

11/10/23 Friday

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US-Bound Flight Reaches Over 14,500 Feet Before Staff Discover Broken Window

Aboard the plane were a total of 20 individuals, 11 of whom comprised the flight staff. The flight had an intended destination of Orlando International Airport in Florida.

A recent report revealed the moment when a commercial plane out of the London Stansted Airport last month managed to gain more than 14,500 feet in altitude before crew members realized one of the plane's windows was broken.

Passengers on the Florida-bound charter flight initially raised concerns after pointing out that it had flight felt much "noisier and colder" on the plane than was typical. Upon inspection, the flight's loadmaster discovered that the seal on a cabin window on the left side of the aircraft was "flapping in the airflow."

A report released by the UK's Air Accidents Investigation Branch ([AAIB](#)), detailed that the "windowpane appeared to have slipped down," and that the cabin noise was "loud enough to damage your hearing."

The loadmaster subsequently informed the cabin crew as well as the commander of the issue, prompting officials to undertake measures to return to the airport after staff inspected the damaged window. The findings further outline "there were no abnormal indications on the flight deck" after the damages were documented.

"The approach and landing on Runway 22 were uneventful," the AAIB report noted, adding that the Airbus A321 plane returned to the London airport just 36 minutes after take-off. "With the airport RFFS in attendance the aircraft taxied to the apron, where the passengers disembarked normally."

However, under further inspection, crew members found that not only was one window pane damaged, but so were two others. The report states one windowpane was "dislodged," while two others were missing entirely. Inside the missing window panes were "scratch panes," which are a piece of plastic put in place so passengers cannot touch the outer windowpane, one news [outlet](#) explained.

The report additionally explains the windows sustained "thermal damage and distortion" because of elevated temperatures. Apparently, the plane had been exposed to high-powered light that were used for a filming event the previous day that had taken somewhere between four and five-and-a-half hours.

The AAIB said they will continue to investigate "with the support of the BEA5 , the aircraft manufacturer, and the aircraft operator to understand how a similar occurrence can be prevented from occurring again." Officials emphasized the incident could have had far more serious consequences.

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NPS Says DC Park Will Remain Closed After More Munitions Found

A section of Fort Totten Park in northeastern Washington is still fenced off to the public after the discovery of World War I-era munitions was made earlier this year. Park officials are keeping the park closed due to a fear that there could be more.

In a release from the National Park Service (NPS), the area will remain closed and fenced with cement barriers and a “no trespassing” sign to remain on the premises while the US Army further investigates the metal canisters, which were found in the spring.

“Based on investigations to date, the [National Park Service] and the Army have determined it is possible Fort Totten Park contains additional munitions,” the NPS, which manages the park, said in [a release on Thursday](#).

Fort Totten Park is a Civil War memorial site in Washington DC. The fort, which was built between 1861 and 1863, belonged to the Union Army. It is located in northeast DC, near the Maryland border. And this is not the first time the park has closed, either. In 2020, a portion of the park was closed after an unexploded WWI-era ordnance was found.

“The two metal canisters, found April 18, were discovered in the park after unauthorized work conducted by an adjacent property owner pushed approximately 10 feet of soil onto NPS land,” the park service continued.

According to NPS, one munition was a 75-mm projectile, about 3 inches in diameter and 11 inches long. The other was a “Livens projectile”, measuring 6 inches in diameter and 19 inches long. The report writes that the 75-mm projectile “did not pose a hazard” and the Livens projectile contained “an unknown liquid”.

After testing, the 75-mm projectile was shown to only contain soil. Meanwhile, the Livens projectile was filled with 99.9994% water and 0.0006% of the liquid was a commercial chemical called acetophenone. The chemical is not hazardous, and is used in the perfume industry for fragrance, soaps, and perfumes as well as for a flavoring agent in foods, the NPS said in their release.

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Trump Continues Leading in Polls as Third Parties Add Interest to the Race

Former US President and current frontrunner for the Republican nomination, Donald Trump, is leading current US President Joe Biden in both national polls and five of six swing states, damaging the argument that Trump’s political Republican rivals are more electable than the former President.

According to two recent polls of swing state voters, Trump is beating Biden in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, while Biden maintains a small lead in Michigan.

Meanwhile, two national polls have Trump ahead of Biden with registered voters by three or four percentage points.

Meanwhile, it is becoming increasingly likely that Trump will be Biden's opponent next year. Trump leads his primary competition by around 60 percentage points nationally. While some state polls are significantly closer, most are still over 20 percentage points.

Trump's competitors have been arguing that they are more electable, even if not as popular with Republican voters, than the former President. Former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley who, according to some polls, has recently overtaken Florida Governor Ron DeSantis as the most viable Trump alternative, has been arguing that the former President's baggage, including a multitude of legal issues, make her more palatable to general election voters than Trump. She also points to polls that show her performing better than Trump against Biden in several swing states. But with Trump holding a small but significant lead over Biden, primary voters are less likely to see candidate viability as a significant concern.

Meanwhile, Biden's popularity has been crashing among voters that typically make up the voting base of the Democratic party. Trump is leading Biden among 18-29-year-olds a voting bloc by two points. By comparison, in the 2020 election, six in ten young voters supported Biden. Another poll found that 22% of Black voters in swing states would support Trump over Biden in the next election, in 2020, Trump received just 8% of the black vote. He is also losing support among Hispanic voters.

The most significant drop came among Arab Americans in the wake of Biden's support for Israel and its actions in Gaza. Support for Biden among Arab Americans dropped to 17% in a recent poll, down from 59% in 2020.

Biden campaign officials have noted that the election is still roughly a year away from when these polls were taken, giving them time to play makeup. However, the opposite is also true: Biden has time to fall further in the polls.

Possible Third-Party Shakeup

A possible wildcard in the election has been rising over the horizon, further complicating the election. Third-party candidates are more popular than they have been this century, with more visible and bigger names throwing their hats into the ring than in years past.

Around 16% of voters say they want neither Trump or Biden to win the election, a number that has more than quadrupled since 2020.

Leading the pack is environmental lawyer Robert F Kennedy Jr., the nephew of former US President John F. Kennedy and son of former Senator and Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy.

Kennedy is polling higher than any third-party candidate in recent memory, receiving 22% in a poll last week. While recent polling and political donations suggest that he may appeal to former Trump voters more than former Biden voters, he is a former Democrat and his family name is still viewed favorably by Democrats.

Kennedy is currently polling high enough in most outlets to receive an invitation to the Presidential Debates next year. If Kennedy participates, he will become the first third-party candidate to enter the debates since Ross Perot in 1992. Getting into the debates proved to be a huge boost for Perot's campaign, which briefly saw him lead both George W. Bush Sr. and Bill Clinton in the polls.

If Kennedy performs well in a nationally televised debate with Biden and Trump, there is no telling where his campaign could go.

Joining Kennedy are two candidates: Independent Cornel West and Green Party candidate Jill Stein. Either of those candidates could theoretically draw from voters who typically vote Democrat but are unsatisfied with Biden. West is currently polling in the single digits, while Stein has not been included in any polls because she just announced her campaign on Thursday. Out on the periphery is Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) who has long been rumored to be considering a Presidential run. That speculation was fueled earlier this week when the conservative Democrat announced that he does not plan to seek reelection. It has been suspected by some that Manchin will join the No Labels party, a recently created political party that has positioned itself for centrists. However, it is worth pointing out that Manchin was trailing in the polls in West Virginia and has the highest national unfavorability rating of any sitting US Senator.

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San Francisco Herding Homeless to Improve Image Ahead of APEC Summit

San Francisco, with a population of about 810,000 people, has a homeless population exceeding 7,000. Encampments and open-air drug markets have crowded some city streets, tarnishing the city's reputation around the world.

One of the most expensive cities in the United States is moving homeless people and destroying their encampments in an attempt to clean the parts of the city that will host more than 20 world leaders for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Week 2023 summit that kicked off on Saturday.

According to multiple media reports describing the raids, officials are targeting several areas in the SoMa district of San Francisco, sometimes asking the homeless not to return until after the conference is over and utilizing "night ambassadors" to keep the area clear.

US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping are scheduled to speak at the event, with their meeting being described as an important step in stabilizing relations between the two countries.

Large steel barricades have been erected around the area and more than 100 private security guards have been spotted working around the St Regis Hotel where Chinese diplomats and business executives are staying. Some roads in the area have also been closed.

"With APEC coming, I am concerned about historical encampments that are close to priority areas," Christopher McDaniels, the city's superintendent of Street Environmental Services wrote in a September 25 email to city officials, as quoted by San Francisco Chronicle.

His boss, Deputy Director of Operations DiJaida Durden, replied by asking "Are any of these locations on schedule," adding that APEC "is coming and we need to stay on top of the growing encampments, do we have a plan?"

The APEC summit will put the city under its biggest international spotlight since the founding of the United Nations in 1945. The APEC summit kicked off on Saturday and will continue until November 17.

It is expected to bring more than 20,000 people to the city.

The city of San Francisco has had a growing homeless problem for some time and in recent years, viral videos showing massive homeless encampments and open-air drug markets have become a mark of embarrassment for the city.

But some residents don't think the city's solution of moving the homeless to other parts of the city will solve the issue.

"They are just essentially herding the problem around but offering no long-term solutions," Adam Mesnick, a SoMA resident and business owner, told US media. "I don't know if these tents will be in physical video during APEC, but it will be virtually impossible to eliminate all of that."

A court ruling forbids city officials from removing homeless encampments unless the homeless are offered alternative arraignments. Some media reports described the removal of encampments, with most of the homeless refusing the offer of alternative shelter.

"The police just told me that there's a major conference, that the president is coming, and asked if we could stay away for a week." a 50-year-old homeless man [told US media](#).

"They took everything, my tent, my cell phone, I've got to start all over. I could have cursed them out, but it ain't do me no good," he added.

While city has roughly 3,000 beds in its shelter system, which is currently at 91% capacity and 468 people are on the city's waitlist, there are no plans to open a new shelter ahead of the event, yet a winter shelter will be opened early and add 300 beds to its other facilities.

However, that is likely to be a drop in the bucket for San Francisco, which in addition to a homeless problem also has seen a massive increase in drug overdoses. The city is on pace to break its annual record for fatal drug overdoses, averaging about two a day.

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Japan's Newly Formed Island Now Visible From Space

Last month, an underwater volcano about 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) off the coast of Japan's Iwo Jima Island started erupting. Within ten days, the debris had breached the surface of the Pacific Ocean. By early November, it had formed an island 100 meters in diameter and with a peak 20 meters (66 feet) above sea level.

On Sunday, the European Space Agency (ESA) announced that the still unnamed island is now visible from space, showcasing images that were taken with its Landsat 9 satellite on November 3.

The latest set of eruptions, which began on October 21 and had accelerated to an eruption every couple minutes by the end of the month, shot a stream of gas and ash more than 50 meters (160 feet) above the ocean's surface.

Volcanic activity has been increasing around Iwo Jima, with a series of eruptions occurring in nearly the same location last year.

While the island has not yet been named, it might not last long enough to receive one. Yuji Usui, an analyst for the Japan Meteorological Agency volcanic division told US media that the new island's "crumbly" formation is easily washed away by waves and that it has already begun to shrink.

"We just have to see the development," Usui said. "But the island may not last very long."

That is what happened to an island off the coast of Pakistan, which formed following a deadly 7.7 magnitude earthquake in the country in 2013. That island, which received the name Zalzala Koh, started sinking soon after its formation, dropping 3 meters (10 feet) in a month. By the end of 2016, the island had disappeared into the Arabian Sea.

