

Trump's Takeover of D.C. Echoes Return to Law-and-Order Tyranny



President Donald Trump speaks with reporters at the White House, Aug. 11, 2025, in Washington, as Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth and Attorney General Pam Bondi look on.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- President Donald Trump has taken control of Washington, D.C.'s law enforcement and ordered National Guard troops to deploy in the city, citing an urgent public safety crisis.

He described the move as a "historic action" to rescue the capital from "crime, bloodshed, bedlam and squalor," echoing rhetoric often used by conservative politicians who have portrayed majority non-white cities as lawless and in need of federal intervention.

Many residents and local officials view this federal takeover as a troubling infringement on local authority. The move recalls past instances where politicians used racially charged language to justify aggressive policing in Black and Brown communities.

April Goggans, a longtime D.C. resident and activist, expressed concern over the potential impact on civil liberties, warning that increased law enforcement presence could lead to abuses affecting anyone in the community.

White House officials claim the National Guard will protect federal properties and help maintain order, hoping the visible law enforcement presence will deter violent crime.

However, local advocates are worried about what "providing a safe environment" means in practice, fearing unchecked police power and rights violations.

The American Civil Liberties Union's D.C. director, Monica Hopkins, cau-

tioned that this federal control could lead to abuses similar to those seen during the 2020 racial justice protests when military helicopters flew over peaceful demonstrators.

Trump's rhetoric fits a long history of conservative "law and order" politics, dating back to the 1960s. Politicians like Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan used similar language to appeal to white voters by portraying cities with growing non-white populations as dangerous.

Trump's comments about cities like Chicago, Baltimore, Oakland, Los Angeles, and New York — all led by Black mayors — follow this pattern, blaming Democratic leadership for crime and promising federal intervention.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser called Trump's takeover "unsettling" and questioned the legitimacy of the declared emergency, emphasizing that residents know the city's democratic access is fragile.

Civil rights leaders like Maya Wiley and Derrick Johnson criticized the move as a politically motivated distraction. Johnson labeled Trump's actions a "federal coup," asserting D.C.'s right to self-governance and condemning the unnecessary deployment of the National Guard amid no real emergency.

Meanwhile, mayors from other cities targeted in Trump's rhetoric, such as Baltimore and Oakland, dismissed his claims as fearmongering, highlighting their cities' declining crime rates and urging cooperation with local leaders instead of antagonism.

Far-Right Ban on Muslim Festivals in Jumilla Sparks Fierce Backlash



Jumilla's ban on religious gatherings has been described as 'institutionalized Islamophobia'.

MADRID (Guardian) -- Spain's central government has ordered officials in a Spanish town to scrap a ban on religious gatherings in public sports centers, describing it as a "discriminatory" measure that breaches the right to religious freedom as it will mainly impact Muslims.

Last week, it emerged that the conservative-led council in Jumilla, a town of about 27,000 residents in the region of Murcia, had backed the ban. As its Muslim residents had for years used the facilities to come together to mark Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, the motion was widely seen as targeting the town's estimated 1,500 Muslims.

The proposal was initially put forward by the far-right Vox party, which called for an outright ban on public celebrations such as Eid al-Adha.

Vox's hardline motion was watered down and subsequently backed by the People's party (PP), which removed the explicit reference to Eid al-Adha and instead stipulated that municipal sports facilities could no longer be used for "cultural, social or religious activities foreign to the city council". Vox had demanded the measure in exchange for backing the budget put forward by the town's PP mayor.

As the far right celebrated what it described as the "first measure" to ban Islamic festivals in Spain's

public spaces, the outcry was swift. The head of a prominent Muslim association in Spain described the ban as "institutionalized Islamophobia", while the country's migration minister called it "shameful".

In Jumilla, the PP defended the motion, arguing that it did not single out any religion or belief and highlighted that 72 nationalities coexisted in the town without any issue. The local mayor, Seve González, told El País the council was aiming to "promote cultural campaigns" that defended "our identity" and protected the "values and religious expressions of our country".

