

**3/13/22 Sunday**

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Saudi Arabia Carries Out Mass Execution of 81 People in Single-Day for Terrorism, Capital Crimes

By - Mary Manley

Saudi Arabia on Saturday executed 81 people said to have been convicted of terrorism and capital crimes, including the murder of innocent men, women and children, as well as the targeting of Saudi government employees, and the killing and maiming of law enforcement officers.

According to the state-run Saudi Press Agency ([SPA](#)), those sentenced in the mass execution included individuals who were said to be loyal to “foreign terrorist organizations, such as ISIS\*, Al-Qaeda\*, and the Houthis”, and those who had traveled to regional conflict zones to join terrorist groups.

Other crimes said to have been convicted by those who were executed included targeting police officers and “vital economic sites”, planting landmines to target police vehicles, kidnapping, torture, rape, and smuggling weapons into the kingdom.

According to [SPA](#), before being sentenced to death, the individuals were tried in Saudi courts overseen by 13 judges, over three separate stages of trial for each suspect. Of the 81 men who were executed on Saturday, seven were [Yemenis](#) and one was Syrian.

In 2021, Saudi authorities carried out 67 executions, an increase in the number of executions over the 27 in the year prior. In 2019, however, Riyadh executed 185 people in that year [alone](#). According to UK-based human rights group Amnesty International, executions in Saudi Arabia resumed directly after Riyadh completed hosting the Group 20 (G20) summit in December 2019, handing over host duties to Italy. After which, the kingdom executed nine people in the month of December 2020.

“The brief respite in repression coinciding with Saudi Arabia’s hosting of the G20 summit last November indicates that any illusion of reform was simply a PR drive,” said Lynn Maalouf, deputy director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International in August 2021. The human rights group and many others have criticized Saudi Arabia for what they suggest are “grossly unfair trials, marred by claims of torture during pre-trial detention leading to forced ‘confessions’ which the prosecution systematically failed to investigate.”

While Riyadh has asserted that capital punishment for those under the age of 18 has been abolished, Amnesty noted that in June 2021 a man was sentenced to death for crimes allegedly committed while the suspect was under the age of 18.

Amnesty has also criticized Saudi Arabia for persecuting its activists and dissidents, including 11 women in March 2019 who were charged with promoting women’s rights, calling for an end to Saudi Arabia’s male guardianship system, and contacting human rights organizations such as [Amnesty](#). Some of those women include: Loujain al-Hathloul, Iman al-Nafjan, Aziza al-Yousef,

Amal al-Harbi, Dr. Ruqayyah al-Mharib, Nouf Abdulziaz, Maya'a al-Zahrani, Shadan al-Anezi, Dr. Abir Namankni, and Dr. Hatoon al-Fassi.

In late March 2019, a Saudi court temporarily freed three of the women after international [criticism](#). In 2021, Saudi activist Loujain al-Hathloul, who led a campaign to legalize driving for women, was released from jail after three years of imprisonment. That move has been seen as a gesture to improve the US-Saudi relationship after US President Joe Biden's [criticism](#) of the country's treatment of its activists and journalists.

Al-Hathloul's release was [conditional](#), as she was placed under a 5-year travel ban, among other restrictions. In late 2021, the activist sued three former US intelligence contractors for allegedly assisting to hack her cellphone using Pegasus spyware, which she believes led to her arrest.

"This is why I have chosen to stand up for our collective right to remain safe online and limit government-backed cyber abuses of power. I continue to realize my privilege to possibly act upon my beliefs," al-Hathloul [said](#).

"I hope this case inspires others to confront all sorts of cybercrimes while creating a safer space for all of us to grow, share, and learn from one another without the threat of power abuses."

\*Daesh (also known as ISIS/ISL/ IS) and Al-Qaeda are terrorist organisations outlawed in Russia and many other states.

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Police: Manhattan's MoMA Museum Evacuated After Two Women Stabbed, Suspect Remains At-Large

By - Mary Manley

New York's Museum of Modern Art was evacuated Saturday afternoon after two women were stabbed inside the New York City gallery. The attacker has not been caught, and remains at-large.

The New York City Fire Department and New York Police Department, shortly after reports emerged of the incident, informed NBC [News](#) that both victims were women. The injuries to both victims are not life threatening, and are both in stable condition after being treated at Bellevue Hospital, according to officials.

The perpetrator is believed to be a 60 year-old white man, who was not an employee of the museum, but a member of the museum who had received a letter the day before he attacked the two young women, informing him that his membership had been revoked as a result of two separate occasions of disorderly conduct.

According to [police](#), the man wanted to see a film, and had jumped the museum's turnstiles to get past security after being denied entrance. He then stabbed the two victims in the neck and collarbone.

Police say the man fled the museum after the attack, and are searching for him as he is in connection with two other incidents in midtown Manhattan.

The attack occurred sometime around 4:30 p.m., local time, and caused mass panic in the museum as patrons were evacuated without explanation by MoMA security.

