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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Tuesday, March 21 2023|

## New York City braces for Trump indictment after ex-president urges protests

NEW YORK, March 20 (Reuters) - Workers erected barricades around a Manhattan courthouse on Monday as New York City braced for a possible indictment of Donald Trump over an alleged hush-money payment to a porn star during his 2016 campaign.

The barriers went up in preparation for what would be the first-ever criminal case against a U.S. president, two days after he urged his followers on social media to protest what he said was his looming arrest.

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A grand jury was expected to indict Trump late on Monday or on Wednesday, Politico reported, for arranging payments to porn star Stormy Daniels. Trump, who is seeking the Republican nomination for the White House again in 2024, had predicted he would be arrested on Tuesday.

But on Monday, the grand jury still appeared to be collecting evidence before deciding whether charges were warranted.

According to a source familiar with the matter, lawyer Robert Costello was due to appear before the closed-door panel at the request of Trump's lawyers because he might provide information that would challenge earlier testimony by Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer. Cohen himself was headed back to the courthouse, another source said, after the Manhattan District Attorney's office asked that Cohen be available as a rebuttal witness.

The investigation by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg is one of several legal challenges facing Trump. His office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Cohen pleaded guilty in 2018 to federal campaign finance violations tied to his arranging payments to Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, and another woman in exchange



Former U.S. President Donald Trump delivers remarks on education as he holds a campaign rally with supporters, in Davenport, Iowa, U.S. March 13, 2023. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

for their silence about affairs they claimed with Trump.

Trump has denied that any such affairs took place.

**NO SIGN OF UNREST**  
In his call for protests, Trump raised concerns with law enforcement that supporters might engage in violence similar to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

New York Mayor Eric Adams told reporters police were monitoring social media and keeping an eye out for "inappropriate actions" in the city. The New York Police Department said there were no known credible threats. If charged, Trump would likely have to travel from his Florida home for fingerprinting and other processing. Law enforcement officials met on Monday to discuss the logistics, several media outlets reported.

Former U.S. President Trump holds a campaign rally in Davenport, Iowa

port, Iowa  
Former U.S. President Donald Trump delivers remarks on education as he holds a campaign rally with supporters, in Davenport, Iowa, U.S. March 13, 2023. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst  
Sources have said Bragg's office was presenting evidence to a grand jury about a \$130,000 payment made to Daniels in the final weeks of the 2016 campaign.

Trump's fellow Republicans have widely criticized the probe as politically motivated.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Trump's rival for the Republican presidential nomination, said on Monday that Bragg was imposing a "political agenda" that compromised the rule of law, but he also took a veiled swipe at Trump.

"I don't know what goes into paying hush money to a porn star to secure silence over some type of alleged affair," he told reporters.

Republicans in the U.S. House of

Representatives launched an investigation of Bragg's office with a letter seeking communications, documents and testimony related to the probe.

Trump was impeached twice by the House during his presidency, once in 2019 over his conduct regarding Ukraine and again in 2021 over the attack on the U.S. Capitol by his supporters. He was acquitted by the Senate both times.

**SEVERAL LEGAL CHALLENGES**  
Bragg won a conviction last December against Trump's business on tax fraud charges.

But legal analysts say the hush-money case may be more difficult. Bragg's office will have to prove that Trump intended to commit a crime, and his lawyers will likely employ a range of counterattacks to try to get the case dismissed, experts say.

Trump meanwhile has to contend with other legal challenges,

raising the possibility that he will have to shuttle between campaign stops and courtrooms before the November 2024 election.

Trump's lawyers on Monday asked a Georgia court to quash a special grand jury report detailing its investigation into his alleged efforts to overturn his 2020 state-wide election defeat.

The filing in Fulton County Superior Court also seeks to have the county district attorney, Fani Willis, recused from the case, arguing that her media appearances and social media posts demonstrated bias against Trump.

Trump faces two civil trials involving former magazine columnist E. Jean Carroll, who claims that Trump defamed her by denying he raped her. A federal judge on Monday denied a request from both sides to combine the two cases into one



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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

03/18/2023

## Today's World Is Really Chaotic

To be honest, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is really a violation of world peace. More than a year has passed now and Russia has found itself in a serious dilemma as the continuing conflict has begun to affect the Russian economy along with the growing lack of support for the war from the Russian people.

