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S | 'al Counsel indictments against 13 Russian nationals revealed that a key aspect of the alleged covert assault on the 2016 presidential election was an attempt to suppress turnout by African-American voters, an L 💆 taking described in great detail in the papers filed in federal court Friday.



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"Of particular concern, the indictments show how the Russians tried to suppress the votes of minorities across the United States in order to help Donald Trump win the presidency," Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Democrat, said in a statement.



Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during the final day of the Republican National Convention in... more +

According to the indictment, the alleged conspirators used an Instagram account called "Woke Blacks" to tell followers a month before the 2016 election that "we'd surely be better off without voting AT ALL." Less than a week before Election Day, the accused Russians purchased Instagram advertisements on an account called "Blacktivist" that read in part: "Choose peace and vote for Jill Stein. Trust me, it's not a wasted vote."

13 Russian nationals indicted in Mueller investigation on charges related to meddling in US elections

Read the full indictment against 13 Russians in special counsel probe

Who is 'Putin's Chef,' the Kremlin ally indicted by the special counsel?

In October 2017, ABC News interviewed several black activists who described efforts to recruit them that, in retrospect, they realized were tied to the Russian operation.

Conrad James, an activist in Raleigh, North Carolina, says he was approached in September 2016 by a woman who claimed to represent BlackMattersUS and asked him to speak at a rally they were hosting in Charlotte. James said more than 600 people turned up.

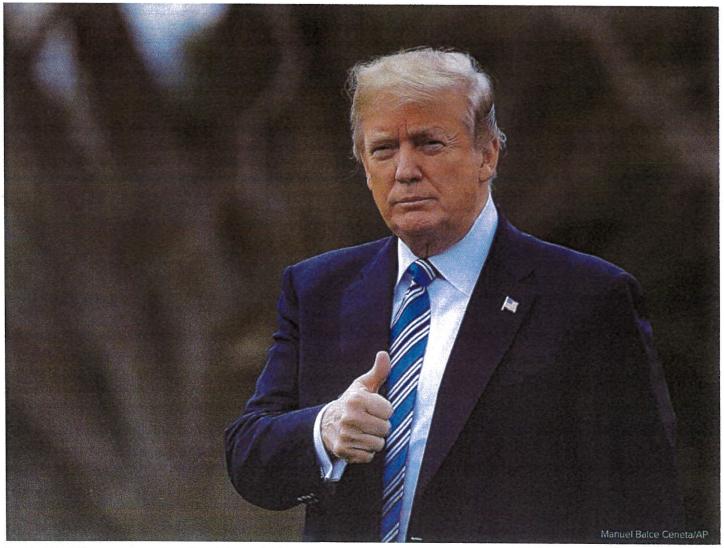
"There is no allegation in the indictment that the charged conduct altered the outcome of the 2016 election," Rosenstein said.

White House spokesperson Raj Shah issued a statement acknowledging the Department of Justice's findings and commending their work.

"We condemn all foreign attempts to create chaos and discord within our electoral system and praise the Department of Justice's efforts to bring these bad actors to justice," said Shah.

President Trump took to Twitter on Friday to cast the indictment as a vindication of his campaign.

"Russia started their anti-US campaign in 2014, long before I announced that I would run for President," Trump tweeted. "The results of the election were not impacted. The Trump campaign did nothing wrong - no collusion!"



President Donald Trump gestures as he walks as he leaves the White House, Feb. 16, 2018, in Washington, D.C., for a t... more +

Black turnout in the 2016 election dropped for the first time in a presidential election in 20 years, according to findings by the Pew Research Center. Turnout fell from a record-high 66.6% in 2012 to 59.6% in 2016, the Pew

Rudy Giuliani says Trump may submit to Mueller interview

Wildfire devastation in Greece seen from the ground and the sky

## A 'biblical disaster': Greek official on wildfires that have killed 50

By JUSTIN DOOM and BILL HUTCHINSON Jul 24, 2018, 8:25 AM ET



WATCH Wildfire devastation in Greece seen from the ground and the sky

T f fires raging through Greece have killed at least 50 people as wind-whipped flames swept through forestland, prompting scores of victims to flee to the sea via clogged roadways as they desperately tried to c w n the rapidly spreading inferno.



