



“Israel will not allow you to shove a terror state down our throats,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in his speech on Friday.

# Netanyahu Denounces Palestinian State to a Mostly Empty U.N.

This article is by Ephrat Livni, Liam Stack and Thomas Fuller.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel ruled out calls for a Palestinian state during a combative speech at the United Nations in New York on Friday, saying the recognition of Palestine by more than 150 countries was “disgraceful” and vowing to “finish the job” against Hamas in the war in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Netanyahu has for years rejected Palestinian statehood, but his address on Friday, to a largely empty hall that seemed a metaphor for his country’s diplomatic isolation, came at an especially tense time for his country. Israel has faced growing denunciation of its devastating conduct of the war in Gaza, and major Western nations like Britain, France and Canada have recently recognized

Palestine, after years of holding out against calls to do so.

“Israel will not allow you to shove a terror state down our throats,” Mr. Netanyahu told the sparse gathering. He said accepting an independent Palestine would be “national suicide” for Israel and that it would be a “mark of shame” for the countries that supported it, a group that includes the vast majority of the U.N. membership.

The United States is the sole member of the U.N. Security Council that has not recognized Palestine.

Mr. Netanyahu’s speech was the first at Friday’s session of the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, and many delegates and leaders either had not arrived, were boycotting or walked out when he took the podium. The image of the Israeli prime minister speaking to a hall where

## Defiant Address Comes to Symbolize Israel’s Global Isolation

much of the applause came from his own delegation seemed to underline the fears by some Israelis that the country is heading toward pariah status.

For his journey to New York from Israel, Mr. Netanyahu took an unusually long route, avoiding the airspace of two European countries that have sharply criticized Israel’s conduct of the war in Gaza, according to flight tracking data.

His office did not provide an explanation for the circuitous route that added about an hour to his flight. But the prime minister is the subject of an arrest warrant by

the International Criminal Court on war crimes charges related to the war in Gaza. The countries he avoided, France and Spain, are both signatories to the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the I.C.C., which could make him subject to arrest if he were to land in their territory. The United States and Israel have not joined the treaty.

The Israeli authorities sought and were granted permission to fly through French airspace, according to a French diplomat who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the situation. But Mr. Netanyahu seemed to be taking no chances.

As the prime minister spoke on Friday, hundreds of protesters on the streets of New York City denounced the war in Gaza, which will soon reach the two-year mark. The war has shocked and

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# C.T.E. Found In Killer of 4 In Manhattan

By KEN BELSON and CHELSIA ROSE MARCIUS

The gunman who killed four people in a Midtown Manhattan office building in July had chronic traumatic encephalopathy, the degenerative brain disease linked to repeated head injuries sustained in football and other contact sports, according to the New York City medical examiner’s office.

The disease, known as C.T.E., can be diagnosed only posthumously. Shane Tamura, the gunman, killed himself after the shooting spree at 345 Park Avenue.

The medical examiner “found unambiguous diagnostic evidence of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, also known as C.T.E., in the brain tissue of the decedent,” according to a statement. “The findings correspond with the classification of low-stage C.T.E., according to current consensus criteria.”

Mr. Tamura, a former high school football player, shot himself in the chest after killing four people and left a note that said his motive was anger at the National Football League, which he blamed for hiding the effects of C.T.E. In the note, he asked that his brain be studied.

The police said Mr. Tamura, 27,

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# A Painting Survived a Fire. But Did Its ‘Oomph’?

By COLIN MOYNIHAN

After a 2018 fire at his Hamptons estate, Ronald O. Perelman argued that among the paintings damaged by the blaze were five particularly valuable works from his collection, including a Cy Twombly that he later said had “lost its oomph.”

Insurers of the property balked at paying for those works, saying they had survived unharmed. Holding companies affiliated with Mr. Perelman sued for hundreds of millions of dollars.

On Friday, a judge in New York who had presided over a bench trial rejected Mr. Perelman’s view, saying he saw nothing to prevent “the artworks from being enjoyed as they were before.”

“I find that there was no visible damage to the five paintings,” Justice Joel M. Cohen of the State Supreme Court in Manhattan said, adding: “Nothing traceable to the fire.”

While finding for the insurers, Justice Cohen added that they had not proven their contention that Mr. Perelman had intentionally misled them.

A lawyer for the holding companies had no comment on whether they might appeal.

Justice Cohen’s decision resolved, at least for the moment, a lengthy battle that began after the fire in an attic at Mr. Perelman’s 72-acre estate known as the Creeks. The litigation has drawn attention, in part because it explored questions of how to define



Ronald O. Perelman said his Cy Twombly work was damaged in a blaze at his estate. Insurers, and a judge, deemed it unharmed.

and calculate damage, including some that may not be visible to the naked eye. It also included allegations by insurers that the case was “a portrait of a contrived claim” generated by a man in dire need of money.

There is no dispute that several

works at the estate were damaged in the fire, some severely. Holding company lawyers contend that even if the five at issue — two by Andy Warhol, two by Ed Ruscha and the Twombly — were not scorched by flames or soaked by

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# A Presidency of Reprisal Tramples on Safeguards

## Comey Case Risks Justice Dept. Integrity

This article is by Alan Feuer, Jonah E. Bromwich and Maggie Haberman.

The clearest way to understand the extraordinary nature of the indictment on Thursday of James B. Comey, the former F.B.I. director, is to offer up a simple recitation of the facts.

