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UK quarantines travellers from Spain in sudden blow to Europe's revival



# Southern DAILY

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Inside C2

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## U.S. charges 18 Portland protesters as it sends tactical police to Seattle



(Reuters) - U.S. prosecutors on Friday unveiled charges against 18 Portland, Oregon protesters ranging from assaulting police to arson and trespassing, a day after the Trump administration expanded the deployment of tactical police to Seattle.

The arrests came this week during clashes with specially equipped federal police agents sent to Portland, where 56 straight days of antiracism demonstrations have captured national attention.

The federal forces have drawn criticism from Democrats and civil liberties groups who allege excessive force and federal overreach by President Donald Trump.

The deployment of federal officers has also drawn the scrutiny of the Justice Department inspector general, who announced an investigation of their use of force, and prompted a federal judge to issue a temporary order limiting their use of force and blocking them from arresting journalists and legal observers of street protests.

The Trump administration sent a tactical team to Seattle on Thursday in anticipation of protests this weekend despite the objections of the Seattle mayor and Washington state governor, who warned of a Portland-like escalation of tensions.

U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington Brian Moran said in a statement that federal agents are stationed in Seattle to protect federal properties and the work done in those buildings.

"Let's not let the violence that has marred the Portland protests damage peaceful movements here for a more just society," Moran said. "My hope is our community will speak with one voice to discourage those who seek to hijack peaceful protests with damage and destruction."

The Trump administration has also sent federal police to Chicago, Kansas City and Albuquerque over the objections of those mayors

Trump, who is running for re-election on Nov. 3 in part on a campaign of law and order, has threatened to deploy federal forces in more cities run by Democratic mayors, who he accuses of being soft on crime.

The Portland team of tactically equipped, camouflaged officers fired tear gas canisters at Black Lives Matter demonstrators in central Portland early on Friday, taking on a policing role typically reserved for local law enforcement.

"I made clear to Acting Secretary (Chad) Wolf that deployments in Seattle - like we have seen in Portland - would undermine public safety and break community trust," Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan said on Twitter late on Thursday, referring to the

acting secretary of Homeland Security.

Washington state Governor Jay Inslee warned that federal officers might "make the thing worse and throw gasoline on a fire."

Portland has been rocked by nearly two months of demonstrations for racial equality and against police brutality, part of a movement that has swept the United States since the May 25 death of George Floyd, an African American, in the custody of Minneapolis police. The Justice Department said all 18 of those charged in Portland had made a first appearance in federal court and were released pending trial or other proceedings.

Five people were charged with suspicion of assaulting a federal officer, trespassing and creating a disturbance during protests on the night of July 20-21, said Billy Williams, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon.

Seven people have been charged in connection with criminal conduct during a July 21-22 night protest, including one person charged with arson. Another six were charged over events from the night of July 22-23.



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# UK quarantines travellers from Spain in sudden blow to Europe's revival

LONDON/BARCELONA (Reuters) - Britain abruptly imposed a two-week quarantine on all travellers arriving from Spain after a surge of coronavirus cases, a dramatic and sudden reversal on Saturday to the opening of the European continent to tourism after months of lockdown.

FILE PHOTO: Passengers arrive at the Gatwick Airport, as travel restrictions are eased following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Gatwick, Britain July 10, 2020. REUTERS/Toby Melville/File Photo  
The quarantine requirement takes effect from midnight (2300 GMT on Saturday), making it almost impossible for travellers to avoid it by rushing home.

The British foreign ministry also advised against all but essential travel to mainland Spain, a move likely to prompt tour operators to cancel package holidays and trigger claims against insurers.

Europe's biggest travel company TUI (TUIGn.DE) (TUIT.L) said it was cancelling all departures on Sunday to Spain from the United Kingdom, and was urgently reviewing future flights.