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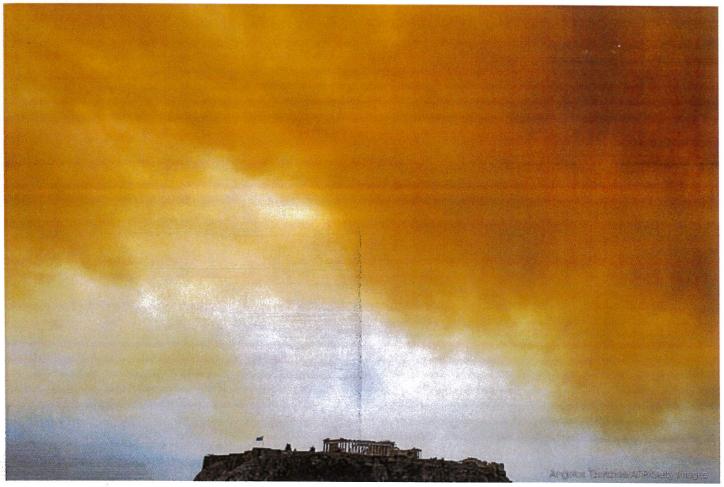
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More than 100 have been injured, and the Spanish government has sent two amphibious planes to help battle the blazes, according to The Associated Press. An earlier report said 150 had been hospitalized.



A woman reacts as she tries to find her dog, following a wildfire at the village of Mati, near Athens, Greece, July 24, 2018.

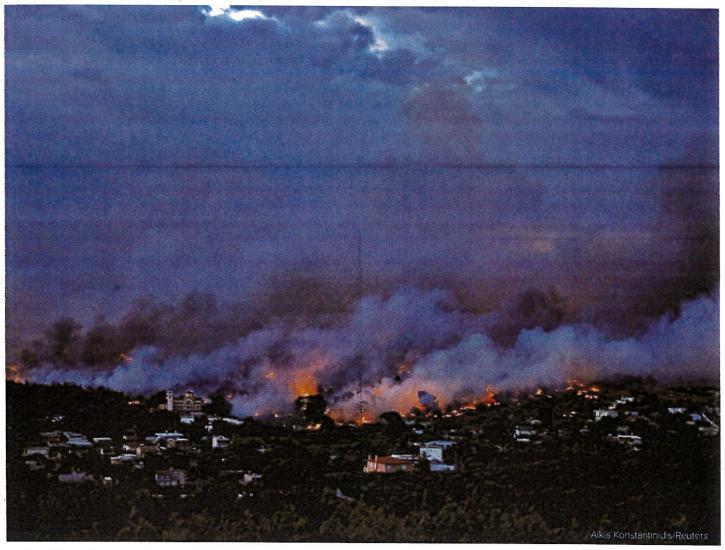
Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras declared a period of national mourning.



The Parthenon temple on the Acropolis hill in Athens is seen as smoke billows in background during a wildfire in Kinet... more +

The flames had not reached Athens nor were they threatening any of the famous ancient Greek ruins surrounding the area, officials said.

Nikos Stavrinidis and his wife grabbed whatever they could from their summer home in the Mati area near Ravina and ran for their lives, he said.



A wildfire rages in the town of Rafina, near Athens, July 23, 2018.

Numerous other evacuees joined him in the water, he said. Trapped between the sea and the burning forests, Stravrinidis said, people drowned in the water.

"As we went further, there was a lot of wind and a lot of currents and it started taking us away from the coast. We were not able to see where we were, where Marmari was, where Rafina was, where Mati was. We couldn't see anything," he said of coastal towns consumed by fire and billowing smoke.

He and his wife were in the water for about two hours before they were rescued, he said.

Turkey has joined Spain in offering to provide aid, including airplanes and helicopters, to Greece.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said his Greek counterpart, Nikos Kotzias, thanked him for the offer but that the assistance wasn't yet required, the AP reported.

Bekir Pakdemirli, Turkey's agriculture and forestry minister, said firefighting planes are "45 minutes away if there is a request and we are ready to intervene immediately."



A man passes burned cars in Mati, east of Athens, Tuesday, July 24.

People jammed roads and freeways, trying to get away from the fires only to be trapped in their cars by the deadly flames.

"The country is going through an unspeakable tragedy," Prime Minister Tsipras said.

