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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## The trials of Aung San Suu Kyi, from heroine to villain to convict



Myanmar's National League for Democracy Party leader Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at a news conference at her home in Yangon November 5, 2015.

Dec 6 (Reuters) - Put on trial by the generals who overthrew her elected government in a coup that cut short democratic reforms she had fought for decades to bring about, Myanmar's ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi was sentenced on Monday to four years in prison. The 76-year-old's sentence was later reduced to two years' detention in an undisclosed location after she was convicted of incitement and violations of a law on natural disasters in the first verdicts in more than a dozen criminal cases filed against her since the Feb. 1 military takeover. Just 14 months before the coup, she had travelled to the U.N. International Court of Justice in the Hague to defend those same generals against charges of genocide over a 2017 military offensive that drove ethnic Rohingya Muslims out of Myanmar.

Suu Kyi's long struggle for democracy made her a heroine in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar, and the mostly Western criticism she faced over the plight of the Rohingya had no negative impact on her popularity at home. Known as "the Lady", Suu Kyi had

fulfilled the dreams of millions when her party first won a landslide election in 2015 that established Myanmar's first civilian government in half a century.

She spent 15 years under house arrest in the struggle for democracy, but her administration had to cohabit with the generals who retained control of defence and security.

That hybrid government failed to unite Myanmar's many ethnic groups or end its decades-long civil wars, and Suu Kyi also oversaw tightening restrictions on the press and civil society while falling out with some former allies.

But her second election victory in November unnerved the military - and it seized power on Feb. 1, alleging voter fraud by her National League for Democracy party despite rejection of the army's claims by the election commission and monitors.

The first criminal cases filed against Suu Kyi included breaching coronavirus restrictions and possession of unlicensed walkie-talkies. read more

More serious charges were to follow,

including incitement, corruption and breaching the Official Secrets Act. She now faces a dozen cases with combined maximum sentences of more 100 years. read more

Protesters have taken to the streets in her name, calling for the release of "Mother Suu" despite hundreds of killings and thousands of detentions since the coup.

### LADY BY THE LAKE

The daughter of independence hero Aung San, who was assassinated in 1947 when she was 2 years old, Suu Kyi spent much of her young life overseas. She attended Oxford University, met her husband, the British academic Michael Aris, and had two sons.

Before they married, she asked Aris to promise he would not stop her if she needed to return home. In 1988, she got the phone call that changed their lives: her mother was dying.

In the capital Yangon, then known as Rangoon, she was swept up in a student-led revolution against the then junta that had plunged the country into a ruinous isolation.

## New York City mandates shots for all private businesses amid Omicron spread

NEW YORK, Dec 6 (Reuters) - New York City declared on Monday that all private-sector employers must implement COVID-19 vaccine mandates for their workers, as the highly transmissible Omicron variant has spread to at least one-third of U.S. states.

The biggest U.S. city set a Dec. 27 deadline for all 184,000 businesses within its limits to make their employees show proof that they have been vaccinated. In addition, children 5 to 11 years old must get at least one vaccine dose by Dec. 14 to enter restaurants and to participate in extracurricular school activities, such as sports, band, orchestra and dance, Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

"Vaccination is the way out of this pandemic, and these are bold, first-in-the-nation measures to encourage New Yorkers to keep themselves and their communities safe," de Blasio, who leaves office next month, said in a statement.

De Blasio's successor, Eric Adams, "will evaluate this mandate and other COVID strategies when he is in office and make determinations based on science, efficacy and the advice of health professionals," said his spokesperson Evan Thies.

About 27% of children ages 5 to 12 have gotten at least one dose and 15% are fully vaccinated, according to the city's website.

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The Greater New York Chamber of Commerce said it supported the expanded mandate.

The requirements come at a time when new coronavirus infections are accelerating nationwide, especially in northern states, as colder weather has encouraged more mingling and socializing indoors.

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

12/06/2021

## ITC Community Leaders Meeting



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Many Texas community leaders were invited to the Houston International Trade Center on Saturday to discuss how to promote the local economy through financial institutions.

In the last ten years more than four million people have moved to Texas. We are becoming one of the most important economic powers in the nation, especially in Harris County and the greater Houston area. More than one million Asians and other immigrants have come to this region.

Over fifteen years ago we created the Houston International District with the

assistance from our state representative Hubert Vo. We changed this thirteen-square-mile-area from a depressed area to one of the most prosperous districts.

Our community meeting tonight included a very diverse group including business leaders from

the Chinese, Korean, Indian, Japanese, Latino and Nepalese communities. We all agreed that we need more financial institutions to help more small businesses.

