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New York man charged with threatening to kill Muslim U.S. lawmaker



Inside C2

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## As latest round of U.S.-China talks end, ‘significant work’ remains

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. and Chinese negotiators wrapped up their latest round of trade talks on Friday and were scheduled to resume discussions next week to try to secure a pact that would end a tit-for-tat tariff battle that has roiled global markets.

The two sides offered few details of the progress as Chinese Vice Premier Liu He concluded three days of meetings with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in Washington. U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday said a deal could be announced in the next four weeks.

Last year Washington and Beijing slapped import duties on each other’s products that cost the world’s two largest economies billions of dollars and disrupted manufacturing and supply chains. The United States is seeking reforms to Chinese practices that it says result in the theft of U.S. intellectual property and the forced transfer of technology from U.S. companies to Chinese firms.

“Significant work remains, and the principals, deputy ministers, and delegation members will be in continuous contact to resolve outstanding issues,” the office of the U.S. Trade Representative’s (USTR) said in a statement.

Chinese state media said on Saturday that the two sides had made “new progress” in the talks.

The negotiations included intellectual property, or IP, forced technology transfer, non-tariff barriers, agriculture, services, purchases and enforcement, the USTR statement said.

White house adviser Larry Kudlow, speaking on Bloomberg Television earlier in the day, said Liu was due back in Beijing after Friday’s talks, but the two sides would press ahead to resolve remaining differences by video link.

“There’s no let-up here, this is an ongoing process,” Kudlow said.

Washington also has demanded that Beijing curb industrial subsidies, open its economy wider to U.S. companies, and increase purchases of U.S. goods including farm and energy commodities to shrink the gaping trade deficit with China.

“We are making headway in a lot of areas. That includes enforcement, that includes IP theft, that includes forced technology transfers, ownership, cyberspace, commodities and all the rest of it,” Kudlow said.

“Those are of course in the middle of the negotiations that are ongoing, but we’ve come further and farther than ever before.”

While some reform pledges by Beijing are largely set, including an agreement to avoid currency manipulation, an enforcement mechanism to ensure that China keeps its pledges and the status of U.S. tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods must be resolved.

The plan to continue the discussions was taken as a positive sign.

“The fact that they’re still talking - and talking positively about the discussions - suggests they both think they’re on the path to a resolution,” said Erin Ennis, senior vice president of the U.S.-China Business Council, which represents U.S. firms doing business in China.



FILE PHOTO: Members of the U.S. trade delegation Robert Lighthizer and Steven Mnuchin arrive at a hotel in Beijing, China March 28, 2019. REUTERS/Jason Lee/File Photo



U.S. President Donald Trump meets with China's Vice Premier Liu at the White House in Washington,

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# New York man charged with threatening to kill Muslim U.S. lawmaker

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A 55-year-old New York man has been arrested and charged with threatening to assault and murder Democratic Representative Ilhan Omar, a Muslim U.S. Congress member from Minnesota, federal prosecutors said.

Patrick Carlineo Jr. of Addison, New York, faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted, the U.S. Department of Justice said on Friday in a statement.

According to prosecutors, Carlineo spoke by telephone with one of Omar's staff members on March 21 and asked the employee: "Do you work for the Muslim Brotherhood? Why are you working for her, she's a (expletive) terrorist. I'll put a bullet in her (expletive) skull."

The threat was referred to the U.S. Capitol Police, which launched a probe in coordination with the FBI, the Justice Department said.

Carlineo sounded angry during the phone call but also spelled his name for the staff member and provided contact details, according to an

affidavit by an FBI special agent.

Interviewed at his home by investigators, Carlineo "stated that he was a patriot, that he loves the President, and that he hates radical Muslims in our government," the affidavit said.

Carlineo made an initial court appearance on Friday and is being held pending a detention hearing on April 10.

Representatives of Omar, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee who was elected in November as one of the two first Muslim women to win seats in Congress, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In February, Omar apologized "unequivocally" after Republicans and Democrats condemned comments she made about the pro-Israel lobby in the United States as using anti-Semitic stereotypes. President Donald Trump said her apology was inadequate and she should be "ashamed of herself."



FILE PHOTO: U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MN) participates in a news conference to call on Congress to cut funding for ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S. February 7, 2019. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst/File Photo

# Boeing cuts 737 MAX output in wake of two deadly crashes

CHICAGO/SEATTLE (Reuters) - Boeing Co said on Friday it plans to cut its monthly 737 aircraft production by nearly 20 percent in the wake of two deadly crashes, signaling it does not expect aviation authorities to allow the plane back in the air anytime soon.

