

Activists Continue March in U.S., Europe to Protest Gaza Genocide



Pro-Palestine protesters rally at Union Square and march Manhattan streets on June 26, 2025.

LONDON (Dispatches) - A solidarity march that began at Fountain Street Church in the city of U.S. Grand Rapids has reached advanced stages on its route to the state capital, Lansing.

The march includes 42 activists who are taking part in a five-day initiative covering over 70 miles. The aim is to raise funds for the organizations HEAL Palestine and Playgrounds for Palestine, in support of Palestinian children amid the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip.

HEAL Palestine works to save the lives of Palestinian children by facilitating their transfer to the United States for surgical treatment. It also builds field hospitals and pharmacies in Gaza.

Playgrounds for Palestine focuses on creating safe spaces for play and recreation for Palestinian children. Despite the continued genocide, it recently contributed to the construction of a school within Gaza.

Along their route, the participants have engaged with local communities, raising awareness of the Palestinian cause among residents in the towns and cities they pass through.

Earlier on Tuesday, Dutch health care workers demonstrated in front of the Amsterdam UMC academic hospital in solidarity with their Palestinian colleagues killed in Israeli attacks, Anadolu reports.

The workers observed a moment of silence for their colleagues and

demanding that hospital administrations cut ties with Israeli institutions during a protest organized by Artsen voor Gaza (Doctors for Gaza).

Dr. Job de Jong from Amsterdam's Public Health Service (GGD) read a statement by the group that said health care workers cannot remain "neutral" while a group is being "systematically" subjected to genocide.

The workers urged hospital administrations to take responsibility by reviewing their current partnerships with Israel's genocidal regime and sever all connections with Israeli institutions.

Underlining that Amsterdam UMC collaborates with certain Israeli academic institutions, they noted that continued ties with the institutions normalize apartheid and structural violence.

Despite international calls for a ceasefire, the Israeli army has killed more than 56,600 Palestinians in a deadly onslaught in the Gaza Strip since October 2023.

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.

Poll: Nearly Half of Americans Believe U.S. Won't be a 'Superpower' Within a Decade



MOSCOW (RT) - A significant share of American adults believe the United States may face severe crises within the next decade and lose its status as a global superpower, according to a recent YouGov survey.

Of the 1,111 adults polled online in mid-June, 21% said it is very likely the U.S. will see its global position decline in the next 10 years. Another 24% said such a scenario is somewhat likely.

In total, 45% of respondents said a complete U.S.

economic collapse is at least somewhat plausible. Forty percent said they foresee a civil war, while the same proportion believed there would be a total breakdown of law and order.

Nearly as many (38%) said they believe the U.S. may no longer be a democracy in 10 years. Thirty-one percent said the country could become a fascist dictatorship, while 20% predicted a communist dictatorship.

Only 43% of respondents said the current U.S. po-

litical system is working at least somewhat well, though opinions varied sharply along partisan lines. Among Democrats, 26% said the system functions adequately, compared to 69% of Republicans and 36% of independents.

While most Americans said they believe they live in a democracy regardless of political affiliation, a majority also believe the country is experiencing a constitutional crisis. That view was shared by 56% of respondents, including 82% of Democrats and 26% of Republicans.

Forty-seven percent of Democrats said they are very scared about the direction of global affairs, compared to 10% of Republicans and 30% of independents.

Compared to a decade ago, 67% of those polled said they see more political violence and misinformation in the U.S., with at least half believing those issues are more severe in the U.S. than in other democracies.

Latin Regional Bloc Condemns U.S. Policy Against Cuba

CARACAS (Xinhua) - The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-People's Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) has strongly condemned the U.S. policy to reinforce economic aggression and blockade against Cuba.

In a statement, the bloc denounced Washington's decision to reactivate and update Presidential Memorandum No 5 from the Trump administration, which strengthens the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

The decision signals intensified U.S. attempts to enforce regime change and disrupt Cuba's key sectors, including tourism, healthcare, migration, cultural and academic exchange, and access to technology, said the bloc.

The real intention of the U.S. government is to dominate Cuba and control its future, it said, reiterating its unwavering solidarity with the Cuban people and government in defending their sovereignty, freedom and self-determination.

The member states also reiterated their commitment to peace, security, diplomacy, non-interference and the right to self-determination, it added.

ALBA-TCP, comprising Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and Venezuela, is an inter-governmental organization that aims for social, political and economic integration of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Ukraine Struggles to Contain Russian Summer Advances as U.S. Aid Stalls



Ukrainian service members of the 25th Sicheslav Airborne Brigade fire a BM-21 Grad multiple rocket.

KYIV (AFP) - Russia has made incursions near two towns key to army supply routes in eastern Ukraine, a Ukrainian military official said on Wednesday, as Moscow seeks a breakthrough in a summer offensive at a time of uncertainty over U.S. support for Kyiv.

In recent weeks, Russia has amassed forces and despite heavy losses has advanced in rural areas either side of Pokrovsk and Kostiantynivka, which both sit on crossroads running to the frontline from larger cities in Ukrainian-controlled territory.

Russia's advances on the front are matched by an intensification of drone and missile strikes on Kyiv and other cities, following signs that Washington's support for Ukraine's war effort is faltering.

So far, the efforts by U.S. President Donald Trump have failed to achieve a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.