Look at the current chaos in the world, especially the tragic and traumatic displacement of nearly 10 million Ukrainian refugees. Every day the president of Ukraine begs all countries around the world for more arms to resist Russia’s invasion. European countries have also entered a dark period marked by rising prices and energy inflation. They have to tighten their belts even more now to help Ukraine and life is much more difficult.

Over the past few days, we are suddenly facing serious trouble in our own financial system. The Federal Reserve is facing a dilemma on how to control inflation while also raising the interest rate. President Putin should wake up. He should not think about going back to the "glory days" of the Soviet Union's past. He needs to give back the land to Ukraine and start negotiations for peace.



Honduras recently called for the severe action of cutting off diplomatic relations with Taiwan. The official reason is that Honduras now wants Taiwan to pay more money to build a power plant in their country. The really amazing thing is that Honduras is publicly begging for money, as if openly holding the power plant project for a "ransom" in exchange for diplomatic ties and recognition.

Only time will tell, but right now we are moving toward two separate and divided parts of the world.



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## Editor's Choice



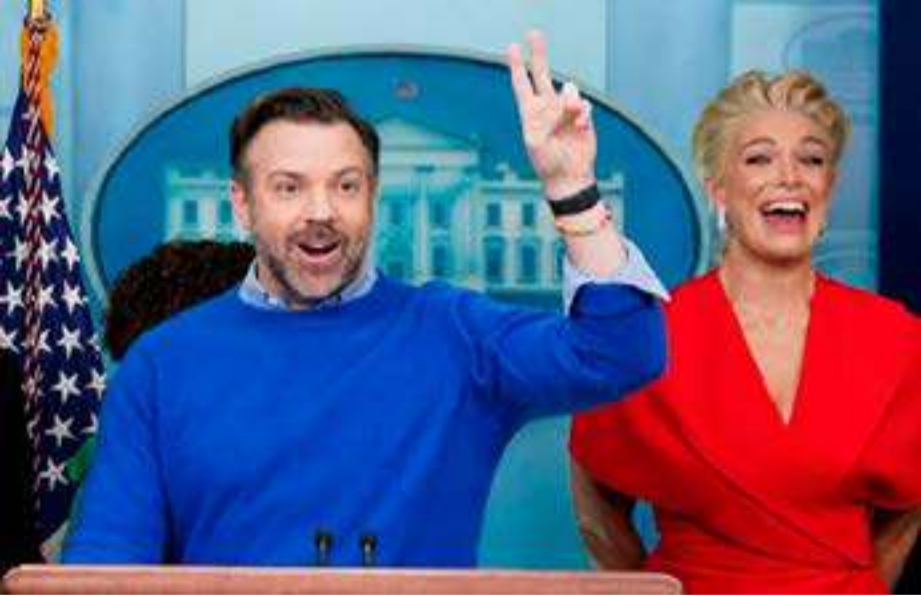
The Pyramid of the Moon is seen on the day of the spring equinox as hot air balloons float above the pre-hispanic city of Teotihuacan, on the outskirts of Mexico City. REUTERS/Henry Romero



A woman jumps over a bonfire during a rally to celebrate Nowruz, which marks the arrival of spring, in Istanbul, Turkey. REUTERS/Dilara Senkaya



A Buddhist monk throws salt on a large bonfire of wood and Japanese cypress leaves, at the fire-walking festival, called Hiwatari matsuri in Japanese, at Mt. Takao in Tokyo, Japan, March 12. REUTERS/Androniki Christodoulou



Hannah Waddingham reacts as Jason Sudeikis takes questions while the cast of Ted Lasso joined Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre at the daily press briefing to discuss the importance of addressing mental health to promote overall well-being, in the Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



A police officer fires a tear gas can as supporters of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan clash with police outside a Federal Judicial Complex in Islamabad, Pakistan. REUTERS/Akhtar Soomro



Riot police use water cannons as they clash with supporters of Kenya's opposition leader Raila Odinga of the Azimio La Umoja (Declaration of Unity) One Kenya Alliance, as they participate in a nationwide protest over cost of living and President William Ruto's government in Eastleigh neighborhood of Nairobi, Kenya. REUTERS/Thomas Mukoya

