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**Publisher:** Wea H. Lee  
**President:** Catherine Lee  
**Editor:** John Robbins

**Address:** 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
**E-mail:** News@scdaily.com

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## Democrats call Trump a danger to democracy; Republicans say impeachment drive a sham



House Judiciary Committee holds hearing on Trump impeachment inquiry in Washington

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Democrats sought on Monday to bolster the case for impeaching President Donald Trump, describing his pressuring of Ukraine to investigate a political rival as a "clear and present danger" to free and fair elections and national security.

In a raucous hearing that could lay the groundwork for a vote later this week on formal impeachment charges in the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, the top Democrat on the panel said there was extensive proof of Trump's wrongdoing.

"The evidence shows that Donald J. Trump, the president of the United States, has put himself before his country. He has violated his most basic responsibilities to the people. He has broken his oath," Representative Jerrold Nadler said.

U.S. House Judiciary chair rejects Republicans' bid for impeachment witnesses

Factbox: How will Monday's House hearing on Trump impeachment evidence unfold?

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Republicans fired back, accusing Democrats of embarking on a partisan-driven flight of fancy to remove Trump from office without any proof he had abused his power, obstructed Congress or committed other impeachable offenses.

"Presumption has now become the standard instead of truth," said Representative Doug Collins, the top Republican on the panel. "They're desperate to have an impeachment vote on

this president."

Republicans asserted there was no direct evidence Trump withheld \$391 million in military aid to Ukraine or a White House meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart to get Kiev to investigate former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and his businessman son, Hunter Biden, as well as a debunked theory that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

Joe Biden is seeking the Democratic nomination to face Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

Trump denies wrongdoing and has called the impeachment probe a hoax.

If Trump is impeached by the Democratic-led House, a trial would be held in the Republican-controlled Senate, where a two-thirds majority of those present would be needed to vote to remove the president from office. A conviction is considered unlikely.

The battle has divided Americans and raised the heat in an already polarized Congress.

U.S. President Donald Trump sits alongside Vice President Mike Pence as they participate in a roundtable discussion on "education choice" in the cabinet room at the White House in Washington, U.S., December 9, 2019. REUTERS/Tom Brenner

The proceedings on Monday were disrupted by a man who shouted that Democrats were committing treason. Republicans then peppered the hearing with objections,

points of order and other parliamentary maneuvers, forcing Nadler to gavel them into silence.

The House Judiciary panel is expected to vote by the end of the week on whether to send formal charges, known as articles of impeachment, to the full House.

No current House Republican has come out in favor of impeaching Trump.

The White House has refused to participate in the hearings in the House because it says the process is unfair.

In a letter to Collins, Nadler denied Republicans' request for eight witnesses to appear before the inquiry. "HELP OUR COUNTRY"

It has been 21 years since Americans last witnessed impeachment proceedings, when Republicans brought charges against Democratic President Bill Clinton arising from a sexual relationship he had with a White House intern. He was acquitted in the Senate.

After weeks of investigation and hearings in the House, the Judiciary Committee is focused on two articles charging Trump with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Democrats have accused Trump of abusing his power by withholding the aid to Ukraine - a vulnerable U.S. ally facing Russian aggression - and holding back a coveted White House meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as leverage to get Kiev to launch the probes.

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# U.N. Security Council to meet over North Korea on Wednesday at U.S. request

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council will meet on Wednesday, at the request of the United States, over missile launches by North Korea and the possibility of an "escalatory" provocation after Pyongyang conducted what it said was a key test at satellite launch site.

The move comes amid growing tensions and stalled talks between the United States and North Korea that Washington hopes will lead to Pyongyang giving up its nuclear and missile programs. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has given President Donald Trump until the end of the year to offer concessions. Some diplomats and analysts are concerned that North Korea could next year resume nuclear and long-range missile testing that it suspended in 2017. Trump and Kim have met three times during that time, but no progress toward a deal has been made. At least eight countries on the 15-member U.N. Security Council had been pushing for a Tuesday meeting on human rights abuses in North Korea, sparking Pyongyang to warn it would consider such a move a "serious provocation" and that it would "respond strongly."

But the United States, which is president of the Security Council for December, decided to convene a meeting on Wednesday that will focus instead on the threat of escalation by North Korea, diplomats said. A U.S. official said earlier on Monday there would be "a comprehensive update on recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, including recent missile launches and the possibility of an escalatory DPRK provocation."

North Korea's official name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The country has been subject to U.N. sanctions since 2006 over its ballistic missiles and nuclear programs.

North Korea's U.N. ambassador, Kim Song, said on Saturday that denuclearization was off the negotiating table and lengthy talks with Washington were



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un stand at the demarcation line in the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas, in Panmunjom, South Korea, June 30, 2019. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

not needed. Pyongyang then announced it had carried out a "successful test of great significance" at its Sohae satellite launch site.

Trump warned on Sunday that Kim risks losing "everything" if he resumes hostility and that North Korea must denuclearize. The U.N. Security Council has met behind closed doors several times over the past couple of months, at the request of Eu-

ropean members, over missile launches conducted by North Korea. Following a meeting last week, the European states condemned Pyongyang's "provocative actions."