Images obtained by the New York [Post](#) show one victim covered in blood. Both appear to be young white women who are employees at MoMA.

Bystanders posted to social media, saying that police headed directly to the coatroom as soon as they arrived on the scene.

The Post reports that one of the employees, covered in blood, yelled out as she was being wheeled away on a stretcher: "I'm going to get hazard pay!"

"It was chaotic, partly because it was snowing, with a group of young women in a panic and crying, and partly because people were taking pictures on their cell phones and playing live on their phones too," tweeted Yuichi Shimada, who was at the museum as the incident unfolded.

"All of a sudden a security guard appeared urging us to evacuate. I only realized it was serious when I got to the lower floor and saw museum staff crying," [said](#) Ann Alves, a Brazilian news reporter and visiting scholar at Columbia University. She said the evacuation process took about two minutes.

"It's scary," she said, adding, "we always assume museums are safe. I guess metal detectors will be a necessary inconvenience once again."

As the investigation is ongoing, police officials [say](#) traffic delays and road closures should be expected.

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Hailey Bieber Hospitalized After Suffering 'Stroke-Like Symptoms'

By - Mary Manley

Model Hailey Bieber, 25, was recently admitted to a hospital after suffering from a "small blood clot" in her brain that caused her to suffer stroke-like symptoms. She reportedly stayed at a hospital near Palm Springs, California, for several days.

In an Instagram post on Saturday, Bieber shared with fans the terrifying incident that caused her to be taken to the [hospital](#).

"On Thursday morning, I was sitting at breakfast with my husband [Justin Bieber] when I started having stroke-like symptoms and was taken to the hospital," she wrote. Hailey Bieber is the daughter of Kenya Deodato Baldwin and Stephen Baldwin.

"They found a very small blood clot to my brain, which caused a lack of oxygen, but my body had passed it on its own and I recovered completely within a few hours."

Despite the health scare, the famous model says she is home and feeling better.

"Although this was definitely one of the scariest moments I've ever been through, I'm home now and doing well, and I'm so grateful and thankful to all the amazing doctors and nurses who took care of me!" she posted online.

"Thank you to everyone who has reached out with well wishes and concern, and for all the support and love."

Bieber's husband showed his wife support by posting a photo of the two holding hands, and a caption which reads: "Can't keep this one down."

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'Superhuman': Cristiano Ronaldo Breaks FIFA All-Time Record for Most Goals in Men's Football  
By - Mary Manley

Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo, already a football sensation after winning three Premier League titles, two La Liga titles, two Serie A titles, and being a five-time winner of the Champions League, scored his 807th career goal at Old Trafford on Saturday, breaking FIFA's all-time record.

The 37-year-old football champion broke FIFA's record for the most goals scored in men's football, now followed by the late Austro-Czech striker Josef [Bican](#), who previously held the record with 759 goals, adjusted from what was previously believed to have been 805 goals, according to the Rec.Sport.Soccer Statistics Foundation (RSSSF).

The Portuguese striker has played for football teams Real Madrid (450 goals) and Juventus (85 goals), after initially parting ways with Manchester United in 2009. Ronaldo rejoined United in the summer of 2021.

The soccer legend scored three goals during Saturday's game, which saw United win in a 3-2 victory against Tottenham.

Manchester United thanked their champ in a Twitter shoutout after the match, simply writing, "Superhuman".

Ronaldo broke the record via one of his famous hat [tricks](#), cartwheeling through the air and bucking the ball with his head to clear the net.

"Nothing beats the feeling of being back on the pitch and helping the team with goals and effort", wrote Ronaldo on Instagram after his major win. "We've proven once again that we can beat any team in any given day, as long as we work hard and stand together as one".

Ronaldo wasn't the only iconic athlete at the game that night, as NFL legend Tom Brady couldn't have picked a better night to watch the football star play. Brady, now retired, joined others in the crowd in giving Ronaldo a standing [ovation](#).

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Skyrocketing Lobster Prices Are Forcing US Restaurants to Reconsider Their Menu Choices  
By - Mary Manley

Soaring lobster prices are causing restaurants to rethink selling the precious crustacean. Businesses will either have to take the tasty arthropod off their menus entirely or else sticker shock their customers.

According to [Axios](#), skyrocketing prices are a result of supply and demand issues.

Maine lobster fisheries are struggling to keep up with rising demand despite an increase in their catch, from 102 million pounds in 2019 to 108 million pounds in 2021.

As a result, fishermen on the coast of Maine were able to sell their catch for \$6.71 a pound last year, up 59% after the pandemic shot down prices in 2020, resulting in a haul value of \$725 million in 2021, according to Maine's Department of Marine [Resources](#).

Other factors affecting market prices include Maine's catch being dropped off earlier this year than is typical, Canada's lobster catching season starting two weeks later than usual, and high demand through Valentine's Day in the US, as well as Lunar New Year in China, according to James [Ford](#) of the distribution company Samuels Seafood.

"We will see prices remain high until the second or third week in April," he projects. "This is when Newfoundland [Canada] season generally floods the market, and water temps begin to warm, which makes lobsters more active."