Russia’s Invasion Of Ukraine  
Changes The Global Order Forever

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



A Russian tank enters a region controlled by Moscow-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. (Photo/Nanna Heitmann—Magnum Photos)

On Wednesday, February 23, 2022, Vladimir Putin declared war on Ukraine with tanks, rockets, and a slap to the face. The optics of the President of Russia, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, announcing the invasion of a sovereign nation during an emergency meeting of its members—presided over by Russia’s U.N. ambassador, no less—were stark: the ultimate repudiation of the rules-based world order that the organization embodies. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was shocked enough to call it the “saddest moment in my tenure.” Though as the bombardment of Ukrainian cities escalated alongside the testiness of exchanges inside the chamber, feelings shifted to outrage at the impotence of members’ calls for peace and dialogue. “At the exact time as we were gathered in the council seeking peace, Putin delivered a message of war in total disdain for the responsibility of this council,” said U.S. permanent representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield. “This is a grave emergency.” It would be reductive to attribute these failings simply to Putin’s belligerence. It’s been an open secret that global governing institutions have been broken for a long time, spotlighted by a series of recent crises that have received limp attention: the annexation of Crimea, the COVID-19 pandemic, the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan, popular uprising in Kazakhstan, coup d’état in Myanmar, and now, most drastic of all, invasion



People wave a huge Ukrainian national flag during an action in support of their country in Kramatorsk, Ukraine, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022. (Andriy Andriyenko—AP)

“It’s the biggest crisis since World War II, in the [heart] of Europe, and will have huge consequences,” former Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj told TIME on Thursday. “It will require great effort to settle this issue and update the world order.” “It seems that the old Cold War tensions never really went away,” former Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva tells TIME. “It’s almost as if we’re back to a situation of war and potential flash points around the world.” On Wednesday, the Biden Administration called out Beijing for its role underwriting this shift. “Russia and [China] also want a world order,” U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters. “But this is an order that is and would be profoundly illiberal, an order that stands in contrast to the system that countries around the world ... have built in the last seven decades.”



But partial blame must also be placed on the hubris of the U.S., which never strengthened international institutions in those 70 years when it was the only dominant power. The Bretton Woods institutions set out global economic rules around which we still operate, including the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and others, in terms of trade, commerce, and sanctions for noncompliance. Up until recently, because of the wealth of America and the potency of developed European nations, the West largely called the shots. Today, however, Washington finds itself unable to freely exert its will as a result of Beijing’s

swelling economic and diplomatic clout. Tellingly, Chinese officials lead four of the 15 U.N. specialized agencies. In January, China was the only U.N. Security Council member to vote with Russia in a failed attempt to stop a U.S.-requested meeting regarding Moscow’s troop build-up at its border with Ukraine. Meanwhile, Russia has stunningly co-opted the language of the U.N. Charter 2(4) regarding sovereignty and territorial integrity to justify its actions. “So it’s sort of claiming the mantelpiece of international order, while fundamentally and quite dramatically undermining it,” says Leslie Vinjamuri, dean of the Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership in International Affairs at Chatham House.



The difference between Beijing and Moscow, says Rana Mitter, professor of the history and politics of modern China at Oxford University, is that the former wants to influence the international order to its own benefit from within, while the latter wants to tear it up entirely. “Because of the kind of state that China wants to be, that is globalized in terms of its trading capacity but able to be as self-sufficient as possible at home, the international order actually suits it very well.”

That makes it arguably a larger challenge for the West than even the Cold War, when the West was up against a country that was in military terms a superpower, but economically weak. With China, “all of a sudden we’re looking at a country that has the economic capability to take us all on,” says Iain Duncan Smith, an MP and former leader of the U.K. Conservative Party. “That means the rule-based order can be debauched, which is what’s happening now.” Beijing supports international institutions and agreements aligned with its goals, such as the World Bank and the Paris climate pacts. But where Beijing’s interests diverge from established norms, especially human rights, it aims to corrupt those values and bring in alternative models. In fields where standards are yet to be established, like internet governance, Beijing works with Moscow and other illiberal nations to push standards that align with their interests. It can do so because those institutions in themselves are weak



