

# news-for-friends.de

An anonymously run German-language website that repeatedly publishes false information, including conspiracy theories and inaccurate health claims.



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

**Score:** 7.5/100

## Ownership and Financing

News-For-Friends.de's ownership is not clear. The site's Data Privacy page lists Rafael Valentin as the site's owner and says the site is based in Moscow. However, according to the website's Facebook page, the owner is named M. Valentin, and the listed address is in Asunción, Paraguay.

News-For-Friends.de runs advertisements.

## Content

News-For-Friends.de's coverage focuses on German and international politics and business. The site often republishes articles from far-right and conspiratorial websites in the U.S., translated to German.

The site includes a section dedicated to the "Chemtrails" conspiracy theory, which contends that condensation trails left in the sky by aircraft contain dangerous chemicals that governments produce to target people and the environment. There is no evidence for such claims, and scientists who have evaluated claims of a clandestine atmospheric spraying program have said they are unsupported.

The site's Conspiracies (Verschwörungen) section promotes other false claims, including that NASA is hiding a second sun and that former U.S. President Barack Obama was killed by lethal injection in Guantanamo Bay. In a section called Global Control (Globale Kontrolle), the site reports on alleged abuses of power by financial elites, including claims that the Rockefeller family funded a eugenics initiative to sterilize 15 million Americans.

✗ 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.](#)

The site also reports on health, which frequently includes unproven claims about the presence of dangerous chemicals in vaccines and everyday products, as well as supposed cures for cancer.

Typical articles have run under headlines such as “New study confirmed: Our universe is a hologram” (“Neue Studie bestätigt: Unser Universum ist ein Hologramm”), “The ‘Green Peace’ plan of the left to depopulate the world has been uncovered” (“Der Plan ‘Grüner Frieden’ der Linken zur Entvölkerung der Welt wurde aufgedeckt”), and “According to a new report, George Soros financed radical environmental associations” (“George Soros finanzierte laut einem neuen Bericht radikale Umweltverbände”). (None of these articles is supported with evidence.)

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#### Credibility

The site’s articles typically consist of German translations of articles first published on far-right U.S. websites, including Summit.News and the Gateway Pundit. The site also draws on content from health sites, such as Natural News, that NewsGuard has found to have published false and misleading claims, as well as on the Russia-controlled RT.com. Articles occasionally draw on content from reputable sites, including The Guardian and the Austrian outlet OE24.

News-For-Friends.de itself has frequently published false or misleading claims, including political conspiracy theories and bogus health information.

For example, a February 2020 article titled “There is a connection between Coronavirus and 5G” (“Es Gibt Eine Verbindung Zwischen Coronavirus Und 5G”) claimed that the 2020 outbreak of the Wuhan coronavirus was caused by 5G waves, as “many scientific documents on the health effects of 5G have confirmed that it causes flu-like symptoms.” The article was a translation of an article first published on the American conspiratorial site Humans are Free.

To back the claim that 5G caused the coronavirus, the article linked to a 2017 letter written by 180 scientists that served as an appeal to the European Union for a moratorium on 5G until health effects have been “fully investigated.” The letter does not make any claims about 5G causing coronavirus.

Although 5G is available in Wuhan, a representative of the German Federal Office for Radiation Protection (Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz) told the investigative nonprofit newsroom Correctiv that “5G causes neither cell degradation nor flu-like symptoms. 5G can (like all fields of telecommunications transmitters, i.e. also 2G, 3G, 4G) cause at most a slight, imperceptible warming, which is mainly limited to the body surface (and does not reach the lungs).”

A July 2019 article, titled “SHOCKING REPORT: Smoking can protect the lungs from cancer” (“SCHOCKIERENDER BERICHT: Rauchen kann die Lunge vor Krebs schützen”), not only claimed that smoking does not cause cancer but also that it can protect against cancer caused by radioactive particles. The article cited the fact that some countries have high numbers of cigarette smokers, but low incidence of cancer cases. “This is the first clue when it comes to deciphering the absurd but deeply rooted Western medical lie that ‘smoking causes lung cancer,’” the article stated.

