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# NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

## Alexandar Sullivan

A second woman has alleged that she was sent to the United Kingdom by Jeffrey Epstein for a sexual encounter with Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, according to her attorney, marking a significant new development in the long-running scandal surrounding the former prince. Speaking to the BBC, attorney Brad Edwards said the

### HIGHLIGHT

●A second woman alleges Jeffrey Epstein sent her to the UK for sex with Prince Andrew

●The alleged encounter occurred at Royal Lodge in 2010

●The woman was in her 20s at the time, according to her lawyer

●Buckingham Palace has not confirmed the account

encounter allegedly took place in 2010 at Royal Lodge, Andrew's former residence on the Windsor estate. The woman, who is not British and was in her 20s at the time, claims she spent the night with Andrew and was later given a tour



Photo: Second Epstein victim claims she was sent to the UK for an encounter with Prince Andrew, lawyer says  
Image Source: Online

## Epstein UK Claim

Buckingham Palace declines to comment

of Buckingham Palace, including tea with palace staff. Edwards said communications between his client and Andrew occurred prior to the alleged encounter. "This is the first time an Epstein survivor has alleged that a sexual encounter took place at a royal residence,"

Edwards said, adding that the account has not yet been independently verified. BBC News has requested comment from Andrew, who has not responded. Palace officials said it was not possible to confirm visitor records without revealing the woman's identity.

Edwards represents more than 200 Epstein survivors worldwide and previously represented Virginia Giuffre, who accused Andrew of sexual abuse when she was 17. Giuffre filed a civil lawsuit in 2021, which was settled in February 2022 for an estimated £12 million.

She died last year. Andrew has consistently denied all allegations. Edwards said he is now considering filing a new civil lawsuit, arguing that stripping Andrew of his titles last year has complicated survivors' efforts to seek accountability and compensation.

## Trump Limits Intervention

Cities must request help

### Lily Anderson

President Donald Trump said Saturday that the federal government will not intervene in protests or unrest in Democrat-ruled cities unless local officials formally request

### HIGHLIGHT

●Federal action only if requested

●Kristi Noem instructed to stand down

●Focus on federal property protection

assistance, marking a notable shift in tone as demonstrations continue nationwide. In a post on Truth Social on Saturday, Trump said he instructed Homeland

Security Secretary Kristi Noem not to step into "poorly run Democrat Cities" unless leaders "ask us for help." He added that the federal government would, however, aggressively protect federal buildings, warning of serious consequences for attacks on officers or government property. Speaking to reporters later that night, Trump reiterated that responsibility for handling protests lies with local and state governments. "If they want help, they have to ask for it," he said, adding that federal forces would act swiftly if requested. The comments come amid heightened scrutiny following the killings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good in



Photo: President Trump speaks before signing executive orders in the Oval Office  
Image Source: Annabelle Gordon/AFP/Getty Images

Minneapolis, which have intensified debate over immigration enforcement tactics. Trump also referenced an incident at a federal building in Eugene, Oregon,

claiming local authorities failed to act, though city officials disputed that account. The president again raised the possibility of invoking the Insurrection

Act, as demonstrations were expected to continue through the weekend following a nationwide protest Friday.

## French Firm Exits

U.S. ICE work ends

### John Paul

Capgemini said it will sell Capgemini Government Solutions, a U.S. subsidiary, after its work helping Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) locate people for deportation operations triggered political backlash in France. Public records show the subsidiary has been under contract since Dec. 18 to provide "skip

### HIGHLIGHT

●Capgemini to sell U.S. subsidiary

●Unit worked for ICE on skip tracing

●Contract signed Dec. 18

●Deal worth \$4.8 million

tracing" for enforcement and removal operations, with payments totaling more than \$4.8 million through March 15. The announcement comes amid intensified scrutiny of immigration enforcement after the fatal shootings of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis,



Photo: U.S. immigration enforcement faces criticism after deaths of two citizens  
Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

which fueled protests and criticism of federal tactics. In a statement, Capgemini said it could not "exercise appropriate control" to ensure the subsidiary's work aligned with the group's objectives and that the divestiture process would begin "immediately." French officials, including Finance Minister Roland Lescure, had pressed the company to disclose its ICE ties as outrage grew in Parliament.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Navi Education supports NICU families

### NYN Desk

Navi Education, an academic tutoring and college consulting organization, has raised nearly \$2,000 to support premature infants and their families in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in Flushing. The funds, collected through a GoFundMe campaign, will be used to assemble care packages containing essentials such as books, socks, lotion, and toys. Once purchased, the supplies



Photo: Navi Education student leaders raise nearly \$2,000 for premature infants at NYP Flushing. Image Source: Navi Education/QNS

will be delivered directly to families navigating the challenges of premature birth, low birth weight, and other serious neonatal health conditions. According to Kay Choi, director of Navi Education, the organization has partnered with NYP Queens for more than a decade, selecting a different cause each year. This year's initiative was led by student debate teams from New York and New Jersey, who viewed the fundraiser as an extension of their advocacy work.

"These babies are fighting from the moment they're born," said Kate Kim, a student leader. "Supporting NICU infants means supporting families during one of the hardest moments of their lives." Students also created handwritten cards and video messages to accompany the donations. Choi said the project reflects Navi's mission to teach students the value of community service, empathy, and turning education into meaningful action.