The United Nations security council gathers for an emergency meeting at the request of Ukraine over the threat of a full-scale invasion by Russia, in New York City on Feb. 23, 2022. (Photo/David Dee Delgado—Getty)

**Images)** China’s ambivalence on Putin’s aggression against Ukraine spotlights the new normal. While calling for “dialogue and negotiation” on Thursday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi effectively gave his blessing to the invasion, telling his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, on a call that “the Chinese side understands Russia’s legitimate security concerns.” “Beijing thinks this one’s probably going to bypass China, as it is a war between two European countries,” says Mitter. “And that the role of NATO and the United States is really what’s at the heart of the dispute.”



Firefighters work on a building fire after bombings on the eastern Ukraine town of Chuhuiv on Feb. 24, 2022. (Aris Messinis—AFP/Getty Images)

It’s wrong to think of inaction as completely new, though. In truth, the exceptional moments in U.N. history have been when consensus has been reached among the P5—the officially recognized nuclear-weapons states—to stand up for the international order when one of them was involved. “It just doesn’t happen,” says Vinjamuri. “So this [kind of Ukraine situation] isn’t really out of keeping; it’s built into the structure of the U.N.”

**Conclusion** Moscow’s Military Push Has Upended Post-Cold War Security, United NATO Allies And Renewed Foreign-Policy Debates

Much will depend on whether meaningful costs are inflicted on Putin. The U.S., E.U., U.K., Australia, Canada, and Japan have unveiled sanctions on Russian banks and wealthy cronies of Putin, while Germany halted certification of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia. However, China along with other Kremlin friends can likely compensate. Bilateral trade between China and Russia rose 33.6% year-on-year to some \$140 billion in 2021. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was in Moscow on Wednesday to discuss, among other things, the \$2.5 billion Pakistan Stream gas pipeline, which Moscow wants to build between Karachi and Kasur, expressing bewilderment at arriving during “so much excitement.”



A Ukrainian service member on patrol along the Russian border on Wednesday. (Photo/

**ANTONIO BRONIC/REUTERS)** “The [Ukraine] situation has escalated due to pure mistrust,” he says. “Russia is uncomfortable with having NATO installed on its doorstep. Ukraine feels threatened. And the West is suspicious of Russian motives.” A meaningful discussion about the expansion of NATO and the sovereignty of Ukraine by a neutral party might have led to a more desirable outcome, he adds. “I don’t pretend it’s easy, but I can’t see that happening when it’s just being dealt with by the conflicting parties.” Russia’s military incursion deeper into Ukraine is one of those rare events that won’t merely affect the world. It will change the world. By moving further into a sovereign state to bring it under his thumb, Russian President Vladimir Putin has shattered the security architecture that has prevailed in Europe since the end of the Cold War, and no one knows what will take its place. The ability of the U.S. to do what three consecutive presidents have pledged to do—clear away other international entanglements to focus on competition with China—has been undercut again. Military expenditures will likely increase in the West. Economic globalization will be set back.



Meanwhile, fissures that have been lying just beneath the surface in American politics, separating internationalists and neo-isolationists, are becoming more visible, particularly in the Republican Party. Those are just some of the ripple effects. Like the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the onset of what could become the largest ground warfare in Europe since World War II marks such a departure from the norm that some of its consequences are impossible to know for sure, and some figure to play out in unexpected ways for years to come. The most immediate help China can give Russia is simple relief from the sanctions imposed on Moscow, which are now set to expand and deepen. More broadly, China and Russia share a motivation to work together to build a kind of parallel international financial system apart from the dollar-denominated, American-dominated one that currently exists. Dreaming of such an outcome and achieving it are two quite different things, but the dream now might have new resonance. Still, China has other interests in its relationship with the U.S. and doesn’t seem interested in seriously breaking ties, which could limit Sino-Russian cooperation. Those competing interests might explain Beijing’s awkward reaction so far, in which it has refrained from endorsing Moscow’s move but has talked vaguely about respecting “relevant countries’ legitimate security concerns” in Ukraine. (Courtesy time.com) (Courtesy time.com)

“Give Peace A Chance”

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