Russians are using small assault groups, light vehicles, and drones to push toward the neighboring region,

said Viktor Trehubov, a spokesperson for the Khortytsia group of forces.

"There are constant attacks with the intent of breaking through" to the border of the Dnipropetrovsk region at any cost, Trehubov said in written comments to Reuters.

Russia now has 111,000 soldiers in the Pokrovsk area, which it has been trying to seize since early last year, Ukraine's top armed forces commander Oleksandr Syrskyi said last week, describing dozens of battles in the area every day.

A decision by Washington to halt some deliveries of various weapons including precision rocket artillery to Kyiv will worsen the situation on the ground for Ukraine's forces, said Jack Watling, a senior researcher at the Royal United Services Institute, a think-tank.

"The loss of these supplies will significantly degrade Ukraine's ability to strike Russian forces beyond 30 km (19 miles) from the front line and therefore allow Russia to improve its logistics," Watling said.

Trump Threatens New York Mayoral Frontrunner With Arrest



Zohran Mamdani speaks to supporters after winning the Democratic nomination for New York City mayor.

NEW YORK (Middle East Monitor) - The new Democratic nominee for mayor of New York on has denounced U.S President Donald Trump's threat to arrest and deport him, calling the statement "an attack on our democracy" and vowing to "not accept this intimidation," Anadolu reports.

"The President of the United States just threatened to have me arrested, stripped of my citizenship, put in a detention camp and deported. Not because I have broken any law but because I will refuse to let ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents) terrorize our city," Zohran Mamdani wrote on X, referring to ICE's recent controversial crackdown on irregular immigrants.

Mamdani said the president's statements represent not only "an attack on our democracy" but also a warning to every New Yorker who refuses to stay silent, adding: "If you speak up, they will come for you. We will not accept this intimidation."

Mamdani has lived in the U.S. since he was 7 and became a U.S. citizen in 2018.

Earlier, Trump dismissed Mamdani as a "total nut job." During a round-table on immigration policy in Florida, when asked about his response to Mamdani's stance against ICE, Trump replied: "Well, then we'll have to arrest him."

Trump has long called for the arrest and jailing of his political opponents, from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to California Governor Gavin Newsom, often without specifying what charges they might face.

The Trump administration immigrant crackdown has targeted irregular migrants – or those who may look to have a migrant background – but earlier this month told its lawyers to prioritize trying to strip naturalized citizens for alleged criminal offenses.

Mamdani defeated former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo in last week's Democratic primary – as confirmed this week after rank-choice votes were counted – positioning him to become the Big Apple's first Muslim mayor.

New York leans heavily Democratic, though Mamdani could face an independent candidate challenge from Cuomo or current Mayor Eric Adams, a former Democrat who is seeking reelection.

New York is due to elect its mayor this Nov. 4.

Mamdani has been a vocal supporter of Palestine and a critic of Israel. While in college, he co-founded a chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, and in 2023, he joined a hunger strike outside the White House demanding a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

News in Brief

CALIFORNIA (AP) - An explosion at a fireworks warehouse in northern California caused several fires, sending black smoke into the air and forcing evacuations, authorities said. There were no immediate reports of injuries. People were urged to avoid the area of Esparto and Madison for several days following the Tuesday night explosion which set off multiple fireworks and caused a large fire that led to other spot fires and collapsed the building. "The fire will take time to cool, and once it does, explosive experts must safely enter the site to assess and secure the area," the Yolo County Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

PARIS (AFP) - Two people died in France as a result of "heat-related illness," said the minister for ecological transition on Wednesday, as the country registered its second-hottest June since records began in 1900. A heatwave across Europe this week broke high temperature records, leading to the closure of nearly 2,000 schools in France at midday on Tuesday. "More than 300 people have been treated by firefighters and two have died following heat-related illnesses," ecology minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher said on Wednesday.

DHAKA (Reuters) Bangladesh's ousted and self-exiled prime minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to six months in prison by the country's International Crimes Tribunal on Wednesday in a contempt of court case, a top prosecutor said. Hasina has been facing multiple cases since she fled to India after deadly student-led protests in August, but it was the first time the former leader was sentenced in one of them. Shakil Akand Bulbul, a leader of the Awami League party's banned student wing Chhatra League, was also sentenced to two months in prison in the same case, Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam told reporters. The party had been led by Hasina for years.

BEIJING (Reuters) - China is willing to enhance communications with the European Union and make sound preparations for the next China-EU leaders' meeting, a Chinese foreign ministry statement quoted Foreign Minister Wang Yi as saying on Wednesday. Wang, in meeting with European Council President Antonio Costa, called on both sides to respect each other's core interests and increase mutual understanding, adding that "unilateralism and acts of bullying have seriously undermined the international order and rules," according to the statement. The two men also discussed the Ukrainian crisis, with Wang reiterating Beijing's stance of promoting peace talks and a political settlement to the conflict, the statement said.

CARACAS/GENEVA (Reuters) - The Venezuela government-unanimously declared United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk persona non grata on Tuesday after Turk publicly decried what he said were arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances and other human rights violations in the South American country. The government of President Nicolas Maduro has rejected Turk's comments, made before the Human Rights Council in Geneva last week. It has previously said that Turk failed to defend the rights of Venezuelans deported to an El Salvador prison by the United States and to call for the return of Venezuelan minors separated from migrant parents in the United States.