

# Anti-Trump Protesters Gather in London Against His State Visit



*Tensions are building on the sidelines of the Stop Trump Coalition’s protest in central London on Wednesday, while Donald Trump is still in Windsor Castle for his state visit.*

LONDON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump has arrived in London for his second state visit to Britain, aiming to secure new trade and security agreements despite ongoing protests. According to Buckingham Palace, King Charles III, Queen Camilla, and Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcome Trump at Windsor Castle on Wednesday. On Thursday, Trump and Starmer are scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting at Chequers, the prime minister’s country residence. Nearly 100 residents from Windsor

and other parts of Britain, organized by the “Stop Trump Coalition” group, gathered along the streets outside Windsor Castle on Tuesday evening, chanting slogans against the visit and waving placards reading “Stop Hate, Stop Trump” and “Hate Never Made Any Nation Great.” Protesters on Tuesday projected images of Donald Trump and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein onto a castle in England where the U.S. president will stay during his UK state visit. The Led by Donkeys group, which is known for its viral stunts targeting

politicians, broadcast a video montage for several minutes onto one of the towers of Windsor Castle, west of London. The shots -- shown shortly before Trump’s arrival in Britain -- included the president’s mugshot, portraits of Epstein, newspaper headlines and footage of the two men dancing together. The local police said four people had been arrested “on suspicion of malicious communications” following the stunt in Windsor. Ahead of the visit, the British government announced more than 1.25 billion pounds (\$1.7 billion) in private U.S. investments in financial services and unveiled plans for a new nuclear power deal to be signed during Trump’s stay. Talks between the two sides are expected to cover artificial intelligence, semiconductors, telecommunications, and quantum computing, according to local media reports. The visit comes two months after Trump’s private trip to Scotland, during which he met with Starmer and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, a trip that also drew large demonstrations.

## University of California Students, Professors, Staff Sue Trump Administration



*People walk around UCLA’s campus on July 10, in Westwood, California.*

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Trump administration is using civil rights laws to wage a campaign against the University of California in an attempt to curtail academic freedom and undermine free speech, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday by faculty, staff, student organizations and every labor union representing UC workers. The lawsuit comes weeks after the Trump administration fined the University of California, Los Angeles \$1.2 billion and froze research funding after accusing the school of allowing antisemitism on campus and other civil rights violations. It was the first public university to be targeted with a widespread funding freeze. The administration has frozen or paused federal funding over similar allegations against elite

private colleges, including Harvard, Brown and Columbia. According to the lawsuit, the Trump administration has made several demands in its proposed settlement offer to UCLA, including giving government access to faculty, student, and staff data, releasing admissions and hiring data, ending diversity scholarships, banning overnight demonstrations on university property and cooperating with immigration enforcement. The Department of Justice didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment, nor did the office of the UC system’s president. Stett Holbrook, a spokesman for the University of California system, said that while the university is not involved in the lawsuit, it is part of numerous legal and advo-

cacy efforts to restore and maintain funding. “Federal cuts to research funding threaten lifesaving biomedical research, hamper U.S. economic competitiveness and jeopardize the health of Americans who depend on the University’s cutting-edge medical science and innovation,” he said in a statement. The coalition that sued is led by the American Association of University Professors union, or AAUP, and represented by Democracy Forward, a legal group that has brought other lawsuits against the Trump administration over frozen federal funds. The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights has launched dozens of federal investigations also targeting K-12 school districts. University of California President James Milliken said that the federal government has also launched investigations and other actions against all of the UC’s 10 campuses, but he offered no details in a statement. The Trump administration has used its control of federal funding to push for reforms at elite colleges that the president decries as overrun by liberalism and antisemitism. The administration also has launched investigations into diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, saying they discriminate against white and Asian American students.