An inexperienced prosecutor loyal to President Trump, in the job for less than a week, filed criminal charges against one of her boss’s most-reviled opponents. She did so not only at Mr. Trump’s direct command, but also against the urging of both her own subordinates and her predecessor, who had just been fired for raising concerns that there was insufficient evidence to indict.

The charges, which were filed around 7 p.m. in Federal District Court in Alexandria, Va., thrust the Justice Department into perilous new territory. The push for the indictment trampled over the agency’s long tradition of maintaining distance from the White House and resisting political pressure, and it raised the prospect of further arbitrary prosecutions pushed by Mr. Trump against his enemies.

Heightening the break-glass moment, the felony charges against Mr. Comey, who stands accused of making false statements and obstructing justice, were rushed into court as Mr. Trump’s handpicked prosecutor, Lindsey Halligan, hurried to beat the quickly approaching statute of limitations on Mr. Comey’s purported crimes.

The rush to prosecute Mr. Comey was the clearest example yet of how the normal process of justice has been reversed under Mr. Trump, showing how the president came into his second

term with targets already in mind and ultimately pressured the Justice Department, over a degree of internal resistance, into finding a way to charge a former director of the F.B.I.

Ms. Halligan, who had been working as a top official in the White House staff secretary’s office and had previously served as a personal lawyer for Mr.



James B. Comey testifying on Capitol Hill in June 2017.

Trump, had until now never prosecuted a single case in her career.

Mr. Trump nevertheless appointed her as interim U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia on Monday afternoon, after publicly berating Attorney General Pam Bondi on Saturday night for not moving more aggressively to prosecute Mr. Comey and two other figures who are longtime targets of his retribution campaign, Letitia James, New York’s attorney general, and Senator Adam B. Schiff, Democrat of California.

Although Ms. Halligan had not been fully briefed on the Comey case before arriving and despite

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# New Tariff Plan Would Exceed Justices’ Reach

By ANA SWANSON

The fate of many of President Trump’s tariffs hangs in the balance at the Supreme Court, but he is rapidly building out a backup plan.

The Supreme Court is set to begin considering whether the tariffs that Mr. Trump has placed on countries including Switzerland and India earlier this year are unconstitutional. But the Trump administration has been erecting another system of tariffs that is impervious to the legal challenge.

The administration has proposed or issued tariffs that cover more than a third of U.S. imports under a legal provision related to national security, known as Section 232. They include many critical products for American businesses and consumers, including cars, machinery, medical devices and semiconductors.

The president expanded the use of the national security law on Thursday night, saying he would put tariffs ranging from 25 percent to 100 percent on imports of pharmaceuticals, semi trucks, kitchen cabinets and furniture beginning on Wednesday.

A day earlier, his administration opened investigations that could result in tariffs on industrial machinery, robotics, medical devices and personal protective gear. Tariffs on other industries, including semiconductors and the electronics that contain them, are still pending and could raise costs further for consumers and businesses.

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# Supreme Court Lets Trump Cut Billions in Aid

By ANN E. MARIMOW

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday allowed the Trump administration to withhold \$4 billion in foreign aid that had been appropriated by Congress, in a preliminary test of President Trump’s efforts to wrest the power of the purse from lawmakers.

In its brief order, the court’s conservative majority allowed the president to cut the funding in part because it said his flexibility to engage in foreign affairs outweighed “the potential harm” faced by aid recipients. The justices cautioned that their decision, a temporary one while litigation continues, “should not be read as a final determination on the merits.”

The three liberal justices dissented, saying the issue before the court was too consequential to have been dealt with on an emergency basis.

“The stakes are high: At issue is the allocation of power between the executive and Congress” over how government funds are spent, wrote Justice Elena Kagan, who was joined by Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Justice Kagan noted that while the majority’s order was an interim measure, the funding Congress appropriated would not reach foreign aid groups regardless of how the underlying litigation was resolved.

In response to the Supreme Court order, lawyers for one of the

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## Railroads Make Comeback

Companies are trying to win back business lost over the years to trucking, their main rival.

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## A Fresh Round of Tariffs

President Trump said imported drugs, trucks and household furnishings would be hit, starting next week.

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## Texas’ Camp Mystic to Reopen

Twenty-seven children and counselors died in a July flood, and many families expressed shock that the retreat would open for its 100th anniversary.

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Ian Roberts, who has led the Des Moines public school system since 2023, was in the U.S. illegally, officials said.

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Assata Shakur, once known as JoAnne Chesimard, was convicted in the killing of a state trooper. She was 78.

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Kerry James Marshall tackles the complexity of making “the paintings nobody else is making” in a new exhibit.

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## The New York Film Festival

This year’s highlights include the Italian documentary “Below the Clouds” and the epic “Magellan.”

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## A Canada Post Walkout

The end of door-to-door delivery and other cuts to the country’s postal service came at a time of steep financial losses for the carrier, and protracted labor talks for its union.

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## A New Plan to Aid Kyiv

Germany’s chancellor is the latest to back a loan agreement, using Russian assets that are frozen as collateral to send a message to Moscow. But the idea carries risks.

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## Michelle Goldberg

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## Leading a Syracuse U-Turn

Fran Brown, a straightforward football coach, won 10 games in his first year, and then upset Clemson last week. He’s hungry for more.

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