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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Trump Immigration Push Backfires

Widespread public disapproval emerges amid aggressive deportation tactics

Alexandar Sullivan

President Donald Trump appears to be miscalculating public sentiment as his administration presses ahead with a robust immigration enforcement agenda, betting that aggressive measures against undocumented immigrants will shore up support. Instead, new data show mounting

HIGHLIGHT

- 62% of Americans disapproved of Trump's immigration handling, per June Gallup.

- 70% of independents voice disapproval; 45% strongly disapprove.

- 54% say ICE has "gone too far" (Marist); 59% of independents disapprove of deportation policy (Quinnipiac).

disapproval of both his handling of immigration and the surge in ICE operations. A Gallup survey conducted in June revealed that 62% of Americans disapproved of Trump's management of immigration, compared with 35% who approved—his lowest



Photo: Customs officers and National Guard troops face protesters with flashlights after an immigration raid at Glass House Farms, Camarillo, California, on July 10.
Image Source: Blake Fagan/AFP/Getty Images/CNN

score on the issue in his second term. Even more striking, 45% strongly disapproved, more than double the 21% who strongly approved. Support among independents also plummeted, with nearly 70% voicing disapproval. Additional polls by NPR-PBS-Marist and Quinnipiac confirmed the trend. Marist found 54% of respondents felt ICE had "gone too far," while Quinnipiac showed 59% disapproval for deportation policies

among independents. Pew Research revealed 54%–55% opposition to increased raids and expanded detention facility capacity. These figures come despite record-low border crossings and a steady drumbeat of high-profile ICE actions—such as raids on a legal marijuana farm in Ventura County that drew public protests. As Vice President JD Vance noted when advocating for congressionally approved ICE

expansion, immigration enforcement was so central to the Trump agenda that "everything else" became "immaterial." Yet, public opinion suggests the strategy may be backfiring. Gallup also found that Americans favoring mass deportation dropped from 47% last year to 38% now that enforcement is underway. Support for immigration overall increased to 79%, up from 64% last year.

This shift signals a deepening disconnect between the administration's hardline tactics and evolving public attitudes, which now appear more sympathetic to migrants even as enforcement intensifies. As the push for deportations continues, the Trump administration finds itself confronting not only legal and political opposition but a surprising wave of popular pushback as well.

Freedom Flotilla to Sail Soon

Civilian boat 'Handala' prepares Gaza-bound aid mission

John Paul

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition will launch its latest mission to Gaza this weekend with the departure of the aid vessel Handala. The boat will carry medical supplies, food, and a diverse civilian crew of activists, medics, journalists, and legal observers, all determined to challenge Israel's blockade. This marks the first Freedom Flotilla since 2018 and comes just weeks after Israeli forces seized the Madleen in international waters, detaining 12 unarmed volunteers including Greta Thunberg and MEP Rima Hassan. Named after a symbol of Palestinian resistance, Handala aims to spotlight the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and show solidarity with its besieged population. Organizers say the mission is peaceful but firm: "We are people acting where institutions have failed." Despite rising tensions and potential risks, the flotilla plans to sail forward—"for Gaza's children," and against silence.

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Tariffs and Opioids Collide

U.S. accuses China as Beijing tightens chemical controls

Lily Anderson

In a strategic shift, China recently added two fentanyl precursor chemicals and the powerful synthetic opioid class known as nitazenes to its list of controlled substances, aligning with international drug control conventions. The move follows U.S. President Donald Trump's imposition of 20% tariffs on all Chinese imports—justified by his administration as a response to China's alleged role in the deadly flow of fentanyl



Photo: Xi Jinping and Donald Trump walk during a 2017 state visit welcome ceremony in Beijing.
Image Source: Kyodo/Getty Images/CNN

into the United States. Chinese officials characterize the actions as evidence of "tremendous work" on drug control and a

willingness for "practical cooperation" with the U.S. A spokesperson emphasized in March that China opposes "pressuring, threatening

and blackmailing" under the pretext of fentanyl regulation. Still, analysts caution that Beijing's timing may reflect diplomatic calculus. Ryan Hass of Brookings noted that unless the U.S. acknowledges China's progress, potential cooperation could falter. Similarly, Vanda Felbab-Brown of Brookings called the move "clever maneuvering," suggesting China is leveraging enforcement steps to influence trade negotiations and tariff relief. The standoff highlights

emerging friction between narcotics control and global trade policy. With both nations signaling willingness to cooperate, the effectiveness of future collaboration may depend on reciprocity—especially if U.S. officials publicly acknowledge China's efforts in stemming the fentanyl crisis.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Officers Save Woman From Jumping Off The RFK Bridge

