

Crucial Players
In Trump Bid:
Jan. 6 Rioters

Campaign Is Built on
Revisionist History

By ALAN FEUER
and MAGGIE HABERMAN

Two days before former President Donald J. Trump was booked at an Atlanta jail on his fourth indictment, he held an event at his golf club in New Jersey for another group of people facing criminal charges: rioters accused of storming the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Standing next to a portrait of himself portrayed as James Bond, Mr. Trump told the defendants and their families that they had suffered greatly, but that all of that would change if he won another term.

“People who have been treated unfairly are going to be treated extremely, extremely fairly,” he said to a round of applause at the event last August in Bedminster, N.J. “What you’ve suffered is just ridiculous,” he added. “But it’s going to be OK.”

That private event was emblematic of how Mr. Trump has embraced dozens of Jan. 6 defendants and their relatives and highlights how he has sought to undermine law enforcement when it suits him, while he also puts forth a law-and-order campaign.

Recently, however, his celebrations of the Capitol riot and those who took part in it have become more public as he has promoted a revisionist history of the attack and placed it at the heart of his 2024 presidential campaign.

Despite the nearly 1,000 guilty pleas and convictions that have been secured in criminal cases stemming from Jan. 6, Mr. Trump has repeatedly described the rioters who broke into the Capitol as

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CONTENDERS Money may have entered Donald J. Trump’s vice-presidential math. PAGE A13

As Court Steels,
Trump Beckons
Bedlam to City

By JESSE MCKINLEY
and JONATHAN SWAN

Manhattan’s Criminal Courts Building, at 100 Centre Street, is short on charm: circled in scaffolding, lit like an aging cafeteria and, in recent months, neighbor to a colossal pile of rubble, the remains of the Manhattan Detention Complex, which is being demolished.

Yet come Monday, it will be the pulsing center of a swirling mass of security measures, and likely headaches, as the first criminal trial of Donald J. Trump kicks off on its 15th floor.

Court and law enforcement personnel have been tight-lipped about the exact steps they are taking, but a court lawyer said at a hearing last week that preparations had been underway for months.

They will have plenty to contend with. Right-wing supporters of the former president have already announced plans to protest near the courthouse on Monday as jury selection begins, and cable news networks have promised wall-to-wall coverage of the case.

Security for Mr. Trump, who is being tried on charges that he falsified business records to cover up a hush-money payment to a porn star ahead of the 2016 election, will surely be high. Strict protective measures will also be in place for Alvin L. Bragg, the Manhattan district attorney who brought the case, and Juan M. Merchan, the judge who is trying it.

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TAIWAO AINA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Saratu Dauda was 16 when she and her classmates were taken by Boko Haram in Chibok, Nigeria.

Kidnapped With 275 Girls, She Finally Escaped

By ISMAIL ALFA
and RUTH MACLEAN

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria — Saratu Dauda had been kidnapped. It was 2014, she was 16, and she was in a truck packed with her classmates heading into the bush in northeastern Nigeria, a member of the terrorist group Boko Haram at the wheel. The girls’ boarding school in Chibok, miles behind them, had been set on fire.

Then she noticed that some girls were jumping off the back of the truck, she said, some alone, others in pairs, holding hands. They ran and hid in the scrub as the truck trundled on.

But before Ms. Dauda could jump, she said, one girl raised the

Scores Remain Missing
From Nigeria School
a Decade Later

alarm, shouting that others were “dropping and running.” Their abductors stopped, secured the truck and continued toward what, for Ms. Dauda, would prove a life-changing nine years in captivity.

“If she hadn’t shouted that, we would have all escaped,” Ms. Dauda said in a series of interviews last week in the city of Maiduguri, the birthplace of Boko Haram’s violent insurgency.

Kidnapped from their dormitory exactly 10 years ago Sunday, the 276 captives known as the Chi-

bok Girls were catapulted to fame by Michelle Obama, by churches that took up the mostly Christian students’ cause and by campaigners using the slogan “Bring Back Our Girls.”

“The only crime of these girls was to go to school,” said Allen Manasseh, a youth leader from Chibok who has spent years pushing for their release.

Their lives have taken wildly different turns since the abduction. Some escaped almost immediately; 103 were released a few years later after negotiations. A dozen or so now live abroad, including in the United States. As many as 82 are still missing, perhaps killed or still held hostage.

Chibok was the first mass kid-

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MERON TEKIE MENGHISTAB FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

FAITH RINGGOLD, 1930-2024

An artist who wove Black life into quilts and children’s books, she explored gender, family and class. Her pieces have been exhibited at the White House and in museums around the world. Page B8.

Biden Seeks to Stave Off
Escalation in Middle East

NEWS ANALYSIS

2 Adversaries Weigh
New Set of Risks

By STEVEN ERLANGER
and FARNAZ FASSIHI

BERLIN — Iran has retaliated directly against Israel for the killings of its senior generals in Damascus, Syria, with an onslaught of more than 300 drones and missiles aimed at restoring its credibility and deterrence, officials and analysts say.

That represents a moment of great risk, with key questions still to answer, they say. Has Iran’s attack been enough to satisfy its calls for revenge? Or given the relatively paltry results — almost all of the drones and missiles were intercepted by Israel and the United States — will it feel obligated to strike again? And will Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, see the strong performance by his country’s air defenses as a sufficient response? Or will he choose to escalate further with an attack on Iran itself?