## Brooklyn Mirage Approved for Demolition



Photo: The Brooklyn Mirage is set to be demolished starting next month

Image Source : Paul Frangipane / Brooklyn Paper/ Online

### Staff Reporter

Full demolition of the Brooklyn Mirage has been approved and is set to begin early February, marking a major turning point for the once-popular nightlife venue as its investors continue to battle in

bankruptcy court. City records show the New York City Department of Buildings has signed off on plans to fully dismantle the venue, which never reopened after a costly renovation last year due to unresolved structural and safety

concerns. A notice circulated by Brooklyn Community Board 1 said demolition is expected to start around Feb. 2 and conclude by April or May. The Mirage's parent company, Avant Gardner, filed for bankruptcy last fall, citing financial strain caused by the venue's prolonged closure. While executives described the move as a path toward restructuring, creditors have since withdrawn support, accusing major lender Axar Capital Management of secretly negotiating a sale that could block them from recouping losses. Axar disputes the claims and has asked the court to allow the sale to proceed, arguing the business is unlikely to generate sufficient future revenue. As demolition nears, the Mirage's future — and whether it will ever reopen in another form — remains uncertain.



Image Source: Online

## Hudson River Ice Halts Ferry Lines

### News Correspondent

Ice buildup on the Hudson River disrupted ferry service across New York City and New Jersey this week, forcing widespread suspensions as extreme cold tightened its grip on the region. Officials said ice thickened due to sustained temperatures below 30 degrees, weak tidal movement, and conditions influenced by a half moon, making navigation difficult for smaller vessels. As a result, NYC Ferry suspended service on all routes, citing safety concerns. "Operating in heavy ice conditions requires slow speeds and little to no notice regarding landing service suspensions," the agency

said in a statement. Several other ferry operators announced service changes. New York Waterway halted service from Edgewater, bussing passengers to the Port Imperial terminal in Weehawken, while the Liberty Landing Ferry suspended operations through Friday. The Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry continued operating by bus replacement, and Circle Line canceled all cruises through Feb. 8. The Staten Island Ferry, whose larger vessels can better navigate icy waters, continued running on a normal schedule. Officials warned commuters that additional disruptions remain possible and urged riders to check schedules before traveling.

## Manhattan Vigil Honors Slain Nurse

### Senior Reporter

Hundreds of people gathered outside the Manhattan Veterans Affairs Hospital on Thursday evening to hold a vigil protesting the killing of Alex Pretti, an intensive care nurse shot dead last week during an encounter with federal immigration agents in Minneapolis. Organizers said the location was chosen to honor Pretti's service to veterans and to spotlight growing concerns over immigration enforcement. "Alex Pretti should be here today, with us, and he is not," said Michael Matos, president of Five Borough Veterans, describing Pretti's actions as an act of selfless courage. The vigil unfolded amid heightened national scrutiny of federal enforcement tactics. Earlier that day, White House



Photo : Protesters hold a vigil outside the Manhattan VA for Alex Pretti following his killing by federal agents

Image Source: Spectrum News NY1

border czar Tom Homan defended ongoing operations while acknowledging that changes may be necessary, placing responsibility on Congress to reform existing laws. In New York City, mourners said those remarks fell short. A makeshift memorial formed outside the hospital as participants called for accountability and an end

to what they described as excessive force. "We need to protest. This has to stop," said nurse Maria Ramos-Victor. The vigil was one of several demonstrations held across the city in recent days, with another large protest expected Friday at Foley Square, signaling that public pressure is likely to continue.

### Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:47	12:10	02:52	05:15	06:33
05:46	12:10	02:53	05:16	06:34
05:45	12:10	02:54	05:17	06:35
05:45	12:10	02:55	05:19	06:36
05:44	12:10	02:56	05:20	06:37
05:43	12:10	02:57	05:21	06:38
05:42	12:10	02:58	05:22	06:39

# OPINION

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## The Islamic World's Dilemma: Reconsidering Trump's Board of Peace

— Imam Shamsi Ali

The recent establishment of the Board of Peace by US President Donald Trump has sparked controversy and debate within the international community, particularly among Muslim-majority countries. The Board's claimed primary objective is to oversee Gaza's reconstruction and promote peace in the region. However, several concerns have been raised regarding its potential implications on global peace, security, and Palestinian rights. First, undermining the United Nations and International Law. The formation of the Board of Peace may undermine the UN's role in global peace and security, as it appears to bypass established international frameworks. Trump's involvement raises concerns about his respect for international law and human rights, given his controversial policies and actions, both domestically and globally.

Second, concern on Gaza's Future and Palestinian Rights. The Board's plan to develop Gaza into a tourist hub, dubbed the "Riviera of the Middle East," has raised concerns about displacing Palestinians and serving Trump's global business empire interests. More importantly, the exclusion of Palestinians themselves from the Board certainly is a clear evidence of why I am suspicious that the Board marginalizes their struggle for independence and self-determination. Third, concerns about Accountability and Legitimacy. The involvement of Israel's Prime Minister, a convicted war criminal,



— Imam Shamsi Ali  
: Director, Jamaica Muslim Center & President, Nusantara Foundation

raises concerns about accountability, the Board's legitimacy and integrity. In addition, the lack of focus on Gaza and Palestinian independence in the Board's charter suggests that these issues are not at all at the Board consideration. Fourth, it has some risks and implications. Surprisingly, major European countries have such as UK, French, Germany, Spain and others, declined to join, citing concerns about Trump's motives and the Board's potential implications. What's also concerning is the possibility that the Board of Peace could become a conduit for Israel, with Trump

as its chair, to persuade or even coerce member states that haven't established diplomatic ties with Israel to do so. For instance, Indonesia has begun to show openness to establishing relations with Israel, even guaranteeing its security, using peace slogan as a justification. This is clearly a betrayal of the Palestinian people's struggle for independence, with East Jerusalem as their capital, home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Conclusion Given these concerns, Muslim-majority countries, including Indonesia, should reconsider joining the Board of Peace and prioritize Palestinian independence and sovereignty. The international community must ensure that any initiatives aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region respect international law, human rights, and the rights of the Palestinian people.

“

“The formation of the Board of Peace may undermine the UN's role in global peace and security, as it appears to bypass established international frameworks.”



Image Source: Online

“

“This is clearly a betrayal of the Palestinian people's struggle for independence, with East Jerusalem as their capital, home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque.”

