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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Pokrovsk Faces New Threat

Russian forces change tactics in push toward key Ukrainian city

Lily Anderson

A surreal convoy of Russian troops riding mopeds, pickup trucks, and makeshift buggies moving through fog outside Pokrovsk illustrates a stark shift in Russia's battlefield tactics in eastern Ukraine. As the city teeters on the brink of capture, military analysts say the tactics mirror a broader evolution in Russia's war strategy. Unlike the grinding,

HIGHLIGHT

●Russian troops near Pokrovsk now using mopeds, buggies, and small assault teams

●Shift from frontal assaults to covert infiltration due to drone proliferation

●Ukrainian medical evacuations near impossible under constant surveillance

●Battle seen as symbolic after Bakhmut, despite diminished strategic value

●Casualties high; over 1.1 million Russian losses since February 2022

frontal "meat grinder" assaults seen in Bakhmut, Russian forces near Pokrovsk are deploying smaller units—often in groups of three—relying on stealth and mobility to bypass Ukraine's drone-dominated front lines. A Ukrainian soldier from the 129th Brigade said these new methods were "unexpected but logical" in the era of constant aerial surveillance. Experts, including Mason Clark of the Institute for the Study of War, note the aim is no longer block-by-block urban warfare, but to encircle Ukrainian troops and cut supply lines—a strategy evident in Russia's slow push from Avdiivka in early 2024. Inside Pokrovsk, evacuation has become nearly impossible. A combat medic told CNN that wounded troops often cannot be reached for days due to drone threats. Even unmanned armored vehicles used for rescue efforts draw Russian fire. Despite reduced strategic value, Pokrovsk remains symbolically critical. As Ukraine's hold weakens, the city's fall would mark Russia's largest capture since May 2023 and a potent statement of persistence—and adaptation.



Photo: President Trump speaks to reporters aboard Air Force One en route from Washington to West Palm Beach, Nov. 14, 2025. Image Source: Roberto Schmidt / Getty Images

White House Eyes Maduro

Trump reviews military options as tensions rise with Venezuela

Alexandar Sullivan

President Donald Trump has signaled he may have reached a decision regarding military action in Venezuela, following a week of extensive briefings and a dramatic US military buildup in the region. "I sort of have made up my mind — yeah," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on Friday, declining to elaborate further. Trump met this week with top national security officials, including Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State

HIGHLIGHT

●15,000 US troops and over a dozen warships positioned in the Caribbean

●Options include airstrikes or regime change targeting President Nicolás Maduro

●Risks include backlash, long-term conflict, and political fallout

Marco Rubio, to assess options for confronting

President Nicolás Maduro's regime. Potential scenarios include airstrikes on government targets or drug-trafficking routes, or even an attempt at regime change. Meanwhile, the US military has deployed over 15,000 troops and more than a dozen warships, including the USS Gerald R. Ford, to the Caribbean under Operation Southern Spear. Ten F-35 jets have also been stationed in Puerto Rico, signaling heightened readiness. Despite the buildup, Trump has privately

expressed caution about long-term involvement, wary of risking US lives or facing a failed campaign. Critics within his own party have also warned against foreign entanglements. Maduro, speaking from Caracas, warned a US strike could become "another Gaza" or "Vietnam again." His government is reportedly launching a major mobilization in response. While Trump's final move remains unclear, the scale of activity on both sides signals a potentially volatile chapter in US-Venezuela relations.

Belonging Shaken by Shifting Immigration Rules

Policy shifts have turned citizenship from a symbol of belonging into a source of worry.

John Paul

For many naturalized Americans, the path to citizenship once symbolized stability, protection and a lasting bond with their adopted home. But under President Donald Trump's recent reshaping of immigration policy, that confidence has begun to erode. Dauda Sesay, a former refugee from Sierra Leone who arrived more than 15 years ago, said he believed



Photo: Woman clutches a U.S. flag before taking the oath of citizenship in San Antonio. Image Source: AP Photo/Eric Gay, File

he "belonged" the day he took the oath. Now, he carries his passport everywhere, even for

domestic travel. The unease has grown amid reports of U.S. citizens being

questioned or briefly detained by federal immigration agents, as well as roundups in cities like Chicago and New York that mistakenly swept up Americans. A Justice Department memo issued this summer outlining heightened efforts to denaturalize individuals who committed certain crimes or pose national security risks has amplified those fears. Even high-profile figures such as Zohran

HIGHLIGHT

●Naturalized citizens report fear amid efforts to expand deportations and review citizenship cases.

Mamdani, 34, the mayor-elect of New York City, were publicly threatened with losing citizenship. Community advocates say the anxiety is palpable. New Mexico state Sen. Cindy Nava

noted she has "never seen these folks be afraid" until now. For Sesay, the shift feels like a profound breach. "Honestly," he said, "that is not the America I believe in when I put my hand over my heart."