Staff Reporter

A dramatic rescue was captured on body camera footage as NYPD officers jump a concrete barrier and sprint to a woman's side just as she was climbing over the fence on the edge of the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge. Their actions saved the woman's life. The officers are sharing details about the rescue on the bridge formerly known as the Triborough. Within seconds, officers sprung into action pulling a woman off the fence on the RFK bridge in the middle of an attempt to jump. 'I just ran for my life like it was



a family member. It's a person crying for help. They need help in that moment,' said officer George Paulous. Police said the incident happened on June 19th

around 7 a.m. A 37-year-old woman's sister called 911 after discovering a suicide note detailing her plan to jump off the bridge. 'As we were approaching

the bridge, we saw a woman running who we originally thought was the woman in distress. Turned out it was her girlfriend. She was completely hysterical,' said officer Joseph Schultz. She helped officers track the woman who was heading toward the water. 'When we pulled up alongside her, that's when she started panicking and she started to climb the fence,' officer Thomas Marceda said. That's when 4 officers stepped in. 'She was just she was crying a lot and she was calling out for a girlfriend,' officer George Paulous said. 'We have training on de-escalation tactics and

whatnot. But in this situation, it's just such a split second decision, it's really more instinct,' officer Schultz said. After police were able to calm the woman down, she was taken to Lincoln Hospital for treatment. The officers aren't sure why the woman was in distress but they're thankful they were able to prevent a tragic outcome. 'Don't you ever give up hope. Listen, there's always someone out there to listen to you,' officer George Paulous said. If you or a loved one are in crisis and need someone to talk to, call or text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988.

Arrest Made After 2 men Killed In Sunset Park



NYN DESK

An arrest has been made after two men were struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver in Sunset Park, Brooklyn on Friday morning. It happened at Third Avenue and 52nd Street. The victims, 59 and 80 years old, were found on the road around 4:30 a.m. They were both pronounced dead at the scene. Surveillance video captured the car speeding southbound on Third Avenue before it hit the men, who appeared to not see the vehicle coming. One of the victims could be seen pulling a grocery cart and the other walked with a cane before they were struck. The car does not appear to brake before hitting the victims and speeding off.

Juventino Anastacio Florentino, 23, was arrested later Friday morning at his Staten Island home on a slew of charges, including manslaughter recklessly causing death, criminally negligent homicide, leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death, reckless driving and reckless endangerment. Florentino was arrested after police tracked the 2011 BMW 3 series sedan near the suspect's home using video and pieces of the car left at the scene. The victims were later identified as 80-year-old Kex Un Chen and 59-year-old Faqiu Lin. City Harvest released the following statement: 'We are deeply saddened by the tragic deaths of two individuals in Sunset Park this morning.

Queens Man Shot Dead On Residential Block

Staff Reporter

Queens detectives are searching for the suspect who shot and killed a man on a residential block early on Saturday morning. Police said the deadly shooting occurred at about 8:12 a.m. on July 12 near the corner of 110th Avenue and Liverpool Street in South Jamaica. Officers from the 103rd Precinct, in responding to a 911 call regarding an assault in the area, found the victim, a 41-year-old man, suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest. EMS rushed the victim to Jamaica Hospital, where he was pronounced dead a short time later. Police have not yet released the victim's identity, pending family notification. The motive for the shooting remains unknown at this time. Throughout Saturday morning, NYPD Crime Scene Unit members and detectives were seen scouring the area for evidence that could help them solve the homicide case. So far, no arrests have been made in the ongoing investigation, police said.

Bronx Teen Dies In Police Custody In Longwood



NYN DESK

An 18-year-old Bronx teenager who died in police custody early Saturday morning at the 41st Precinct on Longwood Avenue in Hunts Point, has been identified as Saniyah Cheatham, according to the NYPD. Officials said Cheatham was found unresponsive in her cell around 12:40 a.m. on July 5, prompting police to call for EMS to respond to the stationhouse. 'Multiple officers performed CPR while awaiting EMS response,' the NYPD said in a statement. Emergency medical services rushed the teen to Lincoln Hospital, but she was pronounced dead by medical staff. Officials said the NYPD's Force Investigation Division is handling the investigation into Cheatham's death. Authorities have yet to release the medical examiner's

findings or publicly identify the reason for Cheatham's arrest, although CBS News New York reported that the teen was taken into custody for fighting. Videos and photos also revealed that hours before she was arrested, Cheatham was celebrating Independence Day at a cookout with family and friends in Crotona Park. Cheatham's mother, Thomasina Cheatham, mourned her daughter's death on Facebook Wednesday. She asked friends and family to take a moment of silence for the young woman. The New York Times reported Tuesday that law enforcement officials with knowledge of Cheatham's death said that the young woman killed herself in her cell shortly after her arrest, using her sweater to hang herself. NYPD officials did not respond to the Bronx Times questions about Cheatham's manner of death.

