

An anonymously run website covering German politics, health, and other issues. The site regularly publishes false and misleading information, including about the COVID-19 virus.



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

Score: 7.5/100

Ownership and Financing

N23.tv's Imprint page lists PrivateName Services Inc. as its owner. The website was registered using a domain privacy service that hides the actual name of the owner. The site lists an address in Vancouver, Canada.

N23.tv derives revenue from advertising.

Content

N23.tv primarily covers politics and health, along with crime, immigration, climate change, government spending, and the mainstream press. The site's health section focuses on what it considers the dangers posed by pesticides, and its coverage of climate change typically suggests that scientific concerns about global warming are overblown. Coverage of the press focuses on what the site decries as censorship, such as an article about how YouTube was blocking the Russian propaganda outlet RT Deutsch.

Typical articles have run under headlines including "Knife attacks increased by up to 32 percent" ("Messerattacken haben um bis zu 32 Prozent zugenommen"); "Petition demands immediate impeachment of the German Chancellor" ("Petition fordert sofortige Amtsenthebung der Bundeskanzlerin"); and "Hans Georg Maaßen criticizes framing done by mass media" ("Hans-Georg Maaßen kritisiert das Framing der Massenmedien").

The site also publishes video content and opinion articles submitted by readers.

Credibility

Articles on the site generally do not include original reporting. Instead, the site relies on other news outlets, including sites such as the Russia-controlled RT Deutsch and Sputnik News and conspiratorial websites such as NuoViso.tv — sites that NewsGuard found to have published false and misleading information.

- ✗ 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.](#)

N23.tv itself has frequently published false or misleading claims. For example, a January 2020 article, titled “Viruses as weapons of hybrid warfare” (“Viren als Waffen der hybriden Kriegsführung”), suggested that the COVID-19 virus outbreak had been created deliberately as part of “hybrid warfare.” The article stated, “Now the question is whether the outbreak of the coronavirus in China is not a coincidence, but a form of hybrid warfare. After all, the virus has led to an extreme crisis situation in China and to a massive economic slump and turbulence on the financial markets.”

There is no evidence that the virus is a form of “hybrid warfare.” A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal *Nature*, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

A September 2018 article, titled “Security services expect civil war in Germany and Europe” (“Sicherheitsdienste erwarten Bürgerkrieg in Deutschland und Europa”), claimed that an internal report from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in 2008 report predicted that there will be “civil wars” in several German cities that “will make parts of the country ungovernable,” due to “a strong rise in the muslim population group, while the birth rates of the old-established european citizen will continue to decrease.”

The investigative nonprofit newsroom Correctiv examined these claims and reported that no CIA report has ever predicted that immigration could lead to civil unrest throughout Germany, a conclusion confirmed by the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and the German Federal Office for Citizen Protection and Disaster Support.

A June 2019 article, titled “Every second EU citizen anticipates EU-breakdown” (“Jeder zweite Europäer rechnet mit EU-Zusammenbruch“), claimed that “the German Army is preparing for a possible breakdown” of the European Union. The article cited a paper by the German Federal Armed Forces (Bundeswehr), which outlined six possible scenarios for the future relationship between Germany and Europe; the paper

did not make any statements about the German army preparing for the EU's breakdown, and there is no evidence supporting that claim.

A March 2019 article, titled “Russia and China will support Iran in case of war” (“Russland und China stellen sich im Kriegsfall hinter den Iran“), suggested that the U.S. had staged the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. The article cited the Iranian parliamentary president, Ali Laridschani, who claimed that “the US ‘has attacked its own ships’ to justify their entry into the war with Japan.”

The article provided no further context or sources for this claim.

The site has published multiple articles about the supposed dangers of 5G frequencies used for mobile communications. An August 2019 article, titled “Data protectionists, scientists and doctors are warning against 5G frequencies” (“Datenschützer, Wissenschaftler und Mediziner warnen vor 5G-Strahlung“), cited the scientist Wilfried Kühling and claimed that “mobile communication could according to Kühling lead to a destabilization of genetic information and decrease the quality of sperms.” Another article from March 2019 claimed, “Apparently, the 5G transmission tower caused heart failure in birds.”

There have been no long-term studies conducted on the effects of 5G, and definitive claims about 5G's negative health effects are unsupported. Also, there is no evidence that 5G frequencies affect birds. According to the German Federal Office for Radiation Protection, two studies conducted by researchers in Japan and published in the journal *Bioelectromagnetics* in 2016 and 2017 found no evidence that radiofrequency-electromagnetic waves changed the quality of sperm when tested on mice.

Because n23.tv has regularly published 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 present information responsibly.

The site does not disclose a political or ideological orientation. In describing its views on censorship, the site states that freedom of the press “means the right of

broadcast, print and other (like online) media to freely carry out their work, especially the uncensored publication of information and opinions.”