"The DPRK has conducted 13 sets of ballistic missile launches since May and continued to operate its nuclear program," Britain, France, Poland, Belgium and Germany said in a statement, urging Pyongyang to engage in meaningful talks with Washington on denuclearization.

U.N. Security Council ambassadors had lunch with Trump in Washington last week.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Kelly Craft said of the council's discussion about North Korea during the lunch with Trump: "What we all agree upon is that we are very concerned about any more ballistic missile launches."

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# Editor's Choice



FILE PHOTO: U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo takes part in a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah



FILE PHOTO: Alex Gorsky, Chairman and CEO of Johnson & Johnson, celebrates the 75th anniversary of his company's listing on the floor at the NYSE in New York



House Judiciary Committee holds hearing on Trump impeachment inquiry in Washington



House Judiciary Committee holds hearing on Trump impeachment inquiry in Washington



Smoke billows from the wreckage of a derailed Canadian Pacific Railway train hauling crude oil, near Guernsey



FILE PHOTO: Smoke billows from a fire in an area of the Amazon rainforest near Porto Velho, Rondonia State, Brazil



U.S. President Donald Trump delivers remarks during a meeting on education inside the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington



Photographers take pictures in front of archives of six thousand records of the victims of the Bolivian dictatorship that are presented by The Commission of the Truth, in La Paz

Measles cases worldwide jumped more than 30 percent last year compared to 2016, with increases recorded in wealthy European countries like Germany where vaccination coverage has historically been high, the UN said last Thursday. The World Health Organization said the worrying trend of resurgent measles cases was a near global phenomenon, but the causes varied among regions. In Europe, experts blamed the problem in part on complacency and misinformation about a vaccine proven to be both effective and safe. Martin Friede, WHO's director of immunisation, vaccines and biologicals told reporters that "supposed experts making accusations against the vaccine without any evidence" has had an impact on parents' decisions.



### Measles vaccine.

He specifically cited medically baseless claims linking the measles vaccine to autism, which have been spread in part on social media by members of the so-called "anti-vax" movement. But cases have also spiked in Latin America, partly due to "a collapsing health system in Venezuela," the head of the vaccine alliance Gavi, Seth Berkley, said in a statement. A crippling political and economic crisis in Venezuela has triggered massive inflation, with hospitals struggling to maintain stocks. "What is more worrying than the increase in the cases reported is that we are seeing sustained measles transmission in countries that had previously not seen

## Measles Cases Have Risen 30 Percent Worldwide Per UN

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



The overall global fight against measles had made big strides since 2000, which makes the recent setbacks frustrating for WHO.

measles transmission for many years," Friede said. "This suggests we are actually regressing."

measles elimination certificate withdrawn over the last 12 months. A country loses its measles elimination status when "the same type of virus has



Multiple countries -- notably Germany, Russia and Venezuela -- have had their

'Not Rocket Science' WHO stressed that the overall global fight against measles had shown impressive results this century. In 2000, there were more than 850,000 cases reported worldwide, compared to 173,000 last year. That progress made the recent setbacks all the more frustrating, said WHO immunisation expert Ann Lindstrand. "We have a safe and effective vaccine," she told reporters. "This is not rocket science, we know what to do." According to WHO guidelines, preventing measles outbreaks requires 95 percent coverage of the first dose of the vaccine.



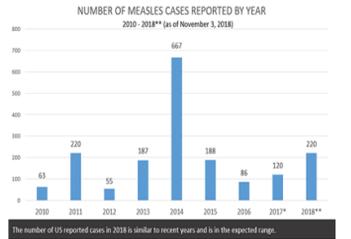
Global coverage has stalled at 85 percent for several years, but the figure is lower in poorer regions like Africa, which had a coverage rate of 70 percent in 2017. Measles is a highly contagious disease, which can cause severe diarrhoea, pneumonia and vision loss and can be fatal in some cases. (Courtesy <https://sg.news.yahoo.com>)

### Related

#### Measles Cases and Outbreaks Measles Cases in 2018

As of November 3, 2018, 220 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 26 states and the District of Columbia. The states that have reported cases to

CDC are Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.



\*Cases as of December 30, 2017. Case count is preliminary and subject to change.

\*\*Cases as of November 3, 2018. Case count is preliminary and subject to change. Data are updated monthly.

Source: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables Measles Outbreaks

A total of 15 outbreaks (defined as 3 or more linked cases) have been reported so far in 2018.

Outbreaks in countries to which Americans often travel can directly contribute to an increase in measles cases in the U.S.

### Spread of Measles

- The majority of people who got measles were unvaccinated.
- Measles is still common in many parts of the world including some countries in Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and Africa.
- Travelers with measles continue to bring the disease into the U.S.
- Measles can spread when it reaches a community in the U.S. where groups of people are unvaccinated. (Courtesy <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>)

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**5G Will See A Wide Rollout In 2020**



(Illustration/Axios)

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

While 5G started to arrive this year, you really had to seek out the next-generation experience: First, you had to find a carrier that covered part of your city, and then you had to buy one of the handful of phones that supported the new network technology.