Spain's migration minister, Elma Saiz, said those who paid the price would be citizens who had spent decades peacefully living in Jumilla and had helped to sustain a local economy centered on vineyards and crops such as olives and almonds.

The measure came weeks after unrest gripped Torre-Pacheco, about 60 miles (100km) from Jumilla, with baton-wielding groups taking to the streets to "hunt" people with foreign origins after an assault on an older person.

In the lead-up to the unrest, after the pensioner told local media he believed his attacker had been of north African origin, racist messaging on social media rocketed by 1,500%, according to tracking by the central government.

Russian Forces Make Sudden Thrust Into Strategic Donetsk Corridor

KYIV, Ukraine (Dispatches) -- Russian forces have rapidly advanced in a narrow but important sector of the front line, the Ukrainian military and analysts said Tuesday, days ahead of a meeting between the Russian and U.S. presidents.

Moscow's army has made costly but incremental gains across the sprawling front in recent months and claims to have annexed four Ukrainian regions while still fighting to control them.

The Ukrainian army said in a statement on Tuesday that there had been fighting around the village of Kucheriv Yar in the Donetsk region, acknowledging Russian gains.

The Ukrainian DeepState blog, which retains close connections with the military, showed Russian advances around 10 kilometers (six miles) over around two days.

The corridor now under Russian control threatens the town of Dobropillya, a mining town that civilians are fleeing and that has been coming under Russian drone attacks.

It also threatens the embattled and destroyed town of Kostiantynivka, which is one of the last large urban areas in the Donetsk region still held by Ukraine.

A popular military blogger, Sternenko, wrote on Telegram that Russian forces during the advance had taken control of parts of a highway connecting important population centers in Donetsk. "The situation is critical," he wrote earlier.

The Institute for the Study of War, a U.S.-based observatory, meanwhile said: "Russian sabotage and reconnaissance groups are reportedly infiltrating areas near Dobropillya."

"It is premature to call the Russian advances in the Dobropillya area an op-

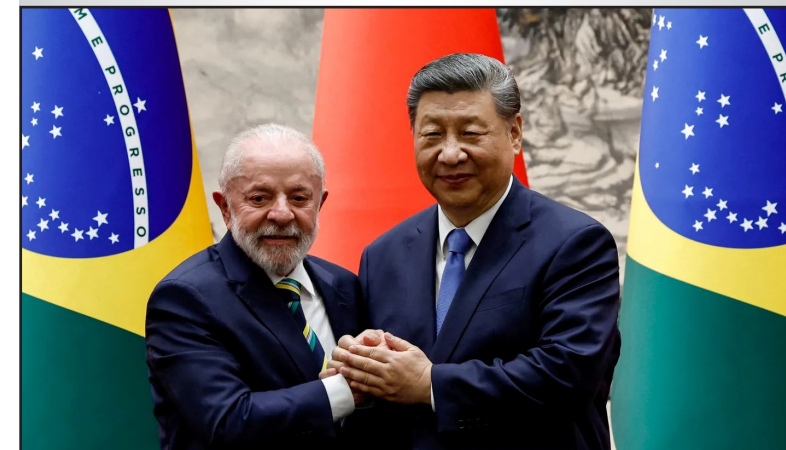
erational-level breakthrough," it added, cautioning that the coming days would be key to fending off the attack.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who is scheduled to meet Vladimir Putin on Friday has described the summit as a "feel-out meeting" to gauge the Russian leader's ideas for ending the war in Ukraine.

European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky plan to speak with Trump on Wednesday, before the summit in Alaska, amid fears that Washington, hitherto Ukraine's leading arms supplier, may dictate unfavorable peace terms to Kyiv.

Trump has said any peace deal would involve "some swapping of territories to the betterment of both" Russia and Ukraine, prompting consternation in Kyiv and European capitals as virtually all the territory in question is Ukrainian.

China, Brazil Unite to Ward Off Trump's Trade War



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Beijing.

