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# The New York Times

## JUSTICES ALLOW NEW TEXAS MAPS THAT FAVOR G.O.P. SET FOR 2026 ELECTION

### Ruling Hands a Victory to a Norm-Shattering Redistricting Push

**By ABBIE VANSICKLE**

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court cleared the way on Thursday for Texas lawmakers to use newly redrawn congressional maps favoring Republicans in the 2026 midterm elections.

The decision overturns, at least for now, a lower-court ruling that the new maps were likely an unconstitutional racial gerrymander. That decision had blocked lawmakers from using the maps in the midterms.

The Supreme Court’s order comes days before a Dec. 8 deadline for candidates to file to run for office in Texas. It marks a victory for Texas Republicans and for President Trump, who has pushed Republican-led states to revise their congressional maps to try to secure G.O.P. victories in the midterms.

The ruling also adds to the growing list of successes for the Trump administration before the justices, particularly on their emergency docket of cases heard without oral arguments, where the court’s orders are intended to be merely interim. Critics refer to it as the “shadow docket” and note the temporary decisions can have broad consequences.

In a five-paragraph order, the majority wrote that Texas was “likely to succeed on the merits of its claim” that a lower court had wrongly blocked the new maps. The trial court, the majority wrote, had “improperly inserted itself into an active primary campaign, causing much confusion and upsetting the delicate federal-state balance in elections.”

The court’s order did not include a vote count, which is typical for rulings on such emergency applications. Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. wrote a concurrence, adding that he joined the majority’s decision to allow the Texas maps. Two other conservatives, Justices Clarence Thomas and Neil M. Gorsuch, joined him.

In a 17-page dissent, Justice Elena Kagan, joined by the court’s two other liberals, argued that the majority had wrongly overturned a careful, 160-page lower court

*Continued on Page A17*



Under the redrawn maps, five more seats lean Republican.



Adm. Frank M. Bradley, left, and Gen. Dan Caine, the Joint Chiefs chairman, showed footage to lawmakers in private on Thursday.

## Before Attack, Dire Warnings About Afghan

*This article is by Edward Wong, Kurt Streeter, Safiullah Padshah, Fahim Abed, Thomas Gibbons-Neff and Jack Healy.*

The emailed plea was urgent and direct: “Rahmanullah needs help.”

The warning came nearly two years before Rahmanullah Lakanwal would be named as a suspect in the gunning down of two National Guard troops near the White House on the eve of Thanksgiving. It was enshrined in writing by a volunteer helping to give Mr. Lakanwal a fresh start in America who had become convinced he was unraveling.

He had tried to make a go of life in the coastal city of Bellingham, Wash., after he and his family were evacuated from Afghanistan by the U.S. military in August 2021. In Afghanistan, he had fought in a C.I.A.-trained paramilitary unit. In the United States, he did temporary jobs, took his five sons to a local mosque and hosted visitors for tea in a house decorated in traditional Afghan style, with floor pillows and red rugs.

But by early 2023, he started to show signs of depression and erratic behavior, according to accounts from a volunteer in northwest Washington who worked with his family.

In the months after, he sequestered himself inside his darkened bedroom, refused to answer his phone, and even failed to bathe or dress his sons when his wife left to take short breaks from him. He dropped out of the English classes he was supposed to take, did not seek work and stopped paying rent. His family received an eviction notice.

*Continued on Page A19*

## Amid Trump’s Deportations, Standoff on a Roof

### By EDUARDO MEDINA

#### Impact of Raids Is Felt Beyond Immigrant Communities

KENNER, La. — After Hurricane Francine damaged Althea Vallotton’s house in suburban New Orleans last year, puddles formed on her floors whenever it rained. But she saved up money and lived in a mobile home on her front lawn for months, until she finally obtained a loan to pay for a stronger, metallic covering.

The cost? About \$49,000.

On Wednesday, several workers — hired by a “legitimate contractor,” she said — arrived around 7 a.m. and got to work on the roof. She, in turn, drove to her job at a nearby school, relieved that her home repair odyssey was ending. It was a one-day job, after all.

Then her phone buzzed. Friends and relatives were asking if she had seen the videos online of federal immigration agents in Kenner, La., ordering the roof repairers to get down. Some sent screenshots of a masked agent pointing a weapon at the workers. They were at her house.

Ms. Vallotton was stunned. She found the principal. “I got to go now — ICE is at my house,” she told her.

By the time Ms. Vallotton got home, the action was over, but she pieced together what had happened: The largely Hispanic construction crew on her roof had be-

come the latest target of a federal immigration crackdown that had arrived in New Orleans that morning.

Episodes like this one are now playing out all over the country, revealing the ways that the Trump administration’s deportation agenda is reverberating far beyond the immigrants whose lives are being upended.

According to videos taken by neighbors, the agents, including several from the Border Patrol, had shown up and tried to detain the men, but they refused to get down from the roof. An hourslong standoff ensued. At one point, video shows, agents climbed onto the garage roof, and one of the workers appeared to point a rodlike item at them. A man is heard telling the worker in Spanish,

*Continued on Page A17*



Laborers refused to leave a roof in Louisiana on Wednesday until Border Patrol agents left the site.

## President May Get His Peace Prize. From FIFA.

**By TARIQ PANJA  
and LUKE BROADWATER**

Not long after President Trump missed out on the Nobel Peace Prize that he openly campaigned for, his friend Gianni Infantino got to work.

