



# GWIRE

WEEKLY DIGEST  
AUGUST 31, 2018

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# JARRAR REMAINS OFF CAMPUS

As Her Fresno State Classes Start

August 27, 2018 | David Taub

Controversial Fresno State professor Randa Jarrar has yet to return to the classroom.

The embattled English department professor is scheduled to teach two classes this semester, starting today (Aug. 27). However, the university confirmed Monday that she

**"The professor is still scheduled to return to teaching this fall after having been on approved leave since last spring. Since this is a personnel matter, we cannot disclose the date of her return to teaching."** — Patti Waid, university spokeswoman

remains on leave. "The professor is still scheduled to return to teaching this fall after having been on approved leave since last spring.

Since this is a personnel matter, we cannot disclose the date of her return to teaching," said university spokeswoman Patti Waid. Substitute teachers will fill in for three classes: Masterpieces of American Literature, Advanced Writing of Fiction, and Arab-American Literature classes.

## The Tweet That Launched 1,000 Protests

Jarrar is an award-winning author of such books as "A Map of Home" and "Him, Me, Muhammad Ali." While already known among academic and literary circles, Jarrar's name exploded on the national radar following the death of former First Lady Barbara Bush last April. After tweeting that Bush was an "amazing racist," Jarrar became a lightning rod of criticism and the fulcrum of debates about academic freedom and good taste. She followed up the remarks with more negative posts about Bush and her family.

At the time of the tweets, Jarrar was already on personal leave. Jarrar continued to engage with social media followers, mentioning her salary and job security status. She then switched her Twitter account to private. Currently, her Twitter account indicates that she resides in Los Angeles. At one point, she tweeted out a phone number for people to call her with criticism. It turned out to be a crisis

hotline number at Arizona State. Following the uproar, and threats from the Fresno State community that they would withhold donations because of Jarrar, university president Joseph Castro announced she would not face discipline. **Castro reiterated those remarks last week**, as students returned to class. While he disagreed with Jarrar, Castro cited free speech and the fact she uttered her remarks on a private social media account as the reason the school wouldn't take action.

## Other Opinions Emerge

Since the April revelation of the Bush tweets, other Jarrar remarks surfaced, regarding her opinion of Valley farmers. "A lot of the farmers now are Trump supporters and just f—ing stupid," Fox News reported about her comments in a YouTube video. "Can't f—ing stand the white, hetero-patriarchy." Regarding white editors, **Jarrar reportedly posted:**

"At some point, all of us in the literary community must DEMAND that white editors resign. ... It's time to STEP DOWN and hand over the positions of power. We don't have to wait for them to [expletive] up. The fact that they hold these positions is [expletive] up enough." Despite the backlash, many free speech and academic groups rallied to her aid.

[Correction, 8/27/18: the original story said that a third Jarrar class was canceled. School officials say that she is indeed scheduled to teach the class.]

**"A lot of the farmers now are Trump supporters and just f—ing stupid. Can't f—ing stand the white, hetero-patriarchy."** — Randa Jarrar via comments on YouTube



# IN A SMALL SPACE, SAROYAN IS REBORN

GV Wire Photo Illustration/Alexis DeSha

August 27, 2018 | Bill McEwen

It was well above 100 degrees on the afternoon I visited the [William Saroyan House Museum](#) a couple blocks from where I grew up. Sweat poured from electricians and carpenters racing against a tight deadline to transform the 1,228 square-foot home built by Oscar Spano in 1964 into a suitable tribute to the literary giant. The museum's opening is set for Friday, Aug. 31, on what would have been the 110th birthday of the Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award winner.

I was there because, like many people around the world, I admire the humanity of Saroyan's writing. And his zest for life. "Try as much as possible to be wholly alive, with all your might,

and when you laugh, laugh like hell and when you get angry, get good and angry. Try to be alive. You will be dead soon enough," he wrote in the preface to "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze." ([Read Fresno author Mark Arax's memories of William Saroyan at this link.](#))

**How Did You Present a Life This Big in a Small House?**  
I was there, too, because I wanted to see how this modest tract home at 2729 W. Griffith Way— one of two side-by-side Spanos houses Saroyan owned — could be transformed into a museum worthy of his name. Understand: I know the layouts of these houses like the back of my hand. My friends lived...

