

marialourdesblog.com

An anonymously run website covering politics and health that has frequently published false health claims and conspiracy theories, including about the COVID-19 virus.



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

Score: 0/100

Ownership and Financing

MariaLourdesBlog.com does not disclose its ownership. The site uses the registration service DEURU, based in Montevideo, Uruguay, which conceals the site's owner.

According to the Privacy Policy and Imprint page, the blog's founder was Detlef Apel. Apel, whom the site says died in 2011, also operated conspiratorial website LupoCattivoBlog.wordpress.com. Using an Internet "fingerprinting" tool, NewsGuard found that LupoCattivoBlog and MariaLourdesBlog.com share a Google Analytics ID, suggesting that they have the same owner.

Using the site's general email address, NewsGuard reached a woman who identified herself as Maria Lourdes de Oliveira said she was the operator of the site. De Oliveira said she was born in South Tyrol "almost 60 years ago," and that she now operates the site from Santa Caterina, Brazil, where she said she has also worked as a business consultant.

De Oliveira said that the site remains under the ownership of the late Detlef Apel and that she has "only been granted limited admin rights" to operate the site. She also told NewsGuard that besides herself, three other authors contribute to the site: Ernst Wolff (a self-proclaimed financial expert who has published conspiracy theories about global financial systems); Thierry Meyssan (a French author and activist who operates the conspiratorial site Voltairenet.org); and Italian writer Manlio Dinucci.

The site runs advertising. It also lists "partners" — including far-right book publisher Kopp Verlag and an online seller of books on natural health remedies — although it is unclear what these partnerships entail. Asked about the site's partnerships, De Oliveira said that she had no knowledge about the arrangements.

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ 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.](#)

Content

MariaLourdesBlog.com's tagline reads, "Exciting stories about people and their fates. Soul dance instead of life

struggle.”

The site covers national and international politics, the economy, and health, often promoting alternative and unproven treatments. Content is organized in sections including Breaking News & World Events, Democracy, Banking Mafia, Health, Nutrition, Love, Life, and Spirituality. The Media section publishes articles critical of mainstream media organizations.

Typical articles have run under headlines including “The spy in your home appliance” (“Der Spion in deinem Haushaltsgerät”); “The truth about the crisis at the Greek border” (“Die Wahrheit über die Krise an der griechischen Grenze”); and “Your inner being shows you the way” (“Dein Inneres zeigt Dir den Weg”).

Credibility

Articles typically do not feature original reporting and instead draw content from other sources. The site often relies on videos from anonymous YouTube accounts and on sites that NewsGuard has found to be unreliable, including PI-News.net, Kla.tv, and RT Deutsch.

The site itself frequently publishes false claims. For example, in a January 2020 article titled “Study on coronaviruses: DMSO and MMS inactivate the coronavirus” (“Studie zu Coronaviren: DMSO und MMS inaktivieren den Coronavirus”), the site claimed that, “Chlorine dioxide solutions inactivate the coronavirus,” noting that the solution was “ready-to-consume.” The article cited a 2005 Chinese study by the Tianjin Institute of Environment and Health.

However, this study assessed the effectiveness of killing viruses on surfaces and in feces using disinfectants, such as chlorine or chlorine dioxide. It did not recommend ingesting such substances. The German consumer office stated in August 2019 that the disinfectant chlorine dioxide poses a “substantial health risk” if ingested. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, side effects of ingesting chlorine include “severe vomiting, severe diarrhea, life-threatening low blood pressure caused by dehydration, and acute liver failure.”

Asked about this article, De Oliveira told NewsGuard in an email: “How did you come to the conclusion that these are false or unfounded allegations? Can you substantiate this with sources?” De Oliveira also said

that the 2005 Chinese study had “proved the effectiveness of chlorine dioxide solutions such as DMSO or MMS against the coronavirus.”

A January 2020 article, titled “Australia: Drought and fire fabricated - 'climate change' my ass” (“Australien: Dürre und Feuer fabriziert – von wegen 'Klimawandel'”), claimed that, “The drought and associated firestorm that is currently raging in Australia has been fabricated and is managed very deliberately.” The article also stated that “the treacherous criminals masquerading as the Australian government are using the drought they have deliberately manufactured” to raise fears about global warming and to impose environmental controls. The article included a YouTube video from the account of Gerhard Wisnewski, a German journalist who has promoted numerous conspiracy theories.

There is no evidence suggesting that the Australian government purposefully created a drought or somehow caused the bushfires, or that it has been overstating the extent of the devastation. Many scientists have said that climate change played a key role in the fires’ spread and intensity. “Climate change is increasing bushfire risk in Australia by lengthening the fire season, decreasing precipitation and increasing temperature,” the Australian Bureau of Meteorology said.

Asked about this article, De Oliveira said: “Personally, I don't see any false assertion or even disinformation in this video, which is why the video was re-published. The eye-witness reports about it speak their own language and complete the story. Can I verify an eyewitness report that is presented to me on television?”

A December 2019 article, titled “Colloidal silver is considered a natural antibiotic!” (“Kolloidales Silber gilt als natürliches Antibiotikum!”), claimed that “Long before antibiotics were invented by conventional medicine, there was a natural and highly effective remedy against bacteria, viruses and fungi: colloidal silver.” The article also stated, “If you don't want to get sick in the winter, you can strengthen your immune system as a precautionary measure by taking colloidal silver,” adding that the substance was used “in the treatment of HIV.”

