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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Thousands of workers evicted in Qatar's capital ahead of World Cup

DOHA, Oct 28 (Reuters) - Qatar has emptied apartment blocks housing thousands of foreign workers in the centre of the capital Doha where visiting soccer fans will stay during the World Cup, workers who were evicted from their homes told Reuters.

They said more than a dozen buildings had been evacuated and shut down by authorities, forcing the mainly Asian and African workers to seek what shelter they could - including bedding down on the pavement outside one of their former homes.

The move comes less than four weeks before the Nov. 20 start of the global soccer tournament which has drawn intense international scrutiny of Qatar's treatment of foreign workers and its restrictive social laws.

At one building which residents said housed 1,200 people in Doha's Al Mansoura district, authorities told people at about 8 pm on Wednesday they had just two hours to leave.

Municipal officials returned around 10.30 pm, forced everyone out and locked the doors to the building, they said. Some men had not been able to return in time to collect their belongings.

NBA roundup: Luka Doncic gets triple-double in Mavs' OT win



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"We don't have anywhere to go," one man told Reuters the next day as he prepared to sleep out for a second night with around 10 other men, some of them shirtless in the autumn heat and humidity of the Gulf Arab state.

He, and most other workers who spoke to Reuters, declined to give their names or personal details for fear of reprisals from the authorities or employers.

Nearby, five men were loading a mattress and a small fridge into the back of a pickup truck. They said they had found a room in Sumaysimah, about 40 km (25 miles) north of Doha. A Qatari government official said the evictions are unrelated to the World Cup and were designed "in line with ongoing comprehensive and long-term plans to re-organise areas of Doha."

"All have since been rehoused in safe and appropriate accommodation," the official said, adding that requests to vacate "would have been conducted with proper notice."

World soccer's governing body FIFA did not respond to a request for comment and Qatar's World Cup organisers directed inquiries to the government.

"DELIBERATE GHETTO-ISATION"
 Around 85% of Qatar's three million population are foreign workers. Many of those evicted work as drivers, day labourers or have contracts with companies but are responsible for their own accommodation - unlike those working for major construction firms who live in camps housing tens of thousands of people.

One worker said the evictions targeted single men, while foreign workers with families were unaffected.

A Reuters reporter saw more than a dozen buildings where residents said people had been evicted. Some buildings had their electricity switched off.

Most were in neighbourhoods where the government has rented buildings for World Cup fan accommodation. The organisers' website lists buildings in Al Mansoura and other districts where flats are advertised for between \$240 and \$426 per night.

The Qatari official said municipal authorities have been enforcing a 2010 Qatari law which prohibits "workers' camps within family residential areas" - a designation encompassing most of central Doha - and gives them the power to move people out.

Some of the evicted workers said they hoped to find places to live amid purpose-built workers' accommodation in and around the industrial zone on Doha's southwestern outskirts or in outlying cities, a long commute from their jobs.

The evictions "keep Qatar's glitzy and wealthy facade in place without publicly acknowledging the cheap labour that makes it possible," said Vani Saraswathi, Director of Projects at Migrant-Rights.org, which campaigns for foreign workers in the Middle East.

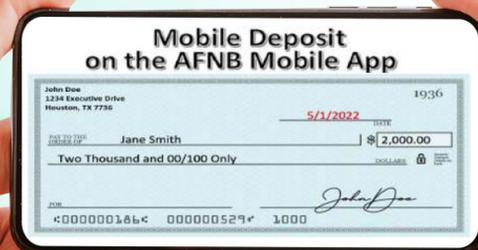
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LOCAL NEWS

OPEC+ oil output cut shows widening rift between Biden and Saudi royals

WASHINGTON/LONDON, Oct 7(Reuters) - The OPEC+ organization's decision this week to cut oil production despite stiff U.S. opposition has further strained already tense relations between President Joe Biden's White House and Saudi Arabia's royal family...

The White House pushed hard to prevent the OPEC output cut, these sources said. Biden hopes to keep U.S. gasoline prices from spiking again ahead of midterm elections in which his Democratic party is struggling to maintain control of the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. administration lobbied OPEC+ for weeks. In recent days, senior U.S. officials from energy, foreign policy and economic teams urged their foreign counterparts to vote against an output cut...

Amos Hochstein, Biden's top energy envoy, along with national security official Brett McGurk and the administration's special envoy to Yemen Tim Lenderking, traveled to Saudi Arabia last month to discuss energy issues, including the OPEC+ decision.