Now that Iran has attacked Israel as it promised to do, it will want to avoid a broader war, the officials and analysts say, noting that the Iranians targeted only military sites in an apparent effort to avoid civilian casualties and advertised their attack well in advance.

“Iran’s government appears to have concluded that the Damascus strike was a strategic inflection point, where failure to retaliate would carry more downsides than benefits,” said Ali Vaez, the Iran director of the International Crisis Group. “But in doing so, the shadow war it has been waging with Israel for years now threatens to turn into a very real and very damaging conflict,” one that could drag in the United States, he said.

“The Iranians have for now played their card,” said Sanam Vakil, director of the Middle East and North Africa program at Chatham House. “They made a choice to call Israel’s bluff, and they felt they needed to do so, because they see the last six months as a persistent effort to set them back across the region.”

On Sunday, Iranian leaders said the military operation against Israel was over, but warned that they could launch a bigger one depending on Israel’s response.

Brig. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, Iran’s top military officer, said the “operation yielded its complete result” and “there is no intention to continue it.” But, he added, if Israel attacked Iran on its own soil, or elsewhere, “our next operation will be much bigger than this.”

For years, Iran took blow after

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Israel Is Advised Not
to Hit Back After
Repelling Iran

By PETER BAKER
and MICHAEL D. SHEAR

President Biden and his team, hoping to avoid further escalation leading to a wider war in the Middle East, are advising Israel that its successful defense against Iranian strikes constituted a major strategic victory that might not require another round of retaliation, U.S. officials said on Sunday.

The interception of nearly all of the more than 300 drones and missiles fired against Israel on Saturday night demonstrated that Israel had come out ahead in its confrontation with Iran and proved to enemies its ability to protect itself along with its American allies, meaning it did not necessarily need to fire back, the officials said.

Whether Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and his government will agree to leave it at that was not yet clear as the



HAIYUN JIANG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Biden spoke with Israel’s leader on Saturday.

country’s war cabinet met for several hours on Sunday to make decisions about its next steps.

The leaders of the Group of 7 major industrial democracies echoed Mr. Biden’s message on Sunday morning, condemning Iran for the attack and warning that it could provoke what they called an “uncontrollable regional escalation” in the Middle East.

Although damage from the attack was relatively light, the scope of the strikes went well beyond the small-bore tit-for-tat shadow war between Iran and Israel in recent years, crossing a red line with the firing of weapons from Iranian territory into Israeli territory. Had defenses not held, scores or hundreds could have been killed.

American officials said it was clear to them that wide-scale death was Iran’s intent, despite the fact that its leadership telegraphed the attack well in advance, publicly and privately. Officials said that even as the attack was underway, Iran’s government sent word through Swiss intermediaries that it considered the matter closed.

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A Prosecutor’s Vow to Change
Minneapolis Meets Resistance

By ERNESTO LONDOÑO

MINNEAPOLIS — Mary Moriarty, a former public defender, became Minneapolis’s top prosecutor last year after persuading voters shaken by the murder of George Floyd that she could improve public safety by reining in police misconduct and making the criminal justice system less punitive.

Turbulence quickly followed. The attorney general of Minnesota, Keith Ellison, a fellow Democrat who had endorsed Ms. Moriarty as she campaigned to be Hennepin County attorney, took over a murder case from her office last spring after concluding that it had offered an overly lenient plea deal

to a juvenile defendant. By fall, two judges took the unusual step of rejecting plea deals offered by Ms. Moriarty’s office, deeming them too permissive for violent crimes.

After Ms. Moriarty this year charged a state trooper with murder in the shooting of a motorist who drove away during a traffic stop, criticism mounted.

Several law enforcement officials questioned the strength of the evidence in the case and Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, as well as members of Congress from both parties, have voiced concern about the prosecution.

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Money Owed in Simpson Case

The families of Ronald Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson have received a fraction of civil jury damages. PAGE A17

Church and Beach vs. State

In Ocean Grove, N.J., a religious organization does not allow sunbathers on its sand before noon on Sunday. PAGE A11



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Moscow Ties in German Party

Opponents fear the Alternative for Germany is becoming a tool of Russian influence operations to undermine support for Ukraine. PAGE A4

Australia Reels After Stabbings

In Saturday’s rampage, which left six people dead, the assailant was said to have had mental health issues. PAGE A6

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Part of an Unusual Trade

Fritz Peterson, a former Yankees pitcher, exchanged wives with a teammate. He was 82. PAGE B7

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Representing a Continent

The group show “Nigeria Imaginary” will be one of the most ambitious African presentations ever offered at the Venice Biennale. PAGE C1

His ‘Civil War’ Explained

Even before his film’s release, the director Alex Garland faced controversy over his vision of a divided America with Texas and California as allies. PAGE C3

Unfaithful to the Facts

A musical about the painter Tamara de Lempicka is filled with vocal power. But, our writer says, the story it tells is not all that true to history. PAGE C1

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Fake Résumés Yield Insight

Researchers found H.R. practices made a big difference regarding discrimination against Black applicants. PAGE B1

Red Tape in Germany

Companies in Europe’s largest economy complain that bureaucracy is a drain on their time and resources. PAGE B1



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The Next Step for Clark

A must-watch player at Iowa will soon see if she will have a similar effect on the W.N.B.A. PAGE D1

Tennis, but With Walls

An introduction to padel, a sport that also has elements of squash and is easier on the knees. PAGES D4-5

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Thomas L. Friedman

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