## A Time to Choose Conscience Over Comfort

— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah

There are moments in history when silence becomes a position, and neutrality quietly aligns itself with injustice. We are living in one such moment. Across nations and communities, we witness suffering that is no longer distant, no longer abstract, and no longer deniable. Yet too often, responses remain cautious, calculated, and constrained by convenience rather than conscience. Faith, in its truest sense, has never been passive. It was not revealed to sit comfortably on shelves, nor to be recited without consequence. Faith is meant to disturb complacency, to challenge cruelty, and to stand as a moral compass when power loses direction. When injustice becomes normalized, faith demands that we speak—not recklessly, but truthfully. Our world today is marked by contradictions. We speak of human rights while excusing their violation. We praise peace while profiting from

conflict. We celebrate diversity while allowing fear and prejudice to divide neighborhoods, nations, and hearts. These contradictions do not arise from lack of knowledge; they arise from lack of moral courage. For communities of faith, particularly Muslims in America, the responsibility is twofold. We must contribute positively to the societies we call home, and we must remain anchored to ethical principles that transcend politics and partisanship. Being a responsible citizen does not require moral silence, and loyalty to one's country does not demand the abandonment of universal justice. History reminds us that



— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah  
Vice President, United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA), Queens Chapter

meaningful change has rarely come from the powerful alone. It has come from ordinary people who refused to accept injustice as inevitable—faith leaders who spoke when it was risky, communities who organized when it was uncomfortable, and individuals who chose integrity over approval. These were not perfect people, but they were principled. In times of polarization, it is tempting to retreat into our own circles, to protect ourselves by disengaging. But disengagement is a luxury the vulnerable cannot afford. Whether the issue is war, poverty, racism, or the erosion of human dignity, the cost of

indifference is always paid by those with the least power. We must also resist despair. Cynicism may feel sophisticated, but it paralyzes action. Hope, on the other hand, is not naïve optimism—it is a disciplined commitment to continue striving even when outcomes are uncertain. The moral arc of history does not bend on its own; it bends when people apply pressure with patience and purpose. This is a moment to re-center our values. To teach our children that success without ethics is failure. To remind our institutions that authority without accountability is injustice. And to remind ourselves that faith is not proven by what we believe privately, but by what we stand for publicly. The future will judge us not by the comfort we preserved, but by the principles we upheld. May we choose conscience over comfort, courage over convenience, and justice over silence.

# HERITAGE

## NYC Marks First Muslim American Heritage Month

Celebration hosted by the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes honors cultural contributions

**James Anderson**

New York City held a historic celebration on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, marking its first public observance of Muslim American Heritage Month, a significant milestone in the city's efforts to recognize and uplift the contributions of Muslim communities. The event, hosted by the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) in partnership with the Muslim Community Network (MCN), drew a large crowd to the Rotunda of the New York County Supreme Court at 60 Centre Street.

This milestone celebration follows Governor Kathy Hochul's statewide proclamation recognizing Muslim American Heritage Month, aligning state and city efforts to celebrate Muslim New Yorkers' rich and diverse cultural legacies.



The evening event highlighted community stories, cultural pride, and unity in the face of rising hate crimes and Islamophobia. Attendees filled the grand rotunda from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM, joining public officials, community leaders,



and advocates in recognizing the vast contributions of Muslim Americans to New York City's civic, economic, and cultural fabric. The

atmosphere reflected both celebration and reflection as speakers emphasized the need for continued education and solidarity.

"Recognizing Muslim American Heritage Month is not just about the past," one attendee noted, "but about ensuring that Muslim communities are safe, valued, and visible in the present." As a division of the Mayor's Office of

Criminal Justice, OPHC spearheads the city's approach to hate crime prevention, working through a network of more than 20 city agencies and all five district attorneys' offices. By organizing this event, OPHC reinforced its commitment to addressing the underlying biases that fuel hate and to promoting healing, resilience, and unity across communities. The celebration is a testament to the city's evolving and inclusive identity, with a focus on community-led narratives and interfaith, intercultural understanding. With hundreds in attendance and stories that reflected both struggle and strength, the evening served as both a tribute and a promise — that New York City stands firm in recognizing and protecting the dignity of every community it calls its own.





# EMPOWERMENT

## Hijab, Identity, and Understanding

### Elhaam Academy hosts powerful World Hijab Day event with local leaders



#### Ashley Reed

In a meaningful celebration of identity and inclusion, Elhaam Academy proudly observed World Hijab Day 2026 on campus, bringing together

students, staff, and community leaders to highlight the significance of the hijab and the principles of respect and religious freedom it represents. The event featured remarks from Imam Shaheed Farooqi and

Officer Frances of the NYPD's 107th Precinct, both of whom addressed the importance of understanding, dignity, and community support. Their presence underscored a shared commitment to the protection of personal

freedoms and fostering respectful dialogue in a diverse society. Throughout the program, the focus remained on solidarity with Muslim women, and the broader need for education around cultural and religious

practices. Attendees were encouraged to reflect on the role of the hijab as more than just a garment—recognizing it as a symbol of faith and personal conviction for many. Students and faculty expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn and engage in thoughtful conversation,

especially in a setting that affirmed their experiences and identities. The gathering also served as a reminder of the Academy's commitment to equity, empowerment, and respectful community building. Elhaam Academy's observance of World Hijab Day contributed to a growing citywide and global movement focused on uplifting the voices of Muslim women and championing freedom of expression in all forms. Events like these continue to serve as vital platforms for increasing awareness and promoting unity across differences. As the program concluded, attendees left with not only a deeper understanding of the hijab's role in Muslim life but also a stronger sense of shared humanity—an outcome that reflects the heart of Elhaam Academy's educational mission.