Latest Updates

Danielle Smith, new premier of Canada's oil-rich Alberta, set to defy Trudeau

NYC mayor declares state of emergency amid migrant busing crisis

Analysis: Defeats in Ukraine stoke crisis for Vladimir Putin

Putin orders Russia to seize Exxon-led Sakhalin 1 oil and gas project

They failed to prevent an output cut, just as Biden did after his own July visit.

US officials "tried to position it as 'us versus Russia,'" said one source briefed on the discussions, telling Saudi officials they needed to make a choice.

That argument failed, the source said, adding that the Saudis said that if the United States wanted more oil on the markets, it should start producing more of its own.

The United States is the world's No. 1 oil producer and also its top consumer, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.



The Saudi government media office CIC did not respond to Reuters emailed requests for comment about the discussions.

"We are concerned first and foremost with the interests of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and then the interests of the countries that trusted us and are members of OPEC and the OPEC + alliance," Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz told Saudi TV Wednesday.

OPEC weighs its interests with "those of the world because we have an interest in supporting the growth of the global economy and providing energy supplies in the best way," he said.

Washington's handling of the Iran nuclear deal and withdrawal of support for a Saudi-led coalition's offensive military operations in Yemen have upset Saudi officials, as have actions against Russia after the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

A U.S. push for a price cap on Russian oil is causing uncertainty, Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman told Bloomberg TV after the OPEC cut, noting the "lack of details and the lack of clarity" about how it will be implemented.

A source briefed by Saudi officials said the kingdom views it as "a non-market price-control mechanism, that could be used by a cartel of consumers against producers."

A Biden-directed sale of 180 million barrels of oil in March from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve put downward pressure on oil prices. In March, OPEC+ said it would stop using data from the International Energy Agency (IEA), a Western oil watchdog, due to Saudi-led concerns the United States had too much influence.

Editor's Choice



A worshipper prays during a mass in support of Brazil's President and candidate for re-election Jair Bolsonaro, in Brasilia, Brazil. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino



A rose flower is seen in front of the regional council building destroyed by a Russian missile strike in Mykolaiv, Ukraine October 27, 2022. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) pose for a picture after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in an unknown location, Ukraine. Courtesy: Head of Ukraine's Presidential Office Andriy Yermak via Telegram



Children react during the funeral of Palestinian Ramzi Zbarah, who was killed by Israeli forces, in Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. REUTERS/Raneen Sawafta



British Prime Minister Liz Truss leaves the Houses of Parliament estate in London, Britain. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls



Kevin Spacey breaks down as he testifies during Anthony Rapp's (seated) civil sex abuse case against Spacey in this courtroom sketch from the trial in New York as U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan presides. REUTERS/Jane Rosenberg

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

"Make Art, Not War!"

Artists Around The World Leave Their Mark In Support Of Ukraine

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



Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine
Street artist Denys Antukov and his assistant Hanna work on a mural inspired by the Russian Warship, Go E... Yourself! postage stamp in the Khorlytskiy district of Zaporizhzhia, southeastern Ukraine. (Photo/Albert Koshelev | Future Publishing | Getty Images)

Key Point
Since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, artists around the world have created poignant murals to support Ukraine. We share here how artists have depicted the war across the globe.



Belgrade, Serbia
A person walks next to a mural of Russian President Vladimir Putin, which has been vandalised with red spray paint and the word "War" written instead of the original text reading: "Brother", following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Belgrade, Serbia, April 29, 2022. Marko Djurica | Reuters



Paris
Fresco murals by French street artists Kedu Abstract and Jeff Aerosol are displayed on the wall of a Parisian building on March 14, 2022 in Paris, France. Chesnot | Getty Images



A fresco mural by French street artist Julien Malland

aka Seth Globepainter is displayed on the wall of a Parisian building on March 14, 2022 in Paris, France. Chesnot | Getty Images



A man takes a picture of a fresco mural by French street artist Sara Chelou displayed on "The walls of peace" on March 28, 2022 in Paris, France. Chesnot | Getty Image



A man takes a picture of a fresco mural by French street artist Eric Ze King aka EZK displayed on "The walls of peace" on March 28, 2022 in Paris, France. Chesnot | Getty Images



