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Inside C2

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# Brazilian police question some 1,000 detainees after rampage in capital

BRASILIA, Jan 10 (Reuters) - Brazilian police on Tuesday were questioning some 1,000 protesters held in an overcrowded gymnasium in the capital after anti-government mobs sacked public buildings over the weekend, as the country's new government worked to overcome the crisis.

Most of the supporters of far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro were detained on Monday as troops dismantled a camp in Brasilia from which demonstrators set off on Sunday to storm Brazil's Congress, Supreme Court and presidential palace.

Protesters at the camp outside army headquarters had called for a military coup to overturn the October election in which leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva narrowly defeated Bolsonaro, who made baseless suggestions of a rigged election.

Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who is running investigations of the "anti-democratic" protests, vowed in a speech on Tuesday to combat the "terrorists" calling for a coup.

Police officer killed in burning car in Peru after 17 killed in protests

Peru's mining south, rocked by violence, braces for 'endless battle'

Colombia, ELN rebels likely to hold emergency meeting in Caracas-negotiator

Colombia VP Francia Marquez says explosive found near her home

"Democracy will prevail and Brazilian institutions will not bend," said Moraes at the swearing-in of a new head of the federal police.

Yet the challenge of carrying out such an enormous criminal investigation into a loosely organized protest movement in the first weeks of a new government was already beginning to show.

Roughly 1,000 detainees from the protest camp were held for questioning at a police gymnasium where they slept on the ground, some wrapped in Brazilian flags, and complained to a Reuters journalist that they were being held indefinitely and poorly fed. They sang and took selfies with their phones, video posted on social media showed.

Opposition Senator Marcos do Val, who has denounced the Brasilia riots as a blunder for the political right, told journalists outside the gym that many of those detained "are paying for being in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Around 200 other demonstrators were under arrest and awaiting charges in a penal facility for their role in Sunday's rampage, which vandalized some of the capital's most iconic buildings in the worst attack on Brazilian democracy in decades.

Government lawyers asked Moraes to order cellphone carriers and social media platforms to store information that could place users in the areas of the rioting on Sunday as authorities try to identify the organizers and their financial



sources.

#### 'NOTHING WAS DONE'

Investigations may also sprawl far beyond Brasilia. Pro-Bolsonaro militants discussed on social media their plans to disrupt highways and oil refineries to cause economic chaos in synch with their storming of the capital.

Brazilian energy company Eletrobras (ELET6.SA) is investigating whether the collapse of two transmission towers was related to Sunday's violence in Brasilia, according to two sources familiar with the probe.

Eletrobras did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Its subsidiary, Eletronorte, released a statement on Monday about a fallen tower connecting rural communities in northern Brazil to the central grid, with "signs of sabotage."

Financial markets have largely shrugged off the uprising in Latin America's largest economy, with the Bovespa benchmark stock index (.BVSP) up 0.7% on Tuesday and Brazil's currency, the real , rebounding almost 1% against the U.S. dollar.

But the violence stunned Lula's government, which has been in office for barely a week, and could delay economic policy announcements that were planned for this week by an administration eager to show results.

Lula's chief of staff, Rui Costa, said the government was back to work and policy decisions would be made on time.

On Monday night, Lula, who took office on Jan. 1, met with the head of the Supreme Court, congressional leaders and state governors in a show of national unity to condemn the riots. They visited the ransacked Supreme Court

building, which was the site most damaged by the pro-Bolsonaro rioters.

Lula accused the rioters of trying to overthrow democracy and questioned why the army had not discouraged calls for a military coup.

"People were openly calling for a coup outside the barracks, and nothing was done. No general lifted a finger to tell them they could not do that," the 77-year-old president said. He accused some security forces of being complicit with rioters.

The Brazilian army did not respond to a request for comment on Lula's criticism.

Bolsonaro, who flew to Florida 48 hours before his term ended, was admitted to a hospital in the U.S. state. He told CNN Brasil he may cut short his stay there due to his medical issues, returning to Brazil before the end of the month.

His son, Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, denied on Tuesday that the former president was responsible for the riots.

"Since the election result he's been silent, licking his wounds, virtually incommunicado," he said in a session in the Senate.

Public prosecutors asked on Tuesday for a federal audit court to freeze the ex-president's assets in light of Sunday's vandalism, according to a report on the website of CNN Brasil – a move outside the traditional scope of that court



# WEALEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

01/17/2022

# **Welcome The Year Of The Rabbit**



With the arrival of the Year of the Rabbit we have walked out from the dark days of the pandemic. We all open our arms to welcome the arrival of spring.