**Why it matters:** Next year, the script will flip, as 5G support will be baked into a wide range of devices and networks expand to cover more of the country. Every new generation of cellular technology has an awkward initial phase, but 5G is actually poised to arrive more smoothly than its predecessors.

**Driving the news:**

•Qualcomm announced Tuesday that its next high-end and mid-range chips will have standard 5G support. That guarantees that many of next year's devices — and nearly all flagship phones — will support 5G.

•T-Mobile announced the launch of its nationwide 5G network Monday, albeit using lower frequency spectrum that allows for broad coverage at the expense of the high speeds possible with millimeter-wave technology. (T-Mobile, like other carriers, is also slowly launching millimeter-wave 5G in parts of large cities.)

•Even those whose 5G networks rely entirely on short-range millimeter wave will be offering service in more cities next year. Verizon's 5G, for example, is in parts of 18 cities now, with plan-

sto have 30 by year's end and a steady stream through 2020.



**"2020 is a pivotal year,"** AT&T senior VP Kevin Petersen said in an interview, noting the company expects to launch around 15 devices stretching from high-end phones to mid-range devices.

**Wild card:** Apple is the big question mark. It's generally assumed that it settled a long-running legal fight with Qualcomm earlier this year in part to ensure next year's iPhone lineup can offer 5G, but nothing is certain. Comments from Qualcomm's president, though, seem to suggest Apple is on track to have 5G in 2020.

**The big picture:** The onus will still be on the industry to persuade consumers that they need 5G. The early case will probably focus on faster speeds, especially for video streaming and downloading movies.

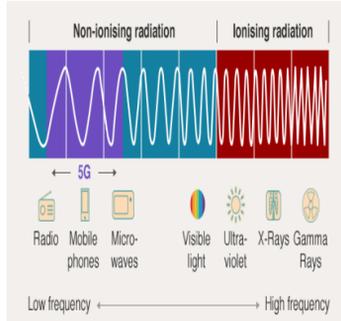
•It's worth noting that people are keeping their phones longer — providing incentive for consumers in the market for a phone next year to buy a 5G device even if their preferred carrier doesn't yet offer

service.

•5G is also not just about phones. Other uses will also start rolling out next year, including laptops and VR devices with 5G, as well as 5G-based private networks for corporations.

"If we fast forward three years and the big application for 5G is faster internet on smartphones we will have missed the boat," Verizon chief product development officer Nicki Palmer told Axios.

**Where 5G fits in the electromagnetic spectrum**



Source: SCAMP/Imperial College London/EBU

**Related**

**FCC To Launch \$9B 5G Fund To Bolster Rural Coverage**



FCC chairman Ajit Pai speaks at a rural connectivity forum in April 2018. Photo: Alex Wong/Getty Images.

The Federal Communications Commission intends to launch a new \$9 billion 5G Fund to spur deployment of wireless service in hard-to-serve rural areas, scrapping an existing program meant to spur 4G LTE service.

**Why it matters:** Each new wave of wireless technology has rolled out quick-

ly in urban centers but faced technical and financial hurdles in reaching rural customers. The FCC struggled to get the previous \$4.53 billion 4G program off the ground over the last two years amid widespread criticism that coverage data submitted by the carriers did not accurately reflect where there already is 4G service.

**Driving the news:** A commission staff report released Wednesday found that data submitted by Verizon, U.S. Cellular and T-Mobile for the original funding program, Mobility Fund Phase II, did not reflect on-the-ground experiences measured by speed tests.

•Staffers drove nearly 10,000 miles to conduct speed tests of carrier networks, FCC chairman Ajit Pai said. The staff report said only 62 percent of the drive tests showed the expected minimum download speeds.

•"Mobile carriers must submit accurate broadband coverage data to the commission," Pai said in a statement. "Simply put, we need to make sure that federal funding goes to areas that need it the most."

**What they're saying:** U.S. Cellular said it had warned that the FCC's directions for the coverage maps would result in overstated coverage, and said the staff report comes as "no surprise."

•The company "faithfully implemented" the FCC's requirements for the coverage maps it submitted but recognizes "better and more accurate maps are necessary," said Grant Spellmeyer, vice president of federal affairs and public policy for the carrier.

**What's next:** Pai's new proposal would have the FCC allocate \$9 billion from the Universal Service Fund over 10 years through a reverse auction to subsidize 5G deployment in rural America.

•The fund would also set aside at least \$1 billion for precision agriculture deployments.

•Pai intends to circulate his proposal to his colleagues early next year, and he will seek comment on where to target the funding and what speed metrics should be used.

•"We must ensure that 5G narrows rather than widens the digital divide and that rural Americans receive the benefits that come from wireless innovation," Pai said in



FCC staff recommended in a report that the commission audit the coverage filings of carriers in other proceedings and take other steps to ensure coverage data is accurate.

•But the FCC will not move to penalize the carriers because the staff investigation did not find a sufficiently clear rule violation that would warrant action, a senior FCC official told reporters on a call.



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