# EMPOWERMENT

## Imam and NYPD officers speak on respect, freedom, and inclusion



## INFLUENCE



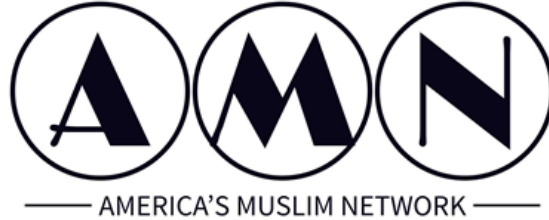
# Top 65 Most Influential Muslims in New York State Honored

Continuing our series on America's Muslim Network's honorees and their community impact

## Carlos Stewart

This installment continues our ongoing series on America's Muslim Network's Top 65 Most Influential Muslims in New York State, spotlighting additional individuals whose leadership and service continue to shape communities across the state. America's Muslim Network has officially unveiled its Top 65 Most Influential Muslims in New York State, a recognition rooted in

impact, service, and meaningful contribution rather than popularity or titles. This list honors individuals whose work continues to shape, strengthen, and uplift Muslim communities across the state through leadership, advocacy, faith, entrepreneurship, education, and civic engagement. New York is home to one of the most diverse Muslim populations in the country, and the individuals recognized reflect that diversity in every sense. They



Courtesy : America's Muslim Network

include community organizers working at the grassroots level, religious leaders guiding congregations, professionals influencing public policy, educators shaping young minds,

and entrepreneurs building institutions that serve far beyond the Muslim community. What unites them is a consistent commitment to showing up for others and translating values

into action. According to America's Muslim Network, this recognition is not a ranking. Each person on the list is acknowledged equally for their unique role and the tangible difference they have made in their respective spaces. The goal is not only to celebrate achievement, but to tell stories that are often overlooked and to amplify voices that inspire progress, unity, and resilience. In this ongoing series, we will highlight a

selection of individuals from this list and explore the work that led to their recognition. By learning more about their journeys, initiatives, and leadership, readers will gain a deeper understanding of the breadth of influence Muslim New Yorkers have across social, civic, and cultural life. Together, these honorees represent a powerful snapshot of a community that continues to contribute, lead, and build for the future.



## Sabbir Ahmed

Sabbir Ahmed is a New York real estate leader with nearly two decades of experience. He is a licensed real estate broker and the founder of Elite Synergy Realty, having led more than \$600 million in residential and commercial transactions. His portfolio includes complex deals involving mixed-use buildings, development sites, condo projects, and hotels, earning him a reputation for strong negotiation and deep market insight. Beyond real estate, he is an active entrepreneur, expanding into multiple ventures focused on creating value and strengthening communities. Known for integrity and results-driven leadership, Sabbir continues to inspire innovation and long-term growth.



## Mamadou Siré Bah

Mamadou Siré Bah was appointed Director of Muslim American Affairs at the New York State Executive Chamber in June 2024, where he builds relationships with Muslim stakeholders statewide on behalf of Governor Kathy Hochul. He previously led Muslim community engagement as a Senior Advance Associate in the New York State Attorney General's Office and served as the Senior Muslim Liaison in the New York City Mayor's Office. He is a graduate of CUNY Queens College.



## Carrell Ali Lasso Paz

Carrell Ali Lasso Paz is a Colombian-born actor and artist from Santiago de Cali, raised in a culturally rich Muslim household. After studying music and dramatic arts in Cali and Bogotá, he launched a screen career that includes film roles in Amores Peligrosos and The Snitch Cartel (2010). He gained international recognition in 2011 as Peter Jenkins in NatGeo's Locked Up Abroad, broadcast across five continents. His notable credits include Netflix's La Esclava Blanca, Narcos Season 3, and HBO Max's A Thousand Fangs. Since 2019, he has been based in New York City, continuing his work while giving back through America's Muslim Network.



## Imam Wesley Lebrón

Imam Wesley Lebrón, of Puerto Rican heritage, embraced Islam in 1998 and earned a B.A. in Islamic Studies from MISHKAH University. A leading voice in Latino Muslim outreach, he served as President of the Latino Muslims of Chicago and helped develop the first IslamInSpanish Centro Islámico in Houston as a national representative. He co-founded the 3 Puerto Rican Imams, spearheading major hurricane relief in Puerto Rico and expanding humanitarian work to Gaza, Nigeria, Pakistan, and across the Americas. He now serves as President of Miiftaahul Uloom Academy and Imam/Director of Reverts Reconnect (MAS New York), a pioneering program supporting new Muslims through education, mentorship, and annual Umrah for 50+ reverts.



## Imam Ahmed Ali

Imam Ahmed Ali Uzir serves in New York City government as the first-ever Pakistani Muslim Commissioner on the NYC Commission of Racial Equity. He is also an NYPD Auxiliary Captain (62nd Precinct) and Clergy Liaison (115th Precinct), strengthening community-law enforcement trust, and previously served as an Imam for NYC Department of Corrections. He leads IQRA Masjid Community and Tradition (est. 1996) and is Chief Chaplain of the United States Chaplain Force (USCF). He made history as the first Pakistani Imam appointed Senior Advisor in the NY State Assembly (Office of Assemblymember William Colton). Honored as a COVID-19 Hero by Eric Adams, recognized by the Government of Pakistan, he also received Cleric of the Year 2025 and led the 2025 State of the City prayer.



## Lena Maasarani

Lena Maasarani is a Brooklyn-based nonprofit leader with 19 years of humanitarian experience. A Public Health graduate of UC Irvine with a Certificate in Fundraising Management (CFRM) from Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, she serves as Assistant Director of National Events at Islamic Relief USA. She has led major campaigns including a nationwide drive supporting 800+ orphans in 30+ countries, the Walk for Water initiative funding clean water projects in Africa, and Relief on the Runway benefiting women's empowerment. She now manages 100+ charity events annually nationwide and is spearheading the Islamic Giving Conference in Washington, D.C., focused on revitalizing Waqf (Islamic endowment) for sustainable impact.