The article also claimed that the main cause of cancer is radioactive particles that have been present in the atmosphere since the U.S. first tested a nuclear device in 1945. As a result, the article stated, the U.S. government needed “another culprit for the long-term effects.... The only obvious substance that people inhaled into their lungs besides air was tobacco smoke, and so the government pointed its finger at it.”

Multiple studies have proven that smoking tobacco causes cancer. The German Cancer Society states on its website that “The most common single cause of cancer in industrialized countries is inhalation of tobacco smoke.” The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) states that “nearly 9 out of 10 lung cancers are caused by smoking cigarettes or secondhand smoke exposure.”

Moreover, there is no evidence that smoking cigarettes protects people from radioactive particles. In fact, cigarettes contain radioactive materials themselves, according to the CDC. “Together, the toxic and radioactive substances in cigarettes harm smokers. They also harm people exposed to secondhand smoke,” the CDC states on its website.

A December 2019 article, titled “Bill Gates' new plan to kill millions to save the planet, and he's funding it now!” (“Bill Gates neuer Plan, Millionen zu töten, um den Planeten zu retten und er finanziert ihn jetzt!”), included a video from YouTube that claimed that “Globalist Bill Gates has a plan. A plan to bring about planetary genocide in order to ‘save the planet from the global warming climate change fiasco.’” The article’s text said that this goal was to be achieved through the Bill Gates-funded project SCoPEX, which “aims to eliminate most living people through the collapse of the biosphere,” according to the site.

The SCoPEX project is run by a group of Harvard scientists — one of whom received funding from Bill Gates to start the project, as reported by Nature — that researches geoengineered solutions to climate change by releasing particles into the stratosphere. There is no evidence that the project poses a risk to the planet. According to a statement published on Harvard’s website, the tests “will pose no significant hazard to people or the environment,” as the released amount of materials “will be very small compared to other routine releases of material into the stratosphere by aircraft, rockets, or routine balloon flights.” According to Scientific American, “early research indicates that calcium carbonate [the particles to be released by SCoPEX] might actually help restore the ozone layer while reflecting some sunlight back into space,” thus possibly reducing global warming.

An October 2019 article, titled "Released documents: Obama ordered CIA to train ISIS" ("Freigegebene Dokumente: Obama befahl der CIA, ISIS auszubilden"), claimed that former U.S. President Barack Obama trained and armed ISIS fighters in Syria, because Obama "and his coalition colleagues were considering the creation of a Salafist organisation in Eastern Syria to further the overthrow of the Assad regime." The article is a translation of a story from U.S. site Newspunch.

Both the German nonprofit investigative newsroom Correctiv and U.S. fact-checking site Snopes found the Newspunch article to be flawed. According to Snopes, a CIA program "provided training and weapons to Syrian rebels fighting against the regime of Bashar al-Assad," some of which "ended up in the hands of Islamic State fighters.... However, the theft and smuggling of the arms were unintended and not the result of a deliberate policy or instructions from President Barack Obama or any part of his administration."

After the article was debunked, Newspunch issued a correction, stating that it was an "exaggeration of the facts" to say that Obama armed ISIS, adding that "it isn't true that he 'ordered the CIA to train ISIS.'" However, the article remains uncorrected on News-For-Friends.de.

In an October 2019 article, titled "2,100 imprisoned children rescued by US Marines and Navy Seals from DeepState's own underground bases in California!" ("2100 eingesperrte Kinder von US-Marines und Navy Seals aus DeepState-eigenen Untergrundbasen in Kalifornien befreit und gerettet!"), the site claimed that 2,100 children had been rescued from "captivity in underground bunkers where they were kept in cages." The article also stated that this discovery proves wrong "all of you out there who are still denying that nothing is happening and that the pedophile elites are just a conspiracy theory set up by nuts like me." The article was accompanied by a photo of women in cages, supposedly showing the actual underground bunkers.