Self-Driving Taxis Being Tested In NYC

Staff Reporter

Although we still have some time before we see driverless cars in every city, testing has already begun on New York City streets. As shared in a post on X by Waymo, a driverless rideshare service, the company has begun testing in the city. 'We're on the move in the Big Apple! We've begun testing



in New York — be sure to give us a wave and snap a pic if you see us in the city,' the post stated. Waymo, which is owned by Google

parent company Alphabet, has begun mapping out city streets with drivers remaining behind the wheel due to state restrictions, according to a report by the New York Post. A spokesperson for the city Department of Transportation reportedly told the Post that Waymo submitted its DOT application in June. Until there is a change in the law, however,

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:01	01:02	05:00	08:26	10:02
04:02	01:02	05:00	08:26	10:01
04:04	01:02	05:00	08:25	10:00
04:05	01:02	05:00	08:24	09:59
04:06	01:02	05:00	08:24	09:58
04:07	01:02	05:00	08:23	09:57
04:08	01:02	05:00	08:22	09:56

OPINION

Racism is America's Original Sin

Imam Shamsi Ali

There's an evident paradox in America. On one hand, we pride ourselves on being champions of human rights, justice, and equality, promoting these values globally. On the other hand, we're witnessing a dark chapter in our nation's history. The Trump administration's policies towards immigrants, particularly Hispanics and non-Whites, are a stark example of cruelty and racist behaviors of the Trump administration. Additionally, the Trump administration efforts to suppress pro-Palestinian voices on American campuses are also evidence of high and systemic racism under the Trump administration. As a member of a minority community, this treatment of the administration doesn't surprise me or many others. However, I've long defended America, arguing that racial profiling cases don't represent the nation's true face. I admire the Constitution and universal values America promotes worldwide. The Roots of Racism I've previously stated that the "sickness of racism"

in America could be considered its original sin. Racism isn't a new phenomenon; it's been part of America's history since the very beginning. The real Native Americans, known today as "Indians" were the original inhabitants of this land. All others, including European immigrants, are immigrants and have no right to claim to be the "native/real) Americans. History tells us that when Europeans arrived, they were welcomed by Native Americans, who even celebrated Thanksgiving together. However, this celebration shifted to commemorate European immigrants dominance over Native Americans, leading to their marginalization and virtual annihilation. African Americans, brought to



— Imam Shamsi Ali : Director of Jamaica Muslim Center

this country through slavery, have faced similar injustices and discriminatory treatment. This mistreatment has continued throughout history, from the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King Jr. to the present day. Japanese Americans were treated poorly after World War II. Today, Hispanic, Asian, and particularly Muslim communities are deeply facing discrimination and different forms of mistreatment. The Current Reality The election of the current administration has certainly emboldened racists and anti-non-Whites, leading to a rise in White Supremacy and White Nationalism. Islamophobia and hate against minority. Mistreatments of Muslims

are not new and have a long history in America, predating 9/11 in 2001 and beyond. Our Shared Responsibility The current climate under the Trump administration should remind us of our shared responsibility to address racism and injustice. Remember, justice is equivalent to life itself, and living with injustices is death. Racism is equivalent to the devil, and we must rise and fight against it collectively. All Americans must stand up against racism and defend their Constitution and values. Leaders have a moral obligation and constitutional responsibility to ensure justice and equality. We need courage and honesty to address this societal sickness. Despite the challenges, I remain confident in America's greatness and beauty. By upholding highly our Constitution and values we all proud of, will enable us give us ti create a better America. And with our collective efforts and determination, we can overcome the darkness of racism and build a brighter future for all.

“

“Racism is equivalent to the devil, and we must rise and fight against it collectively.”



“

“The sickness of racism in America could be considered its original sin.”