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Imam Al-Hajj Talib 'Abdur-Rashid: A Legacy of Faith, Justice, and African-American Muslim Leadership Page-03

COMMUNITY NEWS

Queens mourns FDNY firefighter Patrick Brady



NYN Desk

Thousands lined the streets of Belle Harbor on Saturday to honor FDNY Firefighter Patrick Brady, the beloved "King of the Rockaways," who died at 42 after suffering cardiac

arrest while battling a fire in Brownsville. His coffin, carried atop a fire truck, arrived at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, where he was posthumously promoted to lieutenant, prompting a standing ovation from mourners. Fire Commissioner Robert Tucker praised Brady's unwavering devotion to both his job and community, calling him "the center" of the tight-knit seaside neighborhood. Emotional tributes from family, friends, and fellow firefighters highlighted Brady's legendary humor, love of Shark Week,



Photo: First Deputy Mayor Randy Maestro and NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch, were also in the crowd of thousands. Image Source: James Keivom/ Online

and the countless friendships he nurtured. Brady's widow, Kara Yankay, was comforted by family and firefighters as stories of the 11-year veteran's generosity and dedication filled the church. Colleagues remembered him as an exceptional "roof man," a role requiring immense skill and courage. Brady's sudden death marked the second FDNY line-of-duty loss in two weeks, deepening the department's grief as New Yorkers mourn a firefighter whose spirit, loved ones said, "will always be alive and well."

Police Shootout Rocks Upper East Side



Photo: NYPD officers and detectives investigate a police involved shooting on Madison Ave. near E. 95th St. on Thursday night. Image Source: Barry Williams/ New York Daily News; NYPD

Staff Reporter

An intense police shootout rattled East 96th Street and Madison Avenue in Manhattan's Upper East Side on Thursday afternoon, leaving an armed suspect critically injured and the

neighborhood temporarily closed off amid heavy police activity. The incident began around 2:42 p.m., when an armed individual allegedly fired at people and responding officers, according to NYPD reports. The chaos unfolded

rapidly as the suspect circled the area before being shot by police near East 106th Street, as reported by CBS News. Authorities responded swiftly, securing the area and transporting the injured man to Mount Sinai Hospital, where he remains in critical condition but is expected to survive, according to ABC News. The NYPD issued a public advisory urging people to avoid the vicinity of East 96th Street and Madison Avenue, citing ongoing police operations. Traffic and pedestrian activity were significantly disrupted as investigators processed the scene. While no bystanders were reported injured, the confrontation has reignited concerns over public safety in one of the city's busiest neighborhoods. Police continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

Staten Island Detective Arrested Again



Photo: Anthony Sciortino, 35. Image Source: Daily News

Community Desk

Anthony Sciortino, a 36-year-old NYPD detective from Staten Island, was arrested again on Thursday morning, renewing concerns surrounding his alleged stockpile of illegal firearms. Police say Sciortino was taken into custody around 8:20 a.m. on the North Shore and charged with attempted criminal purchase or disposal of a weapon. The arrest comes less than a year after investigators

raided his Princes Bay home in November 2024, recovering 19 unregistered guns, including four untraceable ghost guns, according to court records. In that case, Sciortino was indicted on 17 counts, including manufacturing a machine gun and rapid-fire modification devices. At the time, Staten Island District Attorney Michael McMahon accused the detective of "deceitfully" amassing a "small army's worth" of illegal weapons, warning that ghost guns are "incredibly difficult to track." Prosecutors also alleged Sciortino falsified reports and misused NYPD databases. Sciortino, an NYPD member since 2011, has a disciplinary record that includes multiple substantiated civilian complaints and several lawsuits alleging misconduct. He has been suspended without pay since his initial arrest. He pleaded not guilty Thursday and was released on his own recognizance. His next court appearance is scheduled for Nov. 25.

Red Hook congregation celebrates 170 years of community strength.

Senior Reporter

The Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Red Hook, Brooklyn, celebrated its 170th anniversary on Sunday, honoring a legacy shaped by immigration, hardship, and unwavering faith. Founded in 1854 by Irish, German, and Italian laborers, the parish has survived a devastating 1896 fire, the 2008 financial crisis, Hurricane Sandy, and the COVID-19 pandemic—emerging each time as a stronger community anchor. Pastor Father Claudio Antecini, who arrived in 2010 to a dwindling congregation and a \$400,000 debt, helped steer the church back to stability. He donated his salary, expanded outreach programs, and rebuilt parish life, growing attendance from 70 to roughly 400



Photo: The interior of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary church in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Image Source: (Emma Seiwel / New York Daily News)

worshippers. "The church is a landmark of freedom," he said, recalling how its clock tower once signaled hope to immigrants arriving by sea. During Hurricane Sandy, the parish became a lifeline, operating as a shelter and resource hub despite its own flood damage. In the

pandemic, the church again provided food and support to struggling families, many of them immigrants. On Sunday evening, parishioners and neighbors gathered for music, food, and celebration—a tribute to what Antecini calls "an amazing gift we have received in 170 years."