But other newly formed islands have had more success sticking around. Also in 2013, an island formed when Nishinoshima erupted off the coast of Japan in the Pacific Ocean. That island continued to grow as volcanic activity persisted over a decade. That island eventually merged with Nishinoshima itself.

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US House May Consider Impeachment of DHS Sec. Mayorkas Next Week

Illegal border crossings have skyrocketed during the Biden administration, largely due to the end of COVID-era restrictions on asylum seekers and economic hardship in Latin America. A record number of migrants have come from Venezuela this year, as crushing economic sanctions by the US have wrecked the country's economy since 2005.

The US House of Representatives may consider a resolution to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas next week, according to the chamber's schedule of measures. The impeachment resolution, which is designated as "privileged," was pushed by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA). It is currently listed as a measure the House "may" consider.

The privileged designation means the House must take up the issue quickly. Under House rules, it is granted whenever a motion has been authorized by the appropriate committee and the Speaker of the House designates it as such.

But if the measure is considered this week likely depends on how the funding debate progresses. The House plans to [consider a funding resolution](#) as early as Tuesday, but if it fails the debate will continue, likely pushing the impeachment motion down the calendar. The House must pass a resolution by Friday or face a partial government shutdown.

Greene has accused Mayorkas of "willful admittance of border crossers" and that he has failed to protect the US from "invasion."

She further alleges that Mayorkas violated the Secure Fence Act of 2006, which states that the border can only be considered "operationally secure" when no people or contraband has entered the country.

Mayorkas argued to lawmakers in July that is an impossible standard to reach.

“The Secure Fence Act, specifically the statute, defines operational control as not having one individual cross the border illegally. Under that statutory definition, no administration has achieved operational control,” Mayorkas said at the time.

Impeaching Mayorkas has been floated by Republicans since the first year of the Biden administration, with the first articles of impeachment against him being brought by Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ) in August of 2021.

Some Republicans advocated for his impeachment again in the summer of this year, but the subject fell off the table as Congress scrambled to fund the government in September and elect a new House Speaker in October.

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McCarthy Blasts Gaetz and Other Republicans, May Not Seek Reelection

Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) was ousted as House Speaker early last month after shepherding a spending bill that kept the government open. Some Republicans accused the then-Speaker of working with the Democrats on the bill.

The former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy slammed the Republican Representatives who voted to oust him from the position in an interview with US media on Sunday, including Nancy Mace of South Carolina, Tim Burchett of South Carolina and Matt Gaetz of Florida, who spearheaded McCarthy’s removal.

McCarthy questioned if any of the eight Republicans who [voted against him](#) were actually conservative and insinuated that Gaetz only called to vacate the speaker position to avoid an Ethics Committee probe he is facing.

“If the Ethics Committee never does anything to Gaetz, then Gaetz was successful in stopping probably what rightfully should come to him,” McCarthy said.

Gaetz, who issued the vote to vacate which ended McCarthy’s reign as House Speaker, also opposed McCarthy during his appointment to the position in January. It took [15 votes](#) to confirm McCarthy, and he had to make multiple concessions to the group of Republicans who opposed him, including a change to House Rules that made it easier to remove the speaker.

“Thoughts and prayers to the former speaker as he works through his grief,” Gaetz said to US media when asked to respond to McCarthy’s comments.

McCarthy also said that Burchett’s vote against him was “out of [Burchett’s] nature,” adding that the Republicans who voted against him “care a lot about press, not about policy, and so they seem to just want the press and personality.”

Burchett, who voted for McCarthy during all 15 voting rounds when McCarthy was appointed in January, called McCarthy “bitter” for making the comments and said that his opinion changed on McCarthy after a phone call shortly before the vote was held that ousted McCarthy.

“He belittled my faith and I just, I didn’t see that as the type of person who needed to be in leadership,” Burchett said of the private phone call.

McCarthy is a Baptist while Burchett is Presbyterian. While the two sects of Christianity are similar, Burchett is more vocal about his faith than most members of Congress. It is unclear what McCarthy said during the phone call that offended him.

During the interview, the former speaker said that he does not think Mace deserves to be reelected. "If you watched her, just her philosophy, and the flip-flopping, I don't believe she wins reelection," McCarthy said.

Mace says she has never been more popular in her district than she is now, and gave praise to McCarthy's replacement, Mike Johnson (R-LA).

"I mean, this was a guy who lied all the time, like every day. I mean, he told conservatives he was absolutely gonna impeach Joe Biden. Two hours later, the same day, told moderates that he would never impeach Joe Biden, a guy like that can't lead our country," Mace said, adding that "we've moved on to a much better speaker who's honest and trustworthy and is going to tell the truth."

While McCarthy's aides have told US media outlets that he plans to finish his current term, the Congressman who has served since 2007 said he is unsure if he will seek reelection.

"I got the holidays. I will talk to my family about the ideas of what is going forward, and then I will make a decision," McCarthy said.

McCarthy will be up for reelection next year. Immediately after his ousting from the speakership, he told reporters that he had plans to run for office.

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Pope Fires Conservative US Bishop in Rare Move

On Sunday, Pope Francis relieved a conservative bishop from his post, in an extremely rare move for the Vatican. The one-line announcement came from the supreme pontiff himself, simply saying that he had relieved Bishop Joseph Strickland of the pastoral governance of Tyler, Texas.

Strickland, 65, has been a consistent critic of Francis, specifically for the pope's leftward bent compared to previous leaders of the Church. He has accused Francis of "undermining the deposit of faith" and heavily criticized a closed-door Vatican meeting that tackled controversial issues, including LGBTQ+ Catholics and women in the governance of the Church.

While the month's long meeting did not result in any significant changes to Catholic doctrine, Strickland was angry that the issues were being discussed at all, calling it a "travesty."

"Regrettably, it may be that some will label as schismatics those who disagree with the changes being proposed. Instead, those who would propose changes to that which cannot be changed seek to commandeer Christ's Church, and they are indeed the true schismatics," Strickland wrote in a public letter in August.

According to a statement released by Texas Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Strickland was asked to resign on Thursday, but he refused. Typically, when the Vatican would like to remove a bishop, they are asked to resign for the good of their diocese.

The investigators “conducted an exhaustive inquiry into all aspects of the governance and leadership of the diocese,” the statement said, determining that “the continuation in office by Bishop Strickland was not feasible.”

The request for his resignation came after two Vatican officials, Bishop Dennis Sullivan of Camden, NJ and retired Bishop Emeritus Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, investigated Strickland and the diocese.

Michael J. Matt, the editor of a traditionalist catholic newspaper, wrote on X that “This is total war. Francis is a clear and present danger not only to Catholics the world over but also to the whole world itself.”

The pope has been open about his split with conservative American Catholics, he once called such attacks an “honor.” More recently, in August, he said that there is a “very strong, organized, reactionary attitude” among conservative Catholics.

“Doing this, you lose the true tradition and you turn to ideologies to have support,” Pope Francis told Portuguese Jesuits. “In other words, ideologies replace faith.”

Strickland’s post will be temporarily filled by Austin, Texas Bishop Joe Vásquez, who said he plans to travel to Tyler in the coming weeks and will be available to help the diocese.

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Leaked Cables Warn of Growing Anti-American Rage in Arab World Amid US' Israeli Support

American diplomats have warned President Joe Biden that US support for Israel “is losing us Arab publics for a generation.”

Two diplomatic cables [recently leaked](#) to US media warn that America’s support for Israel’s bloody military campaign in Gaza is causing damage to the country’s image that may never be repaired.

“We are losing badly on the messaging battlespace,” says one cable emanating from the US Embassy in Oman on Wednesday. It warns that strong US support for Israel is viewed “as material and moral culpability in what they consider to be possible war crimes.”

The cable was addressed to multiple officials at the White House National Security Council, the CIA, and the FBI.

Another leaked cable from the US embassy in Egypt quoted a local newspaper editorial saying “President Biden’s cruelty and disregard for Palestinians exceeded all previous US presidents.” The cables mirror growing global opposition to Israel’s actions as the country has recently been the target of [strong criticism](#) from governments throughout the world.

But the leaked diplomatic correspondence underscores that criticism in the Arab world extends to the United States as well, as US President Joe Biden has expressed unyielding support for the country’s Middle Eastern ally. The US president recently claimed there was “[no possibility](#)” for an Israeli ceasefire in Gaza when asked about the subject at a Thursday news conference. The death toll in Gaza has [recently risen to over 11,000](#) according to the local health ministry, with [at least 4,500](#) of those deaths being people under 18, prompting the head of the United

Nations to call the besieged territory a “[graveyard for children](#).” The UN has noted that death tolls released by Gaza’s authorities have [proven to be accurate](#) in the past.

Recent reports have warned that Gaza’s population of 2.3 million may be on the brink of [suffering mass starvation](#) as Israel has only allowed very limited amounts of humanitarian aid to enter amidst a siege of the enclave.

The leaked cables come [amidst reporting](#) suggesting a dramatic decline in support for Biden among Muslim Americans.

“We told him [Biden] directly, in our personal capacities, that if you do not call for an immediate ceasefire, you will not get our votes in 2024,” said Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). The spokesperson accused Biden of “betraying” Palestinians and allowing a “genocide” to take place in Gaza.

“What we see from him is completely one-sided support for the state of Israel,” said Awad.

A recent survey by the Arab American Institute (AAI) showed that support for Biden among Arab Americans has declined by 42% since 2020. The poll found that 17% of Arab American voters plan to support Biden’s reelection in 2024, while 40% say they’ll support former US President Donald Trump.

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Musk Told SpaceX Employees to Ditch Safety Clothes Because He 'Dislikes' Bright Colors - Report

Interviews with current and former employees revealed a company culture of disregard for safety regulations.

An investigation by a US media outlet uncovered a series of unflattering details regarding safety procedures at the manufacturing company SpaceX, including that owner Elon Musk allegedly instructed workers not to wear safety uniforms because he disliked their color.

The claim was revealed Friday in [a report](#) based on testimony from more than a dozen current and former employees at the military contractor and satellite communications company.

Workers at SpaceX claimed the mercurial tech magnate personally dislikes bright colors and discouraged them from wearing the bright yellow outfits. Former supervisors said some employees were instructed not to wear the safety vests when Musk was around, and to use red safety tape instead of yellow. He reportedly also had industrial machinery that were painted yellow (for safety reasons) repainted in shades of black or blue.

The investigation revealed over 600 worker injuries that were previously undisclosed since 2014, including eight incidents leading to amputations.

SpaceX has been fined \$50,836 for violations leading to seven serious injuries and one death according to records, an insignificant amount for the multi-billionaire Musk. The defiance of regulations contributed to incidents where one worker suffered a skull fracture and another was forced to have his leg amputated. But understaffing at the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration contributed to numerous episodes where required inspections at Musk’s plants were never carried out.

Francisco Cabada, the worker who suffered the skull fracture, remains in a coma almost two years after his accident. Doctors say he may never recover. The Los Angeles native is a father of three.

Musk is a controversial figure who's often attracted criticism, especially after his purchase of social media platform Twitter last year, which he's attempted to rebrand as the platform "X." The billionaire has been criticized for [retweeting and interacting](#) with antisemitic and white supremacist accounts on the platform. Reports have indicated that neo-Nazi and anti-LGBTQ content has [become more common](#) on X since Musk's takeover.

A Musk biographer recently revealed the businessman's mental health [deteriorated](#) after an incident where he was booed by the audience at an event with comedian Dave Chapelle in San Francisco last year. Employees considered calling local police to perform a [wellness check](#) after he locked himself in his office and refused to leave.

The temperamental billionaire is the son of Errol Musk, a property developer who owned emerald mines in apartheid-era South Africa.

