

Adams Presses  
Judge to Scrap  
Bribery Charge

Filing Provides Outline  
of Mayor’s Defense

By NICOLE HONG  
and EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

Lawyers for Mayor Eric Adams on Monday asked a federal judge to throw out the bribery charge against Mr. Adams, providing an early glimpse at how the defense plans to attack the first federal indictment of a sitting mayor in modern New York City history.

In a 25-page filing, Mr. Adams’s lawyers argued that the accusations against the mayor did not meet the federal definition of bribery, pointing to a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that raised the bar for prosecutors to bring corruption cases.

The filing comes four days after federal prosecutors in Manhattan announced a five-count indictment against the mayor, including charges of bribery and fraud. It represented the opening salvo in what is sure to be a long and bruising legal battle in the coming months as Mr. Adams fights for his political life.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges last week, and has so far shown no signs of planning to resign.

Speaking at a church in the Bronx on Sunday, the mayor was defiant, saying that he would not listen to the “small number of loud people” calling on him to step down.

“I’m not going to resign — I’m going to reign,” he said.

After Mr. Adams was indicted last week, he said the charges against him were “entirely false” and “based on lies” and that he would “fight these injustices with every ounce of my strength and my spirit.”

In a news conference at his law office on Monday, Alex Spiro, a lawyer for Mr. Adams, gave a further preview of the mayor’s defense, attacking the prosecutors who brought the case, accusing a key government witness of lying and arguing that the indictment was criminalizing routine political activity.

“New Yorkers will see through this,” Mr. Spiro said, repeatedly

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ANDREW NELLES/THE TENNESSEAN, VIA USA TODAY NETWORK

**Tallying a Storm’s Wrenching Toll**  
Jannette Montenegro salvaged items on Monday in Asheville, N.C., among the areas devastated by Hurricane Helene. Page A19.

A Presidential Portrait of Uncommon Resilience

By RICK ROJAS  
and PETER BAKER

ATLANTA — When Jimmy Carter entered hospice care at his Georgia home last year, his family and friends thought he had only days to live. More than 19 months later, he is celebrating his 100th birthday on Tuesday, the first president in American history to hit the centennial mark.

The last chapter of Mr. Carter’s already remarkable life story is turning out to be one of astonishing resilience. The peanut farmer turned global statesman has over the years beaten brain cancer, bounced back from a broken hip and outlived his political adversaries. And now he is setting a record for presidential durability that may be hard to break.

Though frail and generally con-

At 100, Carter Outlasts  
All Expectations and  
Looks to Election

know we were going to get.”

Mr. Carter had already surpassed all of his predecessors to become the longest-living president, but some of those who have experienced his stubborn irascibility over the decades said they were not surprised that he is now opening his second century.

“That’s Jimmy,” said Gerald Rafshoon, his White House communications director and longtime friend. “It’s almost like his whole life has been to go against the norm. Tell him he can’t do something, just tell him that, and you’re bound to see the determination.”

Mr. Carter’s hometown, Plains, the blink-and-you’ll-miss-it speck on the map in southwest Georgia with barely 500 residents, is celebrating his birthday with a flyover of military jets, a naturalization

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López Obrador  
Leaves Mexico  
Much Changed

This article is by Simon Romero,  
Emiliano Rodríguez Mega and  
Paulina Villegas.

MEXICO CITY — To some, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico is a reformer who steered the country toward progress during his six-year presidency. To others, he’s a bulldozer who eroded democratic institutions and is leaving a host of problems for his successor.

Still, as he comes to the end of his term, his critics and supporters largely agree on one thing: Mr. López Obrador transformed his nation — more so than any other leader in the country’s recent history.

“This is definitely a watershed presidency that has changed the direction of the country,” said Andrew Paxman, a historian at Mexico’s Center for Research and Teaching in Economics, who is writing a biography of Mr. López Obrador.

Blending populist rhetoric with hard-line tactics, Mr. López Obrador expanded his own influence. Over the last decade, he has forged a political movement that

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ISRAEL INVADES  
BORDER REGION  
INSIDE LEBANON

TARGETING HEZBOLLAH

Officials Say Small Units  
Will Operate in a  
Narrow Strip

This article is by Patrick Kingsley,  
Julian E. Barnes, Ronen Bergman  
and Natan Odenheimer.

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military began a ground invasion of southern Lebanon, targeting what it said early Tuesday was Hezbollah military infrastructure in villages close to the Israel-Lebanon border, the first such incursion by Israel into its northern neighbor’s territory in nearly two decades.

Israeli leaders approved the plans late Monday night to send in troops, according to three Israeli officials. And in a statement issued shortly before 2 a.m. on Tuesday, the military said that Israeli troops had begun crossing the border “a few hours ago” in order to target sites that “pose an immediate threat to Israeli communities in northern Israel.”

The officials said the plans involved operating in a narrow strip of land that lines the northern side of the border. The invasion force would consist of small groups of commandos accompanied by air cover, as well as artillery shells fired from Israel, the officials said. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military matters.