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:26	11:41	02:16	04:36	05:55
05:27	11:41	02:15	04:35	05:55
05:28	11:41	02:15	04:35	05:54
05:29	11:42	02:14	04:34	05:53
05:30	11:42	02:14	04:33	05:53
05:31	11:42	02:13	04:33	05:53
05:32	11:42	02:13	04:32	05:52

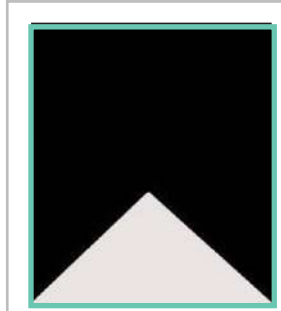
OPINION

Imam Talib ‘Abdur-Rashid — A Beacon of Justice, Faith, and Community Leadership

— Imam A Mokit, Imam Z. Ali, Imam Azeem

Imam Al-Hajj Talib ‘Abdur-Rashid remains one of the most significant African-American Muslim leaders of his era—an imam, chaplain, teacher, and community builder whose work bridged the sacred and the social, the spiritual and the political. As the Senior Imam of the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood (MIB) in Harlem for more than three decades, he embodied a tradition of Islamic leadership rooted in prophetic ethics, Malcolm X’s legacy, and the lived realities of Black America. His life’s story is one of spiritual awakening, community service, brave activism, and unwavering dedication to justice. Born in 1951 in Greensboro, North Carolina, Talib ‘Abdur-Rashid came of age during a time of social and political upheaval. When his family moved to the South Bronx in 1959, he entered an environment marked by both urban struggle and rising cultural consciousness. The Civil Rights Movement, Black Power, Pan-African thought, artistic revolution, and anti-war activism shaped his worldview from an early age. These forces planted seeds of curiosity, identity, and purpose that would later blossom into a lifelong commitment to Islam and social justice. His transformation began in his teenage years when he encountered *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, a book that profoundly changed thousands of young African-American lives. Malcolm’s journey—from street life to spiritual rebirth—illuminated for the young Talib a vision of Islam that spoke to dignity, discipline, strength, and liberation. Inspired, he began exploring the religion more deeply. In 1971, after reading *The Elementary Teachings of Islam*, he officially embraced Islam. This step marked the beginning of a lifelong spiritual journey, strengthening his identity as a Muslim and as a

Black man rooted in prophetic values and African-American history. His early years in the Muslim community were guided by teachers connected to the legacy of Malcolm X and Imam Jamil Al-Amin. In 1975, he joined the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood, an institution founded by students of Malcolm X’s Muslim Mosque, Inc. From 1975 to 1988, he served as assistant imam, learning not only religious scholarship but also the unique responsibilities of an imam in a Black urban community. His mentors emphasized that an imam must be more than a prayer leader; he must be a healer, mediator, advocate, social worker, teacher, and voice of conscience. In 1989, he became the Senior Imam of the mosque, a position he would hold for decades. Under his leadership, the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood became a center of spiritual nourishment and community empowerment. He taught that Islam must address not only personal piety but also social reality. This meant speaking about racism, poverty, incarceration, family crises, education, and health disparities—issues affecting millions in America, especially African-American communities. His khutbahs and teachings blended Qur’anic wisdom with historical awareness, moral clarity, and deep compassion. Imam Talib was not confined to the walls of his mosque. He became a central figure in Muslim leadership citywide and nationally. He served as Amir of the Harlem Shura, uniting multiple masjid to collaborate on education, community affairs, and religious guidance. He also served as Deputy Amir of the Majlis Ash-



— Imam A Mokit, Imam Z. Ali, Imam Azeem

Shura (Islamic Leadership Council) of New York, helping represent Sunni Muslim communities across the city. His national work included leadership roles in the Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA), a major organization devoted to the unique needs of indigenous Black Muslim communities.