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Most Americans Wouldn't Defend Country in Next War - Poll

A new survey shows less than a quarter of people in the United States would be willing to join the military if the country entered an armed conflict.

US armed forces have [struggled](#) to meet recruiting goals in recent years, falling short of enlistment targets by thousands. Now, new [polling](#) shows Americans wouldn't rush to join the military even if the country were at war.

The survey by the group Echelon Insights found that 72% of Americans would not be willing to volunteer to serve in the armed forces if the country entered a major conflict. Only 21% of people polled said they would join the US military under those circumstances. The poll was conducted from October 23-26, two weeks after the Palestinian group Hamas mounted a surprise attack in Israel.

The survey comes amidst the documented [presence](#) of US special forces in Israel as the country lays siege to the Gaza Strip.

"We have strike groups, aircraft carriers with a Marine Expeditionary Unit outside Israel now," said Justin Henderson, a US military recruiter. "We're funding two wars, but we're actually boots on the ground, drones above Gaza. So we're already involved in there – and we're not sure what's happening in Taiwan. So this is a very tumultuous time for us, because we don't know what's going to happen."

The chronic ambivalence over military service in the US continues to impact recruiting, which could have consequences for overall preparedness according to experts.

"Let's say the Navy misses recruiting targets for an extended period and wasn't able to bring on the people that it needs to manage submarines and fly its airplanes... if you end up in a major conflict, it's going to take time to train those people," said Tom Shugart, a fellow at the think tank Center for a New American Security.

Analysts say the state of the US economy makes recruiting difficult – during a period of low unemployment and rising wages, military service is seen as less appealing for young people. A certain degree of economic coercion is needed to meet enlistment targets.

“There’s definitely a strong relationship between [the] unemployment rate and how hard it is to recruit people,” said Shugart. “When we’re in a recession and unemployment is high, then generally the military has very little trouble recruiting people [at] the numbers that it needs because people are looking for a job.”

“On the other hand, if the economy is really good and the employment market is really tight, and people have lots of options, sometimes the military has more trouble recruiting.”

Some recent public relations efforts have also fallen flat with detractors accusing the military of “going woke” with ad campaigns featuring [drag queens](#) and [transgender](#) servicepeople. Polling generally shows younger Americans are more socially liberal than previous generations, although one recent study suggested high school-age males are trending towards [conservatism](#).

“Some parents will be turned off by those things and maybe not endorse military service as much,” said David Eustice, the CEO of Military Recruiting Experts.

“It’s usually a little bit of a challenge to get parents to be for it anyway,” admitted Eustice.

“They’re supportive of their military but would prefer it to be someone else’s child.”

Eustice blamed “the civilian media looking from the outside in and making judgments and cherry picking stories to try to divide” for the declining appeal of the US military. Since the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, movies and television programs have featured plotlines demonstrating the struggles of some service members to adapt to life outside the armed forces.

Some 24 veterans commit suicide each day in the United States, according to a recent [study](#) sponsored by the US Department of Defense and the University of Alabama.

Persistent recruiting shortfalls have reportedly contributed to a US Army that’s [smaller](#) in size than any time since 1940.

Some analysts claim the reputational problem is a result of failed messaging, but political cynicism in the United States may also be contributing to an overall lack of national self esteem. Approval of US Congress currently stands at 17%, according to recent [polling](#).

Surveys have shown consistently high [support](#) in the country for progressive measures such as single-payer healthcare, but America’s political system continues to make such policy impossible.

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Watch Russian Drones Obliterate Ukrainian Troops, Armored Vehicle in Artyomovsk Area

Russian drone crews have once again demonstrated their tactical prowess in the Artyomovsk (Bakhmut) area, skillfully seeking out and eliminating Ukrainian servicemen and an armored vehicle.

The Russian Defense Ministry has published footage of Russian kamikaze drones [wreaking havoc on Ukrainian manpower](#) and military equipment in the Artyomovsk (Bakhmut) area.

The unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), integral to Russia's military strategy, have been pivotal in changing the course of warfare, compelling [the Kiev regime to lose battle after battle](#). Russian troops have employed drones en masse, targeting all sorts of enemy weaponry, military facilities, and personnel. [The effectiveness of Russian UAVs](#), particularly in identifying and neutralizing key targets, is a testament to Russia's innovative approach to modern warfare. The sophisticated use of technology showcases Russia's commitment to conducting [highly efficient military operations](#), further cementing its position as a formidable force in the realm of contemporary combat.

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Almost Two-Thirds of Americans Still Believe JFK's Assassin Did Not Act Alone

WASHINGTON, November 13 (Sputnik) – About two-thirds of Americans continue to believe that Lee Harvey Oswald had accomplices in the assassination of US President John F. Kennedy six decades ago, a Gallup poll showed on Monday.

"The 65% of U.S. adults who think Oswald worked in concert with others and the 29% who say he was solely responsible are roughly in line with the previous readings from 10 years ago," the poll said.

Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, Texas. The president was shot by US Marine Corps veteran Lee Harvey Oswald, according to the official Warren Commission report released in 1964.

"Gallup first asked Americans about culpability in Kennedy's assassination immediately after the Nov. 22, 1963, murder in Dallas, Texas, and found a slim 52% majority believed there was 'some group or element' other than the gunman involved, while 29% thought he acted on his own and 19% were unsure," the survey added.

The new poll revealed that the higher the level of education people have, the less they believe that other individuals were involved in the assassination. When asked if others played a role, 73% of people with no college graduation, 57% of college graduates, and 44% of those with postgraduate education answered "yes."

As for political affiliation, 71% of Republicans and 55% of Democrats, and 68% of independents believe that a conspiracy appears to be the case.

Every fifth conspiracy believer, when asked who is responsible for the assassination, cited the federal government, and 16% said it was the CIA. Another 11% mentioned mafia or organized criminal groups, according to the poll.

"In all, 38% of those who think Oswald did not act alone name the federal government or one of its agencies or members -- including nonspecific government mentions the CIA, the FBI, the Secret Service and Vice President Lyndon Johnson -- as being involved. This marks a 13-percentage-point increase in mentions of the government compared with 2013," the poll said. The poll was conducted from October 2-23 among 1,009 adults in all 50 US states and the District of Columbia.

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US Republican Senator Tim Scott Says Suspending Presidential Campaign

WASHINGTON, November 13 (Sputnik) – US Senator for South Carolina and candidate for the Republican presidential nomination Tim Scott announced that he was suspending his presidential campaign.

“I am suspending my campaign. I think the voters, who are the most remarkable people on the planet, have been very clear; they’re telling me, ‘not now Tim’ ... So, I’m going to respect the voters and I’m going to hold on and keep working really hard, and look forward to another opportunity,” Scott told Fox News on Sunday.

Scott said that although he was effectively suspending his campaign, he would remain committed to the US and would “help” people choose the best possible candidate to represent the Republicans in the upcoming election.

The former candidate added that he would recommend that his supporters vote according to their personal priorities and study each of the other candidates and candidacies.

“The best way for me to be helpful is to not weight in on who they should endorse,” Scott said when asked whether he would be endorsing someone else.

Furthermore, when questioned on whether he would consider running as a vice-presidential candidate, Scott said he wouldn’t be running for anything other than president, “it has never been on my to do list,” he said, adding that he would continue to work for winning voters’ respect.

The US is set to hold its presidential election on November 5, 2024.

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Gaza Conflict Exposes West's Double Standards in Ukraine - Russia's UN Deputy Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, November 13 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Western countries are showing double standards in their treatment of the conflicts in the Gaza Strip and Ukraine, Russian Deputy Envoy to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik.

"Our Western colleagues were crying wolf in many cases in Ukraine, and where the situation was, to put it mildly, much more questionable and when there were many more nuances. They do not even dare to call a spade a spade when it comes to Israel's actions," Polyanskiy said.

The United States, in particular, does not want to hear anything resembling a call for a ceasefire in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and resists any action by the UN Security Council that would "jeopardize" Israel's ground operation in the Gaza Strip, Polyanskiy added.

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with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UNSC Resolution on Gaza Unlikely in Foreseeable Future Due to US Position - Polyanskiy

UNITED NATIONS, November 13 (Sputnik), Lenka White - The UN Security Council resolution has dimmed chances for adoption because of the position of the United States, Russian Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik.

"It's not hopeless. But so far, it seems that the Security Council, unfortunately, is paralyzed because of this position of the US," Polyanskiy said.

Russia thinks, he added, that cooperation of the international community in any case is necessary for any moves within the Palestinian-Israeli settlement. The roadmap is about two states living in peace with each other within the borders of 1967.

"And we all know that this is the only way to avoid problems that we are having right now," Polyanskiy added.

The UN Security Council has so far failed to adopt any resolution on the Israel-Hamas conflict. There have been four attempts since the conflict erupted in early October, but the drafts tabled by Brazil, the United States and twice by Russia did not pass. The only response of the United Nations to the conflict is a non-binding Jordanian resolution that was adopted by the General Assembly on October 26, which calls for a humanitarian truce and unhindered flow of aid.

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Russian Relations With Israel Unchanged, Stance on Palestine Well Known - UN Deputy Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, November 13 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Russian criticism of Israel's policies in the Gaza Strip did not suddenly start when the conflict with Hamas escalated in early October, Russian Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik.

"Nothing has changed. It's not that we all of a sudden started to be critical of Israel after October 7. I think we have been always critical of what Israel has been doing in the occupied territories," Polyanskiy said, adding that "Israel has been aware of our criticism."

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European Allies Don't Want to Display Chasms With US on Gaza Conflict - Polyanskiy

UNITED NATIONS, November 13 (Sputnik), Lenka White - European allies have clear disagreements with the United States on the Gaza conflict but they do not want to put these divergences on display and reflect in a resolution, the Russian Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik.

"They [European allies] don't want to put on display all these divergences in public, but the divergences and even chasms are there. They are inconceivable, inconceivable. So I would say that this situation so far hasn't brought us somewhere where we will be ready to adopt a text without the United States blocking it once again," Polyanskiy said.

At the same time, the European allies have not fully supported the United States on a vote for a UN Security Council resolution and nor have they supported the United States on a vote in the General Assembly, Polyanskiy added.

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Gaza Conflict Exposes West's Double Standards in Ukraine - Russia's UN Deputy Envoy

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"Our Western colleagues were crying wolf in many cases in Ukraine, and where the situation was, to put it mildly, much more questionable and when there were many more nuances. They do not even dare to call a spade a spade when it comes to Israel's actions," Polyanskiy said.

The United States, in particular, does not want to hear anything resembling a call for a ceasefire in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and resists any action by the UN Security Council that

would "jeopardize" Israel's ground operation in the Gaza Strip, Polyanskiy added.

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Russia Not Planning New UN Resolutions on Ukraine Due to West's Rejections - Polyanskiy

UNITED NATIONS, November 13 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Russia is not planning to draft more resolutions on Ukraine, given that the West has rejected Russia's even purely humanitarian draft resolution at the beginning of the crisis, Russian Deputy Envoy to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik.

"We don't see any conditions for this, any background," Polyanskiy said. "At the beginning of this crisis, during the 'hot' stage of the crisis, we proposed our own resolution, which didn't contain any naming and shaming, but had only humanitarian provisions in it. However, even that was not acceptable to the Western countries."

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China, India Sent Most Foreign Students to US in 2022-2023 School Year - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, November 13 (Sputnik) - China and India collectively sent a majority of the foreign students studying at educational institutions in the United States in the 2022-2023 school year, the State Department said on Monday.

