

# Black Man Dead After Police Beat Him for 3 Minutes



Sierra Rogers, holding her daughter Khloe Rogers, 1, wipes away tears as she speaks during a memorial service for her friend, Tyre Nichols, Jan. 17, in Memphis, Tenn.

MEMPHIS (Reuters) -- Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old father of a 4-year-old boy, died in the hospital on Jan. 10 of injuries he sustained during his arrest by five officers, all of whom have been fired.

"He was defenseless the entire time. He was a human piñata for those police officers," attorney Antonio Romanucci, Crump's co-counsel, told reporters. "It was an unadulterated, unabashed, nonstop beating of this young boy for three minutes. That is what we saw in that video," he said, adding, "There were multiple uses of force against him."

The attorneys said local, state and federal investigators promised to release the bodycam video to the public within a week or two. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigations, FBI and Justice Department are investigating the incident in addition to Memphis police and the Shelby County District attorney.

The police department determined after its investigation that the officers violated multiple policies, including using excessive force, failing to intervene and failing to render aid.

Crump said the video reminded him of the landmark video of Los Angeles

police beating King in 1991, sparking violent protests and reforms in the department.

"Regrettably, it reminded us of (the) Rodney King video," said Crump, who previously represented the families of George Floyd and Trayvon Martin. "Regrettably, unlike Rodney King, Tyre didn't survive."

The last words heard on the video were Nichols calling for his mother three times, Crump said.

"He was less than 80 yards (73 meters) away when they murdered him. Yes, I say murder," said Nichols' mother, RowVaughn Wells.

People who knew Nichols said he was an accomplished skateboarder who had recently enrolled in a photography class and came home to his mother during his lunch break from his job at FedEx.

"My son didn't do no drugs. He didn't carry no guns. He didn't like confrontation. None of that. That's why this is so hard," she said.

Memphis police on Friday identified officers involved in the case as Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Emmitt Martin III, Desmond Mills, Jr., and Justin Smith. Each had served with the department about 2-1/2 to 5 years.

A photo of a bloodied, intubated Nichols released to the public helped fuel multiple days of protests and calls of "Justice for Tyre" in Memphis, a city of 630,000 that is 65% Black.

# Morocco Lawmakers Vote to Review Ties With EU



Members of both houses of Morocco's parliament met in the capital Rabat for a joint session.

RABAT (AFP) -- Moroccan lawmakers voted unanimously to review ties with the European Parliament, accusing it of meddling after a resolution that urged the kingdom to respect press freedom.

Members of both houses of Morocco's parliament met in the capital Rabat for a joint session in response to the non-binding European text adopted on Thursday.

In a statement after their session, the Moroccan legislators called the European resolution "an unacceptable attack against the sovereignty, dignity and independence of judicial institutions in the kingdom."

They said it had "seriously harmed the fundamental trust" between them.

As a result, Morocco's Parliament "decided to reconsider its relations with the European Parliament and submit them for an overall evaluation," said Rachid Tabi Alami, speaker of the House of Representatives. He gave no further details.

Under a 1996 agreement, Morocco and the European Union have been linked in tight economic and commercial relations, particularly in agriculture and fishing.

"Their decisions are not going to intimidate us, and we are not going to change our path and approach," said Muhammad Ghiat, president of the National Rally of Independents, the biggest party in Morocco's ruling

coalition.

European lawmakers in Strasbourg had urged Morocco to "respect freedom of expression and media freedom" and to "guarantee imprisoned journalists... a fair trial".

The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) watchdog welcomed the EU parliament vote as a break with "25 years of passivity".

Some lawmakers saw Morocco's former colonial power France as pushing the European measure.

"Behind the scenes of this decision hides a country which we had thought of as a friend and a solid partner, but the smell of gas has made it lose it," said Ahmed Touizi, of the Authenticity and Modernity Party.

Touizi, whose party belongs to the majority coalition, was referring to warming ties between Paris and Algeria, Morocco's neighbor and rival -- and a major exporter of gas to European nations.

"Morocco has had enough of double standards," Abdelmajid Fassi Fihri, of the Istiqlal Party, told AFP. He deplored the fact that the European Parliament had not condemned attacks on press freedom in Algeria.

Two of the most prominent journalists' cases in Morocco are those of Omar Radi and Soulaïmane Raïssouni, both sentenced at appeal last year on sexual abuse charges.

# West Gives Ultimatum to Serbia Over Kosovo



Soldiers of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) line up during the 'Defender Europe 21' military exercise, in village Deve near Gjakova, Kosovo May 28, 2021.

BELGRADE (AFP) -- Serbia has been given an ultimatum from powerful Western nations to normalize ties with Kosovo or face measures that would do "great damage" to the country, the president said.

President Aleksandar Vucic said he had been presented a proposal, as part of a Western push to solve long-simmering tensions with Kosovo, during a meeting last week with representatives of the European Union, United States, France, Germany and Italy.