One of Imam Talib’s most impactful contributions was his service as a Muslim chaplain in both city and state prisons. Over many years—including a long tenure at Sing Sing—he provided spiritual counseling, stability, encouragement, and hope to incarcerated men seeking transformation. His chaplaincy work reflected his belief in human dignity, restorative justice, and the potential for spiritual rebirth. Many incarcerated Muslims considered him a father figure and guide. He also became an early voice addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis in African-American and Muslim communities. At a time when many religious leaders hesitated to speak publicly about the epidemic, Imam Talib co-founded health initiatives and community programs focused on HIV awareness, support, and compassion. His work saved lives and reduced stigma, showing that the imam’s role must include protecting public health and promoting mercy.

Internationally and interfaith-wise, Imam Talib played a major role. He served on advisory boards for multiple interfaith organizations, including Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, the Interfaith Center of New York, and the Temple of Understanding. He participated in global interreligious gatherings such as the Parliament of the World’s

Religions, where he advocated for peace, justice, and honest dialogue. He saw interfaith engagement as a moral duty, especially in a world shaped by misunderstanding and conflict. Media was another tool he used to uplift the community. His radio program “Prophetic Echoes” on WHCR-FM in Harlem reached listeners with discussions on religion, ethics, community issues, and the role of Muslims in society. He used media not for self-promotion but to educate and empower. As a writer, Imam Talib authored essays, manifestos, and guidance documents that contributed to modern Islamic thought in America. His works addressed topics such as racial justice, community healing, global oppression, and the responsibilities of Muslims in the West. He argued that Islam demands both spiritual excellence and social engagement—reflecting a tradition rooted in the Prophet’s example and the long history of African-American struggle for freedom. Throughout his life, Imam Talib ‘Abdur-Rashid embodied a leadership that was firm but compassionate, traditional yet forward-thinking, grounded in scripture yet responsive to the challenges of modern America. He taught that Islam is not an escape from the world but a framework for transforming it—beginning with the self, expanding to the family, and reaching the entire society. His legacy lives on through the communities he served, the leaders he mentored, the institutions he strengthened, and the countless people he guided over a lifetime of devotion. Imam Talib remains a symbol of what authentic Islamic leadership looks like in the American context: principled, courageous, community-centered, and rooted in the pursuit of justice.

Source: *Online Post*

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“His mentors emphasized that an imam must be more than a prayer leader; he must be a healer, mediator, advocate, social worker, teacher, and voice of conscience.”



Photo: Imam Al-Hajj Talib ‘Abdur-Rashid

Image Source: Online

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“He taught that Islam is not an escape from the world but a framework for transforming it—beginning with the self, expanding to the family, and reaching the entire society.”

The World We Dream Of — A Moral Call to Transform Our Future

— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah

The world our children dream of is not a fantasy; it is a roadmap. In *The World We Dream Of*, young students reflect on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a clarity that many of us adults have lost. They speak of a world without poverty and hunger, a world of quality education, gender equality, clean water, climate justice, and peace. Their voices remind us that the SDGs are not just policy targets—they are a moral commitment to human dignity, justice, and shared responsibility. Today, humanity stands at a crossroads. On one side, we see deepening inequality, violent conflict, environmental destruction, and social fragmentation. On the other, we see movements for justice, youth activism, interfaith cooperation, and communities coming together to care for one another. The choice before us

is not whether change will happen, but what kind of change we will allow and accept. The SDGs give us a framework, but it is our compassion and courage that will determine whether these goals become reality or remain unfulfilled promises. As a faith leader and community servant, I believe that every SDG is also a spiritual question. Ending poverty asks: Will we share our blessings? Achieving zero hunger asks: Will we allow any child to sleep with an empty stomach while others waste food? Climate action asks: Will we honor the Earth as a trust from God, or treat it as a resource to be consumed without limit? Peace and strong institutions



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

ask: Will we stand with the oppressed, or stay silent in the face of injustice? These are not technical questions; they are moral tests of our character as a global community. Our children are already showing us what responsible global citizenship looks like. In their projects and reflections, they connect local challenges to global goals, linking their neighborhoods to the wider world. They write about fairness, empathy, and service. They imagine

cities that are inclusive, schools that uplift every child, and communities that protect the environment instead of exploiting it. When young people embrace the

SDGs, they are not just completing an assignment; they are claiming ownership over the future. That should challenge us as adults to match their sincerity with real action. The work ahead requires more than speeches and statements. It requires partnerships between schools and families, between mosques, churches, temples, and community organizations, between local leaders and international institutions. It demands that we prioritize those who have been left behind—the poor, the displaced, the marginalized, and the voiceless. It calls us to build systems that are fair, economies that are inclusive, and policies that reflect the inherent worth of every human being. If we truly listen to the dreams of our children, we will understand that anything less is a betrayal of their trust.