"China remained the top-sending country in 2022/23, with 289,526 students studying in the US," the State Department said in a report on international education exchange. "India, the second largest sending country, reached an all-time high of 268,923 international students in 2022/23, an increase of 35% year-over-year."

Chinese and Indian students made up a majority of the more than one million foreigners studying in the US, according to the report. The number of total international students grew by 12% in the 2022-2023 academic year, up to 1,057,188 students.

International students account for 6% of people enrolled in higher education in the US and contribute nearly \$38 billion to the US economy, the report said.

"Students from around the world have chosen the United States as the top destination for international study. International education is a vehicle that promotes peace and cross-cultural connections and provides the tools necessary to address the shared challenges of our time," US Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Lee Satterfield said in the report.

The number of international students who enrolled for the first time in a US college or university in the 2022-2023 academic year rose by 14% year-over-year, the report said. New international students were enrolled in every US state and territory, with 48 states reporting an increase in the

number of foreign students, the report said.

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Number of Russians Studying in US, Americans Studying in Russia Growing - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, November 13 (Sputnik) - The number of Russians studying in the United States and the number of Americans studying in Russia have risen in recent years, the State Department said on Monday.

The number of Russian students in the US rose by 2.3%, from 4,802 to 4,913 for the 2022-2023 academic year, the State Department said in a report on international education.

The number of US students studying in Russia also grew by 238.5% from the 2020-2021 to the 2021-2022 academic year, rising from 13 to 44 people, the report said.

More than one million international students were enrolled in US educational institutions in the 2022-2023 academic year, up by 13% from the previous year, the report said. The majority of foreign students in the US originate from China and India, the report said.

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West Does Not Want to 'Look in Mirror' on Arms Supplies to Ukraine - Polyanskiy

UNITED NATIONS, November 13 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Russia organizes meetings at the UN Security Council on weapons supplies to Ukraine, because the West does not want to "look in the mirror" and reflect on its role in prolonging the conflict, Russian Deputy Envoy to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik.

"We call for meetings on Western weapons deliveries and they're all to find prospects for a peaceful resolution of the Ukrainian crisis only because our Western colleagues do not want to look in the mirror and to analyze this aspect of the problem," Polyanskiy said.

The Russian mission to the United Nations is also counterbalancing Kiev's attempts to call meetings at the UN Security Council based on "absolutely false pretexts," Polyanskiy added.

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Russia Assesses West Will Do Everything to Keep Arming Ukraine - Deputy Envoy to UN

UNITED NATIONS, November 13 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Russia believes that the West will do everything in its power to keep arming Ukraine, Russian Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik.

"We understand that the collective West, the creator of the Kiev regime who was behind the illegal, anti-constitutional coup in 2014, will try to do everything it can to keep it afloat and to support it with whatever means they need," Polyanskiy said.

At the same time, he added that Russia has enough tools at its disposal to achieve its goals and conclude the special military operation in Ukraine with a victory.

Russia has never threatened Ukraine or the Ukrainian people, Polyanskiy said, but the West has used the notion that there will be "no Ukraine" if Kiev stops fighting Russia as part of its propaganda.

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Zelenskyy's Plans to Cancel Elections Contradict Image of Democratic Country - Polyanskiy

UNITED NATIONS, November 13 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's plans not to hold elections in 2024 stand in opposition to the picture the West is trying to portray about Ukraine allegedly being a democratic country, Russian Deputy Envoy to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik.

"So, I heard about Zelenskyy's statement that there will be no elections next year. He said that it is not the time now for the elections, but it will only be for Russia's pleasure, and blah, blah," Polyanskiy said.

Such actions are very much in contrast to what Zelenskyy's Western supporters are saying about him and Ukraine, the Russian diplomat added.

"They claim that Ukraine is a democracy complete with all the democratic processes and also that Zelenskyy is a democratic leader," Polyanskiy said.

The reality is that Zelenskyy has thrown a number of political prisoners in jail and has taken other anti-democratic, draconian measures, which make it quite clear as to what kind of "democracy" Ukraine is now building, Polyanskiy added.

A presidential election is supposed to take place in Ukraine in March 2024 in accordance with the country's legislation. However, the Ukrainian Constitution prohibits holding elections under martial law, which has been in effect in the country since the beginning of Russia's military operation in February 2022. Earlier in November, Zelenskyy expressed his belief that it was "not the right time" for any elections in the country and proposed extending martial law until February 14, 2024.

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West Realizes Ukraine Counteroffensive 'Not Moving Forward' - Russian Deputy Envoy to UN

UNITED NATIONS, November 13 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Western media have finally noticed that the Ukrainian counteroffensive is "not moving forward," Russian Deputy Envoy to the United

Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik.

"Western media have just picked up obvious things that we have been seeing for quite some time. That Ukrainian counteroffensive, the so-called counteroffensive, is not moving forward to put it mildly," Polyanskiy said on Monday.

The Western media noticed this not because of "good luck" but thanks to the huge efforts of the Russian military on the battlefield, Polyanskiy added.

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Neo-Nazi Ideology Has Lot of Clout in Canada, Holds Trudeau Gov't Hostage - Polyanskiy

UNITED NATIONS, November 13 (Sputnik), Lenka White - The government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is effectively being a "hostage" to the Nazi ideology held by the descendants of Nazis and collaborators who emigrated to Canada, Russian Deputy Envoy to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy told Sputnik.

"It's an open secret that Canada harbored a lot of former Nazi collaborators after the Second World War and these collaborators now have children and grandchildren, they have think tanks, etc. So, the Neo-Nazi ideology and extreme nationalism have, unfortunately, very much clout in Canada," Polyanskiy said.

The descendants of the collaborators, to a large extent, are holding the Trudeau government "hostage," Polyanskiy said.

"These things are very widespread and Canada is actively supporting them. The things we saw in the Canadian Parliament are only a tip of the iceberg. If the Canadian society digs deeper, many secrets will be revealed," Polyanskiy added.

In October, the Canadian Parliament and Trudeau honored Yaroslav Hunka, an actual Nazi SS officer from World War II. Earlier this month, the Canadian Mission to the United Nations voted against a Russian-drafted resolution to combat Nazism.

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SF Rushes Final Preparations Ahead of Economic Leaders Week, APEC Summit - Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO, November 11 (Sputnik) - Amid the looming arrival of Economic Leaders Week and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit scheduled from November 11 to 17, 2023, San Francisco is bustling with last-minute preparations, with construction at the event site still underway, all while addressing the persistent issue of homelessness, Sputnik Correspondent reports.

However, it appears that efforts were made to relocate the homeless from the downtown area, just a couple of blocks away, possibly to minimize their visibility for prominent figures attending

the event.

Despite the visible improvements, the predicament of the homeless population persists, underscoring the intricate challenges confronting the city.

Furthermore, Mayor London Breed expressed that the \$20 million raised would cover expenses for events at Moscone Center, staffing, food, catering, and other essential requirements needed to fulfill the hosting responsibilities.

Next week, SF is set to host APEC summit in San Francisco with the theme "Building a Future of Sustainability and Resilience for Everyone." Since its inception in 1989, APEC has been a crucial platform for the U.S. to promote equitable trade, investment, and sustainable growth in the increasingly interconnected Asia-Pacific region.

According to Wisevoter Advocacy Group, California is recognized for having the largest homeless population in the US. The homelessness rate in the state stems from its large population, high city living costs, significant poverty, and lack of affordable housing.

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Biden Discusses With Sultan of Oman Conflict in Gaza, Other Regional Matters - White House

WASHINGTON, November 11 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden spoke with Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said and discussed developments regarding Israel's invasion of Gaza among other regional matters, the White House said.

"President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. spoke today with His Majesty Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, the Sultan of Oman," the White House said in a press release on Friday. "The two leaders discussed the latest developments in Gaza and the importance of sustained humanitarian access and the importance of protecting civilians, consistent with international humanitarian law, as Israel responds to Hamas's heinous terrorist attack on October 7."

The two officials also discussed the importance of deterring threats from any state or non-state actor seeking to expand the conflict in Gaza, the release said.

Biden and the Sultan also discussed the need to work towards a durable and sustained peace in the Middle East, to include the establishment of a Palestinian state, the release added.

The two leaders committed to strengthening the US-Oman bilateral relationship and seeking new opportunities in trade and investment, and security coordination, according to the release.

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US House Speaker Believes Lawmakers Lack Enough Evidence to Impeach Biden - Reports

WASHINGTON, November 11 (Sputnik) - US House Speaker Mike Johnson believes that lawmakers lack sufficient evidence at the moment to launch official impeachment proceedings against President Joe Biden, The Washington Post reported, citing people familiar with

Johnson's statements at a closed-door House Republican meeting.

Johnson told fellow House Republicans that they lack enough evidence at this time to begin impeaching Biden for alleged criminal activity, the report said on Friday.

In September, then-House Speaker Kevin McCarthy approved an impeachment inquiry into alleged bribery and influence peddling involving the Biden family. Biden has dismissed the allegations, claiming to have never discussed foreign business deals with his son, Hunter Biden. Johnson said earlier this month that lawmakers will "very soon" reach a decision on whether to move forward with the impeachment process. The inquiry was an important due-process step, he said.

Earlier this week, US House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer announced a number of subpoenas as part of the panel's probe into the Biden family, including against Hunter Biden and Joe Biden's brother, James Biden.

However, Johnson does not consider impeaching Biden an imperative due to the incumbent president's poor polling performances ahead of the 2024 US presidential election, the report said.

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China Calls on Israel to Immediately Lift Blockade, Allow Supply Flow to Gaza – UN Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, November 11 (Sputnik) - Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Zhang Jun called on Israel to immediately lift the blockade of Gaza and allow the flow of livelihoods supplies to the enclave.

"We call on Israel to immediately lift the blockade and completely remove restrictions on livelihoods supplies, especially fuel deliveries to humanitarian and medical institutions and livelihood facilities," Zhang said during a meeting of the UN Security Council on Friday.

China is also advocating for the utilization of all crossings into Gaza as soon as possible, including the Kerem Shalom border crossing at the junction of the Gaza Strip-Israel border and the Gaza-Egypt border, Zhang added.

As of today, only one border crossing, the Rafah crossing, is open for humanitarian traffic and those civilians who are willing to depart the Gaza Strip in the direction of Egypt.

Earlier on Friday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said that the work of the Rafah checkpoint on the border of Egypt and the Gaza Strip was blocked and Moscow has been in contacts with Israel, Egypt and Palestinian representatives to solve the problems in order to evacuate its citizens. This is second time the Rafah crossing has been closed this week alone.

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with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Moody's Downgrades Outlook On US Government Ratings From Stable to Negative

WASHINGTON, November 11 (Sputnik) - Moody's Investors Service has downgraded the outlook for the US government ratings from stable to negative, the agency announced, citing risks to the financial strength of the country.

"Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) has today changed the outlook on Government of United States of America's (US) ratings to negative from stable and affirmed the long-term issuer and senior unsecured ratings at Aaa," Moody's said on Friday.

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Russia Shocked by Israeli Strikes on Civilians, Calls Attacks Violations of Law - Nebenzia

UNITED NATIONS, November 11 (Sputnik) - Russia views the Israeli strikes on civilian targets in the Gaza Strip as shocking violations of international law, Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia said.

"We are shocked and deeply outraged that the targets of the strikes are civilian objects," Nebenzia said during a UN Security Council meeting on Friday. "We emphasize that the deliberate strikes against civilian objects represents an egregious violation of international humanitarian law."

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IMF, Ukraine Reach Agreement on EFF, Paving Way for \$900mln Disbursement - Statement

WASHINGTON, November 11 (Sputnik) -The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Ukraine have reached a staff level agreement on the second review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement which paves the way for some \$900 million disbursement, the Fund announced in a press release.