Image Source: Sojourners/sojo.net

Quality Education: A Sacred Obligation and Global Goal

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah

Education is not merely a human right—it is a divine responsibility, a trust from Allah, and the bedrock of every civilized and moral society. This is why Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4)—which aims to ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all—must be seen as both a global mission and a spiritual calling. In Islam, the pursuit of knowledge holds a revered position. The first command revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was “Iqra”—Read. It was not a call to wealth or power, but to learning. Our beloved Prophet ﷺ declared, “Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim—male and female.” Knowledge is light, and ignorance

is darkness. Where education flourishes, justice, dignity, and peace follow. Yet, despite global progress, millions of children around the world are still denied access to basic education, especially in regions affected by poverty, conflict, and displacement. Girls, refugees, and rural children suffer the most. This is not just an educational crisis—it is a moral failure. As Muslims, we are called to be leaders in uplifting society. Our mosques, madrasas, and



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

community centers must become hubs of learning and enlightenment. We must invest in teachers, books, libraries, and digital tools. Supporting quality education is not charity—it is justice, and it is sadaqah jariyah, a legacy that benefits generations. If we want to build a peaceful and prosperous world, we must begin with classrooms. Let us rise to support every child's right to learn, to think, and to contribute to humanity. A literate, curious, and compassionate child is our greatest hope for the

future.



EDUCATION

Nature and Play Unite

Elhaam Academy Summer Camp Brings Joy to Captain Tilly Park

Jessica Morgan

Laughter, learning, and sunshine filled the air as students from Elhaam Academy Summer Camp 2025 took a field trip to Captain Tilly Park for a day of nature exploration and outdoor fun. Guided by the dedicated team at Save the People (STP) USA, the visit offered young learners a refreshing mix of environmental education and joyful play. Nestled in the heart of Queens, Captain Tilly Park provided the perfect setting for an engaging summer outing. With shaded paths, grassy lawns, and tall trees standing like gentle guardians, the park offered a natural classroom where students could connect with the environment in a hands-on way.



Children excitedly examined tree bark, identified leaves, and marveled at the quiet beauty of nature—all while asking curious questions and soaking up the knowledge being shared. Beyond the nature lessons, the day also included plenty of

play. Students brought toys and games, transforming open areas into hubs of imagination and activity. The joy of running freely outdoors, unburdened by walls or screens, was evident in every smile and shout of excitement. For many of the children, this experience was a

welcome reminder of how summer can be both educational and deeply joyful. The partnership between Elhaam Academy and Save the People USA played a central role in the success of the outing. STP's ongoing commitment to youth development and

community enrichment was reflected in the care and planning put into the day. Staff and volunteers ensured that every student felt safe, supported, and encouraged to participate in both the learning and the laughter. As a part of Elhaam Academy's broader summer camp curriculum, the trip to

Captain Tilly Park was more than just a break from routine—it was a way to teach children about environmental awareness, teamwork, and the importance of spending time outdoors. These small but powerful experiences help lay the foundation for a well-rounded, community-conscious education. With a full day of learning, laughter, and exploration behind them, students left the park with happy hearts and newfound appreciation for the world around them. In an age where digital distractions often dominate, moments like these offer a gentle but important lesson: sometimes, the best classroom is under a tree, with friends by your side and wonder all around.



HERITAGE

Heritage, Hope, and Hard Truths

Mayor Adams Highlights Jewish Contributions and Confronts Rising Intolerance



Patt Cummins

Mayor Eric Adams, speaking at a warm midday reception for the city's Jewish community, delivered a stirring message of solidarity and resistance at Gracie Mansion on July 8, 2025. The mayor's remarks addressed the rising tide of antisemitism and reaffirmed New York's commitment to creating a city where every religious and cultural community not only belongs—but thrives.

Adams opened by saluting his administration—particularly First Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro and Chief of Staff Camille Joseph Varlack—for their dedication to building a city “where all can raise healthy children and families.” Citing a childhood science lesson, he compared gradual societal tolerance of hate to a frog boiling in warming water: “We have turned the antisemitism degree up one degree

at a time... the heat of antisemitism has gotten too hot... So I'm here to turn off the flame, to get the frog out of the pot,” Adams declared, calling on New Yorkers to resist incremental normalization of bigotry. Highlighting the enduring bonds between Black and Jewish communities, Adams recalled Jewish support during the Civil Rights movement. He honored Julius Rosenwald, who funded thousands of schools for Black

students in the Deep South, and applauded Jewish students who joined protests during the Mississippi riots: “I do it because when Dr. King needed allies to march next to him, he found those allies in the Jewish community,” he remarked. For Adams—an African American himself—fostering unity against hate is deeply personal. Addressing recent concerns within the Jewish community about safety, Adams declared, “We will run no more. We will stay and fight for the city that we