ORGANIZATION

Thanksgiving Brings Unity and Gratitude to UNA-USA Queens

Members reflect on achievements and plan for the year ahead



James Anderson

In a warm celebration of gratitude, unity, and community spirit, UNA-USA Queens hosted its annual Thanksgiving Celebration on November 13, 2025, bringing together



members, volunteers, and partners to reflect on shared

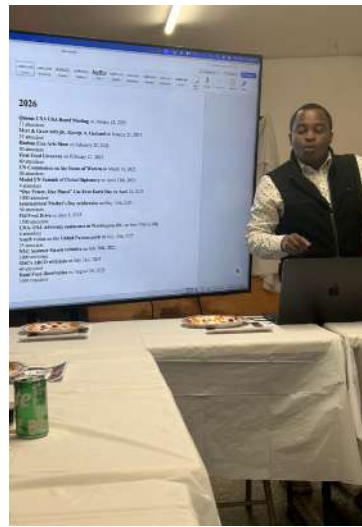
UNA-USA
Queens Chapter

accomplishments and future goals. The gathering served

as both a moment of appreciation and a forward-looking forum for planning the chapter's next phase of community engagement. The event, known for its welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, drew local leaders, advocates, and supporters dedicated to the values of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA). Participants expressed appreciation for the collective work carried out throughout the year — from community programs to advocacy initiatives — that continued to strengthen the organization's role in promoting peace, human rights, and sustainable development across Queens and beyond. Organizers emphasized the celebration's deeper purpose: recognizing the people behind the progress. "We are grateful for our members, volunteers, partners, and leaders

who continue to uplift and strengthen our mission," a statement from UNA-USA Queens noted. "Together, we are building bridges, fostering unity, and creating lasting impact." In addition to sharing gratitude, attendees turned their focus toward the future. The event marked the beginning of planning for the 2026 activity calendar, which will feature new programs, community partnerships, and leadership development opportunities. Early discussions centered on enhancing youth participation, strengthening civic education, and expanding outreach to underrepresented communities. The Thanksgiving gathering also reflected UNA-USA Queens' ongoing effort to connect local action with global awareness. Through dialogue

and collaboration, members reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the community level — from promoting equality and education to addressing climate and public health issues. As the event concluded, participants left with a renewed sense of purpose and optimism. The evening's message was simple yet powerful — gratitude for what has been achieved, and determination for what lies ahead. With a strong foundation of collaboration and compassion, UNA-USA Queens continues to embody the spirit of "Better Together, Stronger Together" — a message that resonates far beyond Thanksgiving and into every effort to build a more united and equitable world.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Community Meets the NYPD Over Coffee in Jackson Heights

Golden Age Home Care brings neighbors and police together for open discussion

Ashley Reed

In an effort to strengthen community-police relations and foster open dialogue, Golden Age Home Care hosted a “Coffee with a Cop” discussion on November 12, 2025, at Shanai Party Hall in Jackson Heights, New York. The event, organized under the leadership of Shah Nawaz, President of Golden Age Home Care, brought together local NYPD officers, neighborhood residents, and community leaders for an afternoon of meaningful conversation, cooperation, and connection. The event’s relaxed, coffeehouse-style setting provided an informal environment where residents could speak directly with officers about community concerns, neighborhood safety,



and public service. Without the barriers of uniforms or podiums, participants were able to exchange views, ask questions, and share ideas on improving communication and mutual understanding. Discussions centered on neighborhood safety initiatives, senior citizen welfare,



and ways to make police services more accessible to immigrant and multilingual communities in Queens. Attendees also shared personal experiences and offered feedback

on how collaborative efforts between law enforcement and social organizations like Golden Age Home Care can build stronger, safer neighborhoods. The meeting reflected the organization’s ongoing commitment to community well-being — particularly among seniors and immigrant

families who often face challenges in navigating public systems. “Coffee with a Cop” provided a space where dialogue replaced distance, and partnership replaced perception. Residents in attendance commended Golden Age Home Care and its president for initiating a platform that not

only allowed honest communication but also strengthened the sense of shared responsibility between the NYPD and the people it serves. Officers, in turn, appreciated the opportunity to engage with residents in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. The event concluded on a note of optimism and collaboration, with participants agreeing on the importance of continuing such initiatives to foster a more connected and understanding community. As Golden Age Home Care continues its mission of service and compassion, events like this reaffirm its role as more than just a care provider — but as a bridge between neighbors, institutions, and the broader community of Jackson Heights.