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EasyJet and British Airways plan to continue UK-Spain flights

Spain says it is safe, with localised outbreaks

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"We're incredibly disappointed that we didn't get more notice of this announcement, or that this decision wasn't made yesterday, as many Brits travel on holiday at the weekend," said TUI's UK managing director, Andrew Flintham.

EasyJet (EZJ.L) and British Airways (ICAG.L) said they did not plan to cancel flights over the coming days.

Spain's Canary and Balearic Islands are not covered by the advice to avoid travel to the mainland, but holidaymakers returning to Britain from the islands will still be subject to quarantine on return.



A man is seen wearing a protective face mask at Waterloo station in London, Britain, March 6, 2020. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls

Britain's government urged employers to be "understanding" towards staff who are unable to return to work for two weeks after coming back from holiday.

Transport minister Grant Shapps himself will be subject to quarantine, after a spokesman confirmed that he is currently on holiday in Spain.

The British move followed steps this week by other European countries. On Friday Norway said it would re-impose a 10-day quarantine requirement for people arriving

from Spain, while France advised people not to travel to Spain's northeastern region of Catalonia.

But the total collapse of tourism from Britain would have far more impact. Britons made up more than 20% of foreign visitors to Spain last year, the largest group by nationality. Tourism normally accounts for 12% of Spain's economy.

Spain had been on a list of countries that

the British government had said were safe for travellers to visit - meaning tourists returning home would not have to go into quarantine.

The announcement of such lists just weeks ago had allowed Europe's tourism sector to begin to revive after the near total shut-down prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stay Home!

## BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

This news round-up brings you a selection of the latest news updates on the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, as well as tips and tools to help you stay informed and protected.

Top Stories: Recession hits **South Korean** economy; **South Africa's** death toll could be higher than previously thought; and the WHO warns patience needed for vaccines.

**1. How COVID-19 is affecting the globe**

The total number of confirmed cases around the world has surpassed another grim milestone, breaching the 15 million mark in the past 24 hours. Data from the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine show the death toll has now passed 623,000. **Switzerland** has added more countries to its coronavirus hot-spot list, bringing the number to 42. Visitors from listed countries must go into quarantine for 10-days or face a fine of over \$10,000. **Jair Bolsonaro, President of Brazil** has tested positive for the coronavirus for the third time this month. **Hong Kong** has made face masks compulsory in all indoor spaces and on public transport. It reported 113 new coronavirus cases on 22 July, a single-day record. COVID-19 has caused the **UK** to shrink its international aid budget by \$3.7 billion. The country's foreign minister said the UK would still meet its international development commitments. The **South Korean** economy is in recession. GDP fell by 2.9% year-on-year, while exports sank to a 57-year low, the BBC reports. In **India**, the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra pilgrimage has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. The Hindustan Times describes the Amarnath cave temple as "one of the holiest shrines in Hinduism." From 1 August, travel restrictions are being eased in **Qatar**. Visitors, citizens and permanent residents will be able to travel in and out of the country, Al Jazeera says.



2. Is The U.S. on the Verge of Lockdown

**2.0?** After two months of what looked like a nascent recovery, the U.S. economy is faltering again. Restaurant reservations, one of the most commonly tracked indicators of local business activity, are stagnating: Americans are also a bit less mobile in July than in June: It's not hard to see what's happening. With Covid-19 infections surging in Sun Belt states and a few other states experiencing second waves, Americans are being rationally prudent and staying home. The fear this time isn't as great as in March, when much less was known about the disease, but it's still enough to tank the recovery.

The key to restarting the recovery, therefore, is to suppress the virus. For cities and states where the epidemic has subsided, the best tools for preventing new outbreaks are universal mask usage, plentiful testing, prompt contact tracing and isolation of the infected. But President Donald Trump, apparently subscribing to the theory that ignoring the virus will make it go away, is attempting to block funding for testing and tracing. And for states such as Texas, Florida and Arizona that have been overwhelmed with new infections, this approach -- although still useful -- won't be enough.

