

Another Round of Anti-Trump Protests Hits U.S. Cities



Demonstrators hold up signs during a rally in downtown Chicago, Illinois, on April 19, 2025 in protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's policies and executive actions.

NEW YORK (AFP) – **Thousands of protesters rallied Saturday in New York, Washington and other cities across the United States for a second major round of demonstrations against Donald Trump and his hard-line policies.**

In New York, people gathered outside the city's main library carrying signs targeting the U.S. president with slogans like "No Kings in America" and "Resist Tyranny."

Many took aim at Trump's deportations of undocumented migrants, chanting "No ICE, no fear, immigrants are welcome here," a reference to the role of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency in rounding up migrants.

In Washington, protesters voiced concern that Trump was threatening long-respected constitutional norms, including the right to due process.

The administration is carrying out "a direct assault on the idea of the rule of

law and the idea that the government should be restrained from abusing the people who live here in the United States," Benjamin Douglas, 41, told AFP outside the White House.

Wearing a keffiyeh and carrying a sign calling for the freeing of Mahmoud Khalil, a pro-Palestinian student protester arrested last month, Douglas said individuals were being singled out as "test cases to rile up xenophobia and erode long-standing legal protections."

"We are in a great danger," said 73-year-old New York protester Kathy Valy, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, adding that their stories of how Nazi leader Adolf Hitler rose to power "are what's happening here." "The one thing is that Trump is a lot more stupid than Hitler or than the other fascists," she said. "He's being played... and his own team is divided."

Daniella Butler, 26, said she want-

ed to "call attention specifically to the defunding of science and health work" by the government.

Studying for a PhD in immunology at Johns Hopkins University, she was carrying a map of Texas covered with spots in reference to the ongoing measles outbreak there.

Trump's health chief Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a noted vaccine skeptic, spent decades falsely linking the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) jab to autism.

"When science is ignored, people die," Butler said.

In deeply conservative Texas, the coastal city of Galveston saw a small gathering of anti-Trump demonstrators.

"This is my fourth protest and typically I would sit back and wait for the next election," said 63-year-old writer Patsy Oliver. "We cannot do that right now. We've lost too much already."

On the West Coast, several hundred people gathered on a beach in San Francisco to spell out the words "IM-PEACH + REMOVE," the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Others nearby held an upside-down U.S. flag, traditionally a symbol of distress.

Organizers hope to use building resentment over Trump's immigration crackdown, his drastic cuts to government agencies and his pressuring of universities, news media and law firms, to forge a lasting movement.

The chief organizer of Saturday's protests — the group 50501, a number representing 50 protests in 50 states and one movement — said some 400 demonstrations were planned.

Russia, Ukraine Accuse Each Other of Breaking Ceasefire

MOSCOW/KYIV (Dispatches) – **Russia and Ukraine blamed each other on Sunday for breaking a one-day Easter ceasefire announced by President Vladimir Putin, with both sides accusing the other of carrying out hundreds of attacks.**

Putin, who ordered thousands of Russian troops into Ukraine in February 2022, ordered Russian forces to "stop all military activity" along the front line in the three-year-old war until midnight Moscow time (2100 GMT) on Sunday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia was pretending to observe the Easter ceasefire, but had in fact continued hundreds of artillery attacks on Saturday night, with more assaults on Sunday.

Zelenskyy wrote on the X social media platform that Russia had launched 26 assaults from midnight until midday local time (0900 GMT).

"Either Putin does not have full control over his army, or the situation proves that in Russia, they have no intention of making a genuine move toward ending the war, and are only interested in favorable PR coverage," Zelenskyy's post said.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Ukraine had broken the ceasefire more than 1,000 times, inflicting damage



A ruined city center in Kostyantynivka, the site of heavy battles with Russian troops, in the Donetsk region, Ukraine, Saturday, April 19, 2025.

to infrastructure and causing some civilian deaths.

The ministry said Ukrainian forces had shot at Russian positions 444 times while it had counted more than 900 Ukrainian drone attacks, including attacks on Crimea and on the Russian border areas of Bryansk, Kursk and Belgorod regions.

"As a result, there are deaths and injuries among the civilian population, as well as damage to civilian facilities," the ministry said.

Meanwhile, CNN has reported, citing an anonymous source, that Washington is planning one more meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and senior Russian officials to get Moscow on board with its vision for peace in the Ukraine conflict.

Witkoff has already met with Russian President Vladimir Putin three times this year as the U.S. president tries to broker a ceasefire between Kiev and Moscow.

WHO: U.S. Aid Cuts Strain Response to Health Crises Worldwide

RIYADH (AFP) – **The United States slashing foreign aid risks piling pressure on already acute humanitarian crises across the globe, a World Health Organization official said Sunday, also warning against withdrawing from the UN agency.**

Since taking office in January, President Donald Trump has effectively frozen foreign aid funding, moved to dismantle the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other programs, and announced plans to leave the WHO.

Washington, which had long been the WHO's biggest donor, did not pay its 2024 dues, and it remains unclear if the United States will meet its membership obligations for 2025.