Maine [lobster](#) is an industry that contributes \$1 billion a year to the state's economy and supports some 10,000 jobs, both on and off the water. In Maine, sea temperatures are slightly higher than those in Canada, causing the tasty bottom dwellers to have tender and sweeter [meat](#).

The animal can only live for up to 48 hours out of its native habitat and must be cooked while it is still alive, so transportation of the creatures is time-sensitive. What used to be seen as a "poor man's food" is now an expensive delicacy, causing visitors to flock to New England.

But for those who live further south of the state which borders Canada, the steep cost of lobster will most likely come as a shock to those dining at their favorite restaurants in Washington, DC, like The Prime Rib, where a two-pound lobster now costs [customers](#) \$100.

The Salt Line, another restaurant in DC, has cut lobster rolls from their menu, opting instead for shrimp and clam rolls sold at their Navy Yard and Ballston locations.

"Lobster rolls just aren't meant to be that expensive. It's almost embarrassing to pass that cost to our guests," said Salt Line partner Jeremy Carman.

Greg Casten, who was born in Boston, is the founder of DC sustainable seafood wholesaler ProFish, and is a partner in Tony & Joe's waterfront restaurant in Georgetown. While he's had to remove their \$25 lobster deal from the menu, he still offers the delicacy to those who are willing to pay 'market price', meaning \$90 for a two-pound lobster.

Casten is doubtful that seafood prices will come down again.

"I think you'll see prices come down, but they'll never come down to the availability they were before," says Casten. "A lot of people got out of the [fishing] business. No one with a skill set wants to do it. Just wait until you see the cost of crab meat—nobody wants to do it."

Mason's Famous Lobster Rolls, based out of Annapolis, MD, works with a wholesaler in Portland, Maine. Mason's has been more gracious in managing how they sell the precious meat, raising the price of their lobster rolls dollar by dollar each year, resulting in a charge of \$19 instead of \$15 for the tasty sandwich.

"Since we are selling lobster, people already expect a different price point than burgers and pizza," says Rustu Kurtov, the owner of Mason's Dupont Circle location. "Honestly it's not just lobster—we see price hikes on everything: soup cups, paper, plastic. We're considering another dollar increase right now."

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Biden Admin Pledges to Not Expel Unaccompanied Migrant Children as US Partially Ends Title 42 Policy

By - Evan Craighead

Last week, Texas District Court Judge Mark Pittman ruled that US President Joe Biden's administration had seven days to appeal or restart expulsions of unaccompanied children under Title 42, a Trump-era expulsion policy which uses COVID-19 and public health as the basis for the expulsion of migrants seeking asylum in the US.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced late Friday night that, following a public health reassessment, agency director Rochelle Walensky had moved to suspend the use of a Trump-era expulsion policy pertaining to unaccompanied migrant children.

"In effect, this means that unaccompanied noncitizen children will not be expelled from the United States under CDC's order," [the release detailed](#).

While the expulsion policy technically applies to all migrants seeking asylum in the US, the Biden administration exempted unaccompanied minors from Title 42 in early 2021.

US District Judge Mark Pittman, however, ruled last week that the Biden administration could no longer exempt unaccompanied minors from Title 42 procedures.

Within Pittman's 37-page order, the Texas judge suggested that his state had borne a financial burden for the migrant children relocated to the region, with access to education and medical services under the policy.

The Texas judge had been appointed to his position by US President Donald Trump in 2019.

The CDC detailed in a Friday memo that the agency has since determined that the expulsion of unaccompanied migrant children "is not warranted to protect the public health."

"Because it is not warranted, and in recognition of the unique vulnerabilities of unaccompanied noncitizen children, CDC is immediately terminating the CDC Orders to the extent they apply to them," read the release.

A separate [21-page release from Walensky](#) highlighted that the termination does not apply to individuals in family units or single adults seeking asylum in the US. This continuation appears contrary to a recent ruling by the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, which stipulated that the government may not expel migrants to nations where their "life or freedom would be threatened."

According to Walensky, the CDC will complete a separate Title 42 review by March 30, before the federal appeals court's ruling is set to take effect.

Per US law, unaccompanied, non-Mexican children encountered at the southern US border are placed under the custody of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

As of March 8, at least 62,644 migrant children in HHS custody have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while 15,994 migrant children have received two doses of the vaccine, according to the CDC.

Around 1% of children under HHS care have refused the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Biden administration's decision comes after a group of Democratic lawmakers issued a joint memo advocating for the end of the Trump-era expulsion policy.

In a statement issued last week by Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ), the group argued that the continued use of the Trump policy "created life-threatening conditions for vulnerable migrants, enriched human smugglers, and significantly increased the number of dangerous border crossings."

Appeals from Democrats continued through Thursday, when Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) declared in a press call that he was "disappointed in the administration's response" to Title 42, which "goes against everything this country stands for."