Deliveries of Boeing's best-selling aircraft were frozen after a global grounding of the narrow-body model following the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jet on March 10, killing all 157 people onboard.

Production will be cut to 42 airplanes per

month from 52 starting mid-April, the company said in a statement, without giving an end-date.

U.S. and airline officials said they now believe the plane could be grounded for at least two months, but an even longer grounding is a serious possibility.

The crash in Ethiopia and the crash of a Lion Air plane in Indonesia last October that killed all 189 people on

board have left the world's largest planemaker in crisis.

Chief Executive Officer Dennis Muilenburg said on Friday said the company now knows that a chain of events caused both disasters, with erroneous activation of so-called MCAS anti-stall software "a common link" between the two.

Boeing said it would not reduce jobs at the new production rate and will work to minimize the financial impact.

The company's board will establish a committee to review how the company designs and develops airplanes, Muilenburg said. The

group will "recommend improvements to our policies and procedures" for its 737 MAX and other airplane programs.

Boeing said it continues to make progress on a 737 MAX software update to prevent further accidents.

Shares in Boeing Co fell around two percent after the market closed on Friday. While the number of 737 MAX planes grounded is just over 370, nearly 5,000 more are on order.



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Editor's Choice



Military vehicles of Misrata forces, under the protection of Tripoli's forces, are seen in Tajura neighborhood, east of Tripoli



Demonstrators protest against President Aleksandar Vucic and his government in central Belgrade, Serbia, April 6, 2019. The banner reads "One of Five Million". REUTERS/Marko Djurica



Police officers stand guard outside at the Episcopal Conference of Peru where Gregorio Rojas, president of the community Fuerabamba, Chinese-owned miner MMG Ltd, the Peruvian government and the Catholic Church take part in negotiations, aimed at ending a dispute with an indigenous community that has blocked roads to the company's Las Bambas mine, in Lima,



Rally against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas



Gregorio Rojas, president of the community Fuerabamba speaks to the media after he arrived to take part in negotiations at the Episcopal Conference of Peru



A supporter of Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, who many nations have recognized as the country's rightful interim ruler, fixes a flag during a rally against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas, Venezuela, April 6, 2019. REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg campaigns at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord New Hampshire



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg campaigns at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord New Hampshire



Washington this week has been toasting NATO, which has turned 70. Congress greeted NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg with bursts of bipartisan applause, and foreign ministers from the 29 member countries gathered today to reaffirm their mutual support.

As former Supreme Allied Commander James Stavridis writes in TIME: “Perhaps NATO’s greatest accomplishment is not even its unblemished record of deterring attack against its members but rather the fact that no alliance nation has ever attacked another.”

• Stavridis notes that “there is no other place on earth where the U.S. could find such a significant number of like-minded nations” with which to ally. Stoltenberg put it more simply: “It is good to have friends.”

• In recent years, NATO has in some ways been rejuvenated by Russian aggression. Members are committing more troops in Eastern Europe and modernizing command structures. Support for the alliance generally remains high in Europe and in the U.S.

The flipside: Despite the united front this week in D.C., there are growing schisms. Some, like trade wars or the Iran nuclear deal, are political. Others, like creeping authoritarianism and doubts over collective defense, feel more existential.

• Meanwhile, the alliance’s role as the U.S. looks away from Europe and toward a rising China is still to be determined. That’s particularly true under a U.S. president who thinks America is being ripped off.



Jens Stoltenberg, NATO Secretary General / Getty

Vice President Pence nearly spoiled the birthday party yesterday, targeting Germany and Turkey with some of the Trump administration’s most stinging criticisms of NATO allies so far.

• Pence said several countries were falling short on defense spending, “Germany

***The Largest Military Alliance In History Is Critically Important, Yet Lacks A Clear Mission***

**NATO Turns 70**



Portuguese troops mark the 70th anniversary of NATO’s founding. (Photo/Getty Images)

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

chief among them.” He scolded: “It is simply unacceptable for Europe’s largest economy to ignore the threat of Russian aggression and continue neglecting its self-defense.”

• Pence then turned to Turkey’s decision to buy an advanced S-400 missile defense system from Russia. “Turkey must choose,” he warned. “Does it want to remain a critical partner in the most successful military alliance in history or does it want to risk the security of that partnership by making such reckless decisions that undermine our alliance?”

