

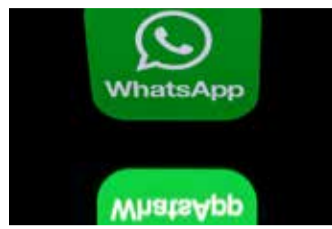
Facebook, Google, Twitter pause user info requests from HK govt

San Francisco

Facebook, Google and Twitter said Monday they have put a hold on requests by Hong Kong's government or police force for information on users, following China's imposition of a sweeping new security law.

The pause at leading online social network Facebook and its popular messaging service WhatsApp would remain in place "pending further assessment" of the new national security law, and would include "formal human rights due diligence and consultations with human rights experts," a Facebook spokesman said in a statement.

"We believe freedom of expression is a fundamental human right and support the right of people to express themselves without fear for their safety or other repercus-



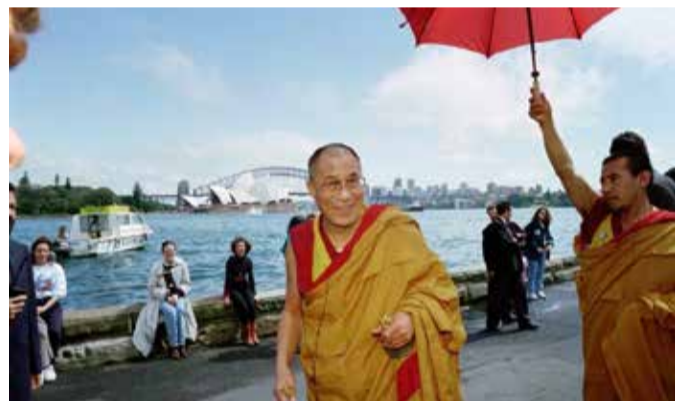
sions," the spokesman said.

Twitter and Google told AFP that they too would not comply with information requests by Hong Kong authorities in the immediate future.

"Like many public interest organizations, civil society leaders and entities, and industry peers, we have grave concerns regarding both the developing process and the full intention of this law," Twitter said in response to an AFP inquiry.

"Twitter cares and is committed to protecting the people using our service and their freedom of expression."

Dalai Lama channels 'Inner World' in album to mark 85th birthday



The Dalai Lama, shown here in 1996, has put out a music album to mark his 85th birthday

New Delhi

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama launched an assault on the music charts on Monday by releasing his first album to mark his 85th birthday.

"Inner World", in which the Dalai Lama chants meditations and Buddhist sayings, was inspired by New Zealand follower Junelle Kunin who spent five years working on the project after persuading him to take part.

The Dalai Lama went to her home in Auckland three times and she recorded some ses-

sions at his residence in Dharamsala in India, where the Tibetan government in exile is based.

"He had a clear vision with this work and has been very committed to it," Kunin, who produced the music with her husband Abraham, told the Radio New Zealand programme Nine to Noon.

"It's not a religious project although they are mantras. It's really just a work to try and benefit people. So I thought about what we need day-to-day -- courage and healing and wisdom and so forth so that's the path we went down."

Murder of US Army soldier puts spotlight on sexual harassment

● Vanessa Guillen, a 20-year-old US Army specialist found killed recently

● Family say she was sexually harassed at the military base.

● The main suspect in the case is a fellow US Army specialist named Aaron Robinson

AFP | Houston



Vanessa Guillen



Cecily Anne Aguilar and Aaron David Robinson



The murder of a female US Army soldier and the subsequent suicide of the chief suspect has put a spotlight on sexual harassment in the US military.

Vanessa Guillen, a 20-year-old US Army specialist at Fort Hood in Texas, went missing more than two months ago.

After a weeks-long search, a lawyer for the Guillen family confirmed that human remains found on June 30 near her former base were those of the missing soldier.

The main suspect in the case, a fellow US Army specialist named Aaron Robinson who was also based at Fort Hood, committed suicide last Wednesday as police closed in on him.

Another suspect, Cecily Aguilar, Robinson's girlfriend, was charged last Thursday with "conspiracy to tamper with evidence."

Since Guillen's disappearance on April 22, her loved ones have said repeatedly that she was sexually harassed at the military base.