## Rana Abdelhamid

Rana Abdelhamid is a Queens-born organizer and self-defense instructor, and the Founder and Executive Director of Malikah, a grassroots organization providing self-defense, healing justice, economic empowerment, and organizing programs for thousands of women and girls in NYC and globally. Inspired by her own experience surviving a hate-motivated attack as a teen, she has built community safety infrastructures addressing food insecurity, immigration threats, gender-based violence, and housing displacement. Under her leadership, Malikah launched initiatives like the Ramadan Night Market, Astoria Halal Fest, community fridges and mutual-aid hubs, helped pass a MENA data disaggregation bill, and convened the National Muslim Women's Summit. Her work has been recognized by Harvard University and the New York City Council.



## Ali Mushtaq

Ali Mushtaq is a law enforcement professional with 5+ years at the Port Authority Police Department (NY/NJ), recognized for advancing diversity, cultural understanding, and community engagement. In 2023, he made history by founding the first-ever Muslim Officers Society Chapter within the Port Authority and serves as its President. He also organized the department's inaugural Crescent Moon Lighting Ceremony to mark the start of Ramadan, a milestone for interfaith awareness and inclusion. Previously, he served with the NYPD beginning in 2016, working in public housing and East Harlem with a focus on youth engagement and community policing. He holds a double major in Accounting and Finance from SUNY Old Westbury.



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# JUSTICE

## 'ICE Can't Exist in Its Current Form': Queens Officials Speak Out

### Fatal shootings spark renewed push for transparency, defunding, and reform

**William Henry**

In a powerful call for justice and reform, U.S. Reps. Gregory Meeks and Grace Meng stood alongside Queens Borough President Donovan Richards at Borough Hall on January 29 to demand accountability following two fatal shootings involving federal immigration agents in Minneapolis. The press conference came in response to the deaths of Renee Good, who was shot by an ICE agent during a traffic stop on January 7, and Alex Pretti, who was fatally shot by CBP agents while assisting a protester on January 24. Both incidents have sparked national outrage, especially as video footage contradicts elements of official accounts. Standing before community members and faith leaders, Meeks condemned the "brutality unleashed"



He emphasized the fear immigrant families feel in Queens, saying some are too scared to send their children to school or seek medical care. "Queens might not look occupied like Minneapolis, but the mental and emotional scars our families bear are just the same." The leaders joined a growing chorus of Democrats who have called for Department of Homeland Security reforms. Congress recently removed DHS funding from a new spending package, with current funding extended only for two weeks as negotiations continue. As public scrutiny intensifies, officials insist that independent investigations must be launched and that ICE cannot continue to operate without oversight. "This can't be swept under the rug," Meeks said. "ICE, in its current form, cannot exist."

by current immigration enforcement policies. "We are negotiating and working on something to stop the madness," he said, calling for the defunding of ICE unless clear guardrails are put in place, including body camera mandates, judicial warrant

requirements, and an end to the use of masks by agents. Meng described the shootings as "shocking and sickening", asserting that residents in Queens continue to live in fear. "If anything in this country demands accountability right

now, it is the actions of these ICE agents," she said, vowing to use every tool available to ensure justice for those impacted. Richards delivered the most impassioned remarks, calling ICE the "American Taliban" and demanding the

agency's abolition. "You can't fix what they're doing," he declared. "As long as masked agents of Donald Trump's Gestapo are roaming our streets, kidnapping our neighbors and killing our people, no one from Minnesota to Queens is safe."





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# LEADERSHIP

## BAPA Honors Leadership at Oath Taking Ceremony

Ceremony highlights leadership, mentorship, and community trust



### Jessica Morgan

In a strong display of unity and leadership, the Bangladeshi American Police Association (BAPA) hosted its Membership Meeting and Oath Taking

Ceremony to welcome newly elected board members and honor those concluding their terms. The event, held recently in New York City, brought together officers, community leaders, and guests in



recognition of service and commitment within the NYPD and the broader Bangladeshi-American community. The ceremony served as both a formal transition and a celebration of BAPA's growing influence as a platform for mentorship, representation, and trust-building within law enforcement. Officers and attendees reflected on the impact of the association's work in promoting leadership and fostering strong community relationships. Among those in attendance was NYPD Officer Adeel Rana, who praised the newly elected board for their dedication and vision. "Your leadership, commitment, and service to both the

department and the community truly make a difference," he noted, commending the strength and unity demonstrated throughout the organization. Officer Rana also expressed appreciation for the outgoing board members, recognizing their hard work and the foundation they have built for future leadership. "Your efforts do not go unnoticed," he said. The event also acknowledged all candidates who had stepped up to run for leadership positions, emphasizing that service-driven leadership is central to BAPA's mission. From strengthening internal support systems to

enhancing engagement with the public, the organization continues to play a vital role in the NYPD and beyond. With the oath-taking complete, the new board now embarks on its term with the backing of a proud membership and a supportive community. The ceremony underscored the shared purpose that unites BAPA members—service, accountability, and progress. As BAPA enters a new chapter, its leaders and members remain committed to fostering a strong, inclusive law enforcement environment, while uplifting the voices and visibility of Bangladeshi-American officers across the city.