"(They) said -- you must accept this plan, or you will face the interruption of the process of European integration, the halting and withdrawal of investments and comprehensive

economic and political measures that will cause great damage to the Republic of Serbia," Vucic said.

Speaking during a televised press conference, Vucic said Serbia's parliament would have to discuss the proposal, and hinted at a possible referendum.

He did not give any details of what the proposal entails, but underlined that without the EU, Serbia would become "isolated".

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Monday that the meetings in Kosovo and Serbia had focused on "discussions on the proposal on normalization of relations. We stressed that advancing on this Proposal

would bring considerable benefits for both sides."

Serbia has been a candidate to join the European Union for over a decade, and normalizing ties with Kosovo has been a key condition to advance its application.

"Serbia must remain on its EU path ... Because we would be lost without it, economically and politically. If we were to be alone and isolated, that is not something I would accept as a president," Vucic said.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, after a bloody war in the late 1990s between an ethnic Albanian insurgency and Serbia forces.

Belgrade and its key allies Russia and China refused to recognize the move, effectively denying Pristina a seat at the United Nations.

Serbia has often drifted from Brussels' foreign policy line, most recently when Belgrade refused to sanction Moscow after the Ukraine war. However, it has condemned Russia's aggression at the UN.

Vucic said he believes that the pressure to resolve the Kosovo issue is a result of "changed geopolitical circumstances".

"They (the West) have their own agenda, which is Russia's defeat, and everything that stands in the way of that agenda will be crushed," Vucic said.

# Myanmar Military Faces Genocide Charges in Germany



A Rohingya refugee reacts while holding his dead son after crossing the Naf river from Myanmar into Bangladesh in Whaikhyang on Oct. 9, 2017.

BANGKOK (AFP) -- A group of people from Myanmar have filed a criminal complaint in Germany accusing their country's military of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, a rights organization said Tuesday.

The case was lodged with Germany's Federal Public Prosecutor General under the principle of universal jurisdiction, which allows the prosecution of certain grave crimes regardless of where they took place.

The 16 complainants live in several countries, including Myanmar, and are drawn from a cross-section of the country's numerous ethnic groups -- including Rohingya, the dominant Burman and minority Chin communities.

Their accounts date from 2017, when the country was run by a civilian government, to 2021, after the coup that brought the current junta to power.

The 215-page complaint alleges the military "systematically killed, raped, tortured, imprisoned, disappeared, persecuted, and committed other acts that amount to genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes," the campaign group Fortify Rights, which is leading the legal case, said in a statement.

The complaint draws on more than 1,000 interviews conducted by Fortify Rights since 2013, as well as leaked documents and information from the Myanmar army and deserters, said the

rights group.

It alleges that senior military officials "knew about their subordinates' crimes, and failed to take any action to prevent the crimes from happening and to punish the perpetrators".

The complaint asks the German prosecutor to open an investigation into specific officials and others liable for mass atrocity crimes.

It also addresses the army's actions during a violent crackdown against the Rohingya in 2017, which forced more than 740,000 to flee.

One Rohingya woman, identified by the initials FK, survived an attack by soldiers and non-Rohingya on her northern Rakhine village in August 2017.

Seven members of her family were killed, and as she was beaten by soldiers, she heard her daughter-in-law being raped in the adjacent room.

"As a Rohingya woman, I want justice for the genocide so that it does not happen again," FK said.

Cases are currently being heard by the International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice, and another universal jurisdiction case in Argentina for crimes committed during the military crackdown on the Rohingya.

The United States has said Myanmar's 2017 crackdown on Rohingya constituted genocide.

# Fresh Protests Hit Peru Calling for President's Ouster

LIMA (AFP) -- Riot police tossed tear gas to disperse anti-government protesters in new unrest in Peru's capital, and the nation's interior minister said there was no end in sight to the tumbling gripping the nation.

Several hundred protesters marched in colonial central Lima to demand the ouster of President Dina Boluarte -- some shouting "Dina murderer!" -- until police moved in with tear gas volleys.

This crisis triggered by the ouster of leftist and Indigenous president Pedro Castillo early last month stems largely from a gaping inequity between Peru's urban elite and poor rural Indigenous people in the southern Andean region who saw him as one of their own and working to make their lives better.

The unrest has left 46 dead in the South American nation, and Interior Minister Vicente Romero forecast no relief.

After a mass rally last week in Lima, another was planned for Tuesday by protesters demanding the resignation of Boluarte, despite authorities calling a state of emergency.

"We urgently need for Dina to resign," said Edmunda Canaguira, 60, who came to Lima from Sicuani in the southeastern Andes of Peru to take part in the mass mo-

bilization.

"She doesn't listen to the people. It's her fault that we are in the streets this week -- without food, without being able to sleep," she said.

Protesters, many from poor Andean regions, are also demanding a new constitution, fresh elections and the dissolution of congress.