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## ROBOTICS CLUB IDEA BRINGS CLEAN DRINKING WATER TO CENTRAL UNIFIED

August 29, 2018 | Myles Barker

A Robotics Club discussion at Saroyan Elementary School is changing the way all students drink water at Central Unified. The idea of getting filtered-water stations installed at every school in the district turned into reality when Saroyan Elementary secured a nearly \$55,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente for 26 Elkay filtered-water stations.

**26 Stations To Be Installed**  
Sonja Dosti, the communications and public relations officer for Central Unified, said 23 stations will be installed at every one of Central's 23 school buildings, with the remaining three at the district's offices.

"We are grateful to Kaiser that they are very community minded and give a lot of resources to our district for our students," Dosti said. Ella Newton, who is now a seventh-grader at Rio...

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Photo: Twitter

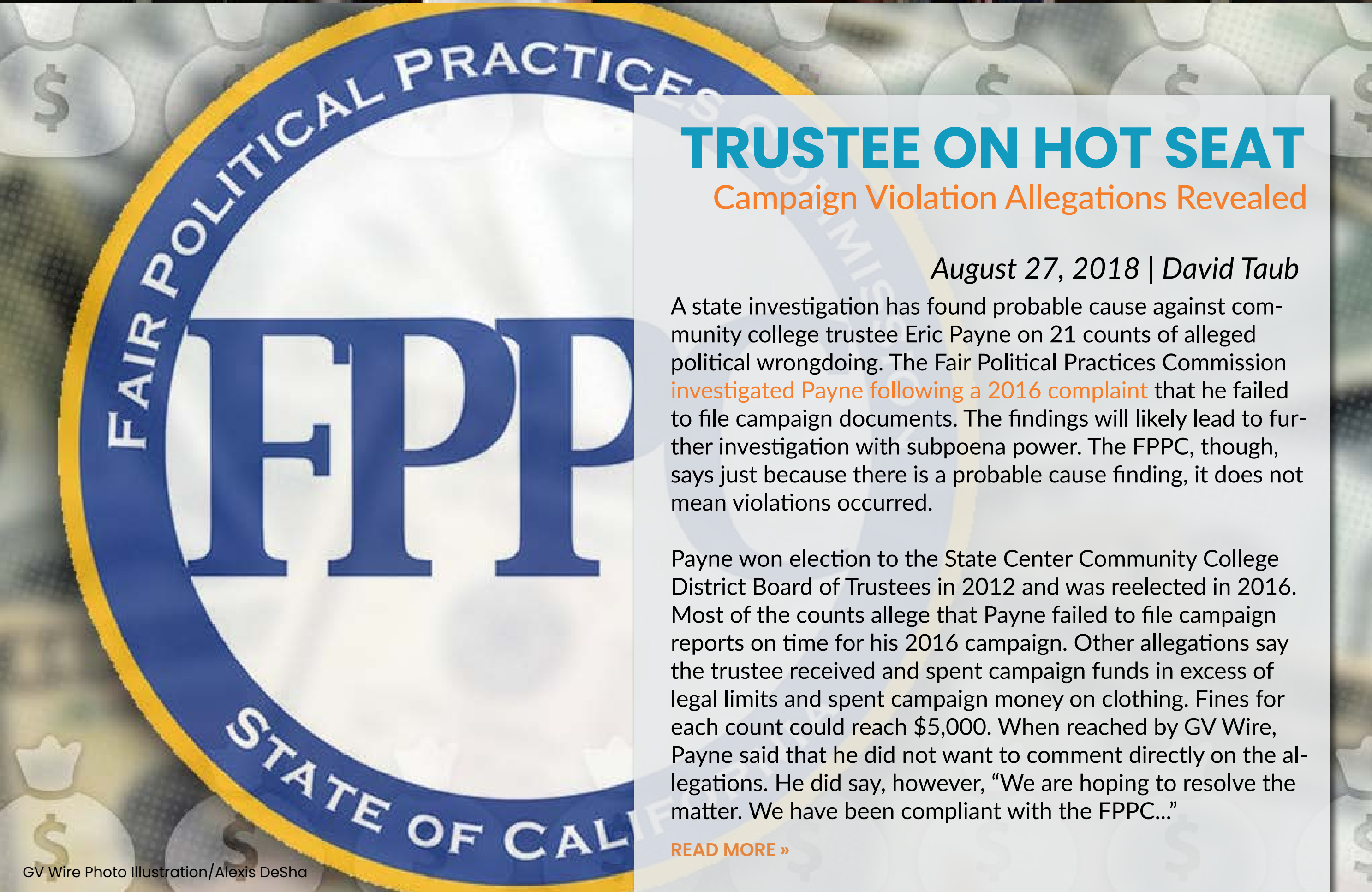
## TRUSTEE ON HOT SEAT Campaign Violation Allegations Revealed