as with all groups in this city.” He extended the message to all marginalized communities, citing Sikhs, Asian Americans, and Muslim women who wear hijabs, asserting that New York must be a sanctuary where everyone is protected. He emphasized equitable treatment—whether a limo passenger or driver—calling on elected officials to use taxes for services and fairness, not discrimination. In a social media post following the event, Mayor Adams added: “So proud to welcome our Jewish community to Gracie Mansion last night to celebrate their heritage, religion, and contributions to our great city. Our administration is proud to stand with them, and we've proven it through action and solidarity in tough times.” Guests at the reception hailed the mayor's remarks as a timely reaffirmation of New York's diversity and resilience. Many praised his moral clarity

and acknowledgment of the city's richest tapestry of cultures and faiths. The atmosphere was both celebratory and determined; Mayor Adams emphasized that honoring heritage and confronting prejudice need not be separate endeavours. By celebrating the contributions of over one million Jewish New Yorkers and recommitting to interfaith and intercultural respect, the reception served as a testament to both remembrance and resolve. In Adams' words, New York must be a place where every community can define and worship itself without fear—where unity is reflected not only in words, but in conscious governance and action. As New York continues to confront rising intolerance, Mayor Adams' address at the Jewish Heritage Reception made it clear: this is a city that chooses courage over fear, solidarity over indifference, and collective responsibility over division.



NYC Office of the Mayor

love.” He underscored that New York, home to the largest Jewish population outside Israel, must remain a place where people can wear a Star of David or yarmulke—and walk a city street—without fear. “This city belongs to you



YOUTH

Investing in Youth, Investing in Tomorrow

Save the People USA Kicks Off Summer Engagement with Orientation



James Anderson

In a strong show of commitment to youth empowerment and local engagement, Save the People USA, in collaboration with the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), officially kicked off its Summer Youth Program with an in-person orientation on July 7, 2025, in Jamaica,

Queens. The session marked the beginning of a purposeful summer dedicated to civic service, skill-building, and leadership development. The orientation was led by Fatima Z. Niass, Office Manager of Save the People USA, who walked participants through a detailed overview of the organization's mission and the critical

roles youth will play throughout the summer. Volunteers will be supporting projects in key areas, including community outreach, food drives, assisting with Elhaam Academy classes, and helping coordinate events like the Project Management Bootcamp. The program also includes hands-on learning in professional teamwork and planning, reflecting the

organization's belief that young people can—and should—lead change. Dr. Rev. T.K. Nakagaki, a respected interfaith leader and peace advocate, was a special guest at the event. He offered thoughtful reflections on how to be an effective intern, encouraging participants to lead with respect, dedication, and self-awareness. His interfaith message underscored

and CEO of Save the People USA, also delivered an uplifting address. He reinforced the organization's values of compassion, responsibility, and service, and reminded the youth that their work is part of something much larger—a movement to improve their community through action, not just words. Participants were

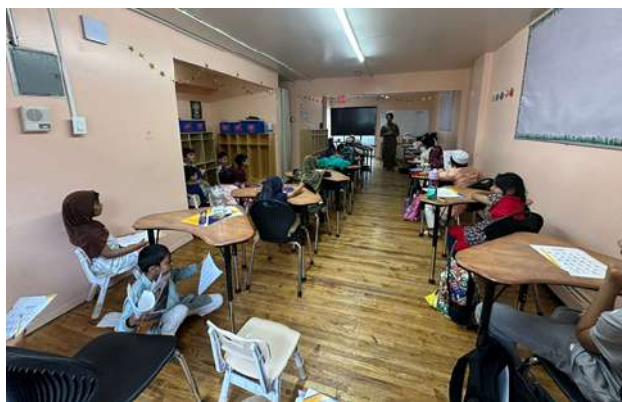
also guided through a thoughtful icebreaker activity, encouraging them to reflect on the meaning behind their names and share something they value about themselves. This small exercise served a larger purpose: to build community and self-awareness at the very start of the program. The orientation laid a foundation of purpose, clarity, and motivation. As the participants embark on their journey, the message is clear: their voices, ideas, and actions matter. With continued support from mentors and a clear path of opportunities ahead, these young changemakers are poised to leave a lasting impact—not just on their neighborhoods, but on their own futures as well.



the organization's broader commitment to inclusivity and collaboration. Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, Founder

Participants were also guided through a thoughtful icebreaker activity, encouraging them to reflect on the meaning behind their names and share something they value about themselves. This small exercise served a larger purpose: to build community and self-awareness at the very start of the program.