Our team always stands at the forefront of the working line and faithfully reports the joys and sorrows of the world in every corner of the community with the writing pen in hand and the camera on our shoulders. Walking down Bellaire Blvd. in the International

District we have witnessed the endless flow of vehicles. We have cultivated the raw land into green space and have turned the land into our own home.

The annual Lunar New Year Festival will soon be unveiled again. The double golden lions in front of our building will once again welcome guests from all over our community. We are here to express our gratitude again.



Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas























### **Editor's Choice**



Rutenberg power station is seen as lightning strikes over the Mediterranean sea at the coastal city of Ashkelon, Israel. REUTERS/Amir Cohen



Demonstrators clash with security forces during a protest demanding early elections and the release of jailed former President Pedro Castillo, near the Juliaca airport, in Juliaca, Peru January 9, 2023. REU-TERS/Hugo Courotto



Brazil's former President and presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva stands next to his wife Rosangela da Silva, on the day of Brazil's presidential election, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. REUTERS/Amanda Perobelli



Andrew Tate and his brother Tristan are escorted by police officers outside the headquarters of the Bucharest Court of Appeal, in Bucharest, Romania. Inquam Photos/Octav Ganea



Members of Special police march during parade celebrations to mark their autonomous Serb Republic's national holiday, banned by the constitutional court, in East Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. REUTERS/ Dado Ruvic



Max Barnett, 23, is pulled on a surfboard by driver Riley Johnson, 23, down a flooded street after the threat of mudslides prompted evacuation orders in east Santa Barbara, California. REUTERS/ Erica Urech

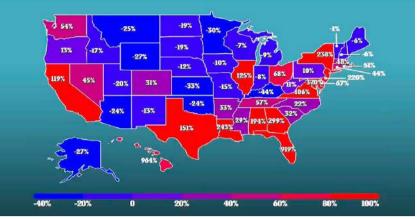
#### COVID-19 Cases TRIPLE Over The Past Two Weeks With 964% Increase In Hawaii And A 238% Jump In New York



### **Omicron Continues** To Ravage The Nation 🎆



#### CHANGE IN COVID-19 CASES OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS



#### **Key Point**

\*Covid cases have increased by over 200% - or three-fold - over the past two weeks in seven U.S. states as Omicron continues spread in the U.S. \*Hawaii has been the hardest struck, with cases increasing nearly ten-fold over the past two weeks

\*New York is experiencing the highest rate of positive cases in the U.S., with 167 out of every 100,000 residents testing positive every day \*Cases are declining in states like Alaska and Michigan where the death rate is among the highest in the nation, signaling the recent surge may be ending

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

surge, with the situation expected to only worsen Ohio (104). over in the weeks following the Christmas and New Year's holidays

According to data from Johns Hopkins University, the U.S. is averaging 181,948 Covid cases every day, with that number set to increase in the coming days due to reporting lags during the holiday season. Nearly three out of every four cases, or 73 percent, are of the Omicron variant, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports.

up three percent to 1,328 over the last 14 days, though not nearly at the rate of cases. This could signal that the new strain is milder than many others - which many officials believe is the case - or it that a surge in deaths caused by the virus is right around

New York is the hardest struck state by the new strain, with 167 out of every 100,000 residents testing positive for the virus every day, a 238 percent there were 109 children hospitalized with the virus. increase over the past two weeks. The Empire state has the highest infection rate in the U.S.

Seven states, including New York, have more than 100 out of every 100,000 residents testing positive for Covid daily. These include New Jersey (158 out of every 100,000), Rhode Island (130), Delaware

The U.S. is experiencing yet another winter Covid (106), Maryland (104), Massachusetts (104) and

In the Empire State, the number of New Yorkers hospitalized with COVID ballooned over Christmas, with more than 5,500 people spending their holidays inside one of New York's many hospital facilities - the largest increase since February.

Around 17,000 New Yorkers were hospitalized during the peak of the first wave in spring 2020. with 7,000 receiving professional medical care as 2021 began

Deaths have slightly risen over the past two weeks, Hospitalizations among children, though, have also skyrocketed, more than doubling statewide since the beginning of the month and has jumping fivefold in New York City. Across the state. 70 children were hospitalized with COVID during the week of December 5 to 11, but so from December 19 to 23, that number jumped to 184. And in New York City, there were 22 children in the hospitals for COVID from December 5 to 11, but by December 19 to 23



Some of these states are experiencing intense case growth in ecent weeks as well. In Maryland - which has begun reporting

## **BUSINESS**

cases again after a technical glitch prevented the state from doing so in recent weeks - has seen cases increased by 370 percent.