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Death Toll Climbs to 61 in Wake of DR Congo Train Crash, Officials Confirm  
By - Evan Craighead

Late Thursday night, a train traveling from the town of Mueneditu to Lubumbashi, the third-largest city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, derailed as the cars were traveling up a slope, triggering a multi-carriage crash, according to early reports from local administrators. State rail company officials in the DRC and local sources have confirmed that at least 61 people are dead and another 52 injured and transported from the scene of the deadly late Thursday night derailment.

"[Currently] the toll is 61 dead, men, women and children [and] 52 injured who have been evacuated," Marc Manyonga Ndambo, director of infrastructure at the Société Nationale des chemins de fer du Congo (SNCC), [told AFP in a Saturday update](#).

The SNCC translates to the "National Railway Company of the Congo."

The Lualaba provincial governor, Fifi Masuka Saini, reported that at least 60 people lost their lives in the incident.

Manyonga noted that the freight train was transporting "several hundred stowaways" at the time of the crash.

"Some of the bodies were still trapped in the wagons that had fallen into the ravines," the SNCC official revealed.

Authorities detailed that the train derailed around 11:50 p.m., local time, on Thursday, near the Lualaba village of Buyofwe. The incident occurred approximately 200 kilometers (124 miles) from the capital city of Kolwezi.

Manyonga detailed that his team will continue working to clean up the tracks, which should be by Monday.

Jean-Serge Lumu, another provincial official, told reporters that a preliminary assessment indicated that "seven bodies were recovered by families," while "53 others are still at the accident scene."

Those include a child under the age of two, who lost both parents in the Thursday night tragedy.

In October 2021, at least 25 people were reported dead after a train derailed near the Lualaba town of Kanzenze. Authorities attributed the crash to the freight train's age, as well as to poor track conditions.

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Rideshare Woes: Uber Raises Fuel Fee for Rides, Food Delivery Amid Soaring US Fuel Prices  
By - Evan Craighead

According to the American Automobile Association, the current national average gas price in the US is at an all-time high of \$4.30, a tipping point and possible lifestyle shift for Americans. While fuel prices are expected to drop slightly next week, it remains unclear whether Americans will see a substantial dip in what they pay at the pump.

Uber announced on Friday that it will begin charging riders and food delivery patrons a surcharge to compensate for the rise in fuel prices.

"Many people are feeling the sting of record-high prices at the pump—and that's certainly true of drivers and couriers," Uber said in a statement. "While earnings on our platform remain elevated compared to historical trends, the recent spike in gas prices has affected rideshare and delivery drivers."

"To help reduce the burden, we are rolling out a temporary fuel surcharge," the company announced.

Beginning Wednesday, March 16, Uber and Uber Eats customers will be required to pay a surcharge of either \$0.45 or \$0.55 for each Uber trip and either \$0.35 or \$0.45 for each Uber Eats order.

All the funds will reportedly go straight to Uber drivers and delivery couriers.

The announcement comes as some drivers, including many in California, where regular gas is nearly \$6 a gallon, have opted to stop driving or delivering for the service.

Overall, the national average gas price in the US has surged to \$4.33 per gallon, beating out the previous record of \$4.10 (2008).

The surcharges will remain in place for at least 60 days, and the situation will be reassessed after that period, according to Uber.

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US Taxpayers Footing \$2 Million Monthly Bill to Protect Pompeo, Aide From 'Credible' Iranian Threats

By - Evan Craighead

Trump-era Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Brian Hook, the State Department's special envoy for Iran, led the administration's "maximum pressure" campaign, which came about after

then-US President Donald Trump withdrew the nation's participation in the Iran nuclear deal in May 2018, and was geared toward securing another deal with Tehran.

The US Department of State is dishing out more than \$2 million per month to provide around-the-clock security detail to former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Brian Hook, according to a "sensitive but unclassified" report obtained by the Associated Press.

The report, dated February 14, detailed that Pompeo and Hook have been granted security by current Secretary of State Antony Blinken due to "a serious and credible threat from a foreign power or agent of a foreign power arising from duties performed by former Secretary Pompeo while employed by the department."

The threats have persisted well into US President Joe Biden's administration, according to the report.

Overall, taxpayers have covered \$13.1 million worth of security between August 2021 and February 2022.

While the former Secretary of State was provided 180 days of post-office security detail by the US State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, the protection has been extended in 60-day increments.

With the most recent renewal set to expire, Blinken and the the Director of National Intelligence must decide whether to extend protection for the faces of crippling Trump-era sanctions against Iran. The Trump administration's penalties against Iran include Pompeo and Hook's "foreign terrorist organization" designation for Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

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Former US President Barack Obama Tests Positive for COVID-19, Urges Americans to Get Vaccinated

By - Evan Craighead

While many parts of the US have rolled back COVID-19 mitigation mandates, the contagious disease still accounts for a steep percentage of deaths, when compared to other seasonal respiratory viruses such as the flu.

Former US President Barack Obama has tested positive for COVID-19, the two-term commander-in-chief revealed Sunday. It remains unclear whether he is presently in isolation. His wife, the former first lady, Michelle Obama, tested negative for the contagious disease.