The orientation covered key expectations around professionalism, communication, punctuality, and collaboration. Youth



JUSTICE

A Historic Night for Justice

Dr. Pandor's Keynote Address at Muslim Network TV Benefit Draws Attention to Palestinian Genocide



Emily Parker

The community in New York City gathered on Friday, July 11, 2025, to honor Her Excellency Dr. Pandor, former Foreign Minister of South Africa, for her bold and courageous stand against the genocide in Palestine. Dr. Pandor, who has become a

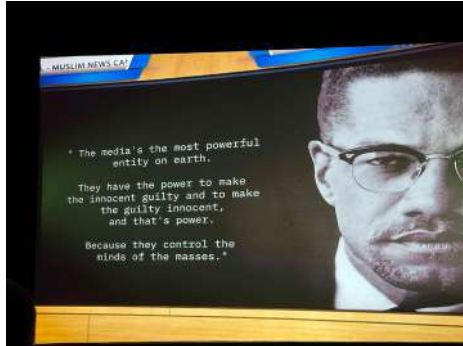
globally recognized figure for her unwavering commitment to justice, made history when she led South Africa in suing Israel for its actions against Palestinians in the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Her actions, unshaken by the indifference of many world leaders, continue to inspire people around

the world, particularly within the Muslim community. Dr. Pandor's speech at the Muslim Network TV (MNTV) benefit event was a powerful reminder of the moral responsibility

that individuals and governments have to stand up for those whose voices have been silenced. As the keynote speaker, Dr. Pandor shared insights into South Africa's decision to take Israel to the ICJ, drawing attention to the international community's failure to hold Israel accountable for its actions and underscoring the importance of taking a legal stand on behalf of the Palestinian people. The event, held at the Marriott LaGuardia Airport in East Elmhurst, NY, was a testament to the tireless efforts

the importance of MNTV's work, highlighted the network's role in amplifying critical voices and providing a space for meaningful dialogue on issues affecting the Muslim world. For many attendees, the event was not just a night of recognition, but a call to action. The sense of solidarity was palpable as Muslim Network TV continues to grow as a critical voice in the fight for justice. Community members from all walks of life came together to honor Dr. Pandor, recognizing her leadership not only as a former foreign minister but as a beacon of hope for those advocating for Palestinian rights. The evening's tone was both somber and empowering. Guests listened intently as Dr. Pandor spoke about the challenges faced by those advocating for Palestinian rights and the broader struggle

for justice in the face of global indifference. Her message was clear: it is not enough to watch from the sidelines; we must stand up and demand justice for those who are being wronged. As the night unfolded, attendees reflected on Dr. Pandor's legacy and the significant role that solidarity and awareness play in supporting justice worldwide. The event ended with a sense of renewed purpose, urging everyone present to continue the fight for Palestinian rights and human dignity. By standing alongside Dr. Pandor and recognizing her bold actions, the event marked a significant moment for both the Muslim community and the global fight for justice. This historic night in New York was not just about honoring a leader; it was about continuing the fight for justice, human rights, and the dignity of all people.



LEADERSHIP

Empowering Future Leaders in the Community

PMP Bootcamp Helps Participants Master Project Management Skills



Christopher Scott

A unique opportunity to build leadership and project management skills for professionals in community and non-profit sectors recently took place in Jamaica, NY, at Darul Uloom. On July 12–13, 2025, the PMP Bootcamp successfully trained a diverse group of professionals in the essential skills of project management, helping them better serve their organizations and communities. The two-day intensive event was offered free of charge, thanks to the collaboration between Save The People USA, UMR, and Darul Uloom. With



project management expertise in high demand across various sectors, including charity organizations, religious institutions, and non-profits, the bootcamp offered an invaluable opportunity for attendees looking to sharpen their leadership abilities and improve their work in mission-driven environments. Held on July 12 from 8 AM to 5 PM and July 13 from 8 AM to 12:30 PM, the bootcamp was led by Dr. Khaled Falah, a seasoned leader and educator with extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. Dr. Falah, a