French street artist and painter Christian Guemy (R) known as C215 poses in front of his fresco depicting a Ukrainian young girl with a quote attributed to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky: "I really don't want my photos in your offices, because I am neither a god nor an icon, but rather a servant of the Nation." Joel Siger | AFP | Getty Images



A man takes a picture of a fresco mural displayed on "The walls of peace" on March 28, 2022 in Paris, France. Chesnot | Getty Images



Borovsk, Russia
A child walks past by a graffiti made by the artist Vladimir Ovchinnikov in Borovsk, some 100kms south-west of Moscow, on April 14, 2022. Retired engineer Vladimir Ovchinnikov has spent decades painting murals on buildings in and around his small town south of Moscow. But since the outbreak of Russia's conflict with Ukraine, the 84-year-old has found that some of his art is not welcome. | AFP | Getty Images



Rome
Rome, the new mural by the artist Maupal against the invasion of Ukraine by Russia depicting two Martyroshkas. Francesco Fotia Universal Images Group | Getty Images



Anti-Ukraine war mural by Italian street artist known by the name of 'Laika' depicting a hug between two women, one dressed in the Russian, the other in the Ukrainian national colors, respectively, above the word MIR (Peace) in the Ostiense district on March 09, 2022 in Rome, Italy. Andrea Ronchini | Nurphoto | Getty Images



Peace. The new mural by street artist Laika dedicated to the crisis between Russia and Ukraine. Marilla Sicilia | Mondadori Portfolio | Getty Images



A mural depicting a Ukrainian child under the SOS writing, created by the street artist known as 'Harry Greb', is seen next to the Coliseum metro station on March 17, 2022 in Rome, Italy. Andrea Ronchini | Nurphoto | Getty Images



A resident walks past mural painting by Bulgarian artist Stanislav Belovski depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin holding his own body in Sofia, on March 15, 2022. Nikolay Doychinov | AFP | Getty Images



Amsterdam, Netherlands
Murals of two young Ukrainian victims portrayed on the wall. On the left, Vitaliy Skakun Volodymyrovych (1996-2022) who is seen as a hero by the Ukrainian army for his heroic action during the explosion of a bridge to stop the Russian army, on the right, 10-year-old Ukrainian Polina, murdered by Russian soldiers when she and her family tried to flee Kyiv by car. Ana Fernandez | Sopa Images | Getty Images



Buenos Aires, Argentina
A woman walks pass the mural "No to war" by muralist Maximiliano Bagnasco in Buenos Aires on March 5, 2022. Juan Mabromata | AFP | Getty Images



Barcelona, Spain
A passer-by is seen observing the graphic representation of Ukraine's president Zelensky calling for an end to the Russian invasion is seen in Plaza de Sant Jaume. Paco Freire | Lightrocket | Getty Images



A passer-by is seen taking photos of artist TVBoy's new collage for peace in Ukraine. TVBoy, the Italian artist living in Barcelona, installs a new collage on the war in Ukraine in Plaza de Sant Jaume, representing three children installing a flag of peace on a Russian tank. Paco Freire | Lightrocket | Getty Images



A woman looks at a new work by Italian street artist TVBoy that depicts Russian President Vladimir Putin in prison, in Barcelona on March 31, 2022. Josep Lago | AFP | Getty Images



A newsagent picks up magazines next to a mural by Italian urban artist Salvatore Benintende aka "TV BOY" depicting a girl painting a peace symbol on an Ukraine's flag, reading "Hope" in Barcelona on April 30, 2022. Pau Barrena | AFP | Getty Images



Gdansk, Poland
A mural of Putin, Hitler, and Stalin with a slogan "No More Time" is seen on the wall next to the PKM Gdansk Jasien train station. Mateusz Slodkowski | Lightrocket | Getty Images (Article Continues Below)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

(Article Continues From Above)

"Make Art, Not War!"