"I've had a scratchy throat for a couple days, but am feeling fine otherwise," [Obama said in a Sunday afternoon tweet](#). "Michelle and I are grateful to be vaccinated and boosted, and she has tested negative."

Obama emphasized that his diagnosis serve as a reminder for Americans to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Former US President Donald Trump was reportedly hospitalized in October 2020 after testing positive for COVID-19. [According to the New York Times](#), many believed the then-US president would be put on a ventilator, as Trump's blood oxygen levels were reported to have dipped.

Trump reportedly has a lung condition linked to pneumonia.

The US has logged more than [967,500 COVID-19-related deaths](#) since the beginning of the pandemic, and has recorded over 79.5 million cases of the contagious disease. On Thursday, March 10, the number of hospitalized COVID-19-positive Americans fell below 30,000 for the first time since July 2021.

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'My Place is Still on the Field': Tom Brady Reveals NFL Comeback After Brief Retirement  
By - Evan Craighead

ESPN previously claimed that Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady would retire from professional American football after a whopping 22 seasons and seven Super Bowl titles. Brady, 44, pushed back against these claims in January, telling his podcast co-hosts that he remained undecided on whether he would retire or pursue a 23rd season.

After a series of conflicting reports and proclamations by Brady, the 44-year-old National Football League icon has decided to continue his professional American football career with the Florida-based Tampa Bay Buccaneers, according to a Sunday evening tweet from the sports icon.

"These past two months I've realized my place is still on the field and not in the stands," Brady said in a tweet that included a picture of his teammates and another image that showed his wife, Gisele Bündchen, and their three children.

"I love my teammates, and I love my supportive family. They make it all possible. I'm coming back for my 23rd season in Tampa," he added, noting that he had "unfinished business" on the football field.

Both fans and critics of Brady immediately weighed in on social media to posit why the 44-year-old NFL star is pushing back at retirement. Some speculated that it could be tied to Brady and his son's recent conversation with Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo.

"I would not be surprised if there is a connection to his meeting with Ronaldo two days ago and the Portuguese's hat-trick gave him hunger," said Twitter user Niv (@nivs163).

"He's baaackkkk," [tweeted the Tampa Bay Buccaneers official Twitter page](#). Brady notably joined the Florida team in 2020, after 20 years with the New England Patriots.

Weeks prior, the seven-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback countered retirement reports and similar beliefs from so-called insider sources.

"Sometimes it takes some time to really evaluate how you feel, what you want to do," Brady told his co-hosts in a 31 January broadcast of 'Let's Go! With Tom Brady, Larry Fitzgerald and Jim Gray.'

"And I think when the time's right, I'll be ready to make a decision one way or another — just like I said last week."

Brady's bombshell announcement comes shortly after the ball from his most-recent NFL touchdown pass sold for a whopping \$518,000, [according to an ESPN report citing Lelands Auctions](#).

"So does the guy who just paid \$518k for Brady's "last touchdown" get his [money] back???"  
[asked one Twitter user.](#)

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Refrigerator-Size Asteroid Detected Less Than Two Hours Before Impacting Earth's Atmosphere  
By - Evan Craighead

Over the weekend, Hungarian astronomer Krisztián Sárneczky discovered 2022 EB5, an asteroid approximately the size of a refrigerator that slammed into the Earth's atmosphere shortly after it was spotted by the Schmidt telescope at Hungary's Piszkestető Observatory. The small asteroid—dubbed 2022 EB5—is projected to have caused a fireball, or shooting star, after entering Earth's atmosphere just north of Iceland, around 21:22 UTC on March 11. Experts have estimated that the asteroid was traveling at a speed of approximately 11.5 miles per second (18.5 kilometers per second), which, at that size, would cause the asteroid to be vaporized during its passage into Earth's atmosphere.

Eyewitnesses near the northern Iceland town of Akureyri observed bright blue flashes in the sky, [according to social media accounts](#) cited by the International Meteor Organization (IMO).

The small asteroid's fiery trail was identified by astronomer Krisztián Sárneczky less than two hours before it impacted the atmosphere.

Sárneczky's discovery is the fifth asteroid to be detected just before it enters Earth's atmosphere.

Prior discoveries, all of which have occurred in the past 15 years, include: 2008 TC3, 2014 AA, 2018 LA, and 2019 MO, which generated five kilotons of TNT-equivalent explosion off the coast of Puerto Rico on June 22, 2019.

Those around Iceland and Norway have been asked to [provide personal accounts of the 2022 EB5 event](#) to the IMO.

Norway-based sensors monitoring nuclear detonations picked up the asteroid's impact on the atmosphere, determining that the event's resulting air burst had an energy release comparable to approximately 2,000 tons of TNT, [according to Peter Brown](#), an astronomer at Western University in Ontario, Canada.

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Sen. Klobuchar: Sharing US Defense Strategy Would Provide Putin With 'Road Map' on NATO Moves  
By - Evan Craighead

Earlier on Sunday, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan claimed that US President Joe Biden, after consulting with American military advisers and NATO allies, "ultimately determined that the risk/benefit analysis of flying planes from NATO bases into contested airspace over Ukraine did not make sense."