In New Jersey, the number of new daily cases have increased by 220 percent - more than tripling over 14 days. Other states among the nation's leaders in Covid case rates have all also seen infections jump by 50 percent or more over the past two weeks.

Hawaii has suffered the largest growth in cases, jumping almost ten-fold over the past two weeks. The island state can usually control its Covid spread better than many others, as its distance from the rest of the country and geography as an island makes it easier to control travel in and out - and force quarantine restrictions.

This allowed Hawaii to keep cases low throughout much of fall, staying below ten cases per every 100,000 residents. Cases have skyrocketed in recent weeks, though, up to 96 out of every 100,000 residents testing positive every day.

Florida, which sporadically reports cases, has logged a 818 percent increase in cases over the past two weeks - averaging 83 new cases a day out of every 100,000 residents. These numbers could be a result of delayed reporting, though, and could significantly shrink in the coming weeks.

Georgia is quickly joining the states facing the worst Covid surges in America as well, with cases increasing 300 percent to 55 out of every 100,000 per day over the past two weeks.



States in the west that were previously recording little change in cases, if not outright declines, have seen cases jump as well.

California, the nation's most populous state, has witnessed a doubling of cases over the past two weeks. Oregon, a 13 percent increase, and Washington, 54 percent, have jumped after experiencing case declines in recent weeks as well.

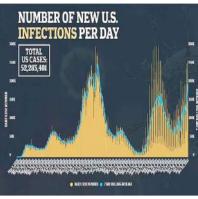
Other states suffering massive case increases include Texas (151 percent), Illinois (125 percent), Virginia (106 percent) and Mississippi (194 per-

The national leaders in Covid deaths are all states where cases are declining. This signals that the virus may be burning out in the U.S. as well - as deaths usually lag behind cases by around two

In Alaska, 1.7 out of every 100,000 residents are dying of Covid every day, the highest rate in America. New daily cases have dropped by 27 percent over the past two weeks, though, meaning deaths could soon decline as well.

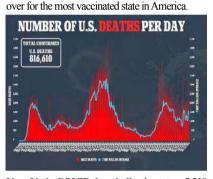
Michigan was overwhelmed by a surge of Covid patients only a few weeks ago. The state is still among the leaders in death rate - with it 1.27 deaths per every 100,000 residents being third in the country - though cases are down nine percent over the past two weeks.

Cases in New Mexico are down 13 percent over the past two weeks while the state records 1.27 deaths per every 100,000 residents.



Many other states in the north and Midwest are recording declining cases as well, as the early fall surges called by cold weather are starting to recede. Kansas leads the country in largest two week case decline, with infections dropping by 33 percent in 14 days. Minnesota comes in second, with cases down 30 percent during that time period.

Montana has the lowest rate of Covid infection in America, with 15 out of every 100,000 residents testing positive every day, a 25 percent decrease over two weeks. Nearby Wyoming and Idaho are also amount the states with the lowest Covid rates. Idaho is recording 19 cases per every 100,000 residents every day - down 17 percent over two weeks. In Wyoming, 19 out of every 100,000 people in the state are testing positive daily, a 27 percent drop. Other states in the region recording sharp declines include Utah (down 20 percent over two weeks), North Dakota (19 percent), South Dakota (19 percent), Nebraska (12 percent), Oklahoma (24 percent), Missouri (15 percent) and Iowa (10 percent). Vermont, one of the nation's Covid hotspots in much of November and December, is finally in the blue as well, with cases dropping one percent over



the past two weeks - signaling the surge might be

New York COVID hospitalizations top 5,500 for the first time since February, with child admissions rising FIVE-FOLD as Gov Kathy Hochul urges parents to vaccinate children between the ages of 5-11

The number of New Yorkers hospitalized with COVID ballooned over Christmas, with more than

COMMUNITY

5,500 people spending their holidays inside one of New York's many hospital facilities - the largest increase since February.

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced on Monday that statewide hospitalizations stand at 5,526 - the highest total since February 23 and nearly a 190 percent increase since November 1, according to NBC 4

'You can see the hospitalizations are continuing to spike upward, [but] you can get some comfort in seeing that we're not where we were in April 2020, we're not where we were in January of 2021,' she said. 'But it is going upwards and that is something that we are very cognizant of and were anticipating and preparing for."