August 27, 2018 | David Taub

A state investigation has found probable cause against community college trustee Eric Payne on 21 counts of alleged political wrongdoing. The Fair Political Practices Commission [investigated Payne following a 2016 complaint](#) that he failed to file campaign documents. The findings will likely lead to further investigation with subpoena power. The FPPC, though, says just because there is a probable cause finding, it does not mean violations occurred.

Payne won election to the State Center Community College District Board of Trustees in 2012 and was reelected in 2016. Most of the counts allege that Payne failed to file campaign reports on time for his 2016 campaign. Other allegations say the trustee received and spent campaign funds in excess of legal limits and spent campaign money on clothing. Fines for each count could reach \$5,000. When reached by GV Wire, Payne said that he did not want to comment directly on the allegations. He did say, however, "We are hoping to resolve the matter. We have been compliant with the FPPC..."

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GV Wire Photo Illustration/Alexis DeSha





# GOV. BROWN SIGNS BILL

## Ending Bail Before Trial

August 28, 2018 | AP News and GV Wire

SACRAMENTO — California will become the first state to eliminate bail for suspects awaiting trial under a bill signed Tuesday by Gov. Jerry Brown. The bill will replace bail with a risk-assessment system, although it's still unclear how the system will work. It will take effect in October 2019.

Brown's signature gives the state's Judicial Council broad authority to reshape pretrial detention policies. "Today, California reforms its bail system so that rich

**"Today, California reforms its bail system so that rich and poor alike are treated fairly."** — Gov. Jerry Brown

and poor alike are treated fairly," Brown said. Each county will use the council's framework as a basis to set its own procedures for deciding whom to release before trial, potentially creating a patchwork system based on where a suspect lives. Most suspects arrested for nonviolent misdemeanors will be released within 12 hours of being booked under the new law. Those facing serious, violent felonies will not be eligible for pretrial release.

### 24 Hours to Determine Release

The legislation gives officials 24 hours to determine whether other suspects should be released before trial. That time can be extended by 12 hours if necessary. Some criminal justice reform advocates worry defendants will spend weeks in jail while their lawyers try to prove they deserve to be set free. Opponents of the legislation say it gives judges too much power.

Some worry dangerous people will go free and won't return for trial. Supporters, including the Judicial Council headed by the state Supreme Court's chief justice, say the change will end the unfair practice of imprisoning people simply because they are poor. Incarceration should instead depend on the risk a defendant poses if they are released, they argue.

### Newsom and Cox on Opposite Sides

Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, who is pitted against Republican John Cox in the race to succeed Brown, said that a "person's checking account balance should never determine how they are treated under the law. Cash bail criminalizes poverty and with Governor Brown's signature today, California has opened the door to pursue and perfect a just pre-trial system." During his campaign, Cox has said that he opposes changes to the bail system. The bail industry also opposed the bill, labeling it as extreme.