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# CAMPAIGN

## Support Builds for Mohammed Molla's Assembly Run

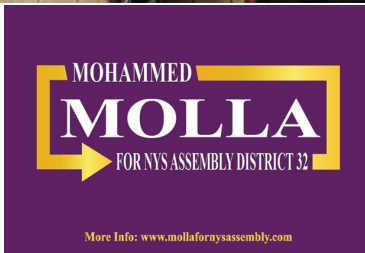
Candidate for NYS Assembly District 32 gains momentum with local backing

**Emily Parker**

A surge of community support greeted Mohammed Molla as local leaders, residents, and supporters gathered recently to show solidarity with his campaign for New York State Assembly District 32. The event served as a powerful reflection of the trust and respect Molla has earned through years of dedicated service and grassroots advocacy. Known for his consistent commitment to justice, equity, and empowerment, Molla has emerged as a trusted voice within the district. His campaign, which centers on strengthening representation and



ensuring that every resident's voice is heard, has begun to energize constituents from across the diverse neighborhoods of District 32, which includes parts of Queens. "Mohammed Molla is a



strong and trustworthy ally to this community," said one supporter at the event. "His leadership is grounded in real values—values that resonate with working families and underserved communities alike." Throughout the gathering, speakers praised Molla's vision of responsible and forward-thinking governance, highlighting his ability to bring people together around common goals. His message focused on building a stronger future by addressing local concerns such as education, economic opportunity, housing, and community safety. One attendee reflected on the importance of community-rooted

campaigns, noting that "it's not just about winning an election—it's about ensuring our voices matter, and that our needs are no longer overlooked." As the event concluded, the mood was one of unity and optimism. Attendees expressed confidence that Molla's candidacy would not only bring fresh leadership to Albany but also inspire a broader civic movement rooted in fairness and representation. With continued grassroots energy and widespread support, Mohammed Molla's campaign is poised to make a significant impact on the political landscape of New York's 32nd Assembly District—and beyond.





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# DIALOGUE

## Youth, Justice, and the Path Forward

Human Concern USA Champions Ethical Leadership

### Noah Presley

A powerful gathering of thought leaders, scholars, and youth unfolded in Doha during the Wujihat Town Hall on Conscience, Power & Moral Leadership, an event focused on advancing global conversations around justice, ethics, and transformative leadership. The town hall, held under the banner of "Perspectives", was proudly sponsored by Human Concern USA, an international humanitarian relief organization dedicated to uplifting communities through compassion and action.

The evening brought together a distinguished lineup of speakers, including Imam Omar Suleiman, Sami Hamdi, Imam Tom Facchine, Dalya Ayoub, and Leanne Mohammad, each offering deep insights into the



intersections of faith, morality, and public responsibility. The gathering encouraged both introspection and critical dialogue at a time when global events have intensified the need for ethical clarity and collective accountability. A key focus of the

program was youth empowerment, with a dedicated segment for university students and young professionals to strengthen their critical thinking and media literacy. Organizers emphasized the importance of equipping the next generation with

the tools to challenge misinformation and to lead with integrity. "This town hall brought forward essential questions about how we engage with power and how we hold our institutions—and ourselves—accountable," said

one attendee. "It's an educational and reflective space that centers justice, not just as an ideal, but as a daily practice." Panels and discussions explored real-world implications of moral leadership across disciplines and regions,

with participants delving into issues ranging from global humanitarian crises to media ethics and civic responsibility. Human Concern USA's sponsorship of the event underscored the organization's broader mission to cultivate ethical engagement and amplify community voices rooted in justice. "We believe that real change begins with education, dialogue, and principled leadership," a representative noted. "Supporting this town hall aligns with our commitment to long-term, people-centered impact." As the evening concluded, the atmosphere was one of reflection and resolve—an affirmation that when communities come together to interrogate power through the lens of conscience, they begin to shape a more just and accountable world.



# REMEMBRANCE

## Never Again: A Call for Justice

UN Hosts Holocaust Memorial Emphasizing Dignity and Human Rights



**Daniel Matthew**

At the heart of global diplomacy, the United Nations General Assembly Hall became a solemn space of remembrance and reflection on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, as world leaders, diplomats and survivors gathered for the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.



UNITED NATIONS

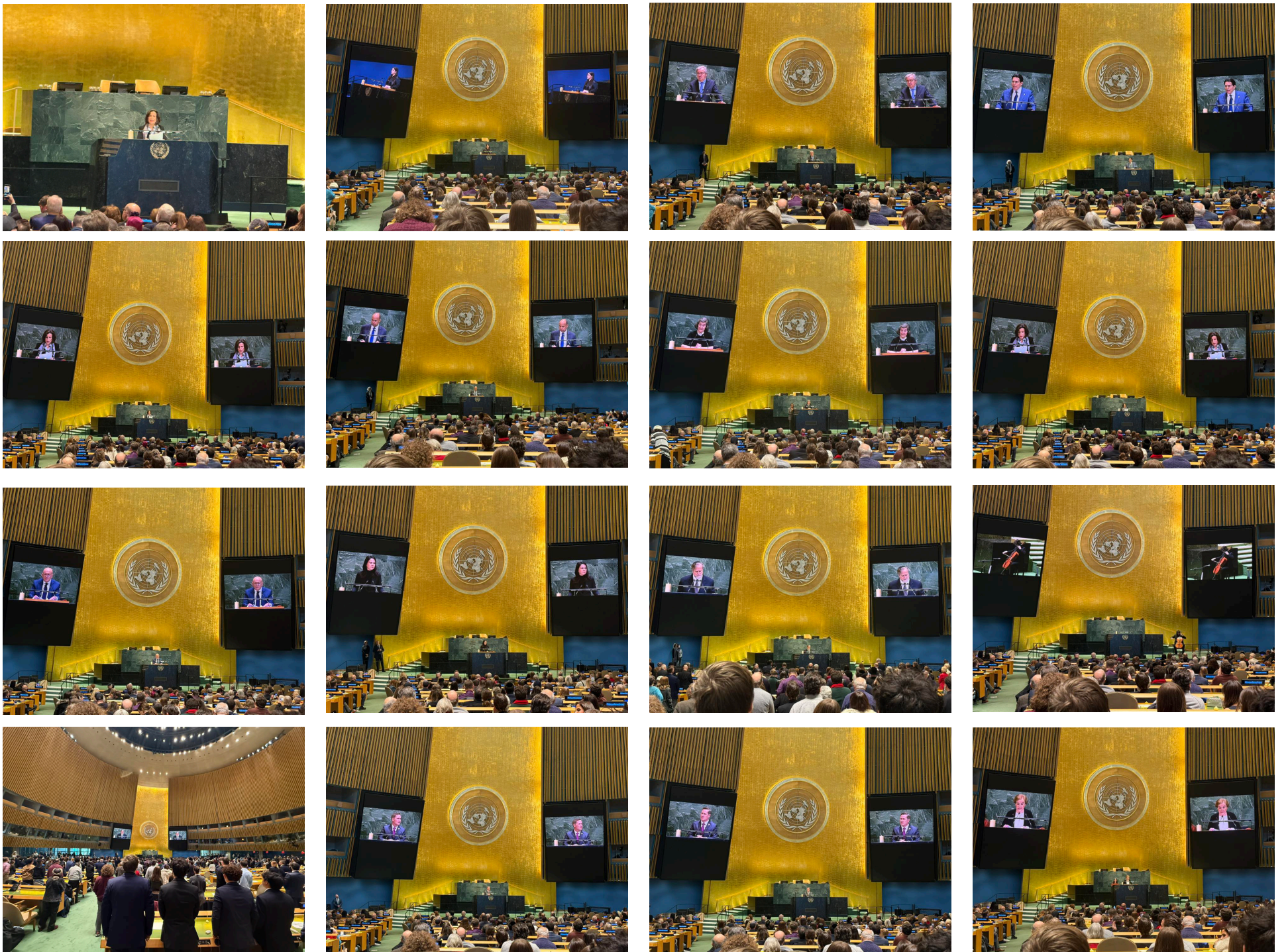
This year's observance, held under the theme "Holocaust Remembrance for Dignity and Human Rights," underscored the UN's commitment to ensuring that the atrocities of the Holocaust are never forgotten — and never

