

# brujitafr.fr

An anonymous site that publishes hoaxes and false claims advancing far-right ideology. The site has also published misinformation relating to COVID-19.



**Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.**

**Score: 7.5/100**

## Ownership and Financing

Brujitafr.fr does not disclose its owner. The site was created by a female blogger using the pseudonym Brujitafr and is hosted on the blogging platform Overblog, which allows its users to remain anonymous. A Parisian blogger named Nathalie Barbe is identified as the webmaster of Brujitafr.fr on her LinkedIn page.

The site derives revenue from advertising and donations.

## Content

The website, which calls itself “Less goods, More links” (“Moins de biens, plus de liens”), generally republishes, with credit, French and U.S. stories from other blogs, social media accounts, and news websites, ranging from Yahoo News to the Russian propaganda site RT France. Many stories accuse the global elites and world leaders of conspiring for dark purposes, such as alleged plots to overthrow U.S. President Donald Trump or to use vaccinations to reduce population growth. These claims often come from QAnon, an online extreme right-wing group that argues that a shadowy “Deep State” runs the U.S. and is conspiring against President Donald Trump.

Typical headlines have included “COVID-19: The Pentagon and Canada’s secret plans,” taken from Canadian site JournalDeQuebec.com (“COVID-19: les plans secrets du Pentagone et du Canada”); “Emmanuel Macron makes all the decisions on his own: His ‘frustrated’ ministers,” from French magazine Gala.fr (“Emmanuel Macron décide tout tout seul : ses ministres ‘dépités’”); and “Killing Free Speech in Switzerland,” from conservative site GatestoneInstitute.org (“La mort de la liberté d’expression en Suisse”).

- ✗ 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.](#)

Brujitafr.fr has promoted hoaxes and false stories alleging widespread conspiracies against the public, such as allegations that President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin are jointly and secretly fighting a totalitarian “New World Order” agenda. These allegations often lack evidence, or rely on unsubstantiated information from sources that NewsGuard has identified as unreliable, such as French site WikiStrike, Iranian site Press TV, and RT France.

In 2020, the site published numerous false and misleading articles related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a May 2020 article (which was originally published on French website LumiereSurGaia, although that is not mentioned) claimed that the French government was “secretly” installing its contact-tracing application on people’s cell phones, as part of its response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The article included instructions on how to navigate cell phone settings to supposedly deactivate the application. “The government has been installing the COVID-19 application illegally since last night,” the article said. “I advise those who have nothing on their smartphone to check again in 12 or 24 hours. Dozens of my friends have already disabled it while others have not yet disabled it on their smartphones.” (“En toute illégalité le gouvernement fait installer l’application COvid-19 depuis hier soir... Je conseille à ceux qui n’ont rien sur leur Smartphone de revérifier dans 12 ou 24 heures. Des dizaines de mes amis l’ont déjà désactivée alors que d’autres ne l’ont pas encore sur leur Smartphone”)

It is not true that the French government is secretly installing a COVID-19 tracking application. The government launched a contact-tracing app, called StopCovid, but downloading the app is entirely voluntary, and the government’s effort was public. Some iPhone and Android smartphone users may see an option to activate a COVID-19 notification system on their phones. However, this option is unrelated to the StopCovid app, and is inactive unless users enable it, tech news site Numerama reported.

In March 2020, the site published an article titled “Very good news: Vitamin C can indeed treat coronavirus patients according to early medical findings” (“Très bonne nouvelle: la vitamine C permet bien de traiter les patients du coronavirus selon des premiers retours médicaux”), which was republished from conspiracy theory site Fawkes-news.com. According to the story, high doses of vitamin C can cure COVID-19 patients and prevent the spread of the disease. “Vitamin C is already used to prevent and treat COVID-19 in China and Korea. And it works,” the article claimed. (La vitamine C est déjà utilisée pour prévenir et traiter le COVID-19 en Chine et en Corée. Et ça marche.”)

Vitamin C is being studied as a treatment of COVID-19 in several clinical trials. However, fact-checking organizations including French newspaper 20 Minutes’ fact-checking unit, Factcheck.org, and HealthFeedback.org have said that there is currently no credible evidence that high doses of Vitamin C can slow or stop the disease. The World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the French Health Ministry have said that there is no specific treatment recommended for the coronavirus strain responsible for the 2020 outbreak.

In June 2020, Brujitafr.fr republished an article from LumiereSurGaia.com, a site that frequently publishes conspiracy theories. The story pushed a QAnon-backed claim that bricks were purposefully placed at the site of a protest against police violence in Los Angeles to incite violence. The article cited a Twitter account that alleged that the bricks came from Texas-based brick manufacturer Acme Brick Company, “a company owned by Berkshire Hathaway Inc., whose board Bill Gates left in March 2020, and the Marmon Group of Jay Robert Pritzker, the Democratic governor of Illinois. It was therefore suggested that the bricks were graciously provided to Antifas and other thugs by generous philanthropists.” (“Société appartenant à Berkshire Hathaway Inc., dont Bill Gates venait de quitter le comité directeur en mars 2020, et le Marmon Group de Jay Robert Pritzker, gouverneur Démocrate de l’Illinois.