The agency, already facing a gaping deficit this year, has proposed shrinking its budget by a fifth, likely reducing its reach and workforce, accord-

ing to an earlier AFP report citing an internal email.

"The WHO with its partners have a significant role in sustaining health-care systems, rehabilitation of health-care systems, emergency medical team training and dispatching, pre-placement of trauma kits," Hanan Balkhy, the WHO's regional director for the Eastern Mediterranean, told AFP.

"Many of these programs have now stopped or are not going to be able to continue," she said.

The funding cuts will likely hinder the ability to continue delivering robust aid to communities in desperate need of care.

Balkhy cited the ongoing conflicts in Gaza, Sudan, and Yemen as areas where healthcare institutions and aid programs were already under pressure before the funding shakeups.

In the Gaza Strip, where more than

a year and a half of fighting has seen large swaths of the Palestinian territory reduced to rubble and few hospitals remain functioning, the public health situation is dire.

"The emergency medical team support, procurement of the medications and the rehabilitation of the health care facilities, all of that has been immediately impacted by the freeze of the U.S. support," said Balkhy.

In Sudan, the WHO is facing mounting issues amid a bloody civil war that has displaced millions, with several areas hit by at least three different disease outbreaks -- malaria, dengue and cholera, according to Balkhy.

"We work significantly to identify emerging and re-emerging pathogens to keep the Sudanese safe, but also to keep the rest of the world safe. So it will impact our ability to continue to do surveillance, detection of diseases," she added.

China's U.S. Envoy Warns Beijing Ready to Fight Trade War



Chinese-made cars at the port in Nanjing, China.

DUBAI (Reuters) – **China's ambassador to the United States, Xie Feng, has urged Washington to seek common ground with Beijing and pursue peaceful coexistence while warning that China stood ready to retaliate in the escalating trade war.**

Speaking at a public event in Washington, details of which were posted on the Chinese embassy's web site, Xie said tariffs would devastate the global economy and drew a parallel between the Great Depression and tariffs imposed by the U.S. in 1930.

Referring to concepts in traditional Chinese medicine like the need to balance the opposing forces of yin and yang, Xie said harmony should guide relations between the world's two largest economies.

"A good traditional Chinese medicine recipe usually combines many different ingredients which reinforce one another and creates the best medical effect," he said.

"Likewise, the earth is big enough to accommodate both China and the U.S.," he said. "We should pursue peaceful coexistence rather than collide head-on, and help each other succeed rath-

er than get caught in a lose-lose scenario."

The trade war has all but frozen the mammoth trade between the world's two largest economies with tariffs over 100 percent in each direction and a suite of trade, investment and cultural restrictions.

China's top shipbuilding association on Saturday attacked a U.S. plan to apply port fees on China-linked ships.

While Japan, Taiwan and others are already in talks or preparing to negotiate with Washington over President Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs, there is currently no high-level dialogue planned with China.

Trump said on Friday the U.S. is having good conversations privately with China amid the two countries' trade war.

"By the way, we have nice conversations going with China," he told reporters at the White House. "It's, like, really very good." He did not offer additional details.

China has said the U.S. should show respect before any talks can take place.

Xie said China opposed the trade war and would retaliate to any country imposing tariffs on it.

Descendants of Slave Owners, Slaves in Caribbean Call for Reparations at UN

UNITED NATIONS (AP) – **The great-great-grandson of 19th-century British prime minister William Gladstone said he was horrified to learn seven years ago that his ancestors were slave owners in Jamaica and Guyana.**

And former BBC journalist Laura Trevelyan said she learned after records of Britain's Slave Compensation Commission were put online in 2013 that one of her ancestors, Sir John Trevelyan, owned sugar cane plantations in Grenada and about 1,000 enslaved people.

They spoke at a meeting at UN headquarters in New York where, for the first time, descendants of slave owners and enslaved people in former British colonies in the Caribbean sat at the same table with diplomats and experts from those nations discussing the contentious issue of reparations.

"This was a historic event," said Trevelyan, who moderated the meeting on the sidelines of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent's weeklong session.

From about the year 1500, millions of West Africans were sent to work mainly on plantations in the Caribbean and the Americas, including the southern United States. UN human rights chief Volker Türk told the forum that an estimated 25 million to 30 million Africans were uprooted for the purpose of slavery.

Few nations have apologized for their role in slavery, and reparations have been the subject of much debate.

The Geneva-based Human Rights Council has called for global action for years, including reparations, apologies and educational reforms to make amends for racism against people of African descent. The 15-nation Caribbean Community, known as CARICOM, has a 10-point plan for reparatory justice, starting with de-

mands for European countries where enslaved people were kept and traded to issue formal apologies.

Türk noted a European Union statement in 2023 profoundly regretting the "untold suffering" caused by the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the African Union's designation of 2025 as the "Year of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations."

At the meeting of descendants of enslaved people and slave owners on Tuesday, Trevelyan spoke of her family's decision to apologize to Grenada and to make a contribution of 100,000 British pounds (about \$133,000) toward education in the Caribbean island nation.

Going to Grenada with family and apologizing "wasn't exactly smooth sailing," said Trevelyan, who left the BBC and has become a campaigner for reparations. There were protests by one group that thought the apology was inadequate and the money not enough.