Judge Robert Eckels also attended the meeting. He is working on building the bullet train between Houston and Dallas. This project will make a big impact on the Texas economy.



**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



Trucks covered by volcanic ash which is spewed out of Mount Semeru are seen in Sumber Wuluh Village, Lumajang, East Java province, Indonesia. Antara Foto/Zabur Karuru



Skiers dressed as Santa Claus ride the lifts to participate in the charity Santa Sunday at Sunday River ski resort in Bethel, Maine. REUTERS/Brian Snyder



An anti-abortion activist attends a protest outside the Supreme Court building, ahead of arguments in the Mississippi abortion rights case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, in Washington, December 1. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst



Rocena, a five-month pregnant migrant, touches her forehead as she lies on the floor, saying she has a fever and has been waiting in line for several days to obtain a humanitarian visa to transit through Mexico territory, in Tapachula, Mexico. REUTERS/Jose Luis Gonzalez



People smoke marijuana at the annual Expo Cannabis in Montevideo, Uruguay. REUTERS/Mariana Greif



A passenger tries to find a flight as several airlines stopped flying out of South Africa, amidst the spread of the new coronavirus variant Omicron, at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, November 28. REUTERS/ Sumaya Hisham

# Omicron Covid Variant In At Least 17 States — Cases Are Likely To Rise, CDC Chief Says

## Omicron Now in 17 U.S. States

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



### Key Points

**At least 15 states have detected the omicron coronavirus variant. That number of cases is expected to rise, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky told ABC News on Sunday.**

At least 17 states have detected the omicron coronavirus variant and that number is expected to rise, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky told ABC News on Sunday. “We know we have several dozen cases and we’re following them closely. And we are every day hearing about more and more probable cases so that number is likely to rise,” Walensky said on “This Week.”

The variant, first discovered in South Africa, has several mutations to the spike protein that allows the virus to enter the body, and some of those mutations could lead to increased antibody resistance and transmissibility. Scientists are still collecting data on the virus and the effectiveness of current Covid-19 vaccines.



**Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, testifies during the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing titled Next Steps: The Road Ahead for the COVID-19 Response, in Dirksen Building on Thursday, November 4, 2021. (Photo/Tom Williams/CQ-Roll Call, Inc. / Getty Images)**

After being detected in several other countries, the U.S. reported its first omicron case on Dec. 1. While some patients had recently traveled to southern Africa, others had no travel history. That suggests that community transmission is underway. In an effort to prevent the virus from seeding itself in the U.S., officials had at first restricted travel for non-U.S. citizens from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia,

Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Malawi. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease official, said Sunday on CNN’s “State of the Union” that he hopes that ban can be lifted in a “reasonable period of time.”

Still, the vast majority of cases in the U.S. are still caused by the delta variant.

“We have about 90 to 100,000 cases a day right now in the United States, and 99.9% of them are the delta variant,” Walensky said. (CNBC.com) **Related**



### Fauci Says Early Reports Encouraging About Omicron Variant

**Dr. Anthony Fauci**

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021. U.S. health officials said Sunday, Dec. 5 that while the omicron variant of the coronavirus is rapidly spreading throughout the country, early indications suggest it may be less dangerous than delta, which continues to drive a surge of hospitalizations. President Joe Biden’s chief medical adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told CNN’s “State of the Union” that scientists need more information before drawing conclusion’s about omicron’s severity. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

U.S. health officials said Sunday that while the omicron variant of the coronavirus is rapidly spreading throughout the country, early indications suggest it may be less dangerous than delta, which continues to drive a surge of hospitalizations. President Joe Biden’s chief medical adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told CNN’s “State of the Union” that scientists need more information before drawing conclusions about omicron’s severity. Reports from South Africa, where it emerged and is becoming the dominant strain, suggest that hospitalization rates have not increased alarmingly.

“Thus far, it does not look like there’s a great degree of severity to it,” Fauci said. “But we have really got to be careful before we make any determinations that it is less severe or it really doesn’t cause any severe illness, comparable to delta.” Fauci said the Biden administration is considering

lifting travel restrictions against noncitizens entering the United States from several African countries. They were imposed as the omicron variant exploded in the region, but U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has blasted such measures as “travel apartheid.”



“Hopefully we’ll be able to lift that ban in a quite reasonable period of time,” Fauci said. “We all feel very badly about the hardship that has been put on not only on South Africa but the other African countries.”