"The International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff and the Ukrainian authorities have reached staff-level agreement (SLA) on an updated set of economic and financial policies for the second review of the 4-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Arrangement," the release said on Friday.

The Fund stressed that the SLA is yet to be approved by the IMF Executive Board.

"All quantitative performance criteria for end-June and indicative targets for end-September were met," it added. "The majority of structural benchmarks were also met, paving the way for the Executive Board's consideration, which would enable disbursement of about US\$900 million (SDR 663.9 million)."

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Moody's Says Downside Risks to US Fiscal Strength Have Increased

WASHINGTON, November 11 (Sputnik) – Moody's Investor Service said it downgraded its outlook on the United States government ratings to "negative" because the downside risks to US fiscal strength have increased and may no longer be offset sovereign's unique credit strengths.

“The key driver of the outlook change to negative is Moody's assessment that the downside risks to the US' fiscal strength have increased and may no longer be fully offset by the sovereign's unique credit strengths,” the agency said.

US' fiscal deficits will remain very large in the context of higher interest rates, without effective fiscal policy measures to reduce government spending or increase revenues, it said.

Moreover ongoing political polarization in the US Congress raises the risk that future governments will be unable to agree on a fiscal plan to slow the decline in debt affordability, it added.

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UAE Ask UNSC for Minute of Silence to Mourn All Dead in Israel, Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, November 11 (Sputnik) - Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Zhang Jun at the request of the United Arab Emirates asked the UN Security Council for a minute of silence to mourn those who died as a result of the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on October 7.

“I would like at the request of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates and on behalf of the members of the Security Council to ask all those present now stand and join in observing a

minute of silence for Israeli civilians and foreign nationals who lost their lives on October 7 in Israel, and all Palestinian civilians who lost their lives in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as the UN staff members, and the journalists who lost their lives in the Gaza Strip," Zhang said at the beginning of a UNSC meeting on Friday.

Earlier on Friday, the Gaza health ministry said that the death toll from Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip has exceeded 11,000, with over 27,400 people more injured.

More than 100 employees of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas, Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said on Friday.

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Columbia Suspends Pro-Palestinian Student Groups for 'Threatening Rhetoric'

WASHINGTON, November 11 (Sputnik) - Columbia University is suspending pro-Palestinian groups Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) for the remainder of the fall semester, the university announced on Friday, claiming that the student groups violated student policies around threatening rhetoric, among others.

"Suspension means the two groups will not be eligible to hold events on campus or receive University funding. Lifting the suspension will be contingent on the two groups demonstrating a commitment to compliance with University policies and engaging in consultations at a group leadership level with University officials," wrote the University's Senior Executive Vice President Gerald Rosberg in the statement.

According to the statement, Columbia made the decision following 'unauthorized events' on Thursday afternoon that "repeatedly violated University policies related to holding campus events" including threatening rhetoric and intimidation.

The suspension means that neither of the suspended student groups will be eligible to hold events on campus or receive university funding, the statement added.

Though the statement was unclear about what precisely led to the suspension, hundreds of students reportedly participated in a peaceful walkout and art installation on Thursday organized by the two student groups to demand a ceasefire in Gaza.

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FBI Seizes New York Mayor Adams' Phones in Federal Campaign Fundraising Probe - Reports

WASHINGTON, November 11 (Sputnik) - FBI agents have seized the cell phones belonging to New York City Mayor Eric Adams as part of an investigation related to campaign fundraising violations, CNN reported.

The seizure occurred earlier this week after a court issued a search warrant, the report said on Friday, citing a source familiar with the matter.

Such a development means a significant change in the investigation, bringing it directly to Adams, the report said.

FBI is handling the investigation along with the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the report said.

Adams urged his staff to follow the law and fully cooperate with the investigation.

"I will continue to do exactly that. I have nothing to hide," Adams said in a statement quoted in the report.

Adams spokesperson Boyd Johnson said the mayor is fully cooperating with the investigation and has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

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SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

YELLEN MEETS CHINESE VICE PREMIER

- * US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said she told Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng that Chinese firms must halt support for Russia's defense industrial sector or face consequences.
- * The United States is concerned that Russia is able to acquire equipment critical to its military despite US sanctions, Yellen said.
- * Yellen said there was an indication that China intends to provide over time more market access to US companies.
- * Yellen said that she raised with He the United States' concerns over China's export controls on graphite and other critical minerals.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

- * Hundreds of thousands of residents of the Gaza Strip have moved from the north to the south of the Palestinian enclave, including 100,000 people in the past two days, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said on Friday.
- * The IDF said that it had gained control over the strongholds of the Palestinian movement Hamas in the northern part of the Gaza Strip.
- * The Israeli military has opened fire against the intensive care unit of the Al-Quds hospital in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said.
- * The work of the Rafah cross point was blocked on Friday, while Russia is in contact with Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian representatives to solve the problems in order to evacuate Russian citizens, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said.
- * Twenty-five people were killed as a result of an Israeli strike on the Al-Buraq school in the Gaza Strip, head of al-Shifa hospital Mohammad Abu Salmiya said.

SYRIA DEVELOPMENTS

- * Two F-16 fighter jets of the Israeli air force carried out an air strike on the positions of the

Syrian armed forces in the province of Homs, Rear Adm. Vadim Kulit, deputy head of the Russian Defense Ministry's Center for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in Syria, said on Friday.

* The Syrian military eliminated on November 7 the field commander of the Jabhat al-Nusra terrorist group (banned in Russia), who was responsible for the shelling of Latakia, Rear Adm. Kulit, said.

WESTERN SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

* Canada is imposing new Russia-related sanctions that target several media organizations and other entities, Global Affairs Canada said on Friday.

* The latest round of sanctions against Russia simply confirms the anti-democratic nature of the government in Ottawa and Moscow will definitely respond, Russian Ambassador to Canada Oleg Stepanov told Sputnik.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

* Russian forces repelled 16 Ukrainian attacks and Kiev lost more than 1,590 soldiers in the Donetsk direction in the past week, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Friday.

* The European Union has informed its member states that it is unlikely to deliver on the promise to provide 1 million rounds of artillery munitions to Ukraine by March 2024, Bloomberg reported.

* Russia will continue its special military operation in the absence of efforts to resolve the Ukraine conflict via diplomatic means as the main thing for Moscow is to achieve its goals, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

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PREVIEW - San Francisco Prepares for APEC Summit Amid Homelessness Challenges

SAN FRANCISCO, November 11 (Sputnik) - San Francisco is gearing up for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit from November 11-17, but concerns over the city's homelessness crisis add a layer of complexity to the preparations.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed said that while the APEC summit presents a challenge to the authorities, regaining visibility on the global stage would represent a reward for the city.

"I am really excited about this, clearly, because we've been working so hard, and the message today really is we are ready. We are ready for this. We are excited about this, and we are asking for the public to be understanding and patient," Breed said during a press conference.

The mayor also said the visitors would have an opportunity to witness the uniqueness and excellence of San Francisco.

However, the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) representative Emily Cohen told Sputnik that the HSH would not be opening any special shelter capacity during the APEC summit.

Cohen also said the city has not allocated funds to increase the homeless shelter capacity during the summit.

"San Francisco's work to address homelessness is a priority 365 days per year. We are out on the streets every day, sheltering people every night and moving people out of homelessness every day," Cohen said.

The state of California is known for having the largest homeless population in the United States.

The San Francisco Emergency Operations Center told Sputnik that the city enhanced security measures and collaborated with the US federal government agencies to ensure security and safety.

"Security and operational plans are robust while minimizing impacts to the public wherever and whenever possible," San Francisco Police Chief William Scott said.

Scott emphasized that there would be zero tolerance for violence and property destruction during the APEC summit and the police are prepared to take action if such incidents occur.

"If you are involved in a protest, please know and be aware of what people around you might be doing, especially if they are committing crimes. If you see that, we ask that you please report it, don't stand and be complicit to others around you committing crimes, because those people make it bad for everybody," Scott said.

The Fairmont Hotel said they are working diligently to ensure safety, cleanliness and hospitality for the visiting leaders from 21 nations during the summit.

"The security planning for the event has been underway since at least April," Executive Regional Director of Public Relations Michelle Heston told Sputnik.

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PREVIEW - APEC Summit Set to Commence as Meeting Confirmed With Xi, Russia Participation Secured

SAN FRANCISCO, November 11 (Sputnik) - The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit Economic Leaders' Week kicks off in San Francisco, featuring a meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping as well as the participation of Russia.

Throughout the week, the United States will showcase the durability of its economic landscape, emphasizing the longstanding economic connections with the Asia-Pacific region.

The US State Department issued a statement emphasizing the United States' longstanding economic ties with the Asia-Pacific, which include "the surge of job-creating investments from APEC economies into the United States in recent years."

In addition, the State Department emphasized the role of the US economy in "driving growth and innovation in the Asia-Pacific region as well as globally," the statement said.

The Chinese president is confirmed he will visit the United States November 14-17 to participate in the APEC summit and hold talks with Biden.

Xi will also take part by invitation in the 30th informal meeting of the leaders of the APEC countries.

The agenda for the Biden-Xi meeting on November 15 includes discussions on various bilateral issues, but encompassing regional and global concerns.

A senior Biden administration official pointed out the possibility of addressing the import of fentanyl in the United States, artificial intelligence and US citizens' detained in China.

In a last-minute development, Russia confirmed its participation in the APEC summit. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov announced that Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk will represent Russia at the event.

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Oil Down 3rd Week in Row Despite Late Week Rebound as Many Buyers Abandon Market

NEW YORK, November 10 (Sputnik) - Oil prices tumbled for a third week in a row as fears of weakening seasonal demand for energy drove many buyers from the market, analysts said.

New York-traded West Texas Intermediate, or WTI, crude for December delivery, settled at \$77.17 per barrel, up \$1.43, or 1.9% on the day. For the week though, WTI was down 4.1%, after prior back-to-back weekly losses 6% and 3%. That came after the US crude benchmark 11% tumble for October.

As WTI settled, UK-origin Brent crude's most-active January contract was at \$81.66, up \$1.65, or 2.1% after Thursday's 0.6% gain. For the week, Brent was down 3.8%, after back-to-back weekly losses of 6% and 2%. Prior to that, the global crude benchmark lost 11% in October.

"The petroleum buyers are gone, unless you are talking oil call options, as supply and demand take a back seat to rising macroeconomic fears," Phil Flynn, analyst at oneloin wrote as crude futures headed for a third straight week of losses despite rising over the past two sessions after Thursday's four-month lows. "Maybe the buyers of oil have been taken away from the mother ship or maybe they have just ridden off into the sunset, but the reality is we are seeing a short oil position of epic proportions as the market seems to remove the risk of ever rising again."

With the 10-year Treasury yield rebounding over the past two sessions as well, the Federal Reserve might have to offer much higher rates to get investors interested in US bonds — adding to market unease that the central bank's rate hikes may not be over.

"Underneath it all, the crash in the price of oil is either a very ominous sign for the state of the global economy or a sign that it is being driven by fear and not on supply and demand fundamentals," Flynn added. "The oil market swing in mood has gone from pricing in the biggest threat to global oil supply since the Arab oil embargo 50 years ago to almost a record short position in the history of the oil futures markets."

Pierre Andurand, one of the most closely-followed hedge fund managers in oil, also pointed out that, "net long speculative positioning in oil (crude products, options delta futures) is fast approaching the lowest since this data exists (2011)." The managed-money category in the key Commitment of Traders report released by the government and representing hedge funds sold about 400 barrels in the last 6 weeks.