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) appeared to break ranks with other Democrats on Sunday, telling CNN's Dana Bash that she has not personally ruled out Ukraine receiving MiG-29 airplanes from Poland, on behalf of the US.

While it appears the US administration had made up its mind about the delivery of the aircraft to Ukraine, Klobuchar, one of many to face off against Biden for the 2020 Democratic nomination, emphasized that Washington has to be strategic about when and how they announce defense maneuvers in support of Ukraine.

"You take one day at a time and make the best defense system decisions, and that can't always be discussed on the air, or you would be giving Vladimir Putin the road map to what NATO wants to do here to help protect Ukraine," Klobuchar told Bash, host of CNN's 'State of the Union.'

Klobuchar, along with Rob Portman (R-OH), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Roger Wicker (R-MS) traveled to Poland over the weekend to reaffirm the US commitment to Poland, Ukraine, and other Eastern European allies.

When asked about earlier remarks from the White House national security adviser, Klobuchar noted that providing Ukraine with MiG-29s could be a delivery of more targets for Russian forces.

"I think one of the things that Jake is getting at is, at some point, there's been so much focus on these planes, especially these particular planes, that they themselves could become a target," Klobuchar argued. "The Russians are well aware of this."

Sen. Portman, a Republican who also took part in bipartisan trip to Poland, told CNN that the US should begin transferring the aircraft to Ukraine due to the "escalatory" engagements of Russian forces.

"There's discussion, as you know, of them using vacuum bombs and cluster bombs, cluster bombs against civilian targets," Portman alleged. "This is an illegal, this is a brutal, totally unprovoked attack, and increasingly, they're choosing civilian targets. So, as they escalate, what the Ukrainian people are asking for is just the ability to defend themselves."

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Powerful Earthquakes Strike the Philippines & Indonesia, No Tsunami Warnings Issued  
By - Mary Manley

Less than 100 earthquakes with magnitudes ranging between 6.1 and 6.9 occur every year on Earth. Earthquakes carrying a magnitude anywhere from 7 to 8 are severely destructive, and occur fewer than 15 times a year.

A strong magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck the Philippines early Monday, at approximately 5:05 a.m., local time, in the region of Luzon, the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) revealed. The quake was initially detected as a magnitude 6.5.

The EMSC reported that the earthquake affected the southwest region of the tropical country, striking at a depth of 10 kilometers and felt as far away as 124 kilometers southwest of Olongapo, Philippines.

The region, made up of roughly 7,000 [islands](#), sees extreme weather and earthquakes frequently.

Shortly afterward, the monitoring agency detected what was initially thought to have been a magnitude 6.8 earthquake that struck nearby Indonesia, before being downgraded to a magnitude 6.6.

Data provided by EMSC indicates seismic activity in Kepulauan Batu, Indonesia, at a depth of 20 kilometers.

No Tsunami warning has been issued for the Philippines, and authorities in Indonesia have stated that the undersea quake prompted no immediate damages nor a tsunami warning. Testimonials collected by the bureau reveal that the quakes were felt strongly within the region, with one individual in Malaysia relaying that it felt as if "someone was pushing" their bed. "Woke up cause the bed was shaking and realized that the ceiling fan and light were also shaking," wrote one individual in Kuala Lumpur. "Staying in an apartment on the 15th floor." In response to the quake that struck the Philippines, a resident reported that the shaking lasted for "around 20 seconds."

Depending on the density of the local population, earthquakes of this size are [serious](#) and capable of causing severe damage.

There have been no reports of fatalities or injuries.

Three smaller aftershocks were felt in the region after the initial quakes, measuring at magnitude 4.8, 3.4 and 4.4, according to the EMSC.

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NYPD Release Surveillance Footage Documenting Shocking MoMA Stabbing Attack  
By - Mary Manley

In a horrifying attack on Saturday afternoon at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in midtown Manhattan, two young employees were stabbed at the museum, prompting MoMA to evacuate everyone inside the building.

Newly released video footage by the New York Police Department has offered fresh insight into the Saturday stabbing incident that took place at the MoMA gallery.

Police are currently searching for suspect Gary Cabana, 60, who they believe stabbed the employees. Reports suggest Cabana was angry that his [museum](#) membership was revoked. The museum remains closed Sunday as the investigation is underway.

Surveillance video from inside the museum shows the suspect barging his way through rotating doors and lunging over the front desk as three terrified employees huddle in a corner shielding themselves from attack.

An older male employee wearing a suit, suspected to be a MoMA security guard, can be seen trying to address the suspect while keeping a safe distance on the opposite side of the front desk. Video shows the individual throw items at the suspect to distract him, a move that subsequently allows one employee to escape.

The two stabbing victims include a 24 year-old woman who was stabbed in the back and neck, and a 24 year-old man who was stabbed in the left collarbone.