Artists Around The World Leave Their Mark In Support Of Ukraine

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



Gdansk, Poland
Yellow heart pierced by bullets on a blue background with inscription in Ukrainian and Polish - "Ukraine is fighting" - is seen in Gdansk, Poland on 6 March 2022. The mural was created to support Ukrainian people during the Russian war against Ukraine. Michal Fludra | Nurphoto | Getty Images



Poznan, Poland
A mural by graffiti artist KAWU depicting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as Harry Potter with Z on his forehead (instead of lightning bolt) symbolising Russia's invasion of Ukraine is seen in Poznan, Poland March 9, 2022. Piotr Skornicki | Reuters



Kyiv, Ukraine
Kyiv, a mural against Putin in the city center, the inscription reads: Ukraine 5:0 Putin 0. Nicola Marfisi | Universal Images Group | Getty Images



Young people ride their e-scooters past a 'stop the war' poster in central Kyiv on May 19, 2022 in Kyiv, Ukraine. Christopher Furlong | Getty Images

the war' poster in central Kyiv on May 19, 2022 in Kyiv, Ukraine. Christopher Furlong | Getty Images



Ukrainian soldiers take pictures of a mural titled 'Saint Javelin' dedicated to the British portable surface-to-air missile has been unveiled on the side of a Kyiv apartment block on May 25, 2022 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The artwork by illustrator and artist Chris Shaw is in reference to the Javelin missile donated to Ukrainian troops to battle against the Russian invasion. Christopher Furlong | Getty Images



People take pictures of a sculpture depicting the President of Russia Vladimir Putin called "Shoot yourself" in the centre of Kyiv. Sergei Chuzavkov | Lightrocket | Getty Images



A woman sits in front of a graffiti tribute to the Ukrainian Military and their ongoing war with Russia. Joe M'O'Brien | Lightrocket | Getty Images



A cyclist passes by a part of the Berlin Wall decal

ated with a graffiti of a Ukrainian flag colored Peace symbol, expressing solidarity with Ukraine at Potsdamer Platz on May 4, 2022 in Berlin, Germany. Omer Messinger | Getty Images



VILNIUS, LITHUANIA - APRIL 26: Street art paintings which supports Ukraine on April 26, 2022 in Vilnius, Lithuania. Russia invaded neighbouring Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and has been met with worldwide condemnation in the form of rallies, protests and peace marches taking place in cities across the globe. Paulius Peleckis | Getty Images



Dublin, Ireland
People pass a mural of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, by the artist Aches, in central Dublin. Picture date: Monday April 4, 2022. Niall Carson | Pa Images | Getty Images



Edinburgh, Scotland
New street art which has appeared in Leith, Edinburgh, in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The mural features a Nightingale, the official national bird of Ukraine, against the country's flag. Picture date: Tuesday April 5, 2022. Jane Barlow | Pa Images | Getty Images

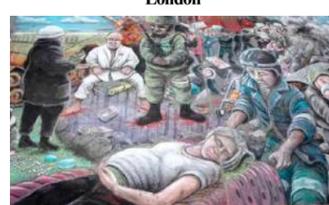


Bristol, U.K.
Artwork of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky being portrayed as Superman is seen on a

wall of a shop, on May 15, 2022 in Bristol, England. Matt Carly | Getty Images



Cardiff, Wales
A resident looks at new street art mural has appeared in Cardiff depicting Ukraine's capital Kyiv under siege on March 01, 2022 in Cardiff, Wales. Huw Fairclough | Getty Images



London
A drawing describing the Russia-Ukraine war on the floor at Trafalgar Square. Demonstrations in support of Ukraine have been ongoing on an everyday basis in London since the Russia-Ukraine War started on 24th February 2022. Hester Ng | Lightrocket | Getty Images



London
Stop the War and the pro Russian 'Z' with a cross through it, solidarity with Ukraine graffiti in Shoreditch, London. Matthew Chattle | Future Publishing | Getty Images



Krakow, Poland
A mural depicting Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky and 'Glory to Ukraine' slogan written in Polish is seen in Krakow, Poland on 22 March, 2022. Beata Zawrzet | Nurphoto | Getty Images

Nairobi, Kenya



An artist showing a protest symbol power sign by a street mural created by a group of Artists from Maasai Mbili depicting Kibera's love for Ukraine amidst the war. Donwilson Odhiambo | Sopa Images | Getty Images



A girl poses by a street mural created by a group of Artists from Maasai Mbili depicting a sign of love from Kibera to Ukraine amidst the war. Donwilson Odhiambo | Lightrocket | Getty Images



Los Angeles
A street stencil by artist 1GoodHombre depicts Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky gripping submachine guns as a person walks past on Melrose Avenue on March 30, 2022 in Los Angeles, California. Mario Tama | Getty Images



A woman walks past the 'To Ukraine With Love' mural by artists Corie Mattie and Juliano Trindade depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin on March 14, 2022 in Los Angeles, California. Mario Tama | Getty Images (Courtesy https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/30)