New lockdowns of some sort are going to be necessary. Some cities are already considering a return to stringent stay-at-home orders of the type used in the spring. Those lockdowns probably didn't hurt the economy any more than the virus itself. But this time things might be different. Because fear of the virus is less intense than in March, blanket lockdowns that were superfluous last time might curtail the

What You Need To Know About The Coronavirus Pandemic July 27 2020  
**WORLD COVID-19 UPDATE 07/27/20**



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

economy now. In addition, psychological stress from prolonged isolation might be fueling social unrest.



Fortunately, we understand much more about the virus than we did four months ago, and what we've learned can help us design new lockdown policies that are much less restrictive and just as effective as the old ones. Outside activities seem to be much less dangerous than inside ones, and brief contact is considerably less risky than prolonged contact. The most dangerous activities are places where people are talking loudly in a crowded indoor setting for a long time -- bars, parties, concerts, indoor sporting events, indoor religious services and so on. Offices, gyms, hair salons and indoor restaurants are somewhat dangerous.

**3. WHO: Don't expect first COVID-19 vaccinations until early 2021**

Early indications from coronavirus vaccine trials are broadly positive. But Dr Mike Ryan, head of the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, has urged caution.

Don't expect a vaccine to become widely available until 2021, he warned during

an event broadcast on social media. "Realistically it is going to be the first part of next year before we start seeing people getting vaccinated," he said.

He's not alone in warning that the world may have to be patient. Thomas Lingelbach, chief executive of the biotech company Valneva, told Sky News: "We are trying to bring a 10-year development cycle into 10 months. I hope that some will be faster but... I don't expect personally that we're going to see major supplies before the middle of next year."

The US government has pledged to spend \$1.95 billion buying 100 million doses of a potential vaccine being jointly developed by the US and Germany. The doses will be given to US citizens free-of-charge, the Financial Times reports. (Courtesy <https://www.weforum.org/>)

**Related**



**Va. Tech Professor Creates Surface Coating That Inactivates Coronavirus In One Hour**

**BLACKSBURG, Va.** - Viruses can survive on surfaces like doorknobs, shopping carts, and light switches for hours or even days. In the case of COVID-19, scientists believe the virus lives longest on plastic and stainless steel. To solve this problem, a Virginia Tech professor says he has created a new anti-coronavirus coating that can be painted onto surfaces and stops the illness in just an hour. Although the greatest potential for

transmitting SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is through respiratory droplets, surface contact remains a threat for getting people sick.

**Durable protection against COVID-19**

"The idea is when the droplets land on a solid object, the virus within the droplets will be inactivated," lead researcher William Ducker says in a media release. After creating the anti-viral coating, the VT team sent samples off to Leo Poon, a professor at the University of Hong Kong's School of Public Health. There, researchers tested the invention's ability to shut down SARS-CoV-2.



Study authors find the coating is remarkably effective, durable, and long lasting. When using it on glass or stainless steel, Ducker's coating reduces the amount of virus by 99.9 percent in one hour. Moreover, it does not peel off after being cut with a razor blade. The coating also deactivates SARS-CoV-2 even after multiple rounds of virus exposure or submergence in water for a week.

**Finding funds to protect surfaces**

"One hour is the shortest period that we have tested so far, and tests at shorter periods are ongoing," the chemical engineering professor details. Ducker adds he expects further tests will reveal the anti-viral coating works even faster than in Poon's experiments. Next, the VT researchers plan to secure enough funding to mass produce the invention. "Everybody is worried about touching objects that may have the coronavirus," Ducker explains. "It would help people to relax a little bit." (Courtesy <https://www.studyfinds.org/>) This study is published in the journal ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces.

# Editor's Choice



Flames rise as a wildfire burns near the village of Kechries, Greece, July 22, 2020. Firefighters battled a wind-driven forest fire that burned through pine forest and forced the evacuation of hundreds of people near the seaside village of Kechries...