The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, states on its website that “scientific evidence doesn’t support the use of colloidal silver dietary supplements for any disease or condition.” The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an advisory in October 2009 warning that consuming liquified silver can cause a condition called argyria, a permanent bluish-gray discoloration of the skin, nails, and gums. According to a September 2017 article on the website of the Mayo Clinic, in some rare cases, “excessive doses of colloidal silver can cause possibly irreversible serious health problems, including kidney damage and neurological problems such as seizures.”

Asked about this article, De Oliveira told NewsGuard that, “Silver has always been considered a natural remedy. Even Wikipedia writes this, whereby I refer here to the English Wikipedia entry... Although the effectiveness of colloidal silver has not been scientifically proven, I know that it was already considered a remedy in the Middle Ages and was often used with great success.” De Oliveira added, “The claim that colloidal silver helps against cancer or diabetes or even as a remedy for AIDS or other serious diseases such as tuberculosis is of course not true, and is not asserted on our blog either.”

A March 2020 article, titled “5G for electronic telepathy” (“5G zur elektronischen Gedankenübertragung”), made the preposterous claim that 5G waves “can be transmitted into the human organism in such a way that a thought transfer takes place. Even reading and controlling thoughts is possible.” The article included a video from the conspiratorial Swiss site, Kla.tv.

Asked about this article, De Oliveira told NewsGuard, “There is a patent for this, you should read it. So these are by no means fantasies or false or unfounded claims.”

Because MariaLourdesBlog.com has frequently published false and unsubstantiated claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false information and headlines, and that it does not gather and represent information responsibly.

MariaLourdesBlog.com does not disclose an agenda or political orientation. However, articles in a section titled Breaking News & World Events frequently include

opinionated content advancing the site's agenda.

For example, an April 2020 article, titled "NATO maneuvers are still going on in the background" ("Es laufen immer noch NATO-Manöver im Hintergrund"), stated, "[E]ven more powerful than the military forces are the powers of the major international financial markets, which have the decision-making capacity and are currently using the Corona crisis to launch an offensive at global level with the most sophisticated weapons of speculation. They are driving millions of small savers into bankruptcy and using the debt to their advantage to take over entire sectors of the economy."

Another April 2020 article, titled "Is everything really going according to plan in our media democracy?" ("Läuft wirklich alles nach Plan in unserer Mediendemokratie?") stated: "The patronization through the media is simply unworthy of adult people. Even well-meant paternalism is manipulation."

A March 2020 article, headlined "Media hysteria: there is method behind the scaremongering" ("Medien-Hysterie: Hinter der Panikmache steckt Methode") claimed that "The reasons for the current media hysteria, accompanied by restrictions on fundamental rights such as we haven't had for 75 years, are different from what we are led to believe. In any case, health is the least of the things that decision-makers care about."

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

Asked about the articles cited above and the site's handling of news and opinion, De Oliveira told NewsGuard that the articles were factual reports. She did not address questions about the site's overall agenda or orientation.

MariaLourdesBlog.com does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

Asked about the site's approach to correction, De Oliveira told NewsGuard that she has deleted articles in the past. She did not provide links to corrected articles or explain the site's handling of corrections in general.

Transparency	<p>The site does not disclose its ownership or its editorial leadership. The Imprint page provides a general contact email address.</p> <p>Asked about the site’s lack of disclosure regarding ownership and editorial leadership, De Oliveira told NewsGuard that the site is still owned by the late Detlef Apel. (Apel is listed as the site’s founder on the Imprint page, but not as the owner.)</p> <p>De Oliveira stated that she is responsible for the site, but she did not address the site's lack of disclosure regarding editorial leadership.</p> <p>Articles do not typically identify their author. The site does not provide contact or biographical information for its content creators.</p> <p>De Oliveira told NewsGuard that articles on the site are automatically credited to “Admin” and that “Most articles are simply republished articles and are created by” the site’s writers. “The author of the articles or the source is always mentioned after the introduction or at the end,” she said. However, although articles do regularly include links to their original source, typically another website, NewsGuard did not find author names for most articles.</p> <p>Some articles on the site include links to online stores selling books, supplements, and other merchandise, without disclosing the commercial nature of the content. For example, an unlabeled April 2020 post titled “Great epidemics have always changed the course of history!” (“Große Epidemien haben immer den Lauf der Geschichte verändert!”), promoted certain products as a “crisis precaution.” The article linked to an e-commerce site selling canned meals and other products described “emergency food rations.”</p> <p>Asked about the site’s labeling of paid content, De Oliveira told NewsGuard: “I think that the online shops pay for the reporting, but I cannot say this with certainty. My articles, for which I also take editorial responsibility, just like for the authors mentioned above, will — if at all — be clearly and unambiguously called ‘Sponsored Post’ in the future.”</p>
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History	<p>The Imprint page states that the site was founded by Detlef Apel in 2011. However, according to Whois domain records, the site was launched in February</p>
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2012.

Written by: [Marie Richter](#)

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

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

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Ownership and
Financing

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Credibility

Sourcing:

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Transparency

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History

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