Omicron had been detected in about a third of U.S. states by Sunday, including in the Northeast, the South, the Great Plains and the West Coast. Wisconsin, Missouri and Louisiana were among the latest states to confirm cases. But delta remains the dominant variant, making up more than 99% of cases and driving a surge of hospitalizations in the north. National Guard teams have been sent to help overwhelmed hospitals in western New York, and Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker issued an emergency order requiring any hospitals facing limited patient capacity to reduce scheduled procedures that are not urgent.

U.S. officials continued urging people to get vaccinated and to receive booster shots, as well as take precautions such as wearing masks when among strangers indoors, saying anything that helps protect against delta will also help protect against other variants. Even if omicron proves less dangerous than delta, it remains problematic, World Health Organization epidemiologist Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove told CBS’ “Face The Nation.”

“Even if we have a large number of cases that are mild, some of those individuals will need hospitalizations,” she said. “They will need to go into ICU and some people will die... We don’t want to see that happen on top of an already difficult situation with delta circulating globally.”

Two years into the outbreak, COVID-19 has killed over 780,000 Americans, and deaths are running at about 860 per day.



More than 6,600 new hospital admissions are being reported daily, according to tracking data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 cases and deaths in the U.S. have dropped by about half since the delta peak in August and September, but at more than 86,000 new infections per day, the numbers are still high, especially heading into the holidays, when people travel and gather with family. (Courtesy apnews.com)

### Businesses Brace For Omicron

The omicron variant poses a new threat to businesses that were already struggling to recover from the economic damage done by previous strains of the virus. Gyms, concert venues, restaurants, airlines and other industries that have been battered by the pandemic are bracing for another COVID-19 wave that could curb demand and prompt renewed government restrictions.

Several states have detected cases of the omicron variant, which health experts say could be more contagious than the delta variant. Shortly after scientists in South Africa discovered the omicron variant, the country’s COVID-19 cases spiked dramatically.

Thanks to the prevalence of vaccines, U.S. officials don’t foresee a return to the early days of the pandemic, when entire sectors of the economy were forced to shut down. But experts still worry that many businesses that barely overcame the delta variant might not survive another outbreak.



“We’re all on our toes right now, thinking, ‘Oh God, what’s going to happen next,’” said Brett Ever, head of government affairs at CrossFit. “The uncertainty really does not help, especially when so many gym owners are almost entirely bled out.” Fitness facilities have taken a huge hit from customers staying home and COVID-19 restrictions that limit capacity or require masks. If omicron spreads rapidly, the wave would likely run into January and February, when gyms typically get a substantial revenue bump from short-lived New Year’s resolutions.

“This is going to be a critical time and if there is a new variant spreading around and there are new restrictions, that’s going to affect any chance that a small gym owner might have to try to stay viable,” Ever said.

By the end of the year, the pandemic will have forced 25 to 30 percent of fitness facilities to close permanently, according to the Community Gyms Coalition and the Global Health and Fitness Association, which on Thursday urged Congress to provide federal aid to gyms in light of the omicron threat.

“Aid is desperately needed to address the damage already done to these vulnerable businesses and to bolster them,” the groups wrote in a letter to congressional leaders.

Another COVID-19 outbreak could also spell trouble for restaurants, which lost customers in droves at the peak of the delta variant wave. Restaurant owners say that they still haven’t recovered, and their operations are continually being disrupted by the ongoing supply chain crunch, worker shortages

and rising food prices.



The U.S. has lost more than 90,000 restaurants since the start of the pandemic. Restaurant groups are pushing Congress to authorize more federal aid after its \$28.6 billion rescue fund quickly ran out of

money, with two-thirds of restaurants that applied for aid ultimately missing out. “Until Congress moves to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, every new variant that could impact how consumers use restaurants threatens to push thousands closer to closing permanently,” said Sean Kennedy, executive vice president of public affairs at the National Restaurant Association.

The delta-driven outbreak this summer also flattened demand for concerts and other in-person events. Venue operators, who successfully lobbied Congress for a \$16 billion grant program that they say saved around 90 percent of the industry from going under, are gearing up for another wave. Upticks in cases prompt more customers to skip shows they previously booked, depriving operators of crucial income from the sale of food, drinks and merchandise.

“As humans, most of us crave certainty. In a pandemic, we don’t get that. We have to expect that things will change and we have to recognize that we have to adapt based on what’s new,” said Audrey Fix Schaefer, vice president of the board of directors at the National Independent Venue Association, which launched during the pandemic.



President Biden said Thursday that he plans to fight a winter COVID-19 wave with vaccines, booster shots and testing, not “shutdowns or lockdowns,” signaling that the federal government won’t require businesses to close their doors in the event of another outbreak. The Biden administration this week, however, did enact tighter testing requirements on international travelers entering the country. That’s after it banned international travel from eight southern African nations located near the first detected omicron outbreak.