"I think the bail industry and the research shows we do our best work, in terms of reducing long-term fugitive rates and returning people to court when they flee, in high-risk felony cases," Jeff Clayton, director of the American Bail Coalition, a trade group, told NPR last year. "We don't prevent people from committing crime, but neither do any of the other types of release."

Other states such as New Jersey and New Mexico have overhauled their bail systems, although neither

**"We don't prevent people from committing crime, but neither do any of the other types of release."** —

Jeff Clayton, director of the American Bail Coalition

state has completely eliminated bail. The Judicial Council is the policy-making body for California's courts. It creates rules and procedures to ensure consistency across the state.





# COX RUNS OVER DMV DURING A FRESNO CAMPAIGN STOP

GV Wire Photo/Jahz Tello

August 24, 2018 | David Taub

The modest wait times of DMV customers seemed to catch John Cox off-guard. The Republican candidate for governor visited Fresno on Friday afternoon, talking to motorists at the office on north Blackstone Avenue. This was not the first time Cox had visited a DMV office to observe the wait lines in person. He's traveled up and down California doing so. Cox expected to see people in long wait times. Most of the people he spoke with said they were waiting 30 minutes to an hour. Cox noted it must have been a light day in Fresno. He that said at other stops, he's seen much worse. "It's hit or miss. I talked to somebody in there who was in the Madera office, who was waiting eight hours," Cox said.

One frustrated motorist in the Fresno office said he had been waiting more than four hours to take care of a motor-cycle license issue.

## Brief Meet and Greet

The Rancho Santa Fe businessman made the campaign stop to highlight the dysfunction in the California government. He spent 20 minutes working the room, handing out water bottles in the process. "It's a shining example of what's been happening in Sacramento," Cox said. "Our politicians are not devoting the resources. On top of that, (the DMV) are not submitting to audits of what they are doing with our...

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## NEW IRS RULE ON DEDUCTIONS HITS SOME HIGH-TAX STATES HARD

August 25, 2018 | AP News

CHERRY HILL, N.J. — New rules unveiled by the IRS undermine some states' attempts to help residents keep a version of a popular federal income tax deduction. Last year's Republican tax overhaul put a \$10,000 cap on deductions for state and local income taxes, which could affect some high-earners in high-tax states. A handful of high-tax states sued the administration earlier this summer over the Republican tax law, which they say was in part politically motivated to attack Democratic-leaning states. Republicans have said those states should reduce their taxes instead of fighting the administration. Here are questions and answers about the IRS rule announced Thursday, what it means for states and how high-tax states might respond.

### Why Is the Deduction so Important in These States?

The SALT deduction is popular and widely used in high-tax states, including California, New Jersey and New York...

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Shutterstock Photo

## LT. GOV. CANDIDATES

Hernandez and Kounalakis talk ICE, gas tax, wildfires and more in Take 5 segments.

August 28 & 30, 2018 | David Taub

Ed Hernandez sees his 12 years in Sacramento as solid preparation for his run to be California's next lieutenant governor. The Democrat has spent the last decade in the state capital representing West Covina as both an assemblyman and state senator. Now, he is running for the state's No. 2 spot. Hernandez expressed concerned about the current state of political culture: "There's just been so much division that we have, that I've never seen before..."

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Eleni Kounalakis is used to having people botch her name. That is alright with her, as long as she gets votes. The former U.S. ambassador to Hungary is running for lieutenant governor. While the position's main job is to serve as governor in case of a vacancy or absence, the role has real duties, like sitting on the boards of the UC and CSU systems. It is there that Kounalakis says she will better represent the Central Valley as a member of both boards...