All Photo Credits: Neher Siddiquee

UNA USA SUMMIT

Meeting the Moment: UNA-USA Launches Leadership Summit in Missouri

Career Connex empowers changemakers to turn passion into purpose

William Henry

The UNA-USA Leadership Summit 2025 officially began on November 14 at the Hyatt Regency at The Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, bringing together leaders, advocates, and changemakers from across the nation for three days of purpose-driven dialogue and action. Hosted by the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA), the annual summit is widely recognized as one of the most influential gatherings for Americans dedicated to advancing global cooperation and civic engagement. This year's theme, "Meeting the Moment – Our



Moment," underscored a sense of urgency amid global challenges, from humanitarian crises to climate instability. With the United Nations facing funding shortfalls and growing international divisions, participants were urged to amplify their advocacy



and demonstrate the vital role of American leadership in shaping global progress. Day one of the summit was anchored by Career Connex, an

interactive professional development event designed to connect aspiring advocates and early-career professionals with experts from the UN system, international NGOs, and other global organizations. Across two sessions,

participants took part in hands-on workshops, networking opportunities, and panel discussions focused on careers in diplomacy, social impact, and public policy. Career Connex provided a platform for students and young professionals to explore how their skills and passions could translate into meaningful contributions toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Attendees shared insights, exchanged ideas, and engaged directly with mentors committed to empowering the next generation of global changemakers. The program's success reflected UNA-USA's enduring commitment to creating pathways

for civic leadership and global advocacy. As participants left the first day inspired and energized, the message of the summit's theme resonated clearly — that this is not merely a gathering of ideas, but a call to action for individuals across the nation to "meet the moment" with purpose and determination. With two more days of discussions, workshops, and service projects ahead, the UNA-USA Leadership Summit 2025 continues to embody the spirit of unity and progress — reaffirming that when Americans come together with shared vision, real change is not only possible but inevitable.



UNA USA SUMMIT

Diplomatic Reception Sets the Tone for UNA-USA Leadership Summit 2025

Evening gathering in St. Louis celebrates unity, advocacy, and global citizenship



Jessica Morgan

The UNA-USA Leadership Summit 2025 ushered in its opening evening on November 14 with an elegant Diplomatic Reception at the Hyatt Regency at The Arch in St. Louis, Missouri.

The event brought together hundreds of civic leaders, diplomats, advocates, and young professionals from across the country to celebrate collaboration and reaffirm their commitment to building a stronger connection between the United



States and the United Nations. Hosted by the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA), the reception served as a fitting introduction to the three-day summit

— a gathering that has long stood as the nation’s leading platform for grassroots advocacy and global dialogue. This year’s theme, “Meeting the Moment – Our Moment,” underscored a collective call for action and unity at a time when humanitarian needs are rising and international cooperation faces unprecedented challenges. Guests engaged in meaningful discussions about policy, leadership, and the role of citizens in shaping a fair and peaceful global order. The evening offered an opportunity for members to connect with key figures from international organizations, the nonprofit sector, and academia, exchanging perspectives on how Americans can help advance the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) through civic engagement and advocacy. The atmosphere was both celebratory and purposeful. Attendees reflected on the importance of solidarity during times of crisis and the value of connecting local leadership with global solutions. Many expressed appreciation for UNA-USA’s efforts to amplify American voices in international affairs and create an inclusive space where emerging leaders can contribute to meaningful change. The reception also highlighted the growing diversity of UNA-USA’s membership, showcasing participants from various regions, professional fields, and cultural backgrounds — all united by a shared belief in diplomacy and service. Conversations throughout the

night focused on collaboration, mentorship, and building partnerships that transcend political and geographical divides. As the evening concluded, guests departed inspired and energized for the sessions and workshops that lay ahead. For many, the Diplomatic Reception was more than an introduction to the summit — it was a reminder of why they had gathered: to learn, to lead, and to meet the moment together. In the heart of St. Louis, the event embodied the UNA-USA’s enduring mission — connecting Americans to the work of the United Nations and reaffirming that meaningful change begins with dialogue, community, and shared purpose.



UNA USA SUMMIT

From Advocacy to Impact: UNA-USA Summit Wraps Up in St. Louis

Final sessions highlight leadership, collaboration, and global citizenship

Noah Presley

The UNA-USA Leadership Summit 2025 came to a close on November 16 at the Hyatt Regency at The Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, following two action-packed days of workshops, advocacy sessions, performances, and service projects that embodied the summit's theme, "Meeting the Moment – Our Moment." Hosted by the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA), the final two days of the summit were dedicated to translating inspiration into impact. On Saturday, November 15, the first full "Day of Action" opened with an energizing plenary session followed by a series of skill-building workshops, leadership seminars, and member showcases. Participants explored pressing global issues—from climate resilience and human rights to gender equality and sustainable development—while



learning how to take effective action in their communities. Throughout the day, attendees connected with mentors, networked with peers, and shared advocacy strategies aimed at advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The afternoon featured the organization's Annual