repeated. The ceremony, hosted by Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, featured moving personal testimonies from four Holocaust survivors: Sara Weinstein, Evelyn Konrad, Marion Blumenthal Lazan and Nataliia Tomenko. Their stories, delivered from the podium, bore witness to humanity's

darkest chapter and reminded the world of the urgent need for remembrance, education and action. Weinstein, who recounted being smuggled from a ghetto and surviving in forests, warned that the Holocaust did not start with gas chambers but with words, incitement, propaganda, jokes and indifference, and she sees antisemitism rising again. In his address, UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized that remembering the Holocaust is not just an act of honouring the past but a vital obligation to the present and future. He said that the Holocaust is "a warning that hatred, once unleashed, can consume everything" and warned of the rising tide of antisemitism, hate speech and xenophobia. Guterres called on the international community to confront hatred wherever it emerges and to use remembrance as a shield against prejudice.

Annalena Baerbock, the President of the 80th session of the General Assembly, echoed these concerns and invoked Germany's historical responsibility. She reminded delegates that the Holocaust did not begin with gas chambers but with words and laws, the burning of synagogues and neighbours who chose silence. Quoting Pastor Martin Niemöller's warning that indifference enables oppression, Baerbock insisted that "Never Again" is not a slogan but a duty to speak up whenever human rights are questioned. Permanent representatives from Israel and the United States reaffirmed their nations' dedication to Holocaust education, survivor support and global efforts to combat antisemitism. U.S. Ambassador Michael G. Waltz honoured Allied liberators and vowed that America will remain unyielding in confronting

antisemitism. Israel's ambassador Danny Danon declared that memory alone is insufficient; he said "Never again cannot remain a slogan. It must become action." In a symbolic gesture, Danon removed the yellow hostage pin he had worn for 843 days after Israel recovered the last hostage, telling the assembly that "the pin finally comes off." As the formal programme drew to a close, the 2026 observance concluded with a powerful call to action: for institutions, governments and individuals alike to take responsibility for upholding justice, protecting the vulnerable and remembering the lessons of the past. With its depth of testimony, clarity of message and urgent appeal to safeguard human rights, this year's ceremony reminded the world that remembrance must inspire action.



# UNITY

## Empowering Voices, Uplifting Communities

### Majlis Ash-Shura's Gala Highlights Muslim Contributions Across NYC



#### Alex Mason

With a focus on unity, justice, and visionary leadership, the Majlis Ash-Shura: Islamic Leadership Council of New York brought together hundreds of

attendees for its Annual Award & Fundraising Gala, celebrating the impact and resilience of Muslim communities across the state. Held at a time when representation and faith-based advocacy

are more vital than ever, the event served as both a celebration and a call to action. Guests filled the space in support of the Council's mission to serve as a unified voice for over 90 mosques and organizations,

elevating issues that matter to Muslim New Yorkers and their neighbors. Throughout the evening, honorees were recognized for their service, integrity, and leadership in promoting justice, civic engagement,



MAJLIS ASH-SHURA  
Islamic Leadership Council of New York

and community empowerment. Applause filled the venue as award recipients were acknowledged not only for their

accomplishments, but for their dedication to uplifting those around them. "This event is a reminder that our strength lies in collective action," said one attendee. "We are stronger when we speak as one, rooted in values of compassion and justice." Majlis Ash-Shura's guiding principles—faith-based justice, inclusive diversity, grassroots empowerment, and strategic collaboration—were echoed in every element of the evening. Attendees were also encouraged to contribute to the organization's ongoing work through live fundraising efforts supporting initiatives such as youth

engagement, advocacy training, and interfaith collaboration. While the awards recognized past achievements, the broader message of the evening was future-focused. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to building an empowered Muslim community—one that is civically active, spiritually grounded, and boldly engaged in shaping a just society. As the gala came to a close, attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and pride, inspired by the collective strength of a community deeply committed to service, solidarity, and social impact.