Estefani Linares poses during a photo session for her quinceanera celebration, amid coronavirus concerns in Havana, Cuba, July 15, 2020. Cuban girls are turning face masks into a fashion accessory for their quinceanera photoshoots,



A bus driver rest between trips to transport health workers, after El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele postponed the second phase of economic reopening, in San Salvador, El Salvador July 20, 2020. REUTERS/Jose Cabezas



A man helps a patient who was beaten by unknown assailants after leaving the San Juan de Dios hospital, as the coronavirus outbreak continues, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, July 15, 2020. REUTERS/Luis Echeverria



A baby hippo is seen with its mother at Zacango Zoo in Calimaya, Mexico July 13, 2020. Zacango Zoo-State of Mexico/Handout via REUTERS



Children walk past cattle on an embankment in a flooded area in Morigaon district, in the northeastern state of Assam, India, July 20, 2020. Intense rain and floods in Assam have killed at least 84 people and displaced more than 2.75 million since...



Belarusian ornithologist Vladimir Ivanovski, 73, climbs a tree with a nest of osprey chicks during the monitoring of nests of birds of prey, in a marsh at the Republican reserve "Koziansky" near the remote village of Kaziany, Belarus, July 12, 2020..



Shoppers who refused to wear masks shop at a Walmart in Bradford, Pennsylvania, July 20, 2020. Walmart now requires shoppers to wear face coverings in its 5,000 U.S. stores, imposing a widely-accepted protective measure as coronavirus cases...

Tesla Picks Austin For \$1 Billion Auto Factory



Tesla CEO Elon Musk speaking at the company's factory in Shanghai, China, on January 7, 2020.

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

In one of the largest economic development projects in Austin's history, electric automaker Tesla says it will build a \$1.1 billion assembly plant in Travis County that will employ 5,000 people.

Wages at the factory — to be located on 2,100 acres off Texas 130 and Harold Green Road — will start at \$35,000 annually, counting benefits, bringing job opportunities and investment to a southeastern portion of the county that officials say is sorely in need of them.

It will produce the electric vehicle maker's upcoming Cybertruck electric pickup, as well as be a second site to build its Model Y SUV. Tesla officials previously have said they intend to break ground on the factory by the third quarter of this year, although CEO Elon Musk said Wednesday that initial work at the site actually began last weekend.

"The location is five minutes from (Austin-Bergstrom International Airport) and 15 minutes from downtown Austin," Musk said, speaking on a conference call with Wall Street analysts following the company's second-quarter earnings release.

"We are going to make it a factory that is going to be stunning," he said. "It is right on the Colorado River. So we are

actually going to have a boardwalk where there will be a hike and biking trail. It is basically going to be an ecological paradise — birds in the trees, butterflies, fish in the stream. And it will be open to the public as well, so not closed and only open to Tesla."



Tesla Cybertruck will be built at the new Tesla factory in Austin.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott heralded the announcement in a written statement Wednesday, calling Tesla "one of the most exciting and innovative companies in the world."

The planned factory "will keep the Texas economy the strongest in the nation and will create thousands of jobs for hard-working Texans," Abbott said. "I look forward to the tremendous benefits that Tesla's investment will bring to Central Texas and to the entire state."

A spokesman for Abbott said Tesla didn't receive any financial incentives from the state to build the factory here, although

it has received local incentives. Earlier this month, the Travis County Commissioners Court and the Del Valle Independent School District's board approved tax breaks for the project valued at a minimum of about \$60 million combined.

California-based Tesla recently became the most valuable automaker in the world, and its market capitalization is nearly \$300 billion. Local advocates for the project are heralding the planned factory — dubbed a "gigafactory" by Tesla — as a wellspring of new jobs and a huge boost for the local economy, particularly amid the financial gut punch being delivered by the coronavirus pandemic. Tesla also had been considering Tulsa, Okla., as a location, although it previously indicated the site in Travis County was its front-runner. "The company's pioneering spirit and advanced manufacturing technologies will be instrumental in our region's economic recovery and our sustainable growth for the longer term," said Gary Farmer, chairman of Opportunity Austin, the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce's regional economic development initiative.