Meeting, providing members an opportunity to reflect on progress and set priorities for the year ahead. As evening arrived, the energy surged with an exclusive live performance by AY Young, musician, activist, and UN Young Leader. Known for merging art and advocacy, Young's electrifying set reminded



attendees of the creative power of music in driving social change. Later, the Affinity Group Meetups brought together participants who shared passions for causes such as climate action, peacebuilding, and human rights, fostering long-lasting networks

among advocates from across the country. The momentum continued into Sunday, November 16, with the second "Day of Action." Attendees engaged in interactive programs including the SDG 2030 Game and Advocacy Activations, followed by the UNA-USA Awards Ceremony, which honored individuals and chapters demonstrating

outstanding commitment to advancing global cooperation and social justice. The summit concluded with a hands-on community service initiative, where members rolled up their sleeves for a meal-packing event benefiting unhoused neighbors in downtown St. Louis. Sponsored by the Little Angels Foundation, the activity reflected the summit's enduring message — that advocacy begins with direct action and compassion. As participants departed St. Louis, they carried with them renewed purpose and a strengthened sense of global responsibility. Over three transformative days, the UNA-USA Leadership Summit 2025 not only connected changemakers but also demonstrated the power of unity, civic leadership, and hope in shaping a more equitable and sustainable world.



UNA USA SUMMIT

From Advocacy to Impact: UNA-USA Summit Wraps Up in St. Louis



UNA USA SUMMIT

UNA-USA Members Unite to Serve Communities in St. Louis

Food distribution near St. Patrick Center highlights compassion and unity

Emily Parker

Dozens of community advocates and volunteers from the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) came together in St. Louis, Missouri, for a meaningful act of service — a food distribution initiative held near the St. Patrick Center, one of the city’s leading outreach facilities for unhoused and low-income residents. The event, organized in partnership with the Little Angels Foundation, reflected the shared mission of promoting dignity, compassion, and social responsibility through direct community engagement. Members of Save the People USA, a nonprofit



organization known for its humanitarian and advocacy work, also joined the effort, helping distribute meals and provide assistance to local residents. Volunteers lined up



early to prepare and share food, creating a welcoming and supportive atmosphere

for all attendees. The initiative aimed not only to address immediate hunger but also to remind participants of the importance of unity and empathy in tackling social

challenges. Organizers described it as a model of collaboration between national leaders, local nonprofits, and community members who care deeply about uplifting those in need. The effort highlighted a key aspect of the UNA-USA’s broader mission — turning global ideals into local impact. By working with grassroots organizations like the Little Angels Foundation and Save the People USA, the volunteers demonstrated how the values of the United Nations — service, equality, and human dignity — can be realized in neighborhoods and cities across America. Those who participated expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage in service

alongside fellow advocates and local residents. Many noted that efforts like this one not only provide practical support but also strengthen the social fabric by fostering trust, understanding, and compassion. The collaborative spirit of the day resonated deeply with both organizers and community members, proving that meaningful change begins with small, collective acts of kindness. Through their service, the volunteers showcased the enduring power of civic responsibility — a reminder that global citizenship is lived not only through advocacy but also through simple, heartfelt service to others.



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Battle Over Epstein Files

Public spat intensifies ahead of key House vote

Amkel Nourush

A once-solid alliance between President Donald Trump and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene erupted into a public feud just days before a pivotal House vote on releasing the Jeffrey Epstein files. Trump blasted Greene on social media beginning Friday, calling her “wacky,” suggesting she be unseated in 2025, and escalating on Saturday by labeling her a “traitor.” Greene, who has sharply criticized Trump in recent days, questioned whether he still puts “America First” and accused him of trying to block Republican support



Photo: Former Trump ally Marjorie Taylor Greene claims Epstein files 'sent him over the edge'
Image Source: Getty Images / BBC

for the Epstein Files Transparency Act. The bill, expected to receive a vote as early as Tuesday, would

require the Justice Department to disclose all unclassified materials related to Epstein. Greene is one of just

four House Republicans who joined Democrats in signing a discharge petition to force the files' release. She claimed

Trump's attacks were an effort to intimidate GOP lawmakers. “It's astonishing really how hard he's fighting to stop the Epstein files from coming out,” she posted. Trump's comments, issued from his home in Florida, also alleged Greene sought his favor and grew resentful when he stopped taking her calls. The clash marks a dramatic turn for a lawmaker who defended Trump through multiple controversies, including the 2021 Capitol riot. Political strategist Robert Moran said Trump appears intent on preventing the files' release but doubted the feud would dent his support.