Andurand said it was "hard to identify a clear reason" for the selloff.

"There have been macroeconomic worries for a while now. However, demand growth has consistently been revised up during the year, and mobility data shows an acceleration in demand and demand growth. Some point to softness in the physical market," he added.

And while producer alliance OPEC+ is having an all-important meeting next month that could again introduce a tighter oil supply mentality, for now its exports are rising. Latest data from the cartel shows an expected seasonal rise of 180,000 barrels led by Iraq and Iran.

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WHO Chief Says UN Security Council Must Consider Reforms to Remain Credible, Relevant

UNITED NATIONS, November 10 (Sputnik) - The UN Security Council must seriously consider reforms in order to remain a credible and relevant entity, UN World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus said on Friday.

"To remain credible, relevant and a force for peace in our world, member states, especially the P5, must take seriously the need to reform the Security Council," Ghebreyesus said during a briefing.

Ghebreyesus provided a briefing to the Security Council on the situation in Gaza, amid a conflict between Israel and Palestinian Hamas militants.

Ghebreyesus also called for a ceasefire in the conflict and a path towards peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

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Blinken, Kenyan Counterpart Discuss Haiti, Sudan, DRC - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Kenyan Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi held a phone call to discuss situations in Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Somalia, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Friday.

"The Secretary thanked Kenya for announcing its intent to lead a multinational security support mission to Haiti, addressing the crisis in Sudan, promoting peace in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and countering extremism in Somalia," Miller said in a statement.

Blinken welcomed the deepening economic partnership between the United States and Kenya, he added.

Top US diplomat also congratulated his counterpart on his recent appointment as Foreign Minister, Miller said.

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Yellen Says Chinese Officials Indicated Plans to Provide US Firms More Market Access

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Friday that during her meetings with Chinese officials this week there was an indication that Beijing intends to provide over time more market access to US companies.

"The Chinese indicated their intention over time to provide additional market access in other sectors," Yellen said after two-day meetings with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng.

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Yellen Says US Concerned Russia Acquiring Equipment Critical to Military Despite Sanctions

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - The United States is concerned that Russia is able to acquire equipment critical to its military despite US sanctions, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Friday.

"We are concerned that in spite of sanctions program that we've put in place, that equipment that is critical to Russia's military effort is... being delivered to Russia," Yellen said during remarks after a two-day meeting with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng.

Yellen added that the United States sees evidence that there are Chinese private firms that may be aiding in the flow of this equipment and material to Russia, as well as some financial institutions that could be involved in facilitating that flow.

Yellen said she stressed to He that the United States would like to see China trying to crack down on Chinese private firms supplying Russia's defense sector, especially when the United States is able to provide information.

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WHO Says Verified 250 Attacks on Health Objects in Gaza Since October 7

UNITED NATIONS, November 10 (Sputnik) – Since October 7, the World Health Organization (WHO) has verified more than 250 attacks on healthcare objects in Gaza and the West Bank, including hospitals, ambulances, patients, Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus said on Friday. "Since October 7, WHO has verified more than 250 attacks on healthcare in Gaza and the West Bank, in addition to 25 attacks on healthcare in Israel. Hospitals, clinics, patients, ambulances..." Ghebreyesus said during a UN Security Council meeting.

As a result of Israeli strikes, half of the Gaza Strip's 36 hospitals and two-thirds of its primary health care centers are not functioning at all, Ghebreyesus said.

In the past 48 hours alone, four hospitals in Gaza with some 430 beds have been put out of operation, Ghebreyesus added.

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Yellen Says Warned He of Consequences if China Supports Russian Defense Sector

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said she told Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng that Chinese firms must halt support for Russia's defense industrial sector or face consequences.

"I stressed that companies must not provide material support for Russia's defense industrial sector and that they will face significant consequences if they do," Yellen said during remarks in San Francisco following end of the two-day meetings.

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Yellen Says Accepted Invitation From Chinese Vice Premier to Visit China Next Year

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Friday that she accepted an invitation from Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng to visit China next year.

"Vice Premier He also told me that he welcomes a return visit by me to China, and I look forward to traveling there next year," Yellen said during remarks in San Francisco.

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Yellen Says Raised to He US Concerns About China's Export Controls on Critical Minerals

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Friday that she raised with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng Washington's concerns over Beijing's export controls on graphite and other critical minerals.

"I also specifically raised our concerns about the PRC's export controls on graphite and other critical minerals," Yellen said during remarks in San Francisco following end of the two-day meetings.

Beijing imposed restrictions on the export of graphite, a key battery metal, last month shortly after implementing controls on gallium, critical to the production of microchips. Beijing's measures came in retaliation for US trade restrictions targeting Chinese technology.

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Yellen Says Raised Concerns of China's Trade Practices in Meeting With Chinese Official

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Friday said she raised US concerns about China's trade practices during a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng this week.

"I raised concerns about the breadth and depth of the [People's Republic of China] PRC's non-market policies and practices and their global spillovers," Yellen said during remarks in San Francisco.

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US, China Agreed That In-Depth Talks Important, Especially on Disagreements - Yellen

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Friday that during her meeting with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng this week the two sides agreed that in-depth talks between the United States and China are important, especially on disagreements.

"During our discussions, we agreed that in-depth and frank discussions matter, particularly when we disagree, and I emphasized that the current uncertain global landscape makes it particularly crucial that we maintain resilient lines of communication going forward," Yellen said during remarks in San Francisco following end of the two-day meetings.

Yellen said her meeting with He laid important ground work ahead of the meeting between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday.

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US Increasingly Confident in Death Toll Reports From Hamas-Controlled Gaza – Reports

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) – The US intelligence community has increasing confidence in the death toll in the Gaza Strip which is being released by the Hamas-controlled health ministry, The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday, citing unnamed US officials.

Despite the fact that American intelligence has already collected some data on the scale of destruction as a result of massive Israeli bombing, including block-by-block images, the administration still does not have independent and accurate data on the number of deaths in Gaza, the officials said.

Prior to this, the Biden administration, including the State Department, called data on civilian casualties coming from Palestinian authorities in Gaza untrustworthy.

Earlier on Friday, the Gaza health ministry said that the death toll from Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip has exceeded 11,000, with over 27,400 people more injured.

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Yellen, China's He Hold 'Candid, Productive' Talks on Bilateral Cooperation - Treasury

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had candid and productive discussions with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng on bilateral economic relationship, the Treasury Department said in a statement on Friday.

"Secretary Yellen and Vice Premier He had candid, direct, and productive discussions on the US-China bilateral economic relationship and a wide range of issues, including areas of cooperation and areas of disagreement," the statement said.

Both sides agreed to intensify communication on finding common solutions and addressing disagreements where possible, the release added. The two officials also committed to strengthening the international financial architecture, which includes a meaningful quota increase at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the release said.

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Judge Cannon Denies Trump Efforts to Postpone Trial Until After 2024 Election - Ruling

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - Florida Judge Aileen Cannon has denied efforts by former President Donald Trump's legal team to postpone his trial for the alleged illegal taking and use of classified documents when he left the White House, an official document recording the proceedings announced on Friday.

"Defendants' Motion to Continue Trial, currently set for the two-week period commencing on May 20, 2024, is denied without prejudice," United States v. Trump document 215 said.

However, Judge Cannon also left open the possibility that she might reassess and change that ruling in March 2023.

Trump's lawyers had tried to delay the criminal trial until after the November 2024 US presidential election, in which most opinion polls put him ahead of incumbent President Joe Biden.

Trump is also fighting three more criminal cases as well as a civil fraud trial in New York. The former president has said the cases are an attempt by Democrats - and the establishment - to prevent him from participating in the 2024 presidential race.

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Hungary Seeking to Explore Energy Cooperation With Venezuela - Spokesperson

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto during a trip to Caracas expressed Budapest's desire to boost energy cooperation with Venezuela, government spokesperson Zoltan Kovacs said on Friday.

"FM Szijarto in Caracas: Hungary seeks to explore energy collaboration with Venezuela, considering liquefied natural gas purchases and exporting domestic oil extraction technologies," Kovacs said via X (formerly Twitter).

During a joint press conference with his Venezuelan counterpart Yvan Gil, Szijarto emphasized the necessity of prioritizing global cooperation rather than imposing sanctions, the spokesman said.

Accordingly, Szijarto said Budapest welcomed the decision by the United States to ease its sanctions on Caracas, Kovacs continued. Szijarto urged the European Union to follow in the steps of Washington.

Among other meeting outcomes, Hungary and Venezuela agreed to raise the level of relations to ambassadorial level, Kovacs said. The parties also agreed on allowing 25 Venezuelans students to study in Hungarian universities on scholarships, starting 2024.

In light of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, the Hungarian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly stated that Budapest is working on diversifying its gas supplies but admits that replacing imports from Russia in the short-term will not be possible.

Thus, Hungary said it would acquire 100 million cubic meters of gas from Azerbaijan in the fourth quarter of 2023 and agreed with Turkey to buy 275 million cubic meters of gas during the spring-summer 2024 period. Additionally, Szijarto said in August that Budapest had sealed a deal with Qatar to import liquefied natural gas starting 2027.

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US Senator 'Parroting Disinformation' in Call for Hamas-Media Ties Probe - Reports

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US Senator Tom Cotton is repeating disinformation in his call for the US Justice Department to investigate several media outlets for alleged involvement in the attack on Israel by the Palestinian movement Hamas last month, The New York Times reported on Friday.

Earlier in the day, Cotton published a letter urging the Justice Department to investigate The New York Times, Associated Press, Reuters and CNN, following reports that their journalists may have had advance knowledge of Hamas' attack on Israel. Cotton also claimed that the reporters participated in the attack by agreeing to film it.

"You say in your letter that you are relying on 'reports' that New York Times employees were involved with the deadly Hamas attack of October 7. In fact, you are merely parroting disinformation harvested from the Internet based on a website that has conceded it had no evidence for its claims," New York Times Deputy General Counsel David McCraw said in a response letter to Cotton.

The Israeli media watchdog group that first accused the media outlets of involvement in Hamas' attack has since said that it was simply raising questions and admitted to lacking evidence for

their allegations, according to the letter.

No employees of the media outlet were embedded with Hamas or had knowledge of the attack ahead of time, the letter said.

The only connection between the media organization and Hamas is their reporting on its activities and the conflict more generally, the letter added.

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Boeing Says Aware Lockbit Hackers Claim They Posted Company Data Online

(Updates with details in paras 4,5)

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US aerospace and defense firm Boeing is aware that the cybercriminal group Lockbit allegedly published stolen company data online, a company spokesperson told Sputnik on Friday.

Media reported earlier in the day that Lockbit published troves of information it stole from Boeing in October after the company declined to pay a ransom by November 2.

"Elements of Boeing's parts and distribution business recently experienced a cybersecurity incident," the spokesperson said. "We are aware that, in connection with this incident, a criminal ransomware actor has released information it alleges to have taken from our systems."

According to the spokesperson, Boeing continues to investigate the incident and will remain in contact with law enforcement, regulatory authorities, and potentially impacted parties.

Boeing remains confident that this incident poses no threat to aircraft or flight safety, the spokesperson added.

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Southeast Asia Commercial Air Fleet to Grow by 400% to 4,000 Jets by 2042 - Boeing

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - The number of commercial jet aircraft operating in Southeast Asia will quadruple from the current 1,000 to 4,000 over the next two decades, Boeing announced in a forecast on Friday.

"Boeing says Southeast Asia's commercial airplane fleet will nearly quadruple to more than 4,000 jets by 2042, becoming one of the global leaders in air traffic and fleet growth," the company said in a press release.

