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During his 78-minute news conference on Monday, President Trump said 800 National Guard troops would be sent to the capital.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Gaza City Plan  
Faces Doubts

Israeli Critics Say Goal  
of Capture Is Unclear

**By PATRICK KINGSLEY**  
JERUSALEM — Since its announcement on Friday, Israel's plan to capture Gaza City has been roundly criticized inside and outside Israel. Palestinians and foreign leaders say the plan will prolong the war and the suffering of Palestinian civilians. The Israeli left says it will likely endanger hostages still held by Hamas. The Israeli right says it will not do enough to defeat the Palestinian armed group.

Now, a new criticism is emerging within Israel: There is little clarity over what exactly this operation would involve.

While there have been vague proclamations by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's military has yet to complete the tactical battle plan. There has been no public confirmation of how long any occupation of the city will last — or when it will begin, and how it will differ from Israel's capture of Gaza City in the opening months of the war in 2023.

Intense Israeli strikes continued overnight into Monday, killing several Al Jazeera journalists and forcing the displacement of civilians in some Gaza City neighborhoods. But the Army has not yet mobilized the tens of thousands of military reservists who will most likely be needed to carry out the broader operation. And while Israel has threatened to force out the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians still living in Gaza City, it has yet to order their expulsion.

Over the weekend, Mr. Netanyahu doubled down on the threat to capture Gaza City, saying at a press briefing that Israel had “no choice” but to proceed because Hamas had not surrendered.

Yet he gave little further detail about the plan.

“What does Netanyahu want? Does he want a hostage deal or to conquer Gaza?” asked Nahum Barnea, one of Israel's best-known columnists, in an analysis published on Monday in Yediot Ahronot, a centrist broadsheet.

“I don't understand what the military meaning of ‘seizing control’ is,” Mr. Barnea added. “I'm not sure that anyone in the

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Journalists' Killings Elevate Israel-Qatar Tension

Nation Crucial to Gaza  
Talks Is Also Backer  
of Al Jazeera

**By VIVIAN NEREIM**  
RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — An Israeli airstrike that deliberately killed several Al Jazeera journalists has aggravated tensions between Israel and Qatar, which funds the television network and is also a central mediator in talks to end the war in Gaza.

The Israeli attack on Sunday, near a hospital in Gaza City, killed five Al Jazeera journalists, the network reported: the correspondents Anas al-Sharif and Mohammed Qreigh; the photographers Ibrahim Zaher and Moamen Aliwa; and an assistant, Mohammed Noufal. Gaza officials said that in addition to the journalists, two others were killed.

The Israeli military had ac-

cused Mr. al-Sharif of being a Hamas fighter — an allegation that he and the network had rejected — and pointedly identified Al Jazeera as “Qatari.” The government of Qatar responded with a strong condemnation.

“The deliberate targeting of journalists by Israel in the Gaza Strip reveals how these crimes are beyond imagination,” Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, the prime minister of Qatar, said on Monday in criticizing

the international community's inability “to stop this tragedy.”

The attack underlined Israel's complex relationship with Qatar, which the Israeli leadership relies on as a back channel to Hamas while simultaneously regarding the country with suspicion.

The rulers of Qatar — a Persian Gulf peninsula with fewer than 400,000 citizens — have used its fossil fuel wealth to achieve global prominence. Qatar is home to a U.S. military base, a major international airline, one of the world's largest sports broadcasters and the Al Jazeera news network.

It has also served as a mediator between Hamas and governments, like those of Israel and the United States, that do not deal di-

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SAHER ALGHORRA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A funeral procession in Gaza City on Monday after a strike that killed five Al Jazeera journalists.

Rise of Hard-Liners Chills Syria's Secular Capital

Mood Changes Under  
New Islamist Rulers

**By VIVIAN YEE  
and HWAIDA SAAD**

DAMASCUS, Syria — In the medieval stone lanes of Damascus's old city, where a scattering of bars sits among churches, mosques and antiques shops, Thursday nights used to be known for parties. Live DJs, shots, crop tops, raves — Syrians may have had no political freedoms during the brutal, repressive rule of Bashar al-Assad, but secular Mus-

mascus in December, the strongest drink for sale is coffee. Cafes are banned from playing music. Even hookahs are out.

For years, cosmopolitan Damascenes rarely mixed with the increasingly conservative Syrians from the rest of the country. But now, some of Syrian society's most religious people have suddenly come to rule over some of its most socially liberal.

The change has energized reli-

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TRUMP PROCLAIMS  
FEDERAL CONTROL  
OF THE D.C. POLICE

Citing 'Bloodthirsty Criminals,' Although  
Crime Has Dropped Significantly

**By KATIE ROGERS**

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Monday declared federal control of the police force in Washington for 30 days and mobilized 800 National Guard troops to fight crime in a city that he claimed was overrun with “blood-thirsty criminals,” even though crime numbers in the nation's capital are falling.

During a 78-minute news conference, during which he was flanked by several members of his cabinet, Mr. Trump took the lectern in the White House briefing room and said he also intended to clear out the capital's homeless population, without saying how officials would do it, or detailing where those people would go.