Civil groups have denounced repression by the security forces. Authorities have long claimed drug-traffickers and illegal miners were "manipulating" protesters.

Trouble first broke out on December 7 after then-president Castillo was arrested and charged with rebellion after attempting to dissolve congress and rule by decree.

His supporters have kept up regular protests and roadblocks throughout the country, even at times attempting to storm airports.

On Monday, there were still more than 80 blocked roads in eight of Peru's 25 regions.

The Inca citadel of Machu Picchu has been closed since Saturday as train services to the popular tourist site -- the only way to reach it other than on foot -- have been suspended for several days.

More than 400 stranded tourists had to be evacuated from Machu Picchu over the weekend.



PARIS (AFP) -- The Gare de l'Est train station in Paris suffered a total traffic shutdown early Tuesday after a signaling malfunction that officials said was caused by vandalism. A fire broke out at a signals point during the morning rush shortly before 8:30 am (0730 GMT) in what was first thought to be an accident, but then turned out to be arson, they said. "According to early findings, we can say this was a fire set deliberately on the electrical cables," a spokesman for rail operator SNCF told AFP. The Gare de l'Est is a busy commuter station and the starting point for long-distance trains to eastern France, Germany and Luxembourg. No trains would run before 10.00 AM, the spokesman said. Fast TGV trains to Nancy, Colmar and Reims as well as Frankfurt in Germany were cancelled or delayed, according to the station's electronic departures display. Some 41 million people used the Gare de l'Est in 2019, according to SNCF data.

PRAGUE (AFP) -- Poland and the Baltic states cried foul after Czech presidential candidate Andrej Babis said that, if elected, he would not send troops to help them under NATO's collective defense. Asked in a debate on Czech Television on Sunday whether he would send troops if Poland or the Baltics were attacked, Babis who faces former NATO general Petr Pavel in a runoff on Friday and Saturday said: "No, certainly not." Aid to NATO allies is anchored in Article 5 of the Treaty which says that if one member is attacked, other members should act as if they had also been attacked. "I want peace. I don't want a war. And in no case would I send our children and our women's children to war," said the 68-year-old populist. Seen as a message to Czech voters worried about being dragged into Russia's war in Ukraine, it raised eyebrows in all three Baltic states and Poland, all NATO members. Polish government spokesman Piotr Muller told state television he hoped the remarks were "just a matter of political emotions during a debate."

HELSINKI (AFP) -- Finland said for the first time Tuesday that it had to consider joining NATO without Sweden, whose bid appeared to grind to a halt as Ankara blasted Stockholm over anti-Turkey protests. "We have to assess the situation, whether something has happened that in the longer term would prevent Sweden from going ahead," Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto told broadcaster Yle. He added that it was "too early to take a position on that now" and that a joint application remained the "first option". Sweden's Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom told media on Tuesday that he was "in contact with Finland to find out what this really means". Turkey has indicated in recent months that it has no major objections to Finland's entry into NATO.

ISLAMABAD (AFP) -- Power had returned to most cities across Pakistan on Tuesday, a day after a nationwide breakdown left the country of 220 million people without electricity. The outage started around 7:30 am (0230 GMT) on Monday, a failure linked to a cost-cutting measure as Pakistan grapples with an economic crisis. Energy Minister Khurram Dasgiri Khan said on Monday evening that power was being gradually restored. Electricity largely returned to mega cities Karachi and Lahore overnight, but with localized and brief falls in connection continuing. The capital Islamabad and other cities, including Rawalpindi, Quetta, Peshawar and Gujranwala, also reported that the lights were back on. However, some rural areas were still waiting to be reconnected. The country's power system is a complex and delicate web, where problems can quickly cascade.

NEW DELHI (Reuters) -- A top Indian university has warned its students' union of strict disciplinary action if it goes ahead with a planned screening of a BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, saying it might disturb peace and harmony of the campus. Modi's government has dismissed the documentary, which questioned his leadership during deadly riots in his home state of Gujarat in 2002, as "propaganda", blocked its airing and also barred sharing of any clips via social media in the country. Modi was chief minister of Gujarat during the violence in which more than 2,000 people were killed, most of them Muslims. The students' union of New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, long seen as a bastion of left-wing politics, said on Twitter it would screen the documentary, "India: The Modi Question", at a cafeteria at 9 p.m. (1530 GMT).

VIENNA (AFP) -- Evidence is emerging that climate-related disasters are becoming a cause of human trafficking as criminal gangs exploit a growing number of uprooted people, the UN said Tuesday. The continuing war in Ukraine is also another risk factor for increased human trafficking, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in a report. "Climate change is increasing vulnerability to trafficking," the UNODC report said. The report is based on data from 141 countries collected from 2017 to 2020, and the analysis of 800 court cases. The impact of climate change "disproportionally" affected poor farming, fishing and other communities mainly relying on the extraction of natural resources for their livelihoods, the report said.