## Bolivia Rejects U.S. Drug Trafficking Report, Questions Its Role as ‘Unilateral Judge’

LA PAZ (Xinhua) - Bolivia has rejected the conclusions of a United States State Department report on drug trafficking and questioned Washington’s role as a “unilateral judge.” The U.S. is not a recognized body for evaluating drug policies in other countries, Deputy Minister of Social Defense and Controlled Substances Jaime Mamani told state-run Bolivia TV. The official defended Bolivia’s

“proven” commitment to a frontal and transparent fight against drug trafficking, with an average of 35 tons of drugs seized annually. He praised Bolivia’s anti-narcotics strategy as “comprehensive and sovereign,” based on the concerted eradication of illegal coca crops and international cooperation with agencies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board. Bolivia’s Ministry of Government

also criticized the U.S. report, asserting in a statement that “drug trafficking is a global problem with shared responsibilities, and the fight against it must be the result of multilateral cooperation as established by international organizations, not unilateral accusations.” Bolivian authorities noted that the U.S., as a leading consumer of illicit drugs, lacked the authority to rate the effectiveness of other countries’ drug policies.

## Eight Out of 10 Muslims Experience ‘Widespread’ Hatred in France, Survey Says



*A police officer stands guard as people enter the Grand Mosque of Paris, in Paris, France, May 27, 2017.*

LONDON (middleeasteye) - A new survey reveals the extent of discrimination and racism targeting Muslims in France, with 82 percent of respondents believing that hatred towards them is widespread in the country and 81 percent saying it has increased over the past decade. Conducted by polling company Ifop among a representative sample of a thousand Muslims living in the country, the survey published was commissioned by the recently launched Observatory of Discrimination Against Muslims in France. It shows that two-thirds (66 percent) of respondents have experienced racist behavior in the past five years - a rate far higher than among the French population as a whole (20 percent) and people from other religions (18 percent). Racist acts are more frequent towards women wearing the hijab (75 percent), people under 25 (76 percent), Muslims with a strong accent (over 81 percent) or with sub-Saharan origin (84 percent). Furthermore, two out of three Muslims living in France say they have already been victims of some form of religious discrimination. This happens mostly during a job search (51 percent), police checks (51 percent) and when they look for housing (46 percent). Even public services, which are “supposed to embody state neutrality”, according to Ifop, are places of “normalized discrimination”. According to the study, 36 percent of respondents say they have been victims of discrimination by public administra-

tion officials, 29 percent by healthcare professionals and 38 percent by school teachers. Discrimination can be aggravated by factors such as having a strong accent, living in a disadvantaged neighborhood, being young or wearing the hijab. These figures are three or four times higher than for followers of other religions. Following the results, Chems-Eddine Hafiz, the rector of Paris Grand Mosque, which commissioned the survey, called for a “response to Muslimophobia”. The term is seen as “more appropriate to describe forms of hostility towards Muslims, as it refers to the rejection of Muslims as individuals and not to opposition to Islam as an ideological-religious corpus”. “The fight against Muslimophobia is not a community demand. It is a matter of national security and republican cohesion,” Hafiz said. “Because a Republic that allows such inequality to flourish among its citizens betrays its very foundations.” According to the survey, one in two Muslims (51 percent) say they are afraid of being attacked because of their religion, with 66 percent of veiled women harboring this fear. In the future, 75 percent of them fear a rise in hatred towards all Muslims living in France, while 64 percent are wary of restrictions to their religious freedoms. The figure reaches 81 percent for veiled women, as the country has taken several measures to ban the hijab and other garments perceived as Islamic in a range of situations, from school to sports.