BEIJING (AFP) -- China's President Xi Jinping told his Brazilian counterpart Tuesday the two countries could set an example of "self-reliance" for emerging powers, as trade and geopolitical challenges mount.

The two leaders have both sought in recent months to present their countries as staunch defenders of the multilateral trading system -- in stark contrast with U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff onslaught.

Xi's call with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Tuesday came just hours after Trump announced another 90-day pause to blistering tariffs on China.

It also followed indications from Lula last week he planned to speak with the leaders of India and China to consider a coordinated response to U.S. trade measures.

Xi told Lula that ties between China and Brazil are now at an all-time high, according to state news agency Xinhua.

He said China would "work with Brazil to set an example of unity and self-reliance among major countries in the Global South" and "jointly build a more just world and more sustainable planet", according to Xinhua.

Xi added that "all countries should unite and firmly oppose unilateralism and protectionism", Xinhua reported -- a thinly veiled reference to U.S. tariffs.

A statement by the Brazilian presidency said the phone call lasted about an hour, during which time Lula and Xi discussed a range of topics including the war in Ukraine and combating climate change.

"Both agreed on the role of the G20 and BRICS in defending multilateralism", the statement said, referring to the Group of Twenty major economies and a bloc of emerging powers.

The leaders also "committed to expanding the scope of cooperation in sectors such as health, oil and gas, digital economy and satellites", the statement added.

Beijing has worked in recent years to court Latin America as a way of countering Washington -- historically the most influential major power in the region.

China has surpassed the United States as Brazil's largest trading partner, and two-thirds of Latin American countries have signed up to Xi's Belt and Road infrastructure drive.

Brazil exports large quantities of soybeans to China, which -- as the world's largest consumer of the ingredient -- relies heavily on imports for its supply.

But Trump is seeking to encourage a shift in how China sources the commodity, used for livestock feed and to make cooking oil.

Lula conducted a five-day state visit to China in May, when he told a forum for cooperation between Beijing and Latin America that his region did not want to "start a new Cold War".

Colombia Shaken as Uribe Dies After Assassination Attempt



Colombian presidential hopeful Uribe dies two months after shooting.

BOGOTA (Reuters) -- Colombian Senator and presidential hopeful Miguel Uribe, who was shot in the head at a campaign event two months ago, died in the early hours of Monday at the age of 39, the hospital treating him said.

Uribe, a member of a prominent political family and a lawmaker for the right-wing opposition, was shot in Bogota on June 7 where he was speaking to try to secure his party's nomination for 2026 elections.

His wife, Maria Claudia Tarazona, announced his death on social media. "I ask God to show me the way to learn to live without you," she wrote. "Rest in peace, love of my life, I will take care of our children."

The attack was the worst outbreak of political violence in some two decades and evoked memories of the turbulent years of the 1980s and 1990s, when four presidential candidates were murdered in separate attacks blamed on drug cartels.

"The investigation should be deepened. It will be the appropriate authorities, helped by international experts, who will give information when the time comes," President Gustavo Petro said in a post on X. "Every time a Colombian is murdered, it is a defeat for Colombia and for life."

The capital's Santa Fe Foundation hospital - where supporters held regular vigils during Uribe's treatment and repeated operations - said over the weekend his condition had worsened because of a hemorrhage in his central nervous system. On Monday, it said he had died at 1:56 a.m. (0656 GMT).

Former President Alvaro Uribe, the leader of the senator's Democratic Center party and no relation to the deceased lawmaker, wrote on X that "evil destroys everything; they killed hope".

"May Miguel's fight be a light that illuminates Colombia's right path," added the former president, who was sentenced by a judge earlier this month to 12 years of house arrest for abuse of process and bribery of a public official.

Six people have been arrested over the shooting, including two men that the attorney general's office says met in Medellin to plan the assassination.

A 15-year-old accused of carrying out the shooting was arrested within hours of the crime, but police have said they are pursuing the "intellectual authors" of the attack.

