

Twitter Accused in Widow Suit of Allowing Islamic State Use

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- ▶ Florida woman's husband killed while training Jordanian police
- ▶ New Twitter accounts spring up when terrorist users deleted

Twitter Inc. was accused in a lawsuit by the widow of a man killed at a police training center in Jordan of knowingly allowing the Islamic State to spread its terrorist message through its service.

Twitter, like other social media sites, has been under increasing pressure to quickly remove posts by terrorist groups, including Islamic State, or ISIS. As fast as Twitter deletes such accounts, new ones typically spring up with the same propaganda messages, including video of attacks and beheadings.

Lloyd “Carl” Fields Jr. was killed with four others in a “lone wolf” attack at a police training center in Amman in November, according to the lawsuit filed Wednesday in San Francisco federal court. His widow, Tamara Fields of Cape Coral, Florida, said in her complaint that Twitter knowingly allows ISIS to use its platform.

“Without Twitter, the explosive growth of ISIS over the last few years into the most-feared terrorist group in the world would not have been possible,” according to the complaint.

Fields accuses Twitter of providing material support to terrorism and seeks compensatory damages plus a ruling that Twitter is violating the federal Anti-Terrorism Act.

Twitter complied with 42 percent of the 1,003 global content removal requests received from January to June last year, according to the company’s biannual transparency report. Twenty-five of those requests came from the U.S. government and law enforcement agencies. Twitter said it didn’t comply with any of those requests.

“While we believe the lawsuit is without merit, we are deeply saddened to hear of this family’s terrible loss,” Twitter said in an e-mail. “Violent threats and the promotion of terrorism deserve no place on Twitter and, like other social networks, our rules make that clear.”

Last week, the Obama administration announced the creation of a task force to help prevent extremist groups from using social media to radicalize and mobilize recruits. Twitter is one of the Internet companies that has been involved in a battle with the U.S. Justice Department over spy agency requests for user data.

Under federal law, Internet companies aren’t allowed to reveal anything about the subpoenas, except the number of them they receive in broad ranges.

The case is *Fields v. Twitter Inc.*, 16-00213, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California (San Francisco).

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• Tech • Twitter Inc

WIND AND SOLAR

Solar and Wind Just Did the Unthinkable

Cheap oil and gas couldn't stop another record year for renewables, or a turning point for energy investment.

Tom Randall

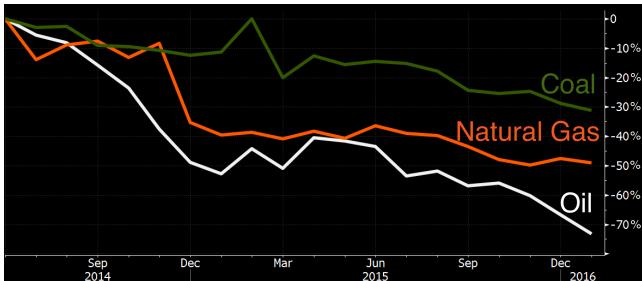
[trandall](#)

The sun and the wind continue to defy gravity.

Renewables just finished another record-breaking year, with more money invested (\$329 billion) and more capacity added (121 gigawatts) than ever before, according to new data released Thursday by [Bloomberg New Energy Finance](#).

This wasn't supposed to happen. Oil, coal and natural gas bottomed out over the last 18 months, with bargain prices not seen in a decade. That's just one of a handful of reasons 2015 should have been a rough year for clean energy. [But the opposite was true.](#)

Fossil-Fuel Prices Take a Tumble

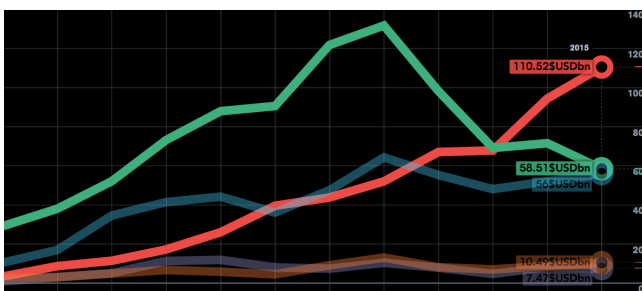


Source: Bloomberg

Another reason investment in clean power could have declined: Europe. Once the world leader in new-energy spending, Europe's investments have fallen off amid economic stagnation. Last year, Europe had its smallest investment in renewables since 2006.

Europe has been supplanted by China as the new global giant pushing renewables forward. China spent a record \$111 billion on deployment of clean energy infrastructure last year. That's 17 percent more than it spent the prior year, and almost as much as the U.S. and Europe combined. Spending in the U.S. rose 7.5 percent in 2015 to \$56 billion, the most since federal stimulus spending peaked in 2011.

China: Champion of Renewables





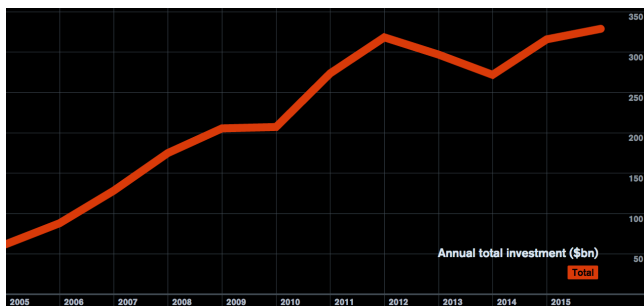
Source: Bloomberg New Energy Finance

Perhaps the biggest surprise last year came from smaller countries that often don't register on charts like the one above. For the first time, more than half of the world's annual investment in clean energy came from emerging markets.

Even more telling is that the world has reached a turning point, and is now adding more power capacity from renewables every year than from coal, natural gas, and oil combined. That trend continued in 2015 despite crashing fossil fuel prices.

And since clean energy is also getting cheaper, the world got more bang for each buck. Investment dollars rose 4 percent last year, while the new capacity added for wind and solar jumped 30 percent.

The Rise of Clean-Energy Investment



Source: Bloomberg New Energy Finance

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Power Struggle: How the Energy Market Could Shift in 2016

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