Around 17,000 New Yorkers were hospitalized during the peak of the first wave in spring 2020, with 7,000 receiving professional medical care as 2021 began.

Hospitalizations among children, though, have also skyrocketed, more than doubling statewide since the beginning of the month and has jumping five-fold in New York City.

Across the state, 70 children were hospitalized with COVID during the week of December 5 to 11, but so from December 19 to 23, that number jumped to 184.

And in New York City, there were 22 children in the hospitals for COVID from December 5 to 11, but by December 19 to 23 there were 109 children hospitalized with the virus.

'We are releasing this data because we want pediatricians to be alert to making the diagnosis of COVID in children,' said Dr. Marv Bassett. the state's acting health commissioner, adding that she wants parents to be aware that their children can catch the virus as well



#### Gov. Kathy Hochul on Monday announced that hospitalizations have increased over Christmas

'Many people thought - continue to think - that children don't become infected with COVID. This is not true,' she said, 'Children become infected and some will be hospitalized.'

Bassett urged parents to get their children vaccinated, with CDC data showing that just 27.3 percent of five to 11 year olds in the state have received at least one dose, and only 16.4 percent are fully vaccinated. COVID is only fatal in extremely rare cases among under 18s, with fewer than 800 children in that age group being killed by the virus in the US since the start of the pandemic.

(Article Continues Below)

# Southern Make Today Different

### (Article Continues From Above)

### **Omicron Continues** To Ravage The Nation



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

test positive for the virus - though Hochul said ment. on Monday she expects the number to rise up to 20,000 or more by the time Tuesday's data comes in, as more people will get tested following the Christmas holiday.

The situation is more grim in New York City, which is seeing a 10.7 percent positivity rate with a 17,334 total cases reported over the past week. There were also 208 hospitalizations over the past week, according to New York City health data, and 10 deaths as the Omicron variant continues to spread. It now accounts for 73 percent of cases in the U.S. according to most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



As of Monday, there were 5,526 New Yorkers in the hospital - the first time the state has surpassed Joe on Monday morning. more than 5,500 hospitalizations since late Febru-

annual New Years Eve ball drop will continue, because 2022 has to e the year we leave COVID even as Dr. Anthony Fauci announced that people should cancel their New Years plans.

De Blasio announced last week that he will lim- children went into effect, with all New Yorkit the number of revelers in Times Square for ers 12 and older required to have received two New Years Eve to 15,000, down from a planned 58,000, and attendees will need to wear masks injected with the one-shot Johnson and Johnson and show proof of vaccination, as long lines form jab - to enter many indoor settings including in the area for COVID tests.

Meanwhile, de Blasio's vaccine mandate for private sector employers went into effect on Mon- As of Monday, about 91.6 percent of New York day, with all private-sector employees having to City adults have received at least one dose of show proof that they have received at least one COVID vaccine shot.

The mandate applies to all businesses that employ percent are fully vaccinated, 12.5 percent are more than one person and to the self-employed partially vaccinated and 46.3 percent are not vet who interact with the public in the course of their business, according to SI Live.

Any employee who submits proof of their vaccine will have 45 days to provide proof of their CDC: Omicron is now the dominant strain second shots if they receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, and all businesses will nee to fill out a

Meanwhile, New York State saw 26,737 people 'public-facing location' at the place of employ-



New York State saw 26,737 people test positive for the virus - though Hochul said on Monday she expects the number to rise up to 20,000 or more by the time Tuesday's data comes in, as more people will get tested following the Christmas holiday.

Fines for noncompliance start at \$1,000 and could rise with further infractions.

'Today [is] a historic day in New York City. We're implementing the strongest vaccine mandate in the country, all private sector employees today,' de Blasio said on MSNBC's Morning

'This is what we need to do everywhere,' he said. 'Every mayor every governor, every CEO Still, Mayor Bill de Blasio has vowed that the in America should do vaccine mandates now, behind.'

Also on Monday, the city's vaccine mandate for doses of the COVID vaccine - unless they were restaurants, gyms, movie theaters and Broadway shows.

the COVID vaccine and 82.8 percent are fully vaccinated. Among children, however, just 41.3 vaccinated. (Courtesy https://www.dailymail.

Related of coronavirus in the U.S. and brings new challenges to the global COVID fight

form affirming their compliance and place it in a (CNN)The Omicron Covid-19 variant is now

for over 73% of new coronavirus cases less than three weeks after the first was reported, according to estimates posted Monday by the US Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention. It's been just 20 days since the US detected its first case of Omicron.