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# TAKE FIVE



Take 5 Video Images/Jahz Tello





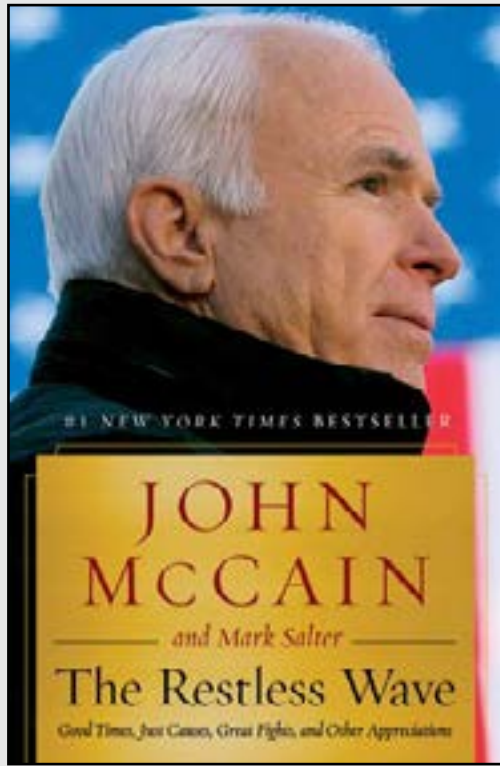
AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File

# U.S. JOHN MCCAIN

## The Wisdom, Wit and Impact

August 28, 2018 | Bill McEwen

Sen. John McCain wrote the book “[The Restless Wave](#)” with friend and speechwriter Mark Salter knowing he



might be near the end of his life. The recently published book ends with McCain paying tribute to America. He writes that the fundamental ideals on which this nation was founded “though they may be assailed, they can never be wrenched.” And he calls on us to end our political rancor and “recover our sense that we are more alike than different.” Here are the final

six paragraphs of *The Restless Wave*.

*(Editor’s Note: Headlines for each paragraph have been added by GV Wire.)*

### Americans Need Each Other

“My fellow Americans. No association ever mattered more to me. We’re not always right. We’re impetuous and impatient, and rush into things without knowing what we’re really doing. We argue over little differences endlessly, and exaggerate them into lasting breaches. We can be selfish, and quick sometimes to shift the blame for our mistakes to others. But our country ‘tis of thee.’ What great good we’ve done in the world, so much more good than harm.

We served ourselves, of course, but we helped make others free, safe and prosperous because we weren’t threatened by other people’s liberty and success. We need each other. We need friends in the world, and they need us. The bell tolls for us, my friends, Humanity counts on us, and we ought to take measured pride in that. We have not been an island. We were ‘involved in mankind.’

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### We Are More Alike Than Different

“Before I leave, I’d like to see our politics begin to return to the purposes and practices that distinguish our history from the history of other nations. I would like to see us recover our sense that we are more alike than different. We are citizens of a republic made of shared ideals forged in a new world to replace the tribal enmities that tormented the old one. Even in times of political turmoil such as these, we share that awesome heritage and the responsibility to embrace it.

Whether we think each other right or wrong in our views on the issues of the day, we owe each other our respect, as long as our character merits respect, and as long as we share, for all our differences, for all the rancorous debates that enliven and sometimes demean our politics, a mutual devotion to the ideals our nation was conceived to uphold, that all are created equal, and liberty and equal justice are the natural rights of all. Those rights inhabit the human heart, and from there, though they may be assailed, they can never be wrenched. I want to urge Americans, for as long as I can, to remember that this shared devotion to human rights is our trust heritage and our most important loyalty.