The invasion followed intense Israeli strikes across Lebanon over the past two weeks that have killed hundreds of people. Israel is attempting to force a conclusion to a yearlong war that began last October, when Hezbollah started firing toward Israeli positions in solidarity with its ally Hamas.

Though the Israeli military announced its troops had “begun limited, localized and targeted raids against Hezbollah” targets,

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AVISHAG SHAAR-YASHUV FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Forces are gathering in preparation in northern Israel.

Literary Tunesmith Whose Magnetism Commanded the Screen

By BILL FRISKICS-WARREN

Kris Kristofferson, the singer and songwriter whose literary yet plain-spoken compositions infused country music with rarely heard candor and depth, and who later had a successful second career in movies, died at his home on Maui, Hawaii, on Saturday. He was 88.

His death was announced by Ebie McFarland, a spokeswoman, who did not give a cause.

Hundreds of artists have recorded Mr. Kristofferson’s songs — among them Al Green, the Grateful Dead, Michael Bublé, and Gladys Knight and the Pips.

Mr. Kristofferson’s breakthrough as a songwriter came with “For the Good Times,” a bitersweet ballad that topped the country chart and reached the Top 40 on the pop chart for Ray Price in 1970. His “Sunday Morning Coming Down” became a No. 1 country hit for his friend and mentor Johnny Cash later that year.

Mr. Cash memorably intoned the song’s indelible opening couplet:

Well, I woke up Sunday morning  
With no way to hold my head  
that didn’t hurt  
And the beer I had for  
breakfast wasn’t bad  
So I had one more for dessert.



MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES, VIA GETTY IMAGES

Kris Kristofferson’s plain-spoken songs explored freedom, alienation, desire, darkness and light.

Expressing more than just the malaise of someone suffering from a hangover, “Sunday Morning Coming Down” gives voice to feelings of spiritual abandonment that border on the absolute. “Nothing short of dying” is the way the chorus describes the desolation that the song’s protagonist is experiencing.

Steeped in a neo-Romantic sensibility that owed as much to John Keats as to the Beat Generation and Bob Dylan, Mr. Kristofferson’s work explored themes of freedom and commitment, alienation and desire, darkness and light.

“Freedom’s just another word for nothin’ left to lose/Nothin’ ain’t worth nothin’ but it’s free,” he wrote in “Me and Bobby McGee.” Janis Joplin, with whom Mr. Kristofferson was briefly involved romantically, had a posthumous No. 1 single with her plaintive re-

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In Vance’s Unabashed Approach,  
Trump Sees Fiery Kindred Spirit

By MICHAEL C. BENDER

Senator JD Vance has driven some of the most attention-grabbing story lines of the 2024 presidential election, encroaching on the precious spotlight that his running mate, Donald J. Trump, has long kept for himself.

But instead of admonishing Mr. Vance, the former president has cheered him on.

When Mr. Vance botched a detail of one of the central issues of the 2024 election — incorrectly asserting that Mr. Trump would veto a national abortion ban — the former president calmly corrected the record and quickly moved on.

Mr. Vance eagerly welcomed the idea of a potential second debate with his Democratic counterpart, Gov. Tim Walz of Minnesota, telling a rally crowd in Pennsylvania that debates showed which candidates were willing to work to

earn the job. Mr. Trump, speaking at his rally in North Carolina about an hour earlier, flatly rejected an invitation for a rematch with Vice President Kamala Harris, unspooling a series of excuses including the time, the place and his unresolved grievances from their first meeting.

Again, no public shaming. No punishment. Not a hint of anxiety over the dichotomy.

Mr. Trump’s unusual willingness to overlook his apprentice’s missteps is an early indication of a

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**Debate Coverage**  
Watch the vice-presidential candidates face off at 9 p.m. Eastern, with live updates from reporters and fact checks, at nytimes.com.



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After Russia’s invasion of Ukraine separated two young women, love and persistence won the day. PAGE A8

**Making Students Pay in Quebec**  
A new policy to charge some college students higher tuition in Montreal aims to bolster French identity. PAGE A4

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Democratic candidates in two competitive House districts in Iowa are highlighting the anti-abortion stance of Republican incumbents. PAGE A13

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Two veteran money reporters tried every trick to get cheaper rates. Living in Brooklyn didn’t help. PAGE B1

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In Quebec, the star opened her tour with songs she hadn’t unveiled before and without her brother, Finneas. PAGE C1

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A plan to save the only skyscraper Frank Lloyd Wright brought to fruition has run into stumbling blocks. PAGE C1

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Francisco Lindor’s two-run homer in the ninth inning was the difference in an 8-7 victory against Atlanta in the first game of a doubleheader. PAGE B10

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Dikembe Mutombo was a shot-blocking machine, and he often gave back to his native Democratic Republic of the Congo. He was 58. PAGE A21

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**Destroying Ancient Carvings**  
Preservationists say Chilean officials have not kept off-road desert racers from driving through giant figures of animals, humans and objects. PAGE D8



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