**Between the lines:** Pence’s remarks didn’t go over well with the audience of security experts and diplomats, but they contained uncomfortable truths.

**Germany’s long-standing reluctance** to play a leading role on defense has been compounded by delicate coalition politics.

• The Social Democrats, junior partners to Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democrats, want to shift funds away from defense and onto domestic priorities. If that means picking a fight with Trump, all the better — he’s enormously unpopular in Germany.

• German statements on defense spend-

ing this week have been tinged with doublespeak. The key claim is that, “True solidarity is measured in terms of commitment, not euros.”



**President Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, meanwhile, is intent to show Turkey’s defenses don’t run through Washington, let alone Brussels.

• Speaking before Pence at the same conference, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the purchase of the Russian system, which the Pentagon says could endanger NATO infrastructure, is a “done deal.”

• “We are not choosing between Russia and any other allies,” Cavusoglu added. That’s a pretty remarkable statement at a NATO conference.

**The bottom line:** NATO’s birthday could have been far worse. Both Pence

and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had warm words for the alliance. All was quiet on the Trump Twitter front. A 30th member, North Macedonia, is anxious to join. Overall, NATO looks pretty good for its age.

**Worth noting:** As Axios’ Jonathan Swan has pointed out, Pence is a central force in the Trump administration’s foreign policy and in many cases — Venezuela, China, Iran — drives hardline positions. He occasionally sets the pace on these issues, even if he does it while praising the wisdom and strength of his boss.

**Related**

**70 Years Ago, NATO, The Most Successful Military Alliance In history, Was Created**

Seventy years ago last Thursday, the United States, Canada, and 10 western European countries created what became, and still remains, the most successful military alliance in history. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization deterred the Soviet Union from overtaking western Europe and, remarkably, won the Cold War without actually fighting the communist empire. Then, after the Berlin Wall fell, the alliance endured, using military force in the Balkans and the broader Middle East to stop Islamist terrorists and brutal, destabilizing authoritarians. All the while, NATO expanded from its original 12 member states to 29.

The foundation of the alliance is collective security—pledging to treat an attack on one member as an attack on all members. But that alone is not why NATO has thrived for seven decades amid significant geopolitical change. Each country, according to the North Atlantic Treaty, agrees to “safeguard the freedom, common heritage, and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law.” Yes, NATO is a military alliance, but its members share a much deeper bond than overlapping security interests or similar threat perceptions. So countries that want to join must prove that they are sufficiently free and democratic, and they have gone to great lengths to do so. NATO can deter adversaries with its military (and economic) power, but it can also inspire others with its political power.



President Trump shown as he arrives at the NATO summit in Brussels. The House is scheduled to take up a measure Wednesday reaffirming U.S. support for NATO.

Because of its military might and commitment to Western values, NATO has, since 1949, been a pillar not just of European stability, but also of the American-led world order. NATO is more integral and fundamental to a free and united Europe than the European Union, which now seems to be creating more division through its bureaucratic overreach into state sovereignty than actual unity. And NATO has become essential to the global order that followed World War II and reached new heights after the Cold War—an order defined by an open global economic system, international institutions, and liberal values. It is hard to envision a scenario in which NATO dissolves or is seriously undermined without the world becoming a much darker place. Given the threat that Russia now poses to European stability, prosperity, and cohesion, NATO is still critically important, even after 70 years. The alliance does not need to slay dragons everywhere to matter. It can still be an essential pillar of global order and an inspiration to smaller democracies that refuse to be bullied by larger autocracies. With that thought in mind, NATO must be willing to expand, to let in those who champion freedom and will contribute to the alliance’s collective defense. Maybe in another 70 years, NATO will be celebrating another big anniversary, with more flourishing democracies able to participate. It is a future worth fighting for.

Yet, despite its success, NATO has serious issues today. The alliance’s 70th anniversary offers a perfect opportunity to address them. (Courtesy freebeacon.com)

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**Washington (CNN)** President Trump on Thursday walked back his previous threat to close the U.S.-Mexico border this week, telling reporters he is giving Mexico a “1-year warning” to stop illegal immigration and what he calls “massive” amounts of drugs entering the country through the southern border. Trump said that now he doesn’t think the US will “ever have to close the border.”

Trump, earlier Thursday, threatened to slap tariffs on automobiles made in Mexico and close the US-Mexico border if the country didn’t stop “massive amounts of drugs” coming into the US within one year.