However, Correctiv found that the pictures were screenshots from the movie "Pawn Shop Chronicles – 2013."

A November 2019 article, titled "Poison out of the tube: Sick from fluoride exposure - 'stupid and eager to work'" ("Das Gift kommt aus der Tube: Krank durch Fluoridbelastung – 'dumm und arbeitswillig'"), claimed that "fluoride is known to be one of the worst toxins and even more poisonous than arsenic." Ingesting fluoride in toothpaste "virtually burns the thyroid gland," can lead to "absolute cell poisoning — cancer," and in children is "the main cause of infections and learning disabilities," the article claimed. It also said the substance "slowly but surely eliminates the free will of the human being."

There is no evidence that fluoride in normal doses leads to cancer or learning disabilities, or that it influences the free will of human beings. The article cites several statements by individual doctors raising concerns about fluoride, but does not mention that the substance has been declared safe in small doses by numerous governments and studies, including the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR).

Because News-For-friends.de regularly publishes false and misleading information in its articles and headlines, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false claims and deceptive headlines, and that it does not gather and publish information responsibly.

The site does not have an opinion section and does not disclose an agenda or ideological perspective. Nevertheless, articles published in its News section often include opinionated statements.

For example, a December 2019 article, titled "Rudy returns from Ukraine with a wealth of destructive evidence against Biden, deep state panic, impeachment could fail, 31 Dems concerned: Captain Dave Bertrand, aD + Video" ("Rudy kehrt aus der Ukraine mit einer Fülle von zerstörerischen Beweisen gegen Biden zurück, tiefe staatliche Panik, Amtsenthebung könnte scheitern,

31 Dems besorgt: Kapitän Dave Bertrand, aD + Video") stated: "What a sweet deal, old Joey boy.... Smart move to get your crazy son on the board of directors of Burisma! No wonder that Hussein Obama refuses to agree with Biden."

Another December 2019 article, headlined "Ready or not! Trump has reportedly made his move" ("Fertig oder nicht! Trump hat laut Berichten seinen Zug gemacht"), stated that "Obama spent a whole year on vacation and yet the left is weeping over paying for President Trump's Golf? Where was that anger over Obama's spending?... I think a president who donates his salary has the right to play as much golf as he wants!"

A November 2019 article, titled "Boom! Rep. Devin Nunes just unveiled Schiff's big secret that will destroy the deep state - Video" ("Boom! Rep. Devin Nunes enthüllte gerade Schiffs großes Geheimnis, das den tiefen Staat zerstören wird – Video"), stated that "These fraudster Dems must be stopped and exposed as corrupt."

Because the site regularly publishes opinionated content in news articles, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

News-For-Friends.de does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

Asked about the articles cited above, the site's editorial standards, its mixing of news and opinion, and its approach to corrections, an unidentified News-For-Friends.de representative told NewsGuard in an email written in Spanish: "Your constant surveillance bothers me! What do you want from me? I don't write reports, the original link is always there. So ask the person who wrote the text, I don't change any text."

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#### Transparency

The site's Data Privacy page lists Rafael Valentin as the site's owner and says the site is based in the Moscow region. However, according to the site's Facebook page,

the owner is named M. Valentin, and the listed address is in Asunción, Paraguay.

Because the site provides conflicting information about its owners, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet the standard for disclosing information about ownership.

The site does not identify any editorial leaders and does not provide contact or biographical information for its authors. Articles typically do not name the writer, except for occasional guest writers.

Advertisements are distinguishable from editorial content.

Asked about the site's lack of disclosure regarding ownership, editorial leadership, and content creators, the site's representative told NewsGuard: "[W]here I live and what my name is is not your problem. You're not a cop nor an authority."

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#### History

According to web archive screenshots, the site went online in June 2017.

*Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Feb. 28, 2020.*

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**Edited by:** [Eric Efron](#), [Florian Meißner](#)

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

## Sources

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#### Ownership and Financing

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Elena Kalf

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Content

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Credibility

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Greta Thunberg

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Transparency

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History

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