As low-cost carriers (LCC) become the dominant business model and expand networks across the vast region, Southeast Asia will be the world's fastest-growing single-aisle airplane market through the 20-year forecast period, the release said.

The projections were announced in Boeing's 2023 Commercial Market Outlook, the company's annual long-term forecast of demand for commercial airplanes and related services, the release said.

"As the Southeast Asia market reopens, air traffic will grow substantially. Expanded connectivity, tourism and low fares will continue to stoke new and increased travel, especially among a growing middle class across the region. The role of LCCs will continue to rise to fill that demand for air travel," the release said.

LCCs in Southeast Asia will add more than 2,000 new single aisle jets over the next two decades, comprising nearly two-thirds of all projected 3,390 single-aisle deliveries in the region, and LCCs will also carry 56% of passenger traffic in 2042, compared to 22% in 2012, the release added.

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Park in US Capital Closed After Discovery of WWI-Era Munitions - Federal Agency

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - Fort Totten Park in the US capital city is closed to visitors because of the continued investigation into WWI-era metal canisters that were uncovered, the National Park Service (NPS) announced in a release on Friday.

"An area of Fort Totten Park remains closed and fenced, and cement barriers and 'no trespassing' signs will remain while the National Park Service (NPS) and US Army further investigate the metal canisters, determined to be WWI-era munitions, found there in the spring," the release said. "Based on investigations to date, the NPS and the Army have determined it is possible Fort Totten Park contains additional munitions."

The two metal canisters were found on April 18 after unauthorized work by an adjacent property owner pushed approximately 10 feet of soil onto NPS land, the release added.

The NPS shared that one munition was a 75-mm projectile and the other munition was a Livens projectile of about 6 inches in diameter and 19 inches long.

"Initial assessment by Army experts indicated the 75-mm projectile did not pose a hazard and the Livens projectile contained an unknown liquid," the release said. "After initial assessment,

the items were transported to a nearby secure Federal facility. Both items were evaluated by the Army's Materiel Assessment Review Board (MARB). The MARB evaluates munitions with an unknown liquid fill using data collected through non-intrusive assessment, historical records, and military expertise."

The NPS went on to say that Initial testing of the liquid in the Livens projectile was inconclusive and was further tested at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, where it was determined that the Livens did not pose a hazard.

To date, the release said, the testing identified that the 75-mm projectile contained only soil. "The Livens projectile was filled 85 percent with liquid," it added. "The liquid was 99.9994 percent water and 0.0006 percent a commercial chemical called acetophenone. That concentration is equivalent to one grain of sand in one million grains. Acetophenone is a commercial chemical used in the perfume industry as fragrance in soaps and perfumes, as a flavoring agent in foods, and as a solvent for plastics and resins. It is not hazardous."

The NPS and Army are seeking funding to conduct a comprehensive probe at Fort Totten Park, according to the release.

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The two metal canisters were found on April 18 after unauthorized work by an adjacent property owner pushed approximately 10 feet of soil onto NPS land, the release added.

The NPS shared that one munition was a 75-mm projectile and the other munition was a Livens projectile of about 6 inches in diameter and 19 inches long.

"Initial assessment by Army experts indicated the 75-mm projectile did not pose a hazard and the Livens projectile contained an unknown liquid," the release said. "After initial assessment, the items were transported to a nearby secure Federal facility. Both items were evaluated by the Army's Materiel Assessment Review Board (MARB). The MARB evaluates munitions with an unknown liquid fill using data collected through non-intrusive assessment, historical records, and military expertise."

The NPS went on to say that Initial testing of the liquid in the Livens projectile was inconclusive and was further tested at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, where it was determined that the Livens did not pose a hazard.

To date, the release said, the testing identified that the 75-mm projectile contained only soil.

"The Livens projectile was filled 85 percent with liquid," it added. "The liquid was 99.9994 percent water and 0.0006 percent a commercial chemical called acetophenone. That concentration is equivalent to one grain of sand in one million grains. Acetophenone is a commercial chemical used in the perfume industry as fragrance in soaps and perfumes, as a flavoring agent in foods, and as a solvent for plastics and resins. It is not hazardous."

The NPS and Army are seeking funding to conduct a comprehensive probe at Fort Totten Park, according to the release.

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Omaha Police Arrest Suspect Who Assaulted Ex-US Senator McSally - Statement

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - The Council Bluffs Police Department in the US state of Iowa on Friday issued a statement that it was informed the man who allegedly assaulted former US Senator Martha McSally had been arrested in the neighboring state of Nebraska.

"On 11-10-23, the Council Bluffs Police Department received information the suspect, Dominic M. Henton, was taken into custody by the Omaha Police Department," the statement said.

The Omaha-Council Bluffs area is a bi-state metropolitan region in Nebraska and Iowa that extends on both sides of the Missouri River in the US Midwest. The region consists of eight counties and numbers nearly one million residents.

Henton has been transferred to a local jail and is currently awaiting extradition back to Council Bluffs, the statement said.

McSally said in a video message that Henton engulfed her in a "bear hug" while she was jogging along the Missouri River.

"He molested and fondled me until I fought him off," McSally said.

Police identified Henton as a 25-year-old white man who frequently visited the Iowa and Nebraska sides of the Missouri River.

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Palestinian Mission Urges UNSC to Act on Implementation of Ceasefire Resolution - Letter

UNITED NATIONS, November 10 (Sputnik) - The Palestinian mission to the United Nations urges the UN Security Council to act to implement a General Assembly resolution on a ceasefire in the Israel-Gaza war, according to a letter sent to the UNSC president.

"We implore the international community to act with urgency to implement resolution ES-10/21 and all other relevant UN resolutions. Even as it waits for the Security Council to fulfill its Charter duties, the international community is obligated to act," the letter to Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jun said.

As General Assembly resolution ES-10/21 is "being flagrantly violated by Israel," and as "the

Security Council paralysis persists" in the face of the crisis, Palestine reiterates its calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance, the letter said.

In late October, the UN General Assembly approved a Jordan-submitted resolution calling for a humanitarian truce in Gaza.

The resolution was adopted in a 120-14 vote, with 45 abstentions. The United States and Israel were among those that voted against.

The adoption of the resolution followed four unsuccessful attempts by the UN Security Council to agree on its own resolution on the Israel-Gaza conflict.

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Reuters Says Probe Found SpaceX Disregards Worker-Safety Rules, 600 Injuries Since 2014

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - Reuters reported on Friday that it conducted an investigation that revealed SpaceX disregards worker-safety regulations at its rocket and satellite facilities nationwide.

The Reuters investigation consisted of interviews and government records.

The probe found that at least 600 injuries occurred among SpaceX employees since 2014, including one death in June 2014 when an employee was blown off a trailer while sitting on insulation and slammed headfirst into the pavement.

Federal inspectors, the report said, determined that SpaceX failed to protect the SpaceX employee from a clear hazard.

Other workplace injuries among SpaceX employees includes crushed limbs, amputations, electrocutions, head and eye wounds, the report said.

SpaceX did not immediately respond to Sputnik's request for comment on the matter.

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Israel Postpones Consideration of St. Alexander Compound Ownership Due to War in Gaza

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - The Israeli government had to postpone considering the issue of ownership on St. Alexander Compound in Jerusalem due to the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip, head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem of the Russian Church Abroad (ROCOR) Archimandrite Roman (Krassovsky) told Sputnik.

"The government commission was scheduled to decide in November, but it had to postpone the process because of the war in Gaza," Roman said.

The archimandrite expressed hope that the Israeli authorities would return to the issue early next year.

Roman also said the fate of the compound has remained a "hot topic" over the past years given

that it is a sacred place and a site of pilgrimage for Christians.

The issue of ownership has to be considered on the government level, Roman said.

"We are discussing the issue with the Russian Federation in order to find a mutually acceptable solution," Roman added.

St. Alexander Compound is located in old Jerusalem near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Built in the 19th century by Russia, it includes the Threshold of the Judgment Gates, St. Alexander Nevsky Church, and a museum.

Discussions over the compound's fate began after 1917. At present, the Orthodox Palestine Society under the ROCOR omophorion and the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society in Russia are trying to agree on the ownership of the compound.

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US Film Company A24 Developing Elon Musk Biopic, Darren Aronofsky Directing - Reports

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - Independent US film company A24 is partnering with director Darren Aronofsky to make a biopic focused on billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, NBC News reported on Friday.

Aronofsky - known for films including "Black Swan" and "The Whale" - will direct the biopic, which will be based on a Musk biography published by Walter Isaacson in September, the report said, citing a source familiar with the project.

A24 will co-produce the biopic alongside Protozoa Pictures, Aronofsky's own production company, the report said. A24 obtained the film rights for the Musk biography after a highly competitive bidding war, the report added.

"Glad Darren [Aronofsky] is doing it. He is one of the best," Musk said in reply to reports of the film on social media platform X.

It is unclear who filmmakers will choose to play Musk in the biopic, the report said.

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US Lawmaker Demands Opening Probe Into CNN, NYT, Reuters for Accompanying Hamas on Oct. 7

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) – Senator Tom Cotton accused four major media outlets and their journalists of taking part in the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7 and demanded US Attorney General Merrick Garland to open a national security investigation into them, according to a letter, published by the lawmaker on Friday.

"I write regarding reports that so-called 'journalists' employed by the Associated Press, CNN, New York Times, and Reuters accompanied Hamas terrorists into Israel during the October 7 terror attack. These individuals almost certainly knew about the attack in advance, and even

participated by accompanying Hamas terrorists during the attack and filming the heinous acts," the letter said. "The Department of Justice must immediately open a national security investigation into these four media outlets..."

Also, Cotton claims that he knows of at least one case in which a journalist working for one of these media outlets even took a selfie of himself being kissed on the cheek by one of the Hamas leaders who planned the attack on Israel, according to the letter.

On Thursday, The Honest Reporting, a non-governmental organization, accused these news agencies' photojournalists, who filmed Hamas fighters infiltrating Israel and killing civilians on October 7, of being implicated in the attack.

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office's National Public Diplomacy Directorate, for its part, demanded immediate action against these photojournalists, describing them as "photographers in the service of Hamas."

In addition, Israel's Government Press Office (GPO) said on Thursday that its Director Nitzan Chen had sent an urgent letter to the heads of the regional bureaus of Associated Press, Reuters, CNN, and the New York Times, demanding clarification over their photojournalists being near Hamas combatants during their October 7 attack on Israel and filming the events.

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Biden Says Big Oil Needs to Prioritize Relief for Consumers, Not Pad Profits

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden said on Friday that despite drops in gas prices ahead of the holiday season, Big Oil needs to prioritize consumer relief instead of increasing their own profits.

"Big Oil profits are still elevated. Instead of padding profits, companies should invest to get more relief to consumers," Biden wrote on X.

Biden added that the current reduction in gas prices provides breathing room for families planning on holiday travel, but indicated in his comments that Big Oil could be doing more to reduce the strain on everyday life for American citizens.

According to AAA, nine states are recording average gas prices below \$3 per gallon, and the national average is the lowest since March. However, prices in the far western states like Oregon and California remain around the \$5 dollar mark.

An estimated 47 million people will travel by car this Thanksgiving.

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UPDATE: US Air Force Confirms B-21 Raider Began Flight Testing - Spokesperson to Sputnik

(Provides additional details in paras 3-5)

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) – The B-21 Raider stealth bomber has officially gone

airborne during the first test flight on Friday, nearly a year since the aircraft was presented to the public, a US Air Force spokesperson told Sputnik in a statement.