Armed with papers that showed crime statistics, Mr. Trump denounced the murder rate in Washington compared with other global cities but ignored the fact that violent crime has fallen recently in the nation's capital. The violent crime rate surged in 2023, but it fell 35 percent from that year to 2024, according to the city's Metropolitan Police Department.

Instead, Mr. Trump painted Washington as an urban hellscape, repurposing some of the incendiary language he has used to describe conditions at the southern border. Mr. Trump has railed against crime in urban, largely liberal cities for decades, but his announcement on Monday was an extraordinary exertion of federal power over an American city. Warning of “caravans of mass youth” rampaging the city streets and relaying stories of children caught in shootings, Mr. Trump blamed Democrats for allowing the crime.

“Our capital city has been overtaken by violent gangs and blood-

thirsty criminals, roving mobs of wild youth, drugged-out maniacs and homeless people,” Mr. Trump said. “And we're not going to let it happen anymore.”

Local officials immediately criticized the president's actions, and pockets of protesters sprang up around the city shortly after Mr. Trump declared a public safety emergency in Washington. Muriel Bowser, the mayor of Washington, said in a news conference on Monday afternoon that Mr. Trump's actions were “unsettling and unprecedented,” but not surprising.

“I can't say that given some of the rhetoric of the past that we are totally surprised,” Ms. Bowser said, before adding that the police chief, Pamela A. Smith, would remain in her position. Ms. Bowser acknowledged that the law gave Mr. Trump the authority to take over the department temporarily. But she disputed the idea that her administration had done little to

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Source: Metropolitan Police Dept. | Note: Includes homicides, assaults with a weapon, sexual abuse and robberies.

ASHLEY WU/THE NEW YORK TIMES

China Is Taking  
Risky Shortcut  
To Ship Its Cars

**By KEITH BRADSHER**

BEIJING — Chinese automakers are shipping cars to Europe through the Red Sea and Suez Canal, nearly two years after the Houthi militia in Yemen started attacking vessels in the critical Middle East transit route.

Other automakers are still shipping cars from Asia by way of a much longer, and expensive, trip around Africa.

Last month, at least 14 car-carrier ships traveled from Chinese ports to Europe through the Red Sea and Suez Canal, according to a new analysis by Lloyd's List Intelligence, a British maritime information service. About the same number made the voyage in June.

The trips have continued even after the Houthis used drones, grenades and gunfire to sink two other cargo ships early last month. The militia group says the attacks are in solidarity with Palestinians living through Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza.

Most shipping analysts assume that the Chinese government has reached an understanding with Iran or the Houthis not to harm car-carrier ships from China. It seems that “China has found a way to deal with the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, and they have been told that their ships will not be targeted,” said Daniel Nash, associate director of valuation and analytics at Veson Nautical, another

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Threat of Tariff  
Of Mixed Value  
For Diplomacy

**By EDWARD WONG  
and ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS**

WASHINGTON — As President Trump pushes to end the war in Ukraine, he is using tariffs to try to persuade Russia to agree to a cease-fire that would halt its invasion.

The economic tool is not often associated with war and peace.

Mr. Trump said last month that Russia's trading partners could face “very severe tariffs,” in what would be a roundabout way of trying to hurt Moscow.

To show that he means business, Mr. Trump raised tariffs on Wednesday on imports from India to an extraordinary 50 percent, saying he was punishing the country for buying Russian oil. The taxes would be paid by American companies importing goods and would result in higher costs for consumers in the United States.

An Aug. 8 deadline for Russia to agree to a cease-fire came and went, and Mr. Trump did not impose new tariffs on its trading partners. Instead, he announced plans to meet with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in Alaska on Friday.

For Mr. Trump, tariffs are not just about raising revenue for the government or protecting American industries from foreign com-

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Like Vikings, but No Pillaging

An archaeologist in Sweden has led expeditions traveling in vessels built like those from 1,000 years ago. PAGE D1

A Streamlined Genetic Code

Scientists have created bacteria that make proteins in a far different way than natural species do. PAGE D4

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Island of English in Quebec

In a place where French dominates, a former jail turned library serves as an essential sanctuary for Quebec City's English-speaking community. PAGE A4

A Climate of Fear in India

The detention of people across India, most of them Muslim, is being justified for national security reasons. PAGE A6

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Fretful to Ask for Flood Aid

Groups worry that the migrant crack-down is keeping undocumented immigrants from getting help. PAGE A11



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A.I. Imperils 'Sharenting'

Apps generating fake nudes, amid other privacy concerns, make posting photos of children far riskier. PAGE B1

Chips for China, Cut for U.S.

Nvidia and AMD are expected to kick 15 percent of what they make selling A.I. chips in China to the U.S. PAGE B1

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Rising Stars of Sports Media

The podcast “Bussin’ With the Boys,” which prioritizes sports, gambling and manhood, has drawn some big-name guests. Even President Trump, then a candidate, stopped by to chat. PAGE C1

Downfall of an Arts Patron

Shortly before the body of Matthew Christopher Pietras was discovered, the Metropolitan Opera had been informed that the \$10 million he had just donated did not belong to him. PAGE C1

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Stephen Marche

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An Arduous Road Back

The star skier Mikaela Shiffrin hopes to cap her recovery from a serious crash in November by making the United States Olympic team. PAGE B6

