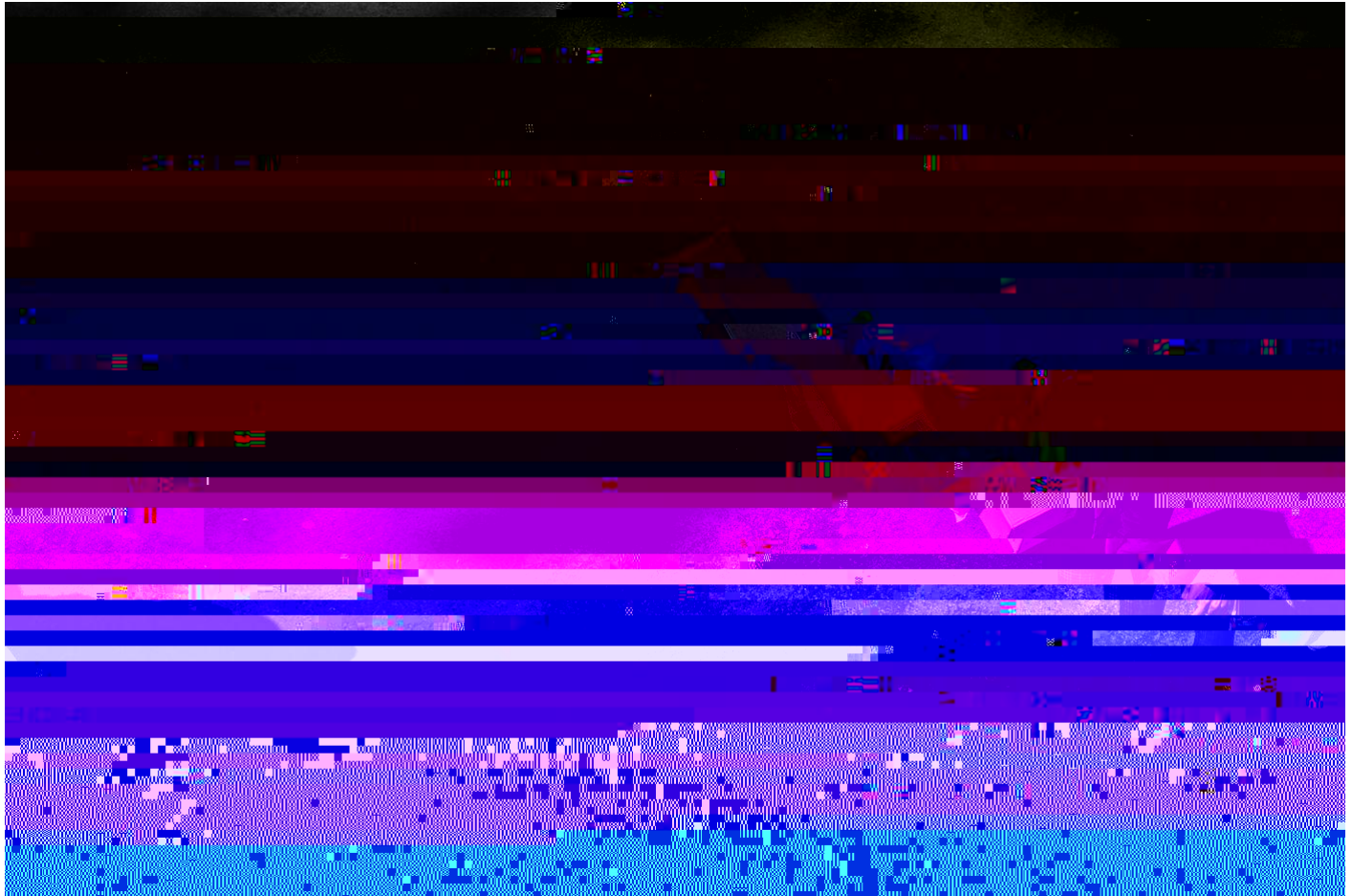


Technology

After a French court ruled the company can only sell essential items, including the pandemic protective mask carrier.



Photographer: Joel Saget/FP via

Getty Image

In Germany, unions are pushing Amazon.com Inc. to prevent warehouse workers from concentrating in bunches of “rapes” before their shifts. In Italy, where a COVID-19 outbreak hit Amazon’s main logistics depot, unions staged an 11-day strike that ended after the company granted employees an additional five-minute break to practice better personal hygiene. And in what amounts to the most significant push back yet, a French appeals court on April 2 upheld an earlier ruling ordering Amazon to sell only essential products in the country to protect the safety of warehouse workers.

At Seattle headquarters, some senior Amazon executives expressed concern that the original French

were “insufficient.” Inspectors were sent to check on employee conditions. The company started temperature checks, increased space between workers, provided masks to employees and stepped up cleaning. But the union SUD Solidaires deemed the measures insufficient and asked a lower court to shut down the centers.

The French court ruled that Amazon must stop selling non-essential items during the lockdown. The company temporarily

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