Tesla picks Austin for new factory.

Austin economist Jon Hockenyo, whose firm, TXP Inc., was hired by Travis County to help structure its incentive agreement with Tesla, said the timing of the project is ideal, in terms of its potential to help buoy the region economically amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Hockenyo said so-called middle-skill jobs — meaning those requiring some post-high school training but not a four-year degree — have been eliminated from payrolls disproportionately during the pandemic but are precisely the type of positions Tesla will be looking to fill.

"We are in a recession, and the recession is hitting people the hardest who potentially could fill these jobs," Hockenyo said. "A lot of jobs (lost because of the pandemic) aren't coming back" for the foreseeable future.

Ray Perryman, president of the Perryman Group, a Waco-based economic research and analysis firm, said having a Tesla assembly plant in the Austin metro area is a major coup for the region.

"At an immediate level, it offers a large number of jobs at various skill and education levels that will directly benefit the economy and have spillover effects to other segments. It also has the potential to create a clustering effect of other firms in the area," Perryman said. "Perhaps most important, it will further expand the technology footprint of the area."

Tesla executives and school district officials have said the factory will provide opportunities for education, job-training and career paths in areas that include robotics and science, technology, engineering and math. Still, the project has plenty of skeptics locally. Some have criticized the notion of taxpayer-funded subsidies for a multibillion-dollar corporation, while others have criticized Tesla's record on workplace safety and labor relations and urged local officials — albeit unsuccessfully — to delay approval of the incentive agreements so that more safeguards could be put in place.

Nathan Jensen, a University of Texas government professor, said the Tesla incentives are "a bad investment of taxpayer money as small businesses close in our community" because of the pandemic. Jensen, who studies taxpayer-funded incentives to corporations and is a critic of them, previously has pointed to research indicating at least three-quarters of such incentive agreements are struck with companies that would have invested in a particular region without them.

In the case of the Tesla deal in particular, he also said the minimum wage of \$15 an hour the company has agreed to pay — which equates to \$31,200 annually for a full-time worker, not counting benefits — is an extremely low bar for a manufacturer to clear. "They are trying to rebrand this as 'middle-skill' jobs, but these are low wages," Jensen said.

But Austin economist Angelos Angelou said the planned Tesla factory could help foster growth of entirely new industrial sectors in the region.

Tesla's factory here "expands Austin's op-

portunities to attract a strong supply chain in (auto manufacturing) and create much needed high paying manufacturing jobs," Angelou said.



Tesla's CEO, Elon Musk: "We're going to Texas!"

"Austin now combines its engineering hardware and software preeminence to attract many more manufacturing jobs," he said. "Who knows what is next, perhaps the recruitment of an aerospace company?" Manufacturing jobs in Texas most recently paid just over \$47,000 annually on average prior to the coronavirus pandemic, according to figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Tesla has said it expects its average pay to be about that amount.

Last week, Travis County commissioners voted to approve tax breaks for Tesla valued at a minimum of about \$14 million over 10 years if the company invests \$1.1 billion in the factory. The amount of the tax breaks will grow substantially if Tesla invests more over the 20-year life of the agreement. The Del Valle school district on July 9 approved just over \$46 million in property tax breaks for the company over 10 years. That figure won't change much even if Tesla invests more.

Travis County Judge Sam Biscoe said Wednesday that he's proud of the incentives agreement that the county reached with Tesla.

"In addition to the 5,000 new jobs and \$1 billion facility investment, Travis County has been able to take a tract of land that paid \$64,000 in tax revenue over 10 years and turn it into a tract that will pay \$8 million in tax revenue (to the county) during the same period" (despite the tax breaks, Biscoe said. The deal "strikes a balance between incentivizing Tesla, securing significant community benefits, and ensuring protection of workers and the environment." (Courtesy Austin American Statesman)



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