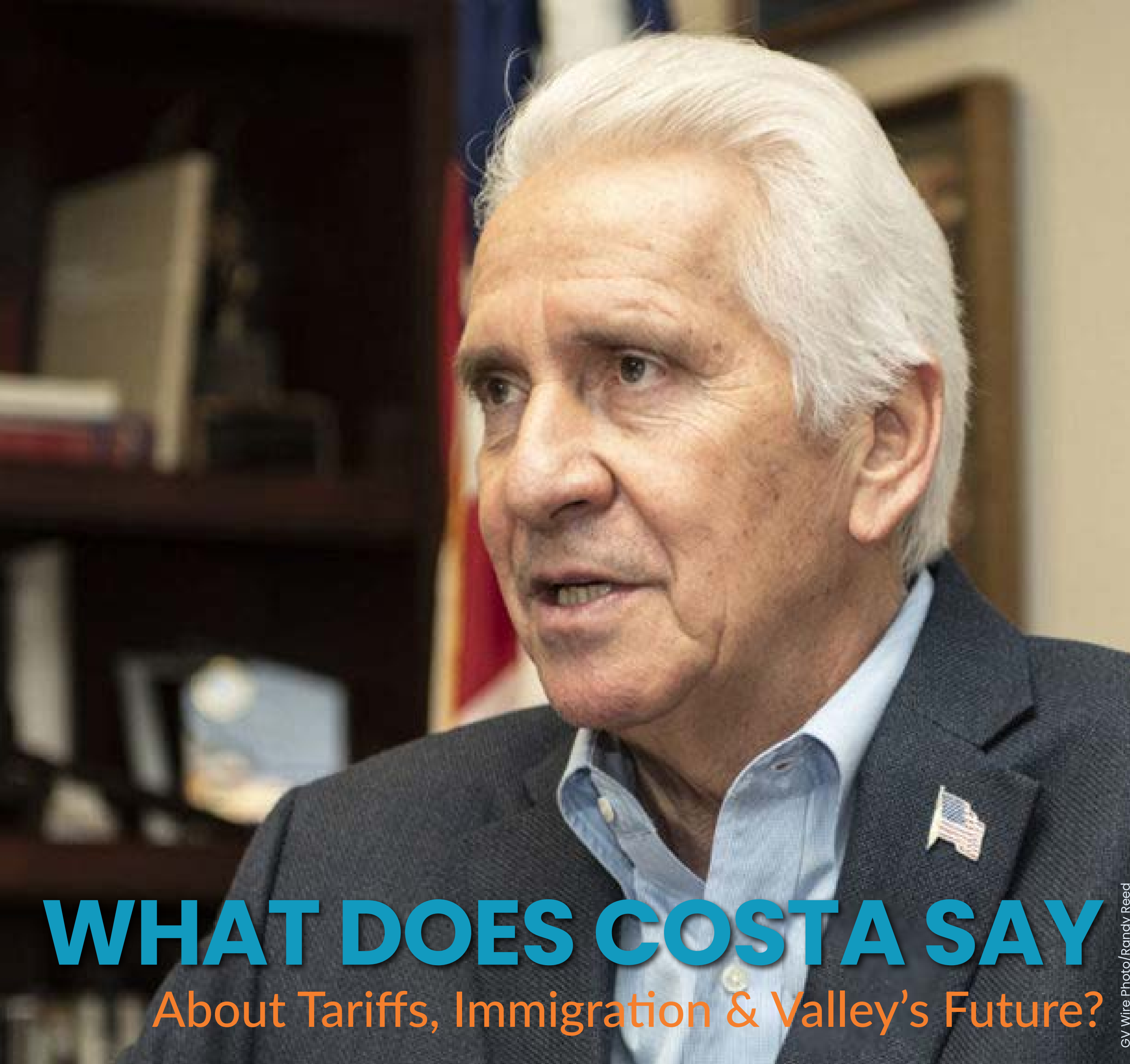
### I Want to Feel the Sun on My Shoulders

“Then I would like to go back to our valley, and see the creek run after the rain, and here the cottonwoods whisper in the wind. I want to smell the rose-scented breeze and feel the sun on my shoulders. I want to watch the hawks hunt from the sycamore. And then take my leave, bound for a place near my old friend Chuck Larson in the cemetery on the Severn, back where it began.

### I Leave Without Complaint

” ‘The world is a fine place and worth the fighting for and I hate very much to leave it,’ spoke my hero, Robert Jordan, in (Ernest Hemingway’s) ‘For Whom the Bell...





# WHAT DOES COSTA SAY

About Tariffs, Immigration & Valley's Future?

GV Wire Photo/Randy Reed

August 26, 2018 | GV Wire

"Nobody wins trade wars," says Rep. Jim Costa.

