



**REVEALED:** FBI warned Twitter about a 'hack-and-leak' operation targeting Hunter Biden in weekly 2020 meetings before the laptop story was censored

## Description

- **Twitter's ex-head of trust and safety confirmed in a newly-resurfaced December 2020 statement that they believed there would be a leak involving Hunter Biden**
- **The Republican AGs of Louisiana and Missouri are investigating the federal government for alleged 'collusion' with social media companies**
- **They reportedly heard from FBI agent Elvis Chan that bureau officials had increasingly frequent meetings with Big Tech about 'misinformation'**
- **Mark Zuckerberg's admission that Facebook censored a story about Hunter Biden's laptop in an effort to heed warnings from the FBI helped spur the probe**
- **Elon Musk promised a bombshell exposé he dubbed the 'Twitter files' that was aimed at shedding light on its suppression on Twitter**

A former Twitter executive said the company was warned about foreign attempts to meddle in the 2020 election using a so-called 'hack-and-leak' strategy, it was reported on Sunday night.

The revelation was made by Twitter's former Global Head of Trust and Safety, Yoel Roth, weeks after the 2020 election – and roughly two months after the site limited the reach of a New York Post story about Hunter Biden's laptop.

'I was told in these meetings that the intelligence community expected that individuals associated with political campaigns would be subject to hacking attacks and that material obtained through those hacking attacks would likely be disseminated over social media platforms, including Twitter,' Roth said according to the Post.

Roth reportedly handed the statement on December 21, 2020 to the Federal Election Commission.

'I also learned in these meetings that there were rumors that a hack-and-leak operation would involve Hunter Biden,' it read.

It comes amid fallout from the Elon Musk-promoted Twitter 'exposé' that was apparently meant to show

proof that the platform – which he recently acquired for \$44 billion – worked in tandem with Democrats to tip the scales in the 2020 election.

It was centered around correspondences mainly between top employees at Twitter about the site's suppression of the infamous Post story published in October 2020.



Yoel Roth was the global head of trust and safety at Twitter. He told the Federal Election Commission in December 2020 that Twitter executives believed a 'hack-and-dump' scheme involving Hunter Biden was coming

The published emails show Twitter employees going back and forth trying to justify their censorship of the story under the site's hacked materials rules. It appears that many top officials at the platform were hesitant about whether Hunter Biden's laptop was accessed through unscrupulous means.

Journalist Matt Taibbi, who published the report, also provides screenshots showing Twitter employees

complying with requests from the Biden campaign to take down certain links – a practice followed by both campaigns at the time.

At no point does it show the Democrat's operatives asking for the Post story's removal. Links sent by the Biden team allegedly included naked photos of Hunter Biden that would have been posted without his consent.

While Musk floated suggestions that Democrats could have aided in violating the First Amendment, in his reporting Taibbi points out that the Trump administration – in power at the time – made the same asks of Twitter.

Roth's statement to the FEC was reportedly a response to right-wing group Tea Party Patriots, who complained that censorship of the laptop story equated to a campaign contribution to President Joe Biden.



It comes after an FBI agent testified in a Republican attorneys general-led probe that agents met 'weekly' with social media executives to discuss misinformation in the lead up to the 2020 race

But the censorship allegations don't end with Twitter. A lawsuit by two Republican attorneys general accuses the federal government of working together with Big Tech to limit unfavorable media coverage.

In a deposition related to the case last week, FBI agent Elvis Chan reportedly admitted the bureau met with top social media companies on a weekly basis, according to [Fox News](#).

The [GOP](#) Attorneys General of Missouri and Louisiana are accusing White House officials of colluding



with social media giants on removing unfavorable coverage ‘under the guise of combating misinformation.’

Meanwhile as Donald Trump and many of his allies cried foul in response to the so-called ‘Twitter files,’ others in his camp surprisingly shrugged it off.

‘So far I’m deeply underwhelmed. We know the Dems in DC collude with the Dems in Palo Alto,’ former Trump administration official Sebastian Gorka wrote on Twitter.

‘Big Whop. Need a paper trail of felonies. Elon better have that.’



**Sebastian Gorka DrG**   
@SebGorka

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8:36 PM · 12/2/22 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

Former Trump administration aide Sebastian Gorka said Elon Musk ‘better have’ stronger evidence of collusion to censor stories on Twitter after he hyped up Matt Taibbi’s ‘Twitter exposé’



Gorka was one of a few current or former Trump allies shrugging off the findings which Musk promised would be revelatory in nature

Tesla billionaire Musk had promised another exposé to come on Saturday, after Taibbi's, but he backpedaled at the 11th hour that night – literally – writing: 'Looks like we will need another day or so.'

'Govt suppression of speech is newsworthy,' Trump 2016 adviser AJ Delgado wrote on Saturday. 'Therefore, when is [Taibbi] doing a thread about the requests/emails sent by the Trump WH???'



It includes Biden campaign team requests to remove certain links – which were reportedly inappropriate images of Hunter Biden published without his consent

She pointed out that he ‘hurriedly mentioned’ the Trump White House’s actions but accused him of having ‘glossed over it.’

But none of the reporting shows the Biden team ever asking to censor or remove the New York Post article – something Facebook did as well after warnings by the FBI, according to its CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

Zuckerberg told podcast host Joe Rogan in August that bureau officials told him to be on 'high alert' about items related to 'Russian propaganda' in the lead-up to the election.

He couldn't recall whether the FBI specifically flagged the laptop story but said it 'basically fit the pattern.'



Musk suggested that Twitter was 'acting under orders from the government to suppress free speech,' seemingly in reference to the Biden campaign asking the platform to remove links – but it was Donald Trump who was leading the government at the time, not Joe Biden



Musk promised there would be more coming on Saturday, but said at 11pm that night that it would be delayed

The interview is one of the items cited in Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry and Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt's lawsuit against the Biden administration.

In their reported deposition of FBI Agent Elvis Chan last week, he allegedly claimed to be part of a group made up of foreign influence and cybersecurity infrastructure experts who regularly met with social media giants to discuss misinformation before the 2020 race.

A source in Schmitt's office told Fox that the discussions were centered around Russian disinformation.

The federal judge who ordered Chan to testify reportedly said he 'had authority over cybersecurity issues for the FBI in the San Francisco, California region which includes the headquarters of major social-media platforms and played a critical role for the FBI in coordinating with social-media platforms related to censorship.'

By ELIZABETH ELKIND

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### **Date Created**



12/06/2022