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[In defying the COVID regime, Novak Djokovic is the new 'People's Champ' \(/archives/featured-articles/2022/january/12/in-defying-the-covid-regime-novak-djokovic-is-the-new-people-s-champ/\)](/archives/featured-articles/2022/january/12/in-defying-the-covid-regime-novak-djokovic-is-the-new-people-s-champ/)

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wednesday january 12, 2022

I wanted to take a moment to recognize Novak Djokovic and his heroic defiance of the COVID regime, lending his enormous platform and status to the millions of people around the world who have been denied their unalienable rights in the name of a virus.

You would never know it by his disposition, but “Djoker” has an amazing rags to richer story, and he’s well aware of how governments can cause great human suffering. Growing up in war-torn Belgrade, Djokovic had to learn to play tennis [in between bombing raids. \(https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/22/sport/novak-djokovic-profile-us-open-spt-intl/index.html\)](https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/22/sport/novak-djokovic-profile-us-open-spt-intl/index.html) Far from a silver spooned prodigy, he had to defy incredible odds to just achieve a modicum of success, and yet he has become one of the greatest athletes of all time.

What separates Djokovic from other pro athletes on the COVID Mania issue is both his status as the world’s greatest and his consistency in been speaking out against the COVID regime. Since day one, this man has been fighting the good fight, but the news hasn’t reached consistent international attention until now.

Djokovic has remained defiant in his public opposition to government force in the form of draconian COVID restrictions and injection mandates. He has done so in the face of incredible scrutiny on all levels.

As early as April 2020, several months before the mass distribution of COVID shots, Djokovic was [already speaking out \(https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/sports/tennis/coronavirus-djokovic-vaccine-covid19.html\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/sports/tennis/coronavirus-djokovic-vaccine-covid19.html) about the future prospect of vaccine mandates.

[\(https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/sports/tennis/coronavirus-djokovic-vaccine-covid19.html\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/sports/tennis/coronavirus-djokovic-vaccine-covid19.html)

Now, with the Australian Open just days away, the 20 time grand slam champion (and 9 time Australian Open champion) has turned up the heat. He continues his fight Down Under, squaring off against the forces of a society that has transformed into something akin to a Police State.

Michael P Senger
@MichaelPSenger



Australia's Northern Territory adopts strict lockdown for the unvaccinated only: "You may only leave home for three reasons...work is not a reason to leave the home...one hour of exercise for the next four days is not 'essential.'"

Watch on Twitter

2:59 PM · Jan 6, 2022



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On Tuesday, the most Australian Open champ ever made it a point to show that he wasn't going to bow down to Australia's COVID regime, which discriminates against the "unvaccinated," in creating a two tiered Safety Society.

Novak Djokovic 

@DjokerNole



Happy New Year! Wishing you all health, love & joy in every moment & may you feel love & respect towards all beings on this wonderful planet.

I've spent fantastic quality time with loved ones over break & today I'm heading Down Under with an exemption permission. Let's go 2022!



5:55 AM · Jan 4, 2022



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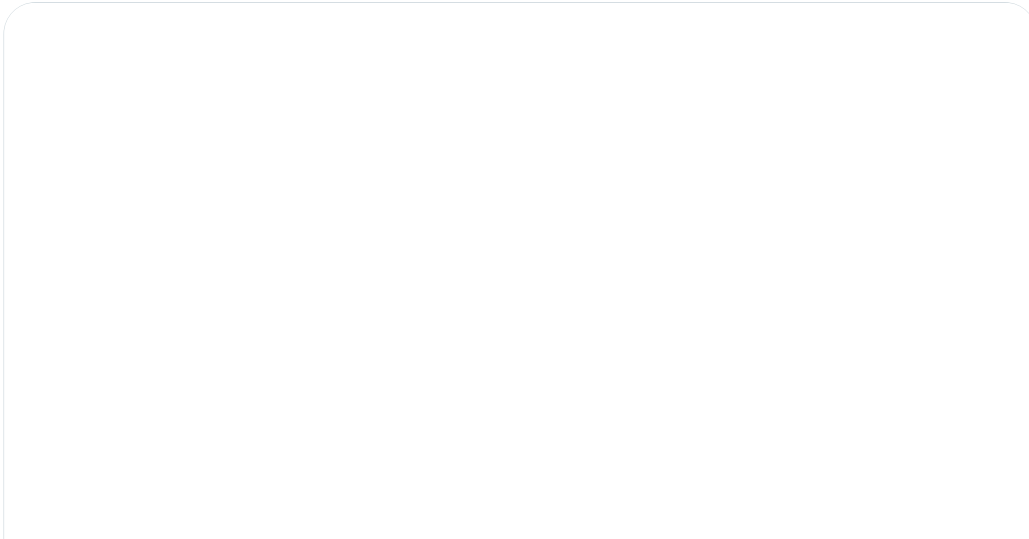
Djokovic is facing ridicule from the media, from powerful governments, and even from his own pro colleagues.