"The B-21 Raider is in flight testing. Flight testing is a critical step in the test campaign managed by the Air Force Test Center and 412th Test Wing's B-21 Combined Test Force to provide survivable, long-range, penetrating strike capabilities to deter aggression and strategic attacks against the United States, allies, and partners," the statement said.

At this moment, six more test aircraft are being produced and the US Air Force will receive at least 100 of these aircraft, which should become the next generation of strategic stealth bombers after the departure of the B-1s and B-2s with new penetrating deep strike conventional and nuclear capabilities, according to the statement.

The Ellsworth Air Force base in the US state of South Dakota has become the first and so far the only base where training and other services related to B-21 Raider are conducted. In the future, air bases in other states will also be added, including in Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, and California, the statement added.

Each B-21 Raider will cost more than \$700 million to procure in 2023 prices, \$150 million more than in 2010 when the program was initiated.

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Canada's New Sanctions Confirm Government's Anti-Democratic Nature - Russian Envoy

(Updates with context, background in paras 7-11)

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - The latest round of sanctions imposed on Russia simply confirms the anti-democratic nature of the government in Ottawa and Moscow will definitely respond, Russian Ambassador to Canada Oleg Stepanov told Sputnik on Friday.

"The new round of sanctions introduced by the Trudeau cabinet, like all previous measures of this kind, makes no sense," Stepanov said. "This step – undertaken when they are trying to impose restrictions on academics, political scientists, cultural figures, scientific institutions and the media - only confirms the anti-democratic nature of the current government in Canada."

Earlier on Friday, Global Affairs Canada announced that Ottawa had imposed new Russia-related sanctions on six media organizations and other entities as well as on nine individuals.

Stepanov emphasized that the sanctions have not had so far and will not have in the future any practical impact on the targeted Russian citizens and organizations.

"This is, rather, a sign of the impotence of the Canadian authorities in their Russophobia. They no longer know whom to bring under the restrictions, and, as they say, 'they are running their fingers through the phone book,'" Stepanov said.

Following the principle of reciprocity, Russia will definitely respond to this unfriendly gesture, Stepanov added.

Among the six sanctioned entities are the newspapers Izvestia and Parliamentskaya Gazeta; REN-TV; and Russia Beyond.

The newly-sanctioned individuals include former Russian Foreign Minister and former Secretary

of the Security Council Igor Ivanov and singer Sara Lvovna Shor, better known by her stage name Jasmin.

The entities and individuals were targeted for their alleged involvement in disinformation efforts related to Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, the Canadian government said in a statement.

The Canadian government began to sanction Russian citizens and entities in 2014 after the residents of Crimea overwhelmingly decided in a referendum to reunify with Russia.

The sanctions list has surpassed 2,700 names since the onset of Russia's special military operation in February 2022 and includes alleged "enablers" in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

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US Air Force Confirms B-21 Raider Began Flight Testing - Spokesperson to Sputnik

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"The B-21 Raider is in flight testing. Flight testing is a critical step in the test campaign managed by the Air Force Test Center and 412th Test Wing's B-21 Combined Test Force to provide survivable, long-range, penetrating strike capabilities to deter aggression and strategic attacks against the United States, allies, and partners," the statement said.

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Canada Announces New Russia-Related Sanctions Targeting Media Outlets - Global Affairs (Updates with background in paras 6, 7)

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - Canada has imposed new Russia-related sanctions on six media organizations and other entities as well as on nine individuals, Global Affairs Canada said on Friday.

"Together with our international partners, we will continue to stand up to the Russian regime and address Russian disinformation," Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly said in a statement.

The newspapers Izvestia and Parliamentskaya Gazeta; REN-TV and Russia Beyond are among the six sanctioned entities.

The sanctioned individuals include former Russian Foreign Minister and former Secretary of the Security Council Igor Ivanov and singer Sara Lvovna Shor, better known by her stage name

Jasmin.

The entities and individuals were targeted for their alleged involvement in disinformation efforts related to Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, the statement said.

The Canadian government began to sanction Russian citizens and entities in 2014, following Crimea's reunification with Russia by means of referendum.

The list has surpassed 2,700 names since the onset of Russia's special military operation in February 2022 and includes alleged "enablers" in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

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Canada Announces New Russia-Related Sanctions Targeting Media Outlets - Global Affairs

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - Canada is imposing new Russia-related sanctions that target several media organizations and other entities, Global Affairs Canada said on Friday.

Canada is sanctioning six entities, including the Izvestia and Parliamentskaya Gazeta newspapers, REN-TV and Russia Beyond, as well as nine individuals, according to sanctions amendments. The sanctioned individuals include former Russian foreign minister and former Secretary of the Security Council Igor Ivanov and singer Jasmin.

"Together with our international partners, we will continue to stand up to the Russian regime and address Russian disinformation," Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly said in a statement.

The sanctioned entities and individuals were targeted for their alleged involvement in Russian "disinformation efforts" related to the conflict in Ukraine, the statement said.

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Maryland Lawmakers Defend Selection of New FBI Headquarters Location as Being 'Objective'

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - Officials in the US state of Maryland on Friday defended the decision to choose the town of Greenbelt to be home for the new FBI headquarters as being an objective one and have rejected expressed concerns about the transparency of the selection process.

"An objective reading of all the facts led to the selection of the FBI headquarters at Greenbelt, Maryland, because it's best for the country, best for the FBI and best for the people," Steny Hoyer, who represents Maryland's 5th congressional district in the US Congress, said during a press conference. "Each side had an equal opportunity to participate in the consultations and make their pitch."

On Thursday, FBI Director Christopher Wray raised concerns about the General Services Administration's (GSA) selection of the site for the agency's new headquarters. Wray said the FBI had identified a potential conflict of interest involving the GSA and questioned whether

changes made by individuals during the final stage of the selection process adhered to the established criteria.

US Senator Chris Van Hollen said during the press conference that it was wrong for Wray to question the procedures, the character and the independence of those tasked with the selection process for a new FBI headquarters.

US Congressman Glen Ivey, who represents Maryland's 4th congressional district, pointed out that studies had shown selecting Greenbelt would result in saving \$1.5 billion in taxpayer funds. "I don't think the American taxpayers should have to spend an extra billion dollars so some FBI officials could have a shorter commute to the office every day," Ivey said.

The process to find a location for the construction of a new FBI headquarters began several years ago after the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington began to show signs of structural damage, becoming problematic to operate in and costly to maintain.

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Muslims Will Not Support Biden in 2024 Election After 'Genocide' in Gaza - Advocacy Group

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - Muslim voters will not support US President Joe Biden in next year's presidential election after he "betrayed" Palestinians and allowed "genocide" in Gaza, Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), told Anadolu.

Awad said in an interview that Biden "ignored" Muslims in Gaza and in response they will ignore him next year at voting booths.

"We told him [Biden] directly, in our personal capacities, that if you do not call for an immediate cease-fire [in Gaza], you will not get our votes in 2024," Awad was quoted as saying. "There's no possibility for us to vote for him or give him any support."

Awad accused the Biden administration of a total violation of human rights, dignity and equality for people abroad, especially for Palestinians, the report said.

The remarks come after Biden reiterated on Thursday that his administration will not support any comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza until Hamas is defeated.

"What we see from him is completely one-sided support for the state of Israel," Awad said, stating that the US president has basically provided Tel Aviv with carte blanche to use excessive force against civilians in Gaza.

According to an Arab American Institute (AAI) poll released in October, support for President Biden among Arab Americans has declined by 42% since 2020, with the group's support dropping further in recent weeks amid the Biden administration's response to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

The poll found that 17.4% of Arab Americans would vote for Biden, 40% for former US President Donald Trump and 25.1% were unsure. Furthermore, 13.7% said they would vote for independent candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and 3.8% for People's Party candidate Cornel West.

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Republican Presidential Hopeful Chris Christie Says Visiting Israel to Meet With Officials

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) - US Republican Party 2024 presidential candidate Chris Christie said in a speech that he will visit Israel to meet with government officials there in the wake of a surprise attack on the country by Palestinian Hamas militants last month.

"Tomorrow night, I am leaving to go to Israel, because I want to see it for myself," Christie said on Thursday. "I don't think you can try to be president of the United States and be afraid to go and see what's happening on the ground."

Christie said that he will meet with Israeli officials, soldiers and civilians during his trip. Christie is the first Republican presidential candidate to visit Israel since Hamas' attack on October 7.

US President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee for 2024, has also visited the country since the outbreak of the conflict.

On Wednesday, Christie participated in the third Republican Party primary debate alongside four other presidential hopefuls, although frontrunner and former US President Donald Trump did not attend the event.

Christie maintains 3.1% support in the race for the Republican nomination, according to FiveThirtyEight primary poll averages released Thursday. Christie trails Trump, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, former US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley and businessman Vivek Ramaswamy.

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US House GOP Caucus Chair Says Filed Complaint Against Judge in Trump's NY Case

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) – US House Republican Conference Chair Elise Stefanik said on Friday that she has filed an official judicial complaint against New York Supreme Court Judge Arthur Engoron for his "inappropriate bias" in former President Donald Trump's civil fraud case.

"I just filed an official judicial complaint against Judge Arthur Engoron for his inappropriate bias and judicial intemperance in New York's disgraceful lawsuit against President Donald J. Trump and the Trump Organization," Stefanik wrote on X.

In the complaint, Stefanik accused Engoron of "bizarre behavior" and not honoring the defendant's rights to due process and a fair trial.

"These serious concerns are exacerbated by the fact that the defendant is the leading candidate for President of the United States, and it appears the judicial system is being politicized to affect the outcome of the campaign," she said.

Stefanik stated that Engoron has demonstrated "a clear judicial bias" against Trump throughout the case, thus breaking several rules in the New York Code of Judicial Conduct.

She cited the judge calling the former president "just a bad guy" New York Attorney General Letitia James "should go after as the chief law enforcement officer of the state."

She also listed a number of other instances that she believes demonstrate Engoron's inappropriate behavior

Stefanik said Judge Engoron simply ignored Trump winning an appellate ruling on the appropriate statute of limitations in his case. She also described Engoron's gag order against Trump's legal team "illegal" and "un-American."

The House Republican Conference chair called Judge Engoron and his staff "partisan Democrat donors." Judge Engoron donated to the Manhattan Democrats as recently as 2018 even though judges are required to refrain from making a contribution to a political organization, she stated.

Judge Engoron is overseeing the case brought by New York Attorney General James against Trump, his two oldest sons, the Trump Organization and several executives in the New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan.

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Record High 52% of Americans Concerned About US Actions Over Illegal Drugs – Poll

WASHINGTON, November 10 (Sputnik) – A high record 52% of Americans expressed concerns about what US authorities are doing to fight illegal drugs, a new Gallup poll showed on Friday.

"For the first time, a majority of US adults, 52%, say the US has lost ground in coping with the illegal drug problem, while a record-low 24% say it has made progress. Another 23% believe it has stood still," Gallup said in a summary of the poll's findings.

A similar survey in 2019 showed that people were more optimistic at that time. Only 30% said then that US authorities were losing ground in the effort to combat illegal drugs.

"Republicans are extremely negative about US progress on illegal drugs, with 12% believing the US is making progress and 75% losing ground. Independents are also decidedly pessimistic, with 22% believing progress is being made and 52% thinking the situation is getting worse," the new poll found.

However, 40% of Democrats expressed confidence that the situation is improving, while only 27% of them said it is worsening.

Almost three-fourths of Americans, or 74%, described illegal drugs as the major problem for the country, up from 64% in 2021. The record high of 83% was measured in 2000, the poll said.

The poll surveyed 1,009 adults in all 50 US states and the District of Columbia between October 2 and October 23.