Chief Information Officer with numerous federal certifications, brought a wealth of knowledge to the classroom, providing practical insights and strategies that attendees could apply immediately within their communities and careers. The program covered the five essential domains of project management: initiating, planning, executing, monitoring and controlling, and closing. These principles are vital not only for traditional business settings but also for the non-profit and community-focused sectors, where

successful project management can significantly improve an organization's ability to make a lasting impact. Participants learned how to manage resources, ensure projects meet deadlines, and align efforts with organizational goals—all critical aspects of running successful community programs. Attendees, including individuals from local mosques and religious schools, found the content particularly useful for their specific contexts. They learned how to navigate the challenges unique to non-profit organizations and religious institutions, such as resource constraints and the need for clear, actionable planning to meet the needs of their communities. As the bootcamp progressed, participants were actively engaged, asking questions, and collaborating on real-world case studies to further understand how to apply the knowledge gained. The event's structure was designed to be both educational and interactive, offering attendees the chance to practice key concepts in project management through group exercises and discussions. The event also provided attendees with meals, including a light

dinner on July 12 and an intercontinental breakfast on July 13, adding a layer of hospitality to an already enriching experience. As they worked through the day's sessions, participants shared their enthusiasm for the skills they were acquiring, expressing excitement about applying these strategies in their organizations. The final ceremony, held on July 13, marked a celebratory close to the two-day course. Distinguished guests including Mohiuddin Saleh, Chief Operating Officer of UMR; Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People USA; Kelly Watts, Executive Director of Save the People USA; and Barkatullah, President of Darul Uloom, were in attendance. Their presence underscored the importance of the program and the collaborative efforts that made it possible. During the ceremony, participants were awarded completion certificates, recognizing their commitment to learning and leadership. The PMP Bootcamp not only equipped participants with essential project management tools but also strengthened the sense of community among attendees. For

many, the event was an inspiring reminder of the power of education in empowering individuals to create change in their communities. As a result, the PMP Bootcamp is seen as a significant step forward in helping local organizations grow, achieve their goals, and continue making a meaningful impact on the communities they serve. The event, spearheaded by Save The People USA, played a pivotal role in offering much-needed education to individuals who might otherwise have had limited access to professional development opportunities. The success of the bootcamp stands as a reminder of the importance of investing in the growth and development of community leaders, and it is clear that initiatives like this can be transformative for those working to serve others. As the bootcamp concluded, participants left with newfound skills, greater confidence, and a renewed sense of purpose in their work. This event marked an important milestone in empowering community leaders, and the organizers hope to continue offering such opportunities in the future.



LEADERSHIP

Empowering Future Leaders in the Community



SOCIAL SERVICE

Community Care in Action

Food, Fresh Produce, and Purpose at Local Drive



for mental health and youth empowerment, whose presence underscored the interconnected nature of community well-being—emphasizing that food security is foundational to both physical and emotional stability. Kelly Watts, Executive Director of Save the People USA, was also present and instrumental in the event's success. Under his leadership, the organization continues to deliver tangible support where it's needed most. Events like this not only provide essential goods but also reinforce the organization's broader mission: building sustainable, inclusive support systems within underserved communities. The partnership with MetCouncil, a major player in the city's food

justice landscape, amplified the scale and reach of the effort. Their involvement reflects a shared commitment to combatting hunger and empowering neighborhoods from the ground up. As food boxes were loaded into carts and arms, smiles exchanged between volunteers and recipients said everything about the spirit of the day. It wasn't just about rice or vegetables—it was about being seen, supported, and remembered. And as the clouds eventually parted and the threat of rain diminished, the sense of accomplishment remained. For the organizers, the day closed not with exhaustion but with hope—hope that such initiatives continue, grow, and inspire others. In a time marked by rising costs and widespread food insecurity, the message was clear: community-driven solutions are not only possible—they're happening. As the final boxes were handed out and volunteers began to pack up, the echoes of shared service lingered in the air. The event was a reminder that even when the sky threatens storms, a committed community can deliver sunshine.

Ashley Reed

Despite looming thunderstorm forecasts, the atmosphere was nothing short of uplifting as Save the People USA, in collaboration with MetCouncil, hosted a vibrant summer food distribution event. The drive, aimed at supporting food-insecure families, demonstrated how unity and care can transcend even the most unpredictable of forecasts. Held in the heart of the

community, the event was a clear reflection of compassion in action. Essential food staples—white rice, cooking oil, canned corn and peas, fresh yellow peppers, and carrots—were distributed to local families, easing the burdens faced by many during the summer months. Volunteers and interns braved the humid air and grey skies to ensure the smooth delivery of every package, showing that service knows no

weather. Interns from the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) played a key role in executing the event, embodying the power of youth engagement in community work. Their energy, focus, and teamwork were felt throughout the afternoon, from setup to clean-up, reinforcing the importance of fostering civic responsibility at an early age. Among those on hand was Philip Falayi, a

longtime advocate



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Drive-By Shooting Claims Life in Queens