Also at the meeting was Aidee Walker, who said she was shocked when a DNA test revealed she was not only predominantly Scots-Irish but also part Nigerian, then discovered that her great-great-great-grandfather, who moved to New Zealand, was the son of a slave owner in Jamaica named John Malcolm and an African housekeeper.

Walker and her sister, Kate Thomas, said when they found out they felt they had to do something.

While Britain's role in abolishing slavery in 1833 is widely taught, Gladstone said, its involvement in the trade "has been completely buried." The history must be told, he said, because "the evils of this crime against humanity are not historical, they're felt very, very profoundly today."

Britain's deputy UN ambassador, James Kariuki, attended the meeting but did not speak.

News in Brief

COTONOU (Dispatches) – **Al-Qaeda affiliate JNIM said it killed 70 soldiers in raids on two military posts in north Benin, the biggest death count claimed by militants in the country in over a decade of activity in West Africa, the SITE Intelligence Group said on Saturday.** The West African state and its coastal neighbor Togo have suffered a series of attacks in recent years as groups linked to Daesh and Al-Qaeda have expanded their presence beyond the Sahel region to the north. Reuters could not immediately confirm the report independently. Benin's army spokesman Ebenezer Honfoga did not respond to calls and messages. SITE quoted a statement by JNIM on Thursday saying 70 soldiers were killed in attacks on two military posts in Benin's northeastern Kandi province in the Alibori department, more than 500 km from the capital Cotonou. U.S. group SITE tracks online content from militant groups.

SEOUL (Reuters) – North Korea denounced on Sunday U.S. President Donald Trump's recent order to ease weapons exports and called the decision "war escalation measures." "On one hand, the U.S. is pretending to be a 'mediator' by recommending dialogue and negotiation, while on the other hand, it is continuously handling over all kinds of weapons of mass destruction to encourage warmongers to further expand and prolong the war," the Korean Central News Agency said in an unnamed commentary.

BERLIN (AFP) – **A large police operation was under way in Germany on Sunday to find one or more shooters who killed two men the day before in the center of the country, police said. The bodies of the two victims, both with gunshot wounds, were found in front of a residential address in Bad Nauheim, a town north of Frankfurt, on Saturday afternoon, Giessen city police said. "A big force deployment" of police from uniformed, plain clothes and special forces branches have fanned out, backed by a helicopter, to find the perpetrator or perpetrators, it said. "The current understanding is that there is no danger for inhabitants or other people," police said. There was no information yet about the "circumstances, or the motive of the perpetrators," they said. Police and prosecutors have opened an investigation.**

NEW DELHI (Xinhua) – **At least 11 people were killed and 11 others injured after a multi-storey residential building collapsed in the Indian national capital territory of Delhi, police said. The building collapsed in Mustafabad area of North East Delhi district in the early hours of Saturday. Following the building collapse, teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire services, police and locals carried out rescue efforts at the spot to pull out survivors and the dead from the debris. A closed-circuit television camera footage revealed that the building collapsed at 2:39 a.m. (local time) on Saturday. Reports said 22 occupants who were asleep at that time inside the building got trapped following its collapse. Officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi told local media the building was around 20 years old.**

ZHEZHAKZGAN (AFP) – **NASA's oldest serving astronaut Don Pettit became a septuagenarian while hurtling towards the Earth in a spacecraft to wrap up a seven-month mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). A Soyuz capsule carrying the American and two Russian cosmonauts landed in Kazakhstan on Sunday, the day of Pettit's milestone birthday. Today at 0420 Moscow time (0120 GMT), the Soyuz MS-26 landing craft with Alexei Ovchinnikov, Ivan Vagner and Donald (Don) Pettit aboard landed near the Kazakh town of Zhezkazgan," Russia's space agency Roscosmos said. Spending 220 days in space, Pettit and his crewmates Ovchinnikov and Vagner orbited the Earth 3,520 times and completed a journey of 93.3 million miles over the course of their mission. It was the fourth spaceflight for Pettit, who has logged more than 18 months in orbit throughout his 29-year career. The trio touched down in a remote area southeast of Kazakhstan after undocking from the space station just over three hours earlier.**

BISHKEK (AFP) – **Kyrgyzstan is getting rid of its Soviet-inspired national anthem and has launched an unprecedented public contest to find an alternative. The mountainous Central Asian country adopted a new anthem in 1992 after independence from the USSR but it is largely based on the Soviet-era one. The government says the anthem fails to accurately represent the young nation descending from the ancient history of the nomadic Kyrgyz people. The Kyrgyz were incorporated into first then Tsarist and then the Soviet empires and the country still retains a strong Russian influence. "Winning this competition would be a huge success," said Balasagyn Musayev, a 36-year-old composer and one of hundreds who have submitted entries for a new national anthem. Speaking during a rehearsal at the music conservatory in the capital Bishkek, Musayev said it took him a month to find inspiration and then he "wrote the music in two days". A poet friend wrote the text. "The new anthem must be better than the previous one in every way. Otherwise people will wonder why we changed it," Musayev told AFP.**