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Power lines across a street in Humacao, in eastern Puerto Rico. Most residents had no power, and many had no drinkable water.

## A Scramble to Help Puerto Rico, Already Isolated and Struggling

This article is by Luis Ferré-Sadurní, Lizette Alvarez and Frances Robles.

SAN JUAN, P.R. — A day after Hurricane Maria razed Puerto Rico, its ferocious winds smashing houses, hotels, cellphone towers and the island's entire electrical grid, the fear and frustration were pervasive on Thursday.

Power was out everywhere.



OFFICE OF THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT

IN MEXICO A quake on Tuesday devastated Jojutla. Page A9.

Cellphones were mostly useless, forcing panicked residents to scramble for news from far-flung relatives. Much of the island's water was undrinkable. Roads were carpeted in debris. And still the full scope of the damage was unknown. By day's end, Puerto Rico's governor, Ricardo Rosselló, said there had been no contact with officials in 85 percent of the island.

Late Thursday, Bernardo Márquez, the mayor of Toa Baja, a town in northern Puerto Rico, told The New York Times that eight people had drowned there after flooding. That brought to at least 10 the number who have died in Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria, a toll that is expected to climb. The storm has also been blamed for 15 deaths in Dominica and two in Guadeloupe.

For Puerto Rico, long crippled by enormous debt and an essentially bankrupt financial system, Continued on Page A14

## New Effort to Kill Health Law Is G.O.P.'s Most Far-Reaching

This article is by Kate Zernike, Reed Abelson and Abby Goodnough.

For decades, Republicans have dreamed of taking some of the vast sums the federal government spends on health care entitlements and handing the money over to states to use as they saw best.

Now, in an 11th-hour effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the party has come up with a way to repackaging the funding for the law it loathes into a trillion-dollar pot of state grants.

The plan is at the core of the bill that Senate Republican leaders have vowed to bring to a vote next week. It was initially seen as a long-shot effort by Senators Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy. But for all its ad hoc, last-minute feel, it has evolved into the most far-reaching repeal proposal of all.

It dismantles the Medicaid expansion and the system of subsi-

dies to help people afford insurance. It gives the states the right to waive many of the consumer protections under President Obama's landmark health law. And it removes the guaranteed safety net that has insured the country's poorest citizens for more than half a century.

"This is by far the most radical of any of the Republican health care bills that have been debated this year," said Larry Levitt, a senior vice president with the non-partisan Kaiser Family Foundation. "And the reason for that is that this would be the biggest devaluation of federal money and responsibility to the states for anything, ever."

The White House and Senate leaders are now in an intensive final push to repeal the Affordable Care Act by Sept. 30. After that, under Senate rules, they will need 60 votes, which they acknowledge Continued on Page A16

## Trump Likely To Ease Limits On Terror War

### Broader Use of Drones and Commandos

By CHARLIE SAVAGE and ERIC SCHMITT

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is preparing to dismantle key Obama-era limits on drone strikes and commando raids outside conventional battlefields, according to officials familiar with internal deliberations. The changes would lay the groundwork for possible counterterrorism missions in countries where Islamic militants are active but the United States has not previously tried to kill or capture them.

President Trump's top national security advisers have proposed relaxing two rules, the officials said. First, the targets of kill missions by the military and the C.I.A., now generally limited to high-level militants deemed to pose a "continuing and imminent threat" to Americans, would be expanded to include foot-soldier jihadists with no special skills or leadership roles. And second, proposed drone attacks and raids will no longer go through high-level vetting.

But administration officials have also agreed that they should keep in place one important constraint for such attacks: a requirement of "near certainty" that no civilian bystanders will be killed.

The proposal to overhaul the rules has quietly taken shape over months of debate among administration officials and awaits Mr. Trump's expected signature. Despite the preservation of the protections for civilians, the other changes seemed likely to draw criticism from human rights groups.

The policy paves the way for broader and more frequent operations against Al Qaeda, the Islamic State and other jihadists. It would also apply in countries where the United States has targeted Islamist militants outside of regular combat for years, including Yemen, Somalia and Libya, and would ease the way to expanding such gray-zone acts of sporadic warfare to elsewhere in Africa, Asia and the Middle East where terrorists operate. Continued on Page A8

## FACEBOOK TO GIVE ADS TO CONGRESS IN RUSSIA INQUIRY

### CAMPAIGN INTERFERENCE

#### Pushing for Transparency Before Government Opts to Step In

By SCOTT SHANE and MIKE ISAAC

WASHINGTON — Under growing pressure from Congress and the public to reveal more about the spread of covert Russian propaganda on Facebook, the company said on Thursday that it was turning over more than 3,000 Russia-linked ads to congressional committees investigating the Kremlin's influence operation during the 2016 presidential campaign.

"I care deeply about the democratic process and protecting its integrity," Facebook's chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, said on Facebook Live, the company's video service. He added that he did not want anyone "to use our tools to undermine democracy." "That's not what we stand for," he said.

