

segnidalcielo.it

A website that publishes false and unsubstantiated claims about UFOs and that advances conspiracy theories, including the notion that the world is run by a reptile alien race.



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

Score: 20/100

Ownership and Financing

Segni dal Cielo is owned and run by Massimo Fratini, a radiologist at the Sapienza University of Rome. Fratini told NewsGuard in a phone interview that he also owns Earth-Chronicles.it, a website focused on climate change and natural disasters.

The site generates revenue from advertising.

Content

SegniDalCielo.it describes itself on some of its social media profiles as a "Website of International ufo news. Aliens, crop circles, ancient aliens, Nibiru-Planet X." The site publishes articles and videos about aliens and UFOs. Other articles focus on climate change, geoengineering, the supernatural, and conspiracies about mind control, chemtrails, reptilians, the Illuminati, and a New World Order.

The site's articles are rewritten and translated from a large network of English- and Spanish-language conspiracy websites. The site also frequently draws content from blogs, websites, and Youtube channels dedicated to UFO sightings, including Paranormal Crucible, SecureTeam, and AstroGeekz. Most stories do not say where the article originated. Segni dal Cielo often embeds images and YouTube videos in its articles, without citing sources.

Content is sorted into five main sections: Mystery (Misteri), Global Alert (Allerta globale), Earth Changes, UFO, and New World Order (Nuovo ordine mondiale). Other sections include Beyond the Matrix (Oltre la Matrix), Science News (Scienze News), Medicine (Medicina), and Paranormal (Paranormale).

Typical articles have run under headlines including "'ASTEROID' potentially dangerous is moving towards the Earth!!" ("ASTEROIDE' potenzialmente pericoloso

✗ 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.](#)

si sta muovendo verso la Terra!!"); "NASA records alleged UFO fleet in formation next to the Sun" ("La NASA registra presunta flotta di UFO in formazione accanto al Sole"); and "2022, a large stellar explosion will be visible from the Earth. Ancient prophecy speaks of the 'Return of the Messiah'" ("2022, una grande esplosione stellare sarà visibile dalla Terra. Antica profezia parla del "Ritorno del Messia.")

Credibility

Articles are usually written anonymously and are based on unverified videos and other content published on websites known for promoting conspiracy theories and false claims about aliens, health and science, including the 2020 Wuhan coronavirus outbreak.

For example, a January 2020 article headlined "CHINA, that strange military exercise of 'bacteriological danger' in Wuhan called 'Coronavirus'" ("CINA, quella strana esercitazione militare di 'pericolo batteriologico' a Wuhan chiamata 'Coronavirus'"), suggested that the virus "was engineered in the maximum security laboratory in Wuhan as a biochemical weapon for defense." The article cited a report by The Washington Times in the U.S. that quoted a former Israeli military intelligence officer saying "that there is a laboratory in Wuhan linked to Beijing's secret chemical weapons program."

Although The Washington Times accurately quoted the former official, and it is true that a lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology works with dangerous pathogens, there is no evidence backing the claim that the new strain of coronavirus came from that lab. A February 2020 report by the World Health Organization said, "increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV [Wuhan coronavirus] 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." Rutgers University chemical biology professor Richard Ebright also told The Washington Post that "based on the virus genome and properties there is no indication whatsoever that it was an engineered virus."

Several stories and videos on Segni dal Cielo have claimed that the world is run by an alien elite that controls governments, institutions, economic powers, and human minds. A May 2019 story claimed that the world is controlled by an evil force that is part of the kabbalah, an ancient system of Jewish mysticism. "The economic and political world power control is structured in occult secret societies that are part of the KABBALAH or KABBALA, the disciples of the devil, and it is something that we already know," the article stated. ("Il controllo del potere economico e politico nel mondo è strutturato dalla società segrete occulte che sono parte della CABAL o CABALA, i seguaci del Diavolo, ed è qualcosa che già sapevamo da tempo.")

The same article invoked two conspiracy theories: The theory that claims that the world is controlled by a reptilian alien race that is able to change its form to resemble humans; and the theory asserting that since the time of ancient Babylon, the world has been run by a secret society of freemasons called the Illuminati. The Segni dal Cielo story claimed that the reptilians and the Illuminati had perpetrated the 9/11 attacks, stating "9/11 is a conspiracy of Reptilians to enslave mankind through fear, considering that George Bush is a lizard servant." ("l'11 settembre è una cospirazione dei Rettiliani per schiavizzare attraverso la paura l'umanità, essendo George Bush un servo delle lucertole.")