Police say both victims are in stable condition at Bellevue Hospital.

Cabana was reportedly a regular at the museum but two previous disorderly conduct incidents resulted in the revocation of his membership on Friday.

Alessandro [Pugliese](#), 24, who works in MoMA communications, arrived at the museum at 4:30 p.m., local time, on Saturday, to see a screening of the 1938 film "Bringing Up Baby", potentially the same film for which Cabana had been denied entrance. Pugliese heard employees screaming and as he turned around he witnessed the suspect stabbing the employees.

Cabana asked the security guard, who had thrown objects to distract the latter, where his gun was before running out of the museum.

According to police, Cabana has no prior arrests and his last-known address was a supportive housing unit on West 43rd Street.

Cabana fled the scene after the attack. He was last seen wearing a colorful patterned shirt under a black jacket and a blue surgical mask. As of Sunday morning, police are still looking for him.

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Former Attorney General Barr: Dealing With Trump Was Like 'Wrestling an Alligator'  
By - Mary Manley

Former US Attorney General William Barr told NBC on Sunday that former US President Donald Trump surrounded himself at the end of his single term with 'yes men'. In an interview promoting Barr's new book, eloquently titled 'One Damn Thing After Another', Barr compares working with Trump to "wrestling an alligator".

Barr's appearance on NBC News' "Meet the [Press](#)" saw the former official take the opportunity to not only promote his new book, but also spill on details leading up to Trump's 2020 election loss. The Trump-era figure also offered his thoughts on US President Joe Biden.

"I felt for a long time that he was going to lose the election. I went in April and told him he was going to lose the election," said Barr. "And that his personal behavior - his obnoxious behavior - was turning off key blocks of voters and he was going to lose."

"On election night I felt he was going to lose, and I was actually surprised it was as close as it was," Barr added.

Barr, who was appointed to serve as US attorney general by Trump, suggested that Trump was open to talking to government officials before the 2020 election, and that cabinet secretaries, including Barr himself, had to “frequently wrestle with him to accomplish things that would keep him on track.” Barr added that, despite their general success, it was like “wrestling an alligator.” Barr told show host Chuck Todd that after the election, Trump stopped listening to him or to anyone with an opposing view. Instead, Trump listened to his “yes men” who would only tell him what he wanted to hear and agree with his every outburst.

"After the election, he would just listen to this group of people who had no government position but were telling him exactly what he wanted to hear," added Barr. "He's ultimately to blame for that. There's something about him that he wants to be surrounded by 'yes men'."

Barr also said that despite Trump's multiple character issues and unstable temperament, he would still vote for him if he were to again become the Republican party's presidential nominee, stating his personal belief that progressive Democrats were “dangerous for the United States”. Todd asked Barr about one of ‘yes men’ within Trump's inner circle: a mid-level attorney from the Department of Justice (DOJ) named Jeffrey [Clark](#), who Trump attempted to install as acting attorney general in order to begin an investigation into his baseless claims of voter fraud. At the time, Clark had allegedly promised the former president he would do so. This happened in January 2021, after Trump lost the election.

“I was surprised,” Barr said of Clark's actions, adding that Clark should have been fired. Individuals working within the DOJ threatened to quit at the time due to Trump's efforts to replace then-acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen and promote Clark, his lower ranking ‘yes man,’ to the top position. One insider had previously made the comment: “[Clark] wouldn't even know how to find his way to [FBI Director] Chris Wray's office, much less march in there and direct the FBI what to do.”

Clark no longer works for the DOJ, and has [refused](#) to cooperate with the January 6 committee investigation into the insurrection.

The January 6 committee has made Trump's actions involving the DOJ a central focus in their investigations. In the beginning of March, they labeled the former president's actions a criminal conspiracy.

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Tennis Champ Naomi Osaka Brought to Tears After Heckler Shouts 'You Suck' During Indian Wells Match

By - Mary Manley

Naomi Osaka lost 6-0, 6-4 to Veronika Kudermetova in Indian Wells, but that wasn't the worst part of the match for the young tennis star. Osaka was reduced to tears as a particularly rude spectator yelled, “Naomi, you suck”.

Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka, 24, has been ranked No. 1 by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), and is a four-time Grand Slam champ. But despite her accolades and various accomplishments, the star appeared to be not up to her usual form on Sunday.

Osaka lost two rounds to Russian tennis player Veronika Kudermetova during her match at the BNP Paribas Open tournament in Indian Wells. The tennis tournament in Southern California is regarded as the “fifth Grand Slam” where players compete for portions of the prize money pool, this year its total stands at a whopping \$17,168,110.

But before Osaka could bounce back from her first loss during the match, she was reduced to tears by a woman in the stands who was heard shouting, “Naomi you suck” as an umpire attempted to silence her. Osaka then addressed the umpire, in what appeared to be a request for some accountability to be taken against the heckler.

Osaka can then be heard asking the chair umpire if she can use her microphone, resulting in a conversation between the chair umpire, the supervisor and Osaka. It would have been unusual for Osaka to address the crowd in the middle of the match, but the star was clearly upset. She was seen weeping and wiping tears from her eyes as she attempted to continue.