The announcement that Facebook would share the ads with the Senate and House intelligence committees came after the social network spent two weeks on the defensive. The company faced calls for greater transparency about 470 Russia-linked accounts — in which fictional people posed as American activists — which were taken down after they had promoted inflammatory messages on divisive issues. Facebook previously angered congressional officials by showing only a sample of the ads, some of which attacked Hillary Clinton or praised Donald J. Trump.

Facebook's admission on Sept. 6 that Russian agents covertly bought ads on the site during the campaign has brought intense scrutiny on the social network and on Twitter, entangling both com-

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FRANKENSTEIN MOMENT Scandals suggest Facebook may have created something it can't control, Kevin Roose writes. PAGE B1

## Black Detectives in New York Say Cronyism Cost Promotions

By BENJAMIN MUELLER

In one of New York City's most powerful police divisions, there was an obscure unit filled almost exclusively by black detectives.

The "rap unit," as it was referred to internally, had a peripheral role in a division otherwise focused on recruiting Muslim informants and building terrorism cases. Detectives went undercover at hip-hop concerts, protected artists from scammers and stickup men and warned venues of potential feuds.

Inside the Intelligence Division, which was largely led by white commanders, the "rap unit" was known to stall careers: Black detectives there did not get promoted for years, no matter how sterling their recommendations, according to a complaint filed by three black detectives with a federal labor agency.

For years, the complaint says, there was only one promotion in the unit, which was not focused on the long-term investigations that often help detectives get recognized — and it was given to a white detective, one of a very few assigned there.

The frustration was not uncommon among scores of detectives in the Intelligence Division, and

hundreds of others in the nation's largest police force. In interviews, current and retired detectives said a patronage system of promotions had bumped detectives based more on connections to powerful bosses, and less on their work, fueling bitterness and accusations of nepotism.

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found last year that the promotions process systematically stymied black detectives in the Intelligence Division, leaving them with less pay, power and prestige than their similarly qualified white counterparts. The commission, which enforces discrimination laws, ruled that a "wholly subjective and secret process" caused black detectives to receive "lesser and later opportunities for promotion consistent with their qualifications."

But those findings, which have not previously been made public, failed to invigorate efforts within the department to fix a promotions process some police officials have conceded in sworn testimony is opaque and frustrating.

The Justice Department, which has retreated from police over-

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Researchers found "classic" signs of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, including tau protein deposits, in Aaron Hernandez's brain.

## Patriots Star Jailed for Murder Had Severe Case of Brain Disease

By KEN BELSON

The brain scan came as a surprise even to researchers who for years have been studying the relationship between brain disease and deaths of professional football players.

Aaron Hernandez, the former New England Patriots tight end and a convicted murderer, was 27

when he committed suicide in April. Yet a posthumous examination of his brain showed he had such a severe form of the degenerative brain disease C.T.E. that the damage was akin to that of players well into their 60s.

It was, a lawyer for his family said, in announcing the findings on Thursday, "the most severe case they had ever seen in some-

one of Aaron's age."

C.T.E., or chronic traumatic encephalopathy, has been found in more than 100 former N.F.L. players, some of whom committed suicide, according to researchers at Boston University.

Yet the results of the study of Mr. Hernandez's brain are adding another dimension to his meteoric rise and fall that could raise ques-

tions about the root of his erratic, violent behavior and lead to a potentially tangled legal fight with the N.F.L., the most powerful sports league in the United States.

The league had already faced public relations problems after other high-profile players were found to have C.T.E., including Junior Seau, Ken Stabler and Frank Robinson. Continued on Page A15



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The Justice Department is asking for information about Skadden's connections to President Trump's former campaign chief. PAGE A18

#### Shift in War Over Monuments

Calls to remove Confederate monuments from cemeteries raise a different set of questions. PAGE A13

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#### Rikers Island Guards Accused

Two inmates alleged that guards gave a prisoner access to women, who were then sexually assaulted. PAGE A19



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Soybean farmers who shun Monsanto's genetically modified seeds say a weed killer is imperiling their crops. PAGE B1

#### China's Debt Is Downgraded

Standard & Poor's says heavy borrowing could hurt China's ability to handle potential financial shocks. PAGE B1

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#### Skepticism of Power's Purity

Drug testing in baseball is tougher, and many players have no interest in cheating. Still, it's naive to rule out doping as a factor in the record-setting home-run surge, Michael Powell writes. PAGE B8

#### More Netting, Fewer Excuses

The gut-wrenching sight of a toddler bloodied by a foul ball at Yankee Stadium should prompt major league baseball teams to protect fans in the stands, Juliet Macur writes. PAGE B9

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#### Paul Krugman

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An art event inspired by the cultural mixture of Los Angeles and Latin America may help lift spirits in a turbulent era, Holland Cotter writes. PAGE C15

### INTERNATIONAL A4-12

#### New Sanctions on North Korea

President Trump's announcement suggested that he was still committed to economic pressure. PAGE A11

#### Iraqi Kurds Pressured on Vote

Neighbors and allies are pressing the Kurds to delay an independence vote they say could spark violence. PAGE A8



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