That's the view of the Fresno Democrat, reacting to a series of import tariffs imposed in recent months by President Donald Trump. Those tariffs have sparked retaliation from **countries such as China**, impacting Valley agriculture. Trade policy is one of several issues Costa discussed recently in an interview with **GV Wire News Director Bill McEwen**.

Costa has spent the month of August in his home district during the summer congressional recess. He acknowledge

that China "has been a bad actor for years" and has repeatedly violated international trade agreements. "But I think the challenge here is that the administration doesn't seem to have a strategy," Costa said. "All of us who care about this don't understand what the end game is going to be."

## Costa: Immigration Fixes Unlikely This Year

Costa also talked about the ongoing battle over immigration. "If every proposal to fix a broken immigration system is defined as amnesty," he said, "then it's pretty hard to fix parts of it — let alone a comprehensive effort." Costa does not...

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Photo: NFL.com/Shutterstock

# BROWNS CUT FRESNO NATIVE KENDRICKS AFTER INSIDER TRADING CHARGE

August 29, 2018 | Bill McEwen

Fresno native Mychal Kendricks, a linebacker with the Cleveland Browns, was charged Wednesday with conspiracy to commit fraud via insider trading by federal authorities in Philadelphia. His attorney said that he expects Kendricks to plead guilty to the charges. But Kendricks was released by the NFL team Wednesday night anyway.

Kendricks, who signed a one-year contract with the Browns in June after winning a Super Bowl title last season with the Eagles, allegedly used tips from an acquaintance to make about \$1.2 million in illegal profits on four major trading deals, federal prosecutors said. The 27-year-old issued a statement earlier in the day admitting to his guilt and apologizing. He expressed regret and accepted full responsibility...

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# POLL: FEW DEMOCRATS FAVOR LIBERAL CRY TO ABOLISH ICE

August 29, 2018 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The rallying cry from some liberals to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) isn't a likely winner this election year, as a new poll finds only a quarter of Democrats support eliminating the agency that carried out the Trump administration's policy of separating immigrant children from their parents.

But even as they don't want to fully dismantle ICE, 57 percent of Democrats view the agency negatively, including nearly three-fourths of those who describe themselves as liberal, according to a poll released Monday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The findings demonstrate tension among Democrats about how to address the crisis at the border that intensified in June when the Trump administration instituted a family separation policy to deter illegal immigration. Some potential Democratic...

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AP File Photo/David J. Phillip





Salvatore Di Nolfi/Keystone via AP

# WORLD WAR CRIMES IN YEMEN

## UAE, Saudis May Have Been Involved

August 28, 2018 | AP News

GENEVA — Three experts working for the U.N.'s top human rights body say the governments of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia may have been responsible for war crimes including rape, torture, disappearances and "deprivation of the right to life" during 3½ years of battling Yemeni rebels. In their first report for the Human Rights Council, the experts also point to possible crimes by the Iran-aligned rebels, known as Houthis, who have been fighting the Saudi-led coalition and Yemen's government in a civil war since March 2015.

The experts documented some 6,475 deaths from March 2015 up until June of this year, but said the "real figure is likely to be significantly higher." Other groups have estimated that more than 10,000 people have been killed. The experts also chronicled the damage from coalition airstrikes, the single most lethal force in the fighting, over the last year. A coalition airstrike struck a bus in northern Yemen earlier this month, killing more than 50 people, including 40 children, and wounding dozens.

### Refrain From Providing Arms

They urged the international community to "refrain from providing arms that could be used in the conflict"— an apparent reference to countries, including the United States and Britain, that help arm the coalition, **"(We have) reasonable grounds to believe that the governments of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are responsible for human rights violations."** — Experts who work for the United Nations via report as well as Iran, which the coalition has accused of arming the Houthis. The experts visited some but not all parts of Yemen as they compiled the report. "(We have) reasonable grounds to believe that the governments of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are responsible for human rights vio-

lations," the report said. It cited violations including unlawful "deprivation of the right to life," arbitrary detention, rape, torture, enforced disappearances and child recruitment. Saudi, Emirati and Yemen officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday. On Twitter, Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash wrote that the UAE "must review it, answer its merits and review what it says about the horrors of the Houthis."