In an unprecedented move for Osaka, who said she would no longer do post-match interviews - as she believes it negatively affects her mental [health](#) - she waited for Kudermetova to finish her interview so she could address the crowd and explain what caused her to break down.

“I just wanted to say thank you,” said Osaka to a cheering crowd. “I feel like I’ve cried enough on camera, but I just wanted to say... to be honest I’ve gotten heckled before and it didn’t really bother me. But getting heckled here... Like I’ve watched a video of Venus and Serena getting heckled here, and if you’ve never watched it you should watch it.”

Osaka is referring to tennis legends Venus and Serena Williams, who were heckled by fans at a tournament in Indian Wells in 2001. Venus was scheduled to play against her sister in the semifinal but withdrew due to a knee [injury](#).

When Serena squared up against Belgian tennis player Kim Clijsters in the 2001 final, some in the crowd began booing and heckling Serena. Both Serena and her father, Richard Williams, stated they had heard racial slurs as well. In the 2001 [video](#), the sports commentator can be heard saying: “I don’t like this atmosphere at all. I do think it smacks of a certain amount of racism by a certain portion of the crowd, and that is very distasteful.”

Serena, who was 19 at the time, beat Clijsters in the final despite the crowd’s alleged racial abuse. Serena afterward boycotted the Indian Wells Masters, refusing to play at the event for 15 years.

“What was most surprising about this uproar was the fact that tennis fans are typically a well-mannered bunch. They’re respectful. They sit still. And in Palm Springs, especially, they tended to be pretty well-heeled, too,” said Serena in [2009](#).

“But I looked up and all I could see was a sea of rich people—mostly older, mostly white—standing and booing lustily, like some kind of genteel lynch mob.”

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US Police Fear Serial Shooter is Targeting Individuals Living on the Streets in NYC, Washington DC

By - Mary Manley

In New York City and Washington, DC, there already exists an understandable amount of fear among the houseless community. Now, a murderer is ramping up that fear by targeting people who are forced to sleep outside in the cold.

The suspect has killed two men in New York City so far, and police say they are investigating whether or not those murders may be linked to three attacks on individuals living on the streets in the nation's capital. The [shootings](#) took place between March 3 and March 12.

Due to the similarities in the nature of these crimes, as well as the images of the suspect, police in both major cities have teamed up in their investigative efforts.

"Given the similarity in the modus operandi of the perpetrator, common circumstances involved in each shooting, circumstances of the victims and recovered evidence, the NYPD, the [Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, DC] and the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives] will jointly investigate these offenses," said NYPD in a statement on Sunday.

According to the NYPD, the first assault took place on March 3 near the 1100 block of New York Avenue in DC, at around 4 a.m. local time. The man who was shot was taken to a nearby hospital, according to police. Although the individual suffered from a gunshot wound, they were not fatal.

A few days later on March 8, another shooting was reported around 1:21 a.m. local time near 1700 H Street in DC, in which a second man was shot and injured.

On March 9, the first homicide in what police suspect are related murders took place. Local authorities detailed that the individual was stabbed multiple times, shot, and left for dead in his tent before the suspect lit it on fire. That was on 400 New York Ave in DC, at around 3:00 a.m. On March 12, a 38-year-old man in NYC was shot while sleeping on King Street between Varick Street and 6th Ave around 4:30 a.m. The man was shot in his arm, woke up and started screaming, causing the suspect to flee the scene.

According to the NYPD, the next attack took place outside 148 Lafayette St. The victim was shot in his head and neck while resting in his sleeping bag on the street.

"Our homeless population is one of our most vulnerable and an individual praying on them as they sleep is an exceptionally heinous crime," Police Commissioner Keechant L. Sewell said in a statement. "We will use every tool, every technique and every partner to bring the killer to justice."

"All New Yorkers matter," said Mayor Eric Adams at a press conference. "The case is a clear and horrific, intentional act of taking a life because the individual was homeless. Two individuals were shot while sleeping on the street. Not committing a crime, but sleeping on the streets." Adams called the crime a "chilling" act of "cold-blooded" murder. Both Adams and the NYPD have asked for the public's assistance in sharing information in their investigation to find the killer, who remains at large.

"If you were walking in the area, if you heard the shots, if the face or clothing seem familiar, if the sneakers he was wearing was something you saw on the train or on the streets- we need your help to find this person," said Adams.

"The demonization of homeless people is the wrong mindset. There but for the grace of God go I. These are our brothers and sisters who have fallen on hard times. We have an obligation to provide them with the services they deserve," noted Adams.

One in every 106 New [Yorkers](#) are homeless. In DC, 681 people are without shelter and sleeping on the streets, while 3,352 are in emergency [shelters](#).

A reward for information on the shooting has increased to \$10,000. The suspect was caught on camera dressed in black, wearing a balaclava, black sneakers, and blue medical gloves. He appears to be a man with a tall, slim build.