## Lavrov: ‘No Place’ for EU in Ukraine Talks



MOSCOW (RT) - EU nations are trying to elbow their way into the Ukraine peace process despite their openly hostile stance toward Russia, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said, stressing that the bloc should be kept out of the talks for that reason. Speaking at an embassy roundtable on the Ukraine crisis on Wednesday, Lavrov said that EU countries are “clearly trying, quite brazenly, to reclaim a place at the negotiating table.” The minister, however, signaled that they have no business there. The bloc, he argued, maintains a “position of revanchism, of inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia” while debating a potential troop deployment to Ukraine in case of a ceasefire. “There is, of course, no place for it at the negotiating table,” he stressed. Moscow has consistently opposed the deployment of any Western troops in the neighboring country under any pretext, saying that one of the key reasons for the conflict was NATO’s expansion towards Russia’s doorstep. It has also warned that

any unauthorized foreign troops in Ukraine would be considered “a legitimate military target.” Lavrov also noted that both the EU and Kiev are seeking to convince US President Donald Trump to abandon his push to settle the conflict and relapse into a stand-off with Russia. They want, essentially, to turn Biden’s war into Trump’s war,” he said. Since returning to office in January, Trump has been seeking to mediate an end to the Ukraine conflict, spearheading several rounds of talks with Russia. The effort culminated in a U.S.-Russia summit in Alaska in mid-August — notably without EU or Ukrainian participation — which both sides described as highly productive. Although no breakthrough was reached, Trump later said Ukraine could neither expect to join NATO nor reclaim Crimea, which voted to join Russia in a 2014 referendum held after a Western-backed coup in Kiev. He has also shifted focus from seeking a temporary ceasefire to pursuing a permanent peace settlement.

## News in Brief

PARIS (AFP) - French trade unions have called for a nationwide strike and protests on Thursday to oppose “brutal” budget measures unveiled over the summer – measures that new Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu has so far refused to rule out. After meeting with Lecornu, the headline CGT union said they were more determined than ever, despite the government’s announcement that it would drop a controversial plan to cut two public holidays. “He didn’t commit to anything. None of the disastrous policies from [former prime minister] François Bayrou’s tenure have been scrapped,” said union leader Sophie Binet. Nine unions will march together for the first time since June 2023, when they fought against pension reform. The CGT said Monday that more than 220 rallies were already planned across France, with the tally still rising.

\*\*\*

PARIS (AFP) - Thieves have broken into Paris’s Natural History Museum, making off with gold samples worth 600,000 euros (\$700,000) in the latest of a series of robberies from cultural institutions, according to the museum. Famed for its dinosaur skeletons and taxidermy, the National Natural History Museum in the chic 5th district of the French capital also houses a geology and mineralogy gallery. A break-in was detected on Tuesday morning, with the intruders reportedly using an angle grinder and a blow torch to force their way into the riverside complex that is popular with Parisians and tourists.

\*\*\*

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - Brazil’s former president Jair Bolsonaro was ordered to pay 1 million reais (about \$188,000) in damages for racist remarks he made while in office and issue a public apology. The Federal Regional Court in the southern city of Porto Alegre made the ruling after Brazil’s Supreme Federal Court on Thursday sentenced the ex-president to 27 years and three months in prison for attempting a coup in 2022. The latest ruling held Bolsonaro accountable for comments he made about the curly hair of a young man of African descent during a broadcast in 2021, which caused collective moral damage by eroding the values of society as a whole.

\*\*\*

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Thai police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at Cambodian civilians in a disputed border area on Wednesday, authorities in both countries said, the most significant escalation since they declared a ceasefire to end a deadly five-day conflict in July. At least 23 Cambodians were injured in the incident, according to Cambodian authorities, while Thailand’s military said an unspecified number of Thai officials had also sustained injuries. The clash took place at a disputed frontier settlement, which Thailand says is part of its Ban Nong Ya Kaew village in Sa Kao province, but Cambodia says is part of Prey Chan village in Banteay Meanchey province.

\*\*\*

BEIJING (Reuters) - European firms are expecting more shutdowns and suffering losses as Beijing continues to hold a tight grip on rare earth exports despite a July agreement to fast-track shipments to the bloc, the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said. “Irrespective of the agreements and commitments reached at the EU-China summit on the 24th of July, we continue to see significant bottlenecks for our members,” Jens Eskelund, the chamber’s president, told reporters.