t really have any time anymore to engage in ONE stuff, so I believe I am technically still a youth ambassador but not an active one.”

Because Patriote.info has promoted unsubstantiated conspiracy theories as well as fabricated stories and disinformation from unreliable news sources, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly
publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

The site features some opinion posts that are clearly labeled as editorials. However, many articles and videos featured in the News section include political opinions espousing a range of far-right views.

For example, the website published an article in January 2020 titled “How a viral pandemic is benefitting the globalist agenda (Activistpost)” (“Comment une pandémie virale bénéficie à l’agenda mondialiste (Activistpost”). The article, labelled with the tags News (Actualité) and Globalism (Mondialisme), stated: “The reason why globalists want a crash is simple: they need a crisis to manipulate the masses so that they accept a complete centralization, a global monetary system and a global governance.” (“La raison pour laquelle les mondialistes veulent un effondrement est simple : ils ont besoin d’une crise afin de manipuler les masses pour qu’elles acceptent une centralisation totale, un système monétaire mondial et une gouvernance mondiale”). The article was not labelled Opinion.

In September 2019, the site republished an article from Resistance Républicaine about the far-right activist Aurélien Verhassél, who was convicted of assault for allegedly beating two men of foreign descent in 2015. The post, titled “Prison sentence without parole for the identititarian Aurélien Verhassél who dared to defend himself against Zakari and Wassim” (“Prison ferme pour l’identitaire Aurélien Verhassél qui a osé se défendre contre Zakari et Wassim”) stated, “It is clear that political authorities and judges have decided to harden sentences for those who are anti-immigration and anti-Islam, and to throw them in jail, as a way of killing all Resistance in France.” (“Il est clair que le pouvoir politique et les juges ont décidé de durcir les peines des anti-immigration, des anti-islam, et de les faire passer à la case prison, histoire de tuer toute Résistance en France.”)
Because Patriote.info does publish opinionated articles in its News section, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Patriote.info does not articulate a corrections policy. NewsGuard found two corrections published on the site in 2019, which appeared at the top of the stories and explained previous errors and how the article was changed. However, because Patriote.info has not corrected or retracted many other false articles, NewsGuard has determined the site does not meet its standard for regularly correcting errors.

Patriote.info did not respond to three messages from NewsGuard sent through its online contact form, inquiring about the site’s editorial practices, corrections policy, and mixing of news and opinion.

**Transparency**

The site does not have an About or Legal Notice page. It does not disclose any information about its ownership or editorial leaders.

Most Patriote.info content creators appear to write under a pseudonym, such as Nadou.83 and Rico, and the site does not generally provide contact or biographical information for them.

Patriote.info did not respond to three messages from NewsGuard submitted through its online form, requesting comment on site’s lack of disclosure regarding its ownership, editorial leadership, and content creators.

Advertising and sponsored articles are distinguished from editorial content.

**History**

D’Hondt, a former rapper and former member of the anti-EU, nationalist party Union populaire républicaine, founded Patriote.info in November 2017.

In 2014, Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson appeared on D’Hondt’s Meta TV show and questioned whether Nazi concentration camps used gas chambers. The two were later charged and convicted for denying
crimes against humanity. France’s highest court denied their appeal in 2018 and Faurisson received a $10,000 fine while D’Hondt was fined $1,000.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on March 10, 2020, with new examples of the site’s content, including its coverage of the COVID-19 outbreak.

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Edited by: Sarah Brandt, Jim Warren, Chine Labbe, Yves Clarisse, Eric Effron

Send feedback to NewsGuard: Click Here

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Ownership and Financing

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Loyal à son pays, pas à une classe sociale.

Correction

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