A July 2019 article claimed that the moon is a spaceship brought near the Earth by "the gray aliens and their reptilian masters: our genetically modified ancestors" ("dagli alieni grigi e dai loro padroni rettiliani: i nostri antenati geneticamente modificati.") Another article from that month claimed that "five million extraterrestrial creatures live in the U.S. under human form." A February 2018 article said that humans are in the last phase of a "New World Order," referring to a conspiracy theory that claims that a secret evil society is plotting to establish a one-world government. The story warned of the "invasion of the Reptiles" who control human minds.

The site makes frequent, unsubstantiated claims about the existence of aliens, with stories such as "California, three black military helicopters closely observe a UFO above Los Angeles" ("California, tre elicotteri militari neri osservano da vicino un UFO sopra Los Angeles") and "Sleep paralysis or alien abduction?" ("Paralisi del Sonno o Rapimenti Alieni?").

The site also often writes about a fictitious planet called "Planet X Nibiru," which conspiracy theorists have said will collide with planet Earth. Additionally, the site has alleged that 9/11 was an "inside job" and that the twin towers were brought down by explosives or by rockets.

SegniDalCielo.it has also advanced the chemtrail conspiracy theory, which asserts that trails left by airplanes are dangerous chemicals produced by governments around the world to target people and the environment. A Segni dal Cielo article published in February 2018 stated that chemtrails are "part of a U.S. government geoengineering program designed to depopulate the planet" ("questo fa parte di un programma di geoingegneria del governo degli Stati Uniti per spopolare il pianeta").

There is no evidence that condensation released by airplanes is part of a secret government program. In a 2016 article published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*, 76 out of 77 atmospheric chemists and geochemists who evaluated evidence of a clandestine atmospheric spraying program said that these claims were unsupported.

Because Segni dal Cielo regularly publishes false claims and conspiracy theories, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and publishes deceptive headlines.

Asked about many of the above-cited stories and the site's editorial standards, site owner Fratini generally defended the content. "The Pentagon admitted that UFOs exist," he said. ("Il Pentagono ha ammesso che esistono gli UFO,") The 9/11 attack, he said, "was a conspiracy to tear down the towers [...] and

kill 3,600 innocent people" ("un complotto per far crollare le Torri [...] e uccidere 3.600 povere persone innocenti"). Fratini referred to reptilian conspiracy theories as "science fiction," although he said that "probably a Planet X does exist" ("probabilmente esiste un Pianeta X").

When NewsGuard sought further comment on his defense of the site's content, Fratini said: "All these could be false and all these could be true. Obviously for me this is fantasy, I tell something that could happen. It's pure science fiction." ("Tutto potrebbe essere falso come tutto potrebbe essere vero. Ovviamente per me questa è fantasia, racconto qualcosa che potrebbe accadere. È pura fantascienza").

However, the site presents its content as news, and does not state anywhere that some of the content is science fiction.

Segni dal Cielo does not typically publish opinionated content about matters of public importance.

Segni dal Cielo does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site. Fratini told NewsGuard that he corrects stories without issuing public corrections — which does not meet NewsGuard's standard for issuing corrections transparently.

Transparency

SegniDalCielo.it only mentions its ownership by Fratini in the site's privacy policy — which does not meet NewsGuard standard for disclosing ownership in a user-friendly manner. The site does not identify any editorial managers.

The site generally credits articles to a generic "Segnidalcielo," with bylines that link to a page that includes Fratini's first name, Massimo, and his year of birth, 1963. No additional biographical information or contact information is provided.

The site does not include an About Us or a Contact page. The homepage lists a general email address to reach the site.

Asked about the site's transparency practices, Fratini did not directly address the questions. He confirmed to NewsGuard that he owns the site and writes the articles bylined "Redazione Segnidalcielo."

"In the past there was a newsroom," he said. "But now, because of the [economic] crisis, I write almost everything except some articles written by few contributors without being paid." ("una volta c'era una redazione ma adesso a causa della crisi [economica] scrivo quasi tutto io a parte alcuni articoli scritti da collaboratori in modo gratuito.")

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

History

Segni dal Cielo was founded by Fratini in 2007.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on March 2, 2020.

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

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