In a video of the boy's June arrest, independently verified by Reuters, he can be heard shouting that he had been hired by a local drug dealer.

News in Brief

WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Reuters) -- The United States and China have extended a tariff truce for another 90 days, staving off triple-digit duties on each other's goods as U.S. retailers get ready to ramp up inventories ahead of the critical end-of-year holiday season. U.S. President Donald Trump announced on his Truth Social platform on Monday that he had signed an executive order suspending the imposition of higher tariffs until 12:01 a.m. EST (0501 GMT) on November 10, with all other elements of the truce to remain in place. China's Commerce Ministry issued a parallel pause on extra tariffs early on Tuesday, also postponing for 90 days the addition of U.S. firms it had targeted in April to trade and investment restriction lists. The new order prevents U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods from shooting up to 145%, while Chinese tariffs on U.S. goods were set to hit 125% - rates that would have resulted in a virtual trade embargo between the two countries. It locks in place - at least for now - a 30% tariff on Chinese imports, with Chinese duties on U.S. imports at 10%.

GENEVA (Reuters) -- United Nations investigators said on Tuesday they have found evidence of systematic torture by Myanmar security forces and identified some of the senior perpetrators. The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), formed in 2018 to analyze evidence of serious violations of international law, said victims were subject to beatings, electric shocks, strangulations and other forms of torture like the removal of fingernails with pliers. The torture sometimes resulted in death, the report said. Children, who are often unlawfully detained as proxies for their missing parents, were among those tortured, it said. The list of perpetrators identified so far includes high-level commanders, the report said.

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) -- Pakistan's military said on Tuesday it had killed 50 militants along the border with neighboring Afghanistan over four days, in a restive southwestern region home to key Chinese Belt and Road projects. The militants were killed in an operation started on Thursday, it said in a statement, in Balochistan, where both takfiri militants and separatist insurgents demanding a bigger share of the province's mineral wealth operate.

BEIJING (Reuters) -- Chinese authorities have urged local companies to avoid using Nvidia's H20 processors, particularly for government-related purposes, Bloomberg News reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter. Authorities have sent notices to a range of firms discouraging use of the less-advanced semiconductors, with the guidance taking a particularly strong stance against the use of Nvidia's H20s for any government or national security-related work by state enterprises or private companies, the report said. Nvidia said in July that its products have no "backdoors" that would allow remote access or control after China raised concerns over potential security risks in the chipmaker's H20 artificial intelligence chip. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested on Monday that he might allow Nvidia to sell a scaled-down version of its next-generation advanced GPU chip, Blackwell, in China, despite deep-seated fears in Washington that China could harness U.S. AI capabilities to supercharge its military.

MADRID (AFP) -- A man died from burns and thousands of people were forced to flee as wildfires swept through parts of Spain on Tuesday, fuelled by strong winds during a searing heatwave. Hundreds of residents in Tres Cantos were evacuated from their homes. "In barely 40 minutes, the fire advanced six kilometers," Carlos Novillo, Madrid's regional environment chief, told reporters. Elsewhere, about 2,000 people were evacuated from hotels and homes near the popular beaches of Tarifa in the southern region of Andalusia. In the northwestern region of Castile and Leon, more than 30 blazes were reported Monday, including one threatening Las Medulas, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its ancient Roman gold mines.

PARIS (AFP) -- French President Emmanuel Macron signed into law a modified bill that bars a bee-killing pesticide from being reintroduced after a petition signed by more than two million people. The legislation has been at the heart of a major debate in France and sparked a student-initiated petition that was wildly successful. Critics of the bill, adopted in July in a fractured lower house of parliament, say it was rushed through without proper debate. The law was published in the government's official journal on Tuesday after the Constitutional Council, the country's highest court, struck down the contested provision about the reintroduction of acetamiprid. The court said that the insecticides known as neonicotinoids posed "risks to human health" and was unconstitutional as it undermined the right to live in a balanced and healthy environment as guaranteed in the country's environmental charter.