"She was afraid to report it," her sister Lupe told ABC News. "She reported it to her friends. She even reported to other soldiers on base," she said.

"But she didn't want to do a formal report because she was afraid of retaliation and being blackballed, and she, like most victims, just tried to deal with it herself."



Guillen's case has been taken up by several prominent public figures, including the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, Joe Biden.

Guillen's case has been taken up by several prominent public figures, including the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, Joe Biden.

"We owe it to those who put on the uniform, and to their families, to put an end to sexual harassment and assault in the military, and hold perpetrators accountable," Biden said.

'Dignity and respect'

According to the Justice Department, Robinson told Aguilar he had killed Guillen with a hammer blow to the head, and the pair took her body to a re-

mote site to dispose of it.

According to Guillen family attorney Natalie Khawam, Guillen had planned to file a sexual harassment complaint against Robinson.

"We believe he murdered her because she was going to report the sexual harassment," Khawam said.

Guillen said Robinson had followed her into the shower and watched her, her attorney said.

Khawam said sexual harassment was "epidemic" in the military and called for Congress to investigate.

"You can't turn a blind eye

anymore," she said.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a Democrat from New York, called for the Pentagon inspector general to conduct an investigation.

Guillen's case "raises serious and alarming questions about the Army's ability to prevent sexual harassment and assault, respond to criminal acts and provide justice for victims and their families," Gillibrand said in a statement.

"There must be a full and thorough investigation into Guillen's disappearance, both to deliver justice and to initiate change in the Army's approach to sexual assault in the military and the culture that enables it."

Damon Phelps, the official in charge of the Army-led investigation, told a news conference last week that for the time being, there was no "credible information" to support the harassment allegation.

But on Monday, Fort Hood Senior Commander Major General Scott Efflandt pledged to "complete the ongoing investigation in sexual harassment and take actions against those findings."

"Every person who raises their right hand to serve their family and their country in uniform deserves to be safe and treated with dignity and respect," Efflandt said.

"To the victims of sexual harassment and assault. We hear you."

YOU KNOW WHAT

Guillen had been missing since April 22 until dismembered pieces of her remains were found buried along the Leon River on June 30

Upon hearing the news, Robinson fled Fort Hood and fatally shot himself shortly after midnight when law enforcement found and approached him in Killeen, Texas

Fossil of giant 70m year-old fish found in Argentina

Buenos Aires

A giant 70 million year old fossil of a fish that lived amongst dinosaurs has been discovered in Argentine Patagonia, a team of researchers said on Monday.

Argentine paleontologists "found the remains of a predator fish that was more than six meters long," the researchers said in a statement.

The discovery was published in the scientific journal *Alcheringa: An Australasian Journal of Palaeontology*.

The fish "swam in the Patagonian seas at the end of the Cretaceous Period, when the temperature there was much more temperate than now," the statement said.

"The fossils of this carnivorous animal with sharp teeth and scary appearance were found close to the Colhue Hu-



The fossilized remains of this Xiphactinus - similar to the one found in Argentina - was discovered in the US state of Kansas and sold at auction in 2010

pial lake" around 1,400 kilometers south of the capital Buenos Aires.

This fossil belonged to the Xiphactinus genus, "amongst the largest predatory fish that existed in the history of Earth."

"Its body was notably slim and ended in a huge head with big jaws and teeth as sharp as needles, several centimeters long."

Examples of this species have been found in other parts of the world, "some of which even have preserved stomach contents," said Julieta de Pasqua, one of the study authors.

Previously, the Xiphactinus had only been found in the northern hemisphere, although one example was recently found in Venezuela.

Patagonia is one of the most important reservoirs of fossils of dinosaurs and prehistoric species.

Fauci warns US is 'knee-deep' in first wave of coronavirus

Washington

The United States is still "knee-deep" in its first wave of coronavirus infections and must act immediately to tackle the recent surge, the country's top infectious diseases expert said Monday.

Anthony Fauci said the number of cases had never reached a satisfactory baseline before the current resurgence, which officials have warned risks overwhelming hospitals in the country's south and west.

"It's a serious situation that we have to address immediately," Fauci said in a web interview with National Institutes of Health director Francis Collins.