For the week ending December 18, Omicron accounted for 73.2% of cases, with Delta making up an additional 26.6%. The week prior, ending December 11, Omicron was estimated at just 12.6% of circulating virus, and in the first week of December, Omicron accounted for about 1% of new cases.



In this aerial view, cars line up at a Covid-19 testing site at Tropical Park in Miami, Florida on December 21, 2021. - Days out from Christmas, Americans are facing long lines to get tested for the coronavirus amid a new surge driven by the Omicron variant and a dire shortage of options for this vital screening measure. (Photo/CHANDAN KHAN-NA, AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES)

Omicron is even more prevalent in certain parts of the country — making up over 95% of circulating virus in parts of the Northwest and Southeast, the data shows

As of Monday, 48 US states have reported cases of Omicron, according to public statements from hospital systems and state officials, as well as Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. The only states that have not reported cases of Omicron are Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases expert, warned on CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday that Omicron was "going to take over" soon due to its highly contagious nature. The World Health Organization says Omicron cases are doubling every 1.5 to 3 days.

Meanwhile, the death of a Texas man is his 50s is related to Omicron, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced Monday. This is the first known, confirmed Omicron-related death in the US. According to a release from Harris County Public Health, the man "was unvaccinated and had been infected with COVID-19 previously. The individual was at higher risk of severe complications from COVID-19 due to his unvaccinated status and had underlying health conditions."



People wait in line to get tested for COVID-19 at a mobile testing site in Times Square on Friday, Dec. 17, 2021, in New York. (Photo/YUKI IWAMURA, AP)

Scientists are still waiting on data on the severity of Omicron in the US compared to other variants. But it is expected to put added strain the health care system and health care workers especially.

Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy and the University of Minnesota, told CNN's Kate Bolduan on Monday that even if Omicron proves to be less severe, "We are going to see 20%, 30% of health care workers getting infected, who will then be off of work in a health care system right now that is already stretched to the point of breaking."

**Experts discuss what's next** 

Dr. Francis Collins, the outgoing director of the National Institutes of Health, told CNN's Anderson Cooper on Friday that the Omicron variant could result in as many as a million new cases a day.

Collins suggested the impact of that level of spread on an already stressed health care system remains uncertain.

The big question is, are those million cases going to be sick enough to need health care and especially hospitalization?" Collins said on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday, his last day as NIH director.



Flight crew from Air China arrive in hazmat suits in the international terminal at Los **Angeles International Airport on December** 3, 2021, as Los Angeles County reported its first case of the new Covid-19 variant, omicron. (Photo/FREDERIC J. BROWN, AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES)

Covid-19 hospitalizations trended upward over the past month as medical facilities in some parts of the country have been inundated with patients infected with the Delta variant. Now, the presence of Omicron -- which scientists bees so far appear to be mild -- may push some strained health care systems to the brink.

"It is quite likely that we are going to see in some sections of the country, a significant stress on the hospital system as well as on the health care workers who are getting exhausted by all of this," Dr. Anthony Fauci told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday, noting that a more transmissible form of Covid-19, such as Omicron, will have a greater impact on the tens of millions of Americans who have not been vaccinated.

Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has said traveling and gathering for Christmas and New Year's can be done safely among those who are inoculated, and getting booster shots into the arms of vaccinated Americans remains paramount to increase antibody response.

"If we're going to deal with Omicron successfully, vaccinated people need to get boosted," Fauci told NBC on Sunday.

Recent data are demonstrating the potential dangers of remaining unvaccinated, including a 10-times greater risk of testing positive and 20-times greater risk of dying from Covid-19 than those vaccinated and boosted, according to US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data through October.



People walk by groups of people lined-up to get tested for Covid-19 in Times Square on Dec. 5, 2021 in New York City. With the newly discovered omicron strain of Covid, health officials are urging people to get a vaccination or a booster and get tested for Covid. (Photo/SPENCER PLATT, GETTY IMAGES)

Omicron will lead to a spike in cases in the upcoming weeks, but those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated will have a "stark difference" in experience, US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy told anchor Tony Dokoupil on "CBS Mornings" Monday.

"In the coming weeks, Tony, we are going to see a spike in cases. And that's because Omicron is incredibly transmissible, and you know, we have to be prepared for that," Murthy said. "But there will be a stark difference between the experience of those who are vaccinated and boosted versus those who are unvaccinated."

People who have maximum protection from vaccines and boosters either won't get an infection, or if they do, it will most likely be mild, said Murthy. (Courtesy cnn.com)