Guardian Australia 

@GuardianAus



'If you are vaccinated you can play': Rafael Nadal short on sympathy for Djokovic



theguardian.com

'If you are vaccinated you can play': Rafael Nadal short on sympathy for Djokovic

Rafael Nadal said Novak Djokovic is free to make his choice over vaccin...

4:22 PM · Jan 6, 2022



 385  See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Though he is not without defenders. The man's family has raised incredible awareness about the punitive conditions through which he is being exposed to by the Australian government.

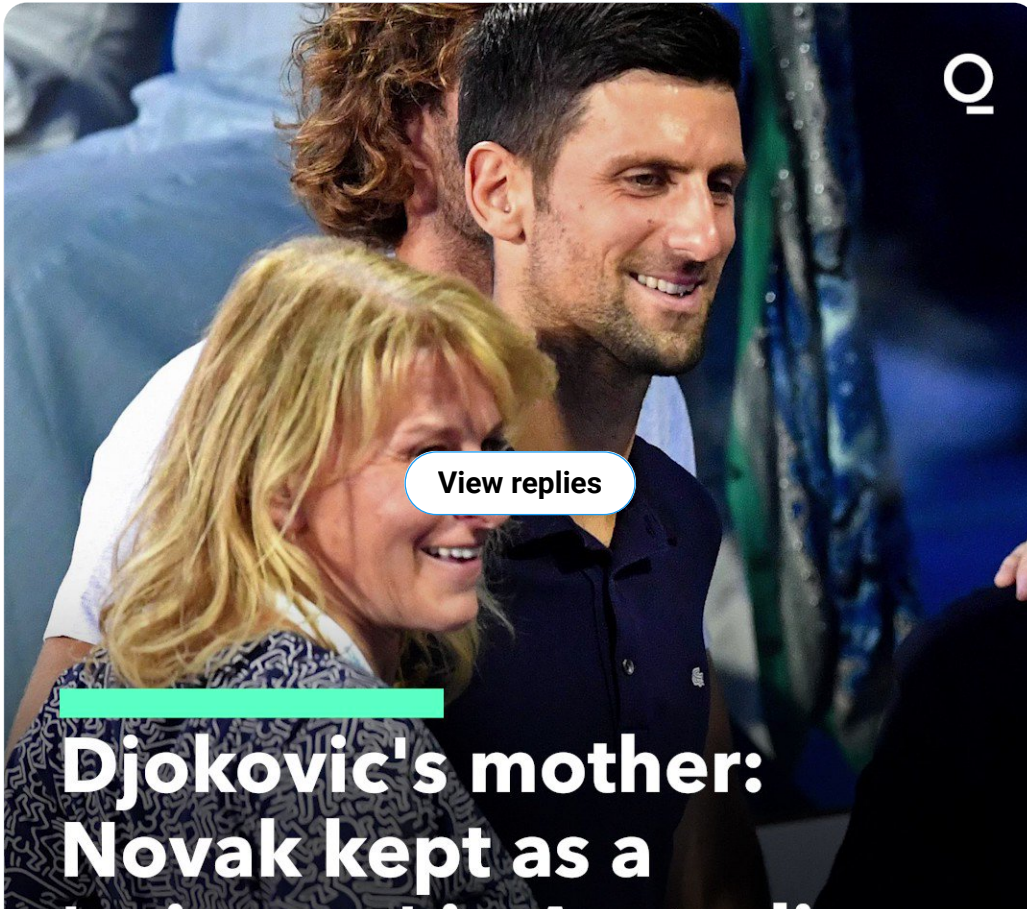
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"They are keeping him as a prisoner. It's not human."

The mother of Novak Djokovic accused Australian authorities of unfairly holding her son in a "terrible" immigration detention hotel as he faces deportation trib.al/8zZ3E5u



1:29 / 1:29

12:17 PM · Jan 6, 2022



hodlonaut 🍌⚡🔑🐝
@hodlonaut



Novak Djokovic's dad:

“This isn't a battle for Serbia and Novak. This is a battle for 7 billion people. They want to subdue us, they want us all on our knees. It won't fly.”



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1:06 / 1:06

1:52 AM · Jan 7, 2022



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He reminds us of one particular legendary sportsman of the past, a man who shares his status as one of the greatest professional athletes of all time. Of course, there are no perfect parallels, but there was one man who not so long ago took a hugely important — but deeply unpopular in his time — public stance in the fight for humanity.

That man is the late Muhammad Ali, “The People’s Champ,” who, in his time exiled from the sport of boxing, faced tremendous hostility from all levels of society. Ali’s refusal to enter the armed services and outright protest of the draft drew immense scrutiny and outright insanity. His outspoken rejection of the war in Vietnam, and his explicit challenging of the American civil rights status quo, further infuriated these forces. The media turned him into a monster. The US government persecuted him. He was labeled as ethically depraved. He was robbed of his ability to make a living during a large portion of the prime of his athletic career. In the face of endless cruelty and hate, Ali never wavered.

It wasn't until years, or really, decades later that Ali's struggle against the system was universally recognized as a noble endeavor.

Props to Novak Djokovic for fighting the good fight and carrying the torch. For using his platform to

fight for the rights of every individual against the forces of government tyranny, he's the new People's Champ.

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