“We’re going to give them a one-year warning, and if the drugs don’t stop or (are) largely stopped, we’re going to put tariffs on Mexico and products, in particular, the cars ... and if that doesn’t stop the drugs, we close the border,” Trump told reporters.

But by Thursday evening, Trump had shifted his position again.

“I don’t think we’ll ever have to close the border because the penalty of tariffs on cars coming into the United States from Mexico, at 25%, will be massive,” Trump said.

When asked if his comments suggested that his new auto tariffs mean the southern border will remain open for at least a year, Trump responded: “No, I didn’t say that.”

“We would start with the tariffs and we’ll see what happens,” Trump said.



“Now, maybe by the end of this press conference or tomorrow that’ll stop. And if that stops we’re doing a big tariff deal.”

Last week, Trump had said he would give Mexico one week to increase apprehensions of migrants from Central America from coming toward the US -- and threatened a border closure as a consequence. In recent days, the President also shifted the onus to Democrats to work on immigration laws or face border closures.

## Trump Backpedals: ‘I Don’t Think We’ll Ever Have To Close The Border’



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

“A lot of good things are happening with Mexico. Mexico understands that we’re going to close the border or I’m going to tariff the cars. One or the other, probably start off with the tariffs. That’ll be a very powerful incentive because Mexico has the strongest immigration laws anywhere in the world,” Trump said Thursday, during the inaugural meeting of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council.

Trump added that he believes Mexico in recent days has made progress in “capturing people and bringing them back to their countries at their southern border.”

But he said he remains unsatisfied overall. “If the drugs don’t stop -- Mexico can stop them if they want -- we’re going to tariff the cars,” the President said. “And if that doesn’t work, we’re going to close the border.” (Courtesy axios.com)

**Related**  
**As the migrant surge continues, El Paso’s safety net is feeling the strain**  
Federal agencies have re-directed agents to deal with a growing wave of migrants

and the president is threatening to close the border. Meanwhile, local shelters face a daily dilemma: 500 to 600 new arrivals who need somewhere to go.



**Eduardo Talamantes, a Navy veteran, helps set up cots at a migrant shelter at the Catholic Diocese of El Paso’s main campus. (Photo/The Texas Tribune)**

EL PASO — Eduardo Talamantes talks about his long-ago military service the same way he does his volunteer service at a migrant shelter today: He downplays the importance of both.

“I was below the water line,” he said of his four-year service in the U.S. Navy that began in 1969. “Here, they call me the

“shower guy.”

“Here” is the Catholic Diocese of El Paso’s main campus in El Paso’s lower valley, where on Tuesday the 69-year-old former refinery worker was a jack-of-all-trades at the shelter, which can house up to 100 people.

“There he is,” he told a group of reporters after finding a migrant who had wandered off. “Let me make sure he gets his ride.”

Later, he spotted four migrants holding fresh clothes and towels and led them to the showers.



**A group of migrants from Brazil arrive at a migrant shelter at the Catholic Diocese of El Paso’s main campus. Ivan**

**Pierre Aguirre for The Texas Tribune**

Talamantes might soft-pedal his role here, but shelter directors say he’s an important cog in wheel that has been spinning increasingly faster as the number of immigrant families crossing into this part of Texas to seek asylum continues to surge. Everyone involved in the system, from Border Patrol agents to customs officers to shelter workers, has been scrambling to cope with the mass of people arriving at the border.

Most of the migrants are Central American families and unaccompanied minors, and their numbers have grown by 340 percent — about 136,150 family units were apprehended on the southwest border between October and February, compared to 31,100 families during the same period the year before, according to CBP statistics.



**A migrant group is detained near the Paso del Norte International Bridge on March 31, 2019, in El Paso. Ivan Pierre Aguirre for The Texas Tribune**

In El Paso, the local Border Patrol sector saw its family unit apprehension numbers jump 1,698 percent over that same period. By last month, when U.S. Customs and Border Protection predicted it would hit a 12-year high with more than 100,000 apprehensions across the border, so many migrants were coming through El Paso that agents set up a military style tent surrounded by chain link under a freeway bridge to hold the overflow.

The surge has led CBP to redirect 750 agents from their positions at the ports of entry to help Border Patrol process the migrants, and it fed President Donald Trump’s recent threats to close the southern border — a move that even members of Trump’s own party have said would wreak havoc on the country’s economy. (Courtesy texastribune.org)

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