



NBC News @NBCNews

San Juan mayor: "If we don't get the food and the water into people's hands, we are going to see something close to a genocide"

pic.twitter.com/DwEMAX3331

The Puerto Rico Disaster

Hurricane Maria has devastated Puerto Rico. Hopefully this is not news to you. But some of the responses have been way over the top. In this article I'll **review a little history.** That will help you understand some of the reasons for the sluggish response to this disaster. **Then I'll look at the last 24 hours of the news cycle.** This article is about the Puerto Rico disaster.

History

Puerto Rico is in debt and has defaulted on payments. The reasons for this are **bad government management, outrageous pensions and salaries to government employees, and flat-out incompetence.** But, despite all this, [the island managed to sell \\$3.5 billion in new 20 year bonds on March 17, 2014.](#) At issue the yield was 8.618%. One month later the yield was 9.335%. **Puerto Rico collected \$218,750,000 more than they would have if the bonds had been priced correctly.** That's a cool quarter billion dollars. There are links to three other articles at the beginning of the article linked above.

To stay afloat, the island decided to not maintain their

electric, water, and highway infrastructure. Which means said infrastructure suffered far more damage than it would have if it had been kept in good shape.

None of this is meant to demean the disaster Puerto Rico experienced. The residents are U.S. citizens. They deserve every bit of support the government and other aid agencies can offer.

The Current Situation

But [on September 29, the mayor of San Juan said this:](#)



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San Juan Mayor on September 29 (click for larger image)

Hello? Genocide? Really?

[The next day she said this:](#)



Bloomberg Politics @bpolitics

3h

San Juan's mayor says there's "no time for politics" after Trump blasts her on Twitter [bloom.bg/2xJXTqM](https://www.bloom.bg/2xJXTqM) pic.twitter.com/g15fTAsUxa




San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz on September 30 (click for larger image)


[In response, one of Puerto Rico's leading political analysts, Luis R. Davila-Colon, tweeted](#) (translation via Google translate).


Cada cual parte de su cargo particular y de su estilo. Yulin llora y pelea con Trump para llamar atencion y acumular pietaje pal 2020.


Each one is part of his particular position and his style. Yulin cries and fights with Trump to call attention and accumulate pie 2020 pal.

Journalist Cate Long engaged Mr. Davila-Colon in a conversation:


 **LUIS R DAVILA-COLON** @DAVILACOLON 3h
@cate_long @bpolitics Storms R the wrong time 2 fight your lifelines, particularly if your raft is taking water. Im no Trump supporter but without Feds we R toast

 **Cate Long** @cate_long 3h
@DAVILACOLON @bpolitics EXACTLY -- Yulin Cruz grandstanding adds nothing to the crisis except boost her national profile.

 **LUIS R DAVILA-COLON** @DAVILACOLON 2h
@cate_long @bpolitics She gave CNN a pic of herself up to her waist in dark waters talking to a kayaker, a la Dora The Explorer. CNN presents her as WonderWoman 🦹🏻‍♀️🦸🏻‍♀️

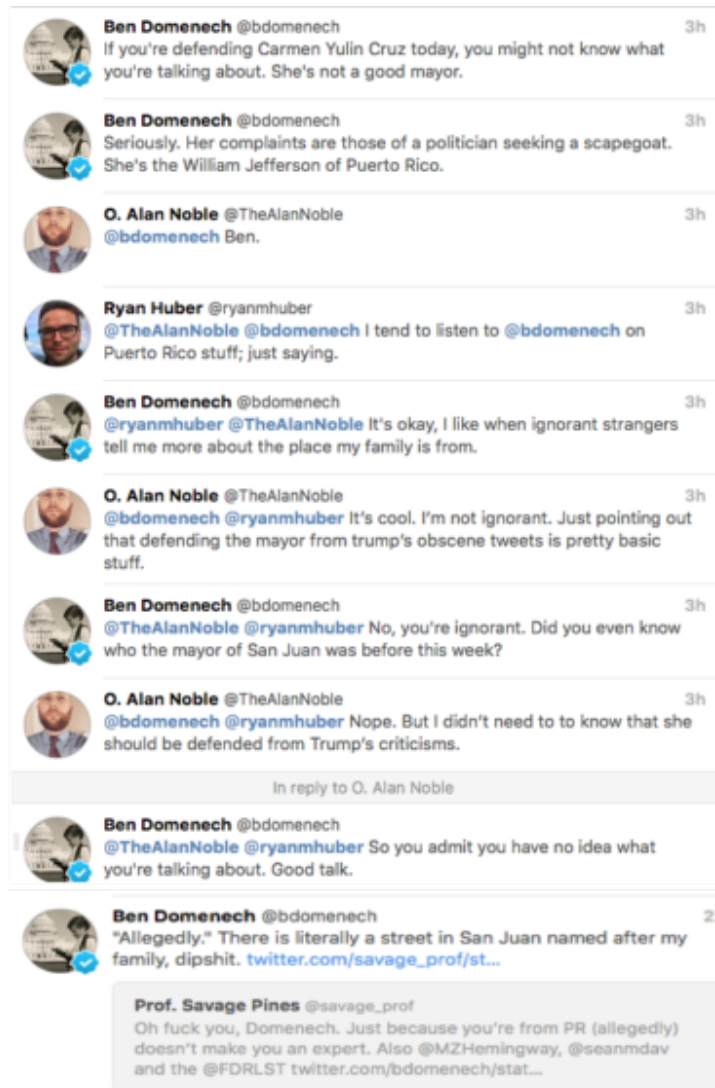
 **Cate Long** @cate_long 2h
@DAVILACOLON @bpolitics Exactly. And the uninformed national media ate it like candy. Are any parts of SJ still flooded now?

In reply to Cate Long

 **Kenneth D McClintock** @PRKDMc
@cate_long @DAVILACOLON @bpolitics A lot of unremoved debris on SJ's highways and byways. SJ mayor should emulate other mayors: perform for citizens, not for cameras.
Hato Rey Norte, Puerto Rico

Cate Long chats with Luis R. Davila-Colon (click for larger image)

Ben Domenech, publisher of The Federalist, is from Puerto Rico. He has a few things to say:



Ben Domenech Weighs In (click for larger image)

Over the years we've repeatedly seen municipal bankruptcies, the state of Illinois virtually broke, and Puerto Rico's finances under control of an outside board. All these events have one common factor: cities, states, and now one territory that have been run by the Democratic party. Truly the party of financial irresponsibility.