Mr. Infantino, president of FIFA, soccer’s global governing body, who had publicly lobbied for Mr. Trump to receive the peace prize, simply had his organization establish its own. The announce-

### Soccer Group’s Leader Cozies Up to Trump

ment of the “FIFA Peace Prize — Football Unites the World” was so hastily arranged that it surprised several of the body’s most senior officials, including board members and vice presidents, according to four soccer executives briefed on the events.

On Friday, FIFA was scheduled to announce the award winner along with the draw determining how countries will be grouped for the 2026 men’s World Cup. While the results of the draw will be unpredictable, there is little doubt about who will receive the peace prize.

Why FIFA established a peace prize owes less to sports and more to Mr. Infantino’s efforts to ingratiate himself with Mr. Trump.

*Continued on Page A18*

## Women Voice G.O.P.’s Discontent About Speaker

**By ANNIE KARNI**

WASHINGTON — Representative Elise Stefanik of New York called Speaker Mike Johnson a habitual liar.

Representative Nancy Mace of South Carolina has told people she is so frustrated with Mr. Johnson and sick of the way he has run the House — particularly how women are treated there — that she is planning to huddle with Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene

### Sign of Republican Rift Ahead of Midterms

of Georgia next week to discuss following her lead and retiring early from Congress.

Representative Anna Paulina Luna of Florida has gone around Mr. Johnson in a bid to force a vote he has declined to schedule on a bill to ban members of Congress

**THE WEATHER**  
**Today,** cold, sunshine, clouds. high 33. **Tonight,** mostly cloudy, cold, a flurry or two, low 27. **Tomorrow,** clouds, limited sun, not as cold, high 40. Weather map is on Page B12.

## TWO PARTIES VIEW BOAT STRIKE VIDEO VERY DIFFERENTLY

### BRIEFINGS BY MILITARY

#### Top Democrats Condemn Attack on Survivors as G.O.P. Backs It

*This article is by Megan Mineiro, Julian E. Barnes and Dave Philipps.*

WASHINGTON — Democratic and Republican lawmakers on Thursday came away with starkly different conclusions after top military officers showed them video of an attack on a boat suspected of carrying drugs, including a follow-up strike that killed two survivors of the first missile.

For months, the Trump administration has been destroying suspected drug boats off the coast of South America and killing their occupants, saying that the strikes are legal because the United States is in a formal armed conflict with “narcoterrorists,” an assertion many legal experts dispute.

The closed-door meetings on Thursday between military leaders and senior lawmakers focused on a Sept. 2 strike and the reasoning behind the decision to fire the second missile. A first strike had already disabled the boat and killed nine other people aboard it.

The second strike has attracted particular scrutiny because even if it is an armed conflict, it is a war crime to target enemies who are shipwrecked and out of the fight. The Pentagon has said the follow-up strike was lawful.

Senator Tom Cotton, Republican of Arkansas and the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, called the attack “righteous” and “highly lawful and lethal.” He said the video showed two survivors trying to flip over a boat “loaded with drugs bound for the United States.” The follow-up missiles were “exactly what we’d expect our military commanders to do,” Mr. Cotton added.

Representative Rick Crawford, Republican of Arkansas and the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said there was “no doubt” in his mind that the Defense Department was carrying out the strikes in a “highly professional manner.”

But Democrats exited the briefings even more concerned about the campaign against drug smugglers that to date has included strikes on 21 vessels in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean that have killed 83 people.

Several Democrats characterized the unedited video of the Sept. 2 attack as “disturbing” and called for its public release. They said the footage only prompted more questions that the Trump administration needed to answer.

Representative Jim Himes, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, told reporters that the video was “one of the most troubling things I’ve seen in my time in public service.”

“You have two individuals in clear distress without any means

*Continued on Page A6*



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

**Settlement Surge in West Bank**  
Israel authorized 22 sites in May, and Palestinian families are now being forced from their homes. *PAGE A9*

**Beacon in Europe for Migrants**  
Spain has become a welcoming alternative to U.S. crackdowns, but that embrace still excludes some. *PAGE A4*

NATIONAL A11-A19

**No Re-indictment of James**  
After a judge dismissed the first attempt to indict Letitia James, the attorney general of New York, a new grand jury effort is said to have failed. *PAGE A15*

**A Tale of Text Messages**  
One Young Republican speaks about his journey to the racist, antisemitic group chat that blew up his career. *PAGE A14*

**OBITUARIES A20-21**  
**Shaper of Memphis Soul**  
Steve Cropper played a pivotal role in the rise of Stax Records, a storied force in R&B. He was 84. *PAGE A21*



WEEKEND ARTS C1-12

**Where ‘Bel-Air’ Took Him**  
Morgan Stevenson Cooper looks back on the path of the “Fresh Prince” reboot from viral video to Peacock hit. *PAGE C1*

**At the Edges of Longing**  
Where does the grief of a painter go? In the case of Jennifer Packer, onto the canvas, in spectral realms. *PAGE C1*

SPORTS B8-11

**Dakota Dominance**  
The Great Plains’ northern reaches boast some powerhouse football programs. All four Missouri Valley schools from North and South Dakota made this year’s 24-team playoff field. *PAGE B8*

**The Owners’ First Pitch**  
Getting ahead of a looming labor dispute, Major League Baseball argued for a salary cap by bringing a “competitive balance” presentation to the fan council it has assembled. *PAGE B11*

**OPINION A22-23**  
**Ilhan Omar** *PAGE A22*



BUSINESS B1-7

**Time of Discounts, and Debt**  
Consumers are focusing on value and financing purchases to complete their shopping lists. And the search for savings isn’t just seasonal. *PAGE B1*