# UNITY

## Muslim Leaders Applauded at Annual Fundraising Gala





# Pretti Death Ripples

## Politics reshapes gun culture



Photo: Candles burn at a makeshift memorial for Alex Pretti after he was shot and killed by federal agents in Minneapolis  
Image Source : Octavio Jones/AFP/Getty Images

### Amkel Nourush

A wave of left-leaning gun groups says demand for firearms training has surged since the killing of Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse shot by federal agents in Minneapolis, as

more liberals and progressives reconsider what safety looks like amid stepped-up immigration enforcement. In Los Angeles, L.A. Progressive Shooters said weekend classes are sold out through March. In

the Minneapolis–St. Paul area, Pink Pistols Twin Cities reported permit-to-carry enrollments rising from about five people per class to 25, forcing the group to add seven more courses that are already filling. “In the past couple of days, there has been a shift,” said Lara Smith, a spokesperson for the Liberal Gun Club. Organizers say the interest is being driven by fear, anger and a desire to “equalize” power when residents see armed federal agents operating in public spaces. Jordan Levine, who runs A Better Way 2A, said instructors and inclusive gun communities are also asking to be listed as resources, reflecting what he described as heightened anxiety and political volatility. Even as national sales can ebb and flow, the groups say these localized spikes are reshaping who shows up to train—and why.

# Khamenei Issues Stark Warning

## Iran cautions US over escalation

### Nassr Al Shams

Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned that any American attack on Iran would ignite a wider regional war, as tensions sharpened amid a growing US military presence near Iranian waters. “The Americans should know that if they start a war, this time it will be a regional war,” Khamenei said, according to Iran’s semi-official Tasnim news agency. His remarks came as the

United States deployed the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln to the region, with US Central Command confirming operations in the Arabian Sea. President Donald Trump said earlier that Washington and Tehran were engaged in “serious discussions,” expressing hope they could lead to an “acceptable” outcome. Iranian officials have also signaled progress toward a negotiation framework, even as Trump reiterated

### HIGHLIGHT

- Iran warns of regional war
  - US expands military presence
  - Live-fire drills planned
  - Nuclear tensions persist
- demands that Iran halt nuclear activities and end its crackdown on

protests. Iran is expected to begin a two-day live-fire naval exercise in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping lane that carries about 20% of the world’s traded oil. Tehran has previously threatened to close the strait if attacked, prompting US warnings against unsafe behavior near American forces. The rhetoric has heightened anxiety across the region, underscoring how quickly diplomatic friction could spiral into broader conflict.



Photo: Elon Musk - the boss of SpaceX as well as Tesla and X - is the world's richest person  
Image Source: Reuters/BBC

# SpaceX Seeks Mega Expansion

## One million AI satellites proposed

### Adrian Smith

SpaceX has applied to US regulators for permission to deploy as many as one million satellites into low-Earth orbit, a dramatic expansion intended

to support artificial intelligence computing from space. The application, filed Friday with the Federal Communications Commission, proposes creating “orbital data centers” that SpaceX

says would meet soaring AI processing demands more efficiently than land-based facilities. The company argues that traditional data centers are already straining power and cooling resources, while

space-based systems could rely on solar energy. If approved, the plan would vastly exceed SpaceX’s existing Starlink constellation of nearly 10,000 satellites, which has already drawn criticism from astronomers and space-safety experts over congestion and interference. SpaceX founder Elon Musk dismissed those concerns, writing on X that the satellites would be widely spaced and that “space is so vast as to be beyond comprehension.” The proposed satellites would orbit between 500 and 2,000 kilometers above Earth and are envisioned as a network capable of serving “billions of users globally.” Experts, however, have warned that launch costs, space debris risks, and collision hazards remain significant challenges as low-Earth orbit grows increasingly crowded.



Photo: Carlos Alcaraz defeats Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open men’s final  
Image Source: Dita Alangkara/AP

# Alcaraz Completes Slam

## Australian Open seals history

### Julian Alvez

In a final that swung from disbelief, Carlos Alcaraz stormed back on Sunday to win the Australian Open in Melbourne, outlasting Novak Djokovic 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5 and etching his name into tennis history. After a ruthless opening set from the 38-year-old Djokovic, Alcaraz flipped the match with relentless defense, sudden drop shots, and sharper attacking bursts, turning long rallies into pressure points that finally cracked the 10-time champion’s resistance late in the fourth.

The win made Alcaraz the youngest man to complete a career Grand Slam in the Open Era, adding Australian Open to titles he already owned at Wimbledon, the US Open, and the French Open. For Djokovic, the loss kept him tied with Margaret Court in the all-time major count and underscored the narrowing window against a new generation led by Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner. “I think you deserve some ovation,” Alcaraz told Djokovic, who replied simply: “Historic. Legendary.”



Photo: A full moon rises over the Simatai section of the Great Wall in February 2025 in Beijing  
Image Source: VCG/Getty Images/CNN

# Moonlit Artemis Moment

## NASA era meets night sky

### Charles Lewis

February’s snow moon is set to brighten skies this weekend, peaking at 5:09 p.m. ET Sunday and appearing especially striking as it rises low in the eastern sky near sunset, according to EarthSky. The moon will also look full on Saturday

and Monday, said Noah Petro of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, who urged observers to use the moment to study lunar geography as the Artemis program prepares for a new era of human flights. “Go out and look at it... and learn its geography,” Petro said. Named for the heavy winter snowfall often seen across North America, the February full moon also carries Indigenous names such as the Comanche “sleet moon,” the Creek “wind moon,” and the Shawnee “crow moon.” Skywatchers have more to anticipate in 2026, including a total lunar eclipse on March 3 and supermoons later in November and December.

### HIGHLIGHT

- Snow moon peaks Sunday at 5:09 p.m. ET
- Looks full Saturday through Monday
- NASA’s Artemis II could launch in February