Saudi state media later said its coalition had received the U.N. report and forwarded it to its own lawyers to review before it "will take the appropriate position." The Associated Press reported last year that the UAE and its allied militias were running a network of secret detention facilities, beyond the control of Yemeni government. In June, the AP revealed that hundreds of detainees had been subjected to sexual abuse and torture.

### Arbitrary Detention, Torture and Child Recruitment

The U.N. report accused the "de facto authorities" — an allusion to rebels that control some of the country's most populated western and northern areas — of crimes, including arbitrary detention, torture and child recruitment. Human rights advocates have faulted the Houthis for planting land mines and targeting religious minorities and imprisoned opponents. Ka-

mel Jendoubi, a Tunisian human rights advocate who chaired the group of experts, said they compiled a "confidential list" of people suspected of committing international crimes, which was being handed over to the office of the U.N. human rights chief on Tuesday. His team refused to indicate how many or which people or groups were on the list — whether on the government...

**"Despite the gravity of the situation, we still note a total disdain for the suffering of the Yemeni people."** — Kamel Jendoubi, Chairperson of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen

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# IRAN ASKS UN'S HIGHEST COURT TO SUSPEND US SANCTIONS

August 27, 2018 | AP News

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Iran warned Monday that re-imposed U.S. sanctions would cripple its economy and plunge the volatile Middle East deeper into crisis as it urged the United Nations' highest court to suspend the Trump administration's economic pressure on Tehran.

In a written statement about the case at the International Court of Justice, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Iran's claims "meritless" and defended the sanctions as a way of keeping Americans safe. The world court's wood-paneled Great Hall of Justice in The Hague is the latest backdrop for Washington and Tehran's high-stakes dispute about Iran's

nuclear ambitions. President Donald Trump said in May that he would pull the U.S. out of a 2015 agreement over Iran's nuclear program and would re-impose sanctions on Tehran. Washington also threatened other countries with sanctions if they don't cut off Iranian oil imports by early November. Iran filed a case with the court in July challenging the re-imposition.

Tehran alleges that the sanctions breach a 1955 bilateral agreement known as the Treaty of Amity that regulates and promotes economic and consular ties between the two countries. The treaty was signed when the U.S. and Iran...

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AP Photo/Altai Qadri

## UN TEAM: MYANMAR MILITARY CHIEFS SHOULD FACE 'GENOCIDE' CASE

August 27, 2018 | AP News

GENEVA — Investigators working for the U.N.'s top human rights body said Monday that Myanmar military leaders should be prosecuted for genocide against Rohingya Muslims, taking the unusual step of identifying six by name among those behind deadly, systematic crimes against the ethnic minority.

The call, accompanying a first report by the team of investigators, amounts to some of the strongest language yet from U.N. officials who have denounced alleged human rights violations in Myanmar since a bloody crackdown began last August. The three-member "fact-finding mission" and their team, working under a mandate from the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council, meticulously assembled hundreds of accounts from expatriate Rohingya, as well as satellite...

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## UN OFFICIAL: PALESTINIAN REFUGEE ISSUE CAN'T BE WISHED AWAY

August 25, 2018 | AP News

JERUSALEM — The head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees suggested that the United States slashed his budget early this year to punish the Palestinians for their criticism of the American recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, but he warned that the Palestinian refugee issue will not go away. The comments by Pierre Kraehenbuehl came amid signs that the U.S., with Israeli support, is aiming to abolish UNRWA in an apparent attempt to remove one of the most contentious issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the negotiating agenda.

"One cannot simply wish 5 million people away," Kraehenbuehl, commissioner of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, said in an interview with The Associated Press. In January, the U.S., the largest donor to the agency, slashed some \$300 million from its annual contribution to UNRWA, prompting what Kraehenbuehl called an unprecedented financial crisis...

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Photo: UNRWA via AP, File



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