41-year-old man killed in broad daylight in South Jamaica

Amkel Norush

A 41-year-old man was fatally shot in an apparent drive-by early Saturday morning in South Jamaica, shaking residents of the normally quiet neighborhood. The incident occurred around 8:12 a.m. near the intersection of 110th Avenue and Liverpool Street, according to NYPD reports. Responding to a 911 call, officers from the 103rd Precinct found the victim, later identified as Dwayne Belfield of East 27th Street, Brooklyn, with a gunshot wound to the chest. He was rushed to Jamaica



Photo: Queens detectives search for a suspect in a deadly July 12 shooting. Image Source: Lloyd Mitchell

Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Witnesses reported

seeing a dark-colored BMW slow down before shots rang out from the back window, striking Belfield. Shell casings

HIGHLIGHT

●Victim identified as Dwayne Belfield of Brooklyn

●Suspect believed to have fired from a dark-colored BMW

●NYPD's 103rd Precinct leading ongoing investigation

●Shell casings found across block and patios

were recovered across the block, even landing on nearby patios. "It sounded like pew pew pew—multiple shots," said a resident. "We have kids here. We don't want this kind of thing." No arrests have been made, and authorities are asking anyone with information to contact Crime Stoppers. The NYPD is reviewing surveillance footage as part of the ongoing investigation. This marks the latest in a string of shootings that has left communities in Queens grappling with rising concerns about gun violence.

Herzog Hosts European Faith Leaders

Interfaith delegation sparks hope—and backlash

Nassr Al Shams

In a rare moment of interfaith outreach, Israeli President Isaac Herzog hosted 15 Muslim imams and scholars from across Europe at his official residence in Jerusalem. The delegation, hailing from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, the UK, and Spain, aimed to promote dialogue, denounce extremism, and underscore common values between Muslims and Jews.

A striking moment occurred when Imam Youssef Msibih, a Dutch religious leader, recited Israel's national anthem, 'Hatikva,' in a style reminiscent of Islamic prayer, prompting applause and spontaneous dancing from Herzog and others present. Herzog praised the act as a "sign of moral courage," urging the visitors to return home as "ambassadors of peace." However, the meeting was swiftly met with

HIGHLIGHT

●One imam sang 'Hatikva' in a prayer style, prompting Herzog to dance and applaud

●Visit aimed at promoting peace and rejecting extremism

●Sharp backlash followed, including dismissal of a Dutch imam

criticism from several Muslim institutions. Al-Azhar and the



Photo: President Isaac Herzog meets with Muslim leaders at the President's Residence in Jerusalem. Image Source: Amos Ben-Gershom (GPO)/The Jerusalem Post

European Council of Imams denounced

the visit, citing Israel's military operations

in Gaza. Msibih was later dismissed from his position at the Bilal Mosque in Alkmaar, after footage of the anthem performance went viral. While some praised the outreach, others viewed it as undermining Palestinian suffering amid the conflict. The controversy highlights ongoing divisions in how religious diplomacy is received during times of war, especially within communities seeking accountability and justice.



Messi Breaks Another MLS Record

Two-goal performance lifts Inter Miami over Nashville

Adrian Smith

Lionel Messi continued his historic Major League Soccer campaign Saturday, scoring both goals in Inter Miami's 2-1 win over Nashville SC, and becoming the first player in MLS history to score multiple goals in five consecutive league games. Messi's first goal came in the 17th minute, a clinical low free kick that slipped through a gap in Nashville's defensive wall and beat goalkeeper Joe Willis at the far post. The visitors responded early in the second half when Hany Mukhtar nodded in a perfect cross from Andy Najar, leveling the score. But just ten minutes later, Messi capitalized on a critical error by Willis, who passed the ball directly



Photo: Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring. Image Source: Leonardo Fernandez/Getty Images

to the Argentine. Messi calmly dribbled around him and tapped in what would become the match-winner. Messi now has 16 goals this season—10 of them in

his last five matches—and is currently tied with Sam Surridge for the league lead. The two-goal outing also pushed Miami to its fifth straight victory, while snapping Nashville's 15-game unbeaten streak, the longest in the league this season. "There are not many words," said Miami head coach Javier Mascherano. "He's our flag, our leader, and the one who shows us how to compete." Miami sits fifth in the East, with three games in hand, putting them in striking distance of the top. Not since 2012, during his time with Barcelona, has Messi achieved five consecutive league games with two or more goals—now repeating that feat in MLS, further cementing his legacy on American soil.