Finland Warns of Long War

President Alexander Stubb says no Ukraine ceasefire expected soon

Adrian Smith

A ceasefire in Ukraine is unlikely before the spring, Finnish President Alexander Stubb warned during an interview with The Associated Press at a military base north of Helsinki on Saturday. Urging Europe to summon “sisu,” the Finnish concept of endurance and grit, Stubb said the continent must brace for a difficult winter as Russia escalates hybrid attacks, sabotage and disinformation campaigns.

Stubb, who maintains a close working relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump, said his role has often involved translating perspectives between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. “If he accepts one out of 10 ideas, that's good,”

HIGHLIGHT

●President Alexander Stubb told AP a Ukraine ceasefire is unlikely before spring 2025.

●He urged Europe to show “sisu”—endurance and resilience—through winter.

●Stubb warned that Russian hybrid attacks across Europe are intensifying.

Stubb said of Trump. He noted that Ukraine still faces creeping Russian gains and must quickly address corruption allegations that risk undermining international support. The Finnish leader said he sees little chance for meaningful peace talks this year, citing unresolved questions about security guarantees for Ukraine, reconstruction funding and territorial claims. Pressuring Moscow, he argued, will require mobilizing frozen Russian assets and strengthening Ukraine's military capabilities. Stubb also highlighted Russia's destabilizing activities across Europe, saying “the line between war and peace has been blurred.” The answer, he added, is to “be cool, calm, collected—and have a little bit of that sisu.”



Photos: Gen Z protesters confront police at National Palace in Mexico City
Image Source: AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh, file

‘We Are All Carlos Manzo’

Demonstrators demand action after rising cartel violence

Nassr Al Shams

At least 120 people were injured in Mexico City on Saturday as thousands of demonstrators clashed with police during nationwide protests against violent crime and President Claudia Sheinbaum's government. Officials said 100 of the injured were police officers guarding the National Palace, where authorities deployed tear gas after protesters dismantled parts of a protective barrier.

The marches, led largely by Gen Z organizers, drew broad support from citizens outraged by recent high-profile killings, including the assassination of Uruapan Mayor Carlos Manzo, who was shot on 1 November at a Day of the Dead festival. Many protesters carried signs reading “We are all Carlos Manzo,” while others donned cowboy hats in his honor. Security chief Pablo Vázquez said 20 people were arrested on charges ranging

from robbery to assault. Sheinbaum alleged the protests were backed by right-wing political forces and amplified by online bots, insisting the public “should know how this demonstration was organized so that no one is used.” Despite maintaining approval ratings above 70%, Sheinbaum faces mounting criticism over persistent cartel violence and growing diplomatic tensions, including Peru's recent move to declare her persona non grata.

Hollywood at the Vatican

Pope Leo XIV urges filmmakers to bring hope through cinema



Photo: Pope Leo welcomes Hollywood stars to the Vatican
Image Source: Reuters / BBC

Julian Alvez

Pope Leo XIV welcomed a lineup of global film stars to the Vatican, urging them to continue serving as “pilgrims of

from violence and exile to forgotten wars. The gathering — the first of its kind and hailed by Spike Lee as a “great day” — offered a burst of celebrity for the still-new pontiff, who has been quieter in style than his predecessor. Among the attendees were Cate Blanchett, Viggo Mortensen, Chris Pine, Gus Van Sant, and acclaimed Italian directors including Giuseppe Tornatore. Leo warned against the global decline in cinema-going, describing movie theaters as “the beating heart of communities.”

HIGHLIGHT

●Pope Leo XIV welcomed Hollywood stars including Cate Blanchett, Viggo Mortensen, and Spike Lee.

●He praised cinema's power but urged filmmakers to address global suffering.

the imagination” and to use cinema to bring hope during turbulent times. Speaking beneath the frescoes of Clementine Hall, the Pope highlighted the medium's power to “amaze” while calling on filmmakers to confront the world's “wounds,”

His defense of the industry comes amid financial strain in Hollywood and Italy. After his fifteen-minute speech and blessing, the Pope greeted each guest individually. Blanchett handed him a woven bracelet symbolizing solidarity with displaced people, while Lee gifted him a New York Knicks jersey emblazoned with the number 14.

UK Unveils Sweeping Asylum Reforms

Home secretary Shabana Mahmood says system is “out of control”

Charles Lewis

Home secretary Shabana Mahmood has unveiled major reforms to the UK's asylum system, saying it is “out of control” and placing “huge pressure” on communities. Under the plans, refugees will no longer move automatically toward

permanent settlement; they must reapply every 2½ years and could be returned once their home countries are deemed safe, in a model inspired by Denmark. New arrivals who enter illegally would face a 20-year wait before applying for permanent status. Housing and

financial support for asylum seekers will become discretionary, and accommodation rules tightened. The Home Office will also deploy AI facial age-estimation technology to assess claimants amid disputes over whether some are children or adults.