The U.S. Travel Association said that it hopes the new testing restrictions will be temporary, while Airlines for America, an airline industry trade group, said it supports the Biden administration’s framework for international travel. (Courtesy the hill.com)

# Japan’s Attack on Pearl Harbor – 80 Years Ago Today

## REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

### “Day of Infamy” Shaped the Course of History

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

The attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan on December 7, 1941, occurred 80 years ago today and the vast majority of people reading this article more than likely were not even born at that time, and those of later generations may even lack a basic understanding of the impact this event had on history. But along with being the overriding action that

forced the United States into World War II, the attack on Pearl Harbor shaped the structure of future relationships between the U.S. and other countries for years to come, right up to the present day.

With a single, carefully-planned and well-executed stroke, the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor, one of the great defining moments of history, removed the United States Navy’s battleship force as a possible threat to the Japanese Empire’s southward expansion. America, completely unprepared and considerably weakened by the surprise strike, was abruptly brought into the Second World War as a full combatant.



On the following day, December 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaking before the United States Congress, stated that, “Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.”

Continuing his address, the President announced that at the same time the Japanese had simultaneously also attacked Malaya, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippines, Wake Island and Midway Island.



“Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area,” the President explained.

In conclusion, Roosevelt said, “I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.”

Eighteen months earlier, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had transferred the United States Fleet to Pearl Harbor as a presumed deterrent to Japanese aggression. The Japanese military, deeply engaged in the seemingly endless war it had started against China in mid-1937, badly needed oil and other raw materials. Commercial access to these was gradually curtailed as the conquests continued. In July 1941 the Western powers effectively halted trade with Japan. From then on, as the desperate Japanese schemed to seize the oil and mineral-rich East Indies and Southeast Asia, a Pacific war was virtually inevitable.

By late November 1941, with peace negotiations clearly approaching an end, informed U.S. officials (and they were well-informed, they believed, through an ability to read Japan’s diplomatic codes) fully expected a Japanese attack into the Indies, Malaya and probably the Philippines. Completely unanticipated was the prospect that Japan would attack east, as well.



The U.S. Fleet’s Pearl Harbor base was reachable by an aircraft carrier force, and the Japanese Navy secretly sent one

across the Pacific with greater aerial striking power than had ever been seen on the World’s oceans. Its planes hit just before 8AM on December 7th. Within a short time, five of eight battleships at Pearl Harbor were sunk or sinking, with the rest damaged. Several other ships and most Hawaii-based combat planes were also knocked out and over 2400 Americans were dead. Soon after, Japanese planes eliminated much of the American air force in the Philippines, and a Japanese Army was ashore in Malaya.

These great Japanese successes, achieved without any prior diplomatic formalities, shocked and enraged the previously divided American people into a level of purposeful unity hardly seen before or since. For the next five months, until the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May, Japan’s far-reaching offensives proceeded untroubled by fruitful opposition. American and Allied morale suffered accordingly. Under normal political circumstances, an accommodation might have been considered.

However, the memory of the “sneak attack” on Pearl Harbor fueled a determination to fight on. Once the Battle of Midway in early June 1942 had eliminated much of Japan’s striking power, that same memory stoked a relentless war to reverse her conquests and remove her, and her German and Italian allies, as future threats to World peace.



The USS Arizona Memorial presents the ship’s deck six feet below the water line. The 184-foot memorial was completed in 1961 and a flag is flown from

the destroyed mast. Visitors can see a historic short film recapping the events and explore the Pearl Harbor Museum, complete with wartime memorabilia. The Pearl Harbor Memorial is one of the top Oahu attractions attracting more than a million tourists each year. Numerous Pearl Harbor tours arrive in the afternoon making the morning hours the best time to go. The USS Arizona Memorial can be toured from 7:30am to 5:00pm daily and is closed on all major holidays.

Today, the USS Arizona Memorial pays tribute to those moored at Battleship Row. They were the initial targets of the first wave of attacks on the Americans. The first stop on a visit to the USS Arizona Memorial is the Visitor Center where the Pearl Harbor Museum, dual theaters, restaurants, a snack bar and Pearl Harbor Memorial exhibits are located. Those driving from Waikiki Beach or Honolulu can expect an hour’s trip before arriving at the Pearl Harbor tribute. The memorial is also easily reached from the North Shore.

### ~Photo Essay Pearl Harbor Today~



WWII Valor in the Pacific Battleship Missouri Memorial



National Monument



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Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum Museum & Park



Presenting the colors



Honoring the survivors



Saluting the past today