Il était donc suggéré que des briques étaient gracieusement fournies aux Antifas et autres casseurs par de généreux philanthropes.”)

Multiple news reports, including fact-checks by NBC News and Snopes, found no evidence that Acme Brick Company bricks were dropped off for protesters in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in Minnesota, concluding that photos of bricks circulating on social media were from ongoing work sites. Acme issued a statement denying the claims, saying, “Acme Brick Company did not position any brick with this intent.” The company also said that “Neither Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, nor anyone else at Berkshire Hathaway directed us to position brick for an unlawful purpose.”

In June 2020, the site republished an article from Dreuz.info headlined “USA - Riots: much more serious than what journalists say - fortunately, there’s Trump” (“USA - Emeutes : c’est bien plus grave que ce que disent les journalistes – heureusement, il y a Trump.”) The story claimed that according to Reuters, the staff of Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Joe Biden “decided to make a donation to pay bail for Antifa members and thugs.” (“Il a décidé de faire un don pour payer les cautions des Antifa et des casseurs.”)

Brujitafr.fr misreported the Reuters story, which said that at least 13 Biden campaign staff members made individual donations to the Minnesota Freedom Fund, a nonprofit that helped provide bail to jailed protesters in Minneapolis after the death of George Floyd. The Minnesota Freedom Fund was not reported to be linked to Antifa.

In May 2020, the site posted a YouTube video promoting the widely debunked Pizzagate conspiracy theory, claiming that former U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and other top Democrats were involved in a child sex ring run out of a pizza restaurant in Washington, D.C. “Many businesses in the same neighborhood openly displayed pedophile symbols denounced by the FBI, which would indicate a real child prostitution network in the center of Washington,” the video said. (“De nombreux commerces dans le même quartier contiennent ouvertement des symboles

pédophiles dénoncés par le FBI, ce qui pointerait vers un véritable réseau de prostitution infantile en plein centre de Washington.")

Numerous fact-checking organizations, news websites, and the Washington police have found no evidence to support the Pizzagate conspiracy, which gained traction during the 2016 United States presidential election.

In April 2020, the site published an article titled "Who is really Angela (Krasner) Merkel? Almost no one knows the Angela Merkel Family!" ("Qui est réellement Angela (Krasner) Merkel ? Personne, ou presque, ne connaît la Famille d'Angela Merkel !"). The story suggested that German Chancellor Merkel is Adolf Hitler's granddaughter, based on fabricated allegations made by QAnon conspiracy theorists.

Because Brujitafr.fr has promoted numerous debunked conspiracy theories and false claims or misleading claims, NewsGuard has determined that the website repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

The site does not disclose a point of view. However, its coverage, including articles labelled as news, generally advance a right-wing agenda.

For example, in June 2020 the site republished a Facebook post about the George Floyd protests, which claimed that "the media, corrupted by Democrats, globalists and internationalists, will make you all believe that Trump is incompetent and that he's the one who encourages the riots, but... I can assure you that he's FOR the people and that he's fighting for all of us. Yes, even for those of us who are in Europe." ("Les médias corrompus par les démocrates, les globalistes et mondialistes, vous font tous croire que Trump est un incompetent et que c'est lui qui encourage les émeutes, mais ... je peux vous garantir qu'il est POUR le peuple et qu'il est en train de se battre pour nous tous. Oui, même pour nous qui sommes en Europe")

In July 2019, the site published a story labeled as news headlined “The LGBT lobby acknowledges that it wants to destroy society” (“Le lobby LGBT assume vouloir détruire la société”). The article, which was a translation of an English-language story by site Sott.net, stated that LGBT groups and its allies “will not destroy society on their own, but they can lead it toward decadence, which is already underway and can be seen through advertising, the phenomenon of norms and counter-norms that perverts essential common sense and wisdom.” (“Ils ne détruiront pas la société tous seuls, mais ils peuvent l’entraîner dans une décadence déjà bien avancée que l’on constate à travers la publicité, le phénomène des normes et contre-normes qui pervertit le nécessaire bon sens et le sens commun.”)

Because Brujitafr.fr news articles routinely include opinions, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Brujitafr.fr does not state a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find any corrections on the site.

Brujitafr.fr did not respond to two emails seeking comment on the articles cited above, the site’s handling of opinion, and its lack of corrections.

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## Transparency

Brujitafr.fr does not disclose information about its owner or editorial leadership. Readers can contact the site via an online form.

Articles do not generally include author names, and Brujitafr.fr does not provide any information about its content creators.

Brujitafr.fr did not respond to two emails seeking comment on the site’s lack of information about its ownership, editorial leadership, and content creators.

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

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## History

The site was created in 2005. On her LinkedIn page, Nathalie Barbe, who presents herself as the website’s webmaster, says that the blog “was created in order to

face a growing disinformation by media that we are all victims of.” (“ce Blog a été créé afin de faire face à la désinformation croissante des médias dont nous sommes victimes”).

Written by: [Sophia Tewa](#)

Edited by: [Eric Effron](#), [Yves Clarisse](#), [Chine Labbe](#)

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

## Sources

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### Ownership and Financing

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