The site labels opinion articles as Opinion (Meinung) or Recommendation (Empfehlung) However, the site also regularly publishes opinionated content in news articles that are not labeled as opinion and that advance the site’s undisclosed point of view.

For example, A November 2019 article, titled “When feminism becomes hostility against men“ (“Wenn Feminismus zu Männerfeindlichkeit wird”), stated that “these are hard times for all those men out there who are not willing to submit themselves completely. Modern feminism appears to have overshot the mark.”

A December 2019 article, titled “Environmentalists want to prohibit cats from walking freely” (“Umweltschützer wollen Katzen den Freigang verbieten”), stated that “If we adhere to EU standards and aim to protect native species, then we should not allow storks, herons, eagles and buzzards to fly..... It truly appears a little strange, what the EU has to deal with.”

An April 2019 article, headlined “Minister of health wants to enforce compulsory vaccination” (“Gesundheitsminister will Impfpflicht durchsetzen”), stated: “The pharmaceutical industry is surely already gleefully rubbing their hands. Because a compulsory vaccination is a billion-dollar business for them.”

Because N23.tv regularly includes commentary in its news articles, without disclosing its point of view, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

N23.tv does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

N23.tv did not respond to two NewsGuard emails inquiring about the articles cited above, the site’s editorial standards, its approach to corrections, and the site’s mixing of news and opinion.

Transparency

The site’s Imprint page lists PrivateName Services Inc. as its owner, indicating that the site is using a privacy domain tool that hides the owner’s identity. This does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for disclosing ownership.

The site does not identify its editorial leaders. It does provide a general contact email address.

Articles do not name the author, and the site does not provide biographical or contact information for most writers. Occasionally, guest articles name their authors.

Advertisements are distinguishable from editorial content.

The site did not respond to two NewsGuard emails inquiring about the site's lack of disclosure regarding its ownership, leadership, and content creators.

History

The site's Facebook page was launched in June 2012, and the website was launched later that year.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was last updated on April 20, 2020, to include an example of the site's content related to COVID-19.

Written by: [Karin König](#)

Contributing: [Marie Richter](#)

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

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing

<http://n23.tv/impressum/>

Content

<http://n23.tv/finanzen/page/2/>

<http://n23.tv/beitrag/>

<http://n23.tv/aussenpolitik/>

<http://n23.tv/video/>

<http://n23.tv/video/>

<http://n23.tv/gesundheit/>

Example headlines:

<http://n23.tv/messerattacken-um-bis-zu-32-prozent-angestiegen/>

<http://n23.tv/petition-fordert-sofortige-amtsenthebung-der-bundeskanzlerin/>

<http://n23.tv/hans-georg-maassen-kritisiert-das-framing-der-massenmedien/>

Credibility

<http://n23.tv/nrw-familienminister-will-generelle-impfpflicht/>

<http://n23.tv/meinung/>

<http://n23.tv/bargeldverbot-uns-droht-eine-totalitaere-weltwaehrung/>

<http://n23.tv/zensurmassnahmen-gegen-nuoviso-auf-youtube/>

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<http://n23.tv/die-grosse-pluenderung-fuer-den-klimaschutz/>

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Coronavirus:

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5G

<http://n23.tv/datenschuetzer-wissenschaftler-warnen-vor-5g-strahlung/>

<http://n23.tv/gefaehrdet-5g-strahlung-unsere-gesundheit/>

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Possible EU breakdown

https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_seven_days_to_save_the_european_union
<http://n23.tv/jeder-zweite-europaeer-rechnet-mit-eu-zusammenbruch/>
<https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/bundeswehr-studie-haelt-zerfall-der-europaeischen-union-fuer-denkbar-a-1176367.html>

Co2

<http://n23.tv/die-grosse-pluenderung-fuer-den-klimaschutz/>
https://www.focus.de/wissen/klima/tid-8638/diskussion_aid_234329.html

Civil war in Europe

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<https://correctiv.org/fakten-check/2018/09/26/deutschen-sicherheitsbehoerden-ist-keine-cia-warnung-vor-buergerkrieg-bekannt-3>

Unlabelled opinion

<http://n23.tv/mehr-als-100-gefaehrliche-orte-in-deutschland/>
<http://n23.tv/umweltschuetzer-wollen-katzen-den-freigang-verbieten/>
<http://n23.tv/gesundheitsminister-will-impfpflicht-durchsetzen/>
<http://n23.tv/wenn-extremer-feminismus-zu-maennerfeindlichkeit-wird/>

Transparency

<http://n23.tv/mehr-als-100-gefaehrliche-orte-in-deutschland/>
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<http://n23.tv/impresum/>
Sponsored article:
<http://n23.tv/teufelskreis-globale-erwaermung-bringt-hoeheren-energieverbrauch-mit-sich/>

History

https://www.facebook.com/pg/NewsX23/about/?ref=page_internal
<https://web.archive.org/web/20121106002536/http://n23.tv/>