

ONLINE EXTREMISM

Tech giants vow to step up fight

Agree to form independent watchdog

REUTERS, New York

A global working group set up by Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Microsoft to remove extremist content will become an independent watchdog working "to respond quicker and work more collaboratively to prevent" attacks like Christchurch, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Monday.

Ardern has pushed for stronger action since New Zealand's worst peacetime mass shooting in March, when a gunman attacked Muslims attending Friday prayers in Christchurch. He killed 51 people and broadcast the attack live on Facebook.

"In the same way that we respond to natural emergencies like fires and floods, we need to be prepared and ready to respond to a crisis like the one we experienced," Ardern told reporters on the sidelines of the annual United Nations gathering of world leaders.

The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism was created in 2017 under pressure from US and European governments after a spate of deadly attacks. It will now become an independent organization led by an executive director, funded by Facebook Inc, Google's YouTube, Twitter Inc and Microsoft Corp.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, Ardern said the organization would be governed by an operating board made up of company representatives and would have an independent advisory committee composed of government and civil society members.

'Patriots,' not 'globalists'

Trump attacks global order at UN; talks tough on global issues

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US President Donald Trump made a fresh attack against the global order yesterday in a speech before the United Nations, saying that "globalists" would not triumph.

He also talked tough on global issues. He particularly denounced Iran's "blood lust" and called on other nations to join the United States to pressure Iran after attacks on Saudi oil facilities but said there is a path to peace.

"The future does not belong to globalists. The future belongs to patriots," Trump said.

Trump slams Iran's 'blood lust,' vows to keep sanctions

Warns China over trade and Hong Kong

Says US watching situation in Venezuela 'very closely'

Hopes to strike 'magnificent' new trade deal with Britain



"The future belongs to sovereign and independent nations who protect their citizens, respect their neighbors and honor the differences that make each country special and unique," he said.

In his third annual appearance at the United Nations, Trump offered a more subdued tone compared to the bombast of his previous speeches to the UN in 2017 and 2018, looking to convey a more reassuring presence as he asks Americans for a second term next year despite a fresh push for his impeachment among some Democrats.

While offering his habitual defense of national sovereignty, Trump tempered his language toward Iran, stressing the US desire for peaceful relations with all and calling for collective, rather than unilateral, action.

The Sept 14 attacks in Saudi Arabia have rattled the Middle East and raised concerns about a broader war. Trump has shown restraint in the crisis, holding back from military retaliation despite pressure from conservative hawks, at

least for now.

Trump had a stern message for China and its president, Xi Jinping, with whom he is locked in a trade war that is damaging both their economies. He said the world is watching how Beijing handles mass demonstrations in Hong Kong that have raised concerns about a potential Chinese crackdown.

"How China chooses to handle the situation will say a great deal about its role in the world in the future. We are all counting on President Xi as a great leader," he said.

Earlier, French President Emmanuel Macron said he hoped there could be progress on Iran after he held talks with Rouhani on Monday. The deal signatories were holding separate talks with both Iran and US.

Trump said he wanted to strike a "magnificent trade deal" with Britain as it prepares to leave the European Union.

He warned that US was watching the situation in Venezuela "very closely," as it unleashed new sanctions targeting the crisis-ravaged country's ties with Cuba.

Trump complains he deserves Nobel prize

US President Donald Trump aired one of his oldest grievances at the United Nations on Monday: that it's unfair he never got the Nobel peace prize. "I would get a Nobel prize for a lot of things, if they give it out fairly, which they don't," he complained. Trump went on to raise the surprise awarding of the one of the world's most prestigious accolades in 2009 to his predecessor in the White House Barack Obama. Obama was given the peace prize for "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between people," even though he had only just become president. "They gave one to Obama immediately upon his ascent to the presidency and he had no idea why he got it. You know what? That was the only thing I agreed with him on," Trump said.



Brazil arrests 63, levies \$8.7 million in fines over fires

Brazil's defense minister said on Monday 63 people were arrested and issued fines amounting to \$8.7 million after the military was sent to fight raging fires in the Amazon rainforest. The announcement came as President Jair Bolsonaro arrived in New York to attend the UN General Assembly. Bolsonaro in August authorized the deployment of the military to the Amazon in an operation that was extended to October 24. Defense minister Fernando Azevedo e Silva emphasized that the number of fires recorded so far in September in the rainforest was 17,095, well below the historical average for September of 33,426, while acknowledging that concerns remained over fires burning in certain areas, specifically the center of the forest.

UN climate summit falls short

Despite Thunberg's passionate, bold plea, major polluters make no new promises

AGENCIES

Greta Thunberg's emotional and strong plea to world leaders at a UN climate summit apparently made little impact as announcements by major economies fell far short of expectations.

The Swedish teen's impassioned speech, in which she repeated the words "How dare you" four times, was the defining moment of the meeting, called by UN chief Antonio Guterres to reinvigorate the faltering Paris climate agreement.

Ahead of the conference, the United Nations issued a release saying 66 countries vowed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, along with 10 regions, 102 cities, and scores of businesses. But pre-summit predictions of new, headline-grabbing commitments, particularly by the likes of China and India, failed to match reality, angering environmental groups.

However, a major report detailing the dire impact of global warming on oceans and Earth's frozen zones was approved by the UN's 195-nation climate science body yesterday after an all-night standoff with Saudi Arabia over wording.

The world's top scientists believe long-term temperature rise must be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels to prevent runaway warming with catastrophic effects.

"I shouldn't be up here. I should be back at school on the other side of the ocean," said Thunberg, 16, who has become the global face of a growing youth movement against climate inaction that mobilized millions in a worldwide strike on Friday.

"You come to us young people for hope. How dare you?" she thundered, her voice at times breaking with emotion.

Matters did not improve much as a succession of national leaders took to the podium saying they understood the gravity of the situation but then failing to announce concrete plans.

Environmental and campaign groups reacted with almost unanimous disappointment.

"I think Greta's impassioned cry for sanity and for actually listening and acting based on the science was ignored," Greenpeace International chief Jennifer Morgan told AFP.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump, who briefly attended the meeting, stirred up fresh outrage on social media Monday with a tweet mocking Greta Thunberg.

"She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So



nice to see!" climate-skeptic Trump tweeted a few hours later, alongside a clip of the speech.

The trolling of the teen activist -- who suffers from Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism -- racked up more than 16,000 responses in three hours, many of them attacking the US president.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said progress was being made as the climate summit wrapped up in New York.

"Action by action the tide is turning," Guterres said. "But we have a long way to go. We are not yet there."

Guterres listed 77 countries that had committed to carbon neutrality by 2050, although those countries combined produce significantly less than half the world's carbon dioxide emissions.

Seventy nations also pledged to do more to fight climate change, 100 business leaders promised to join the green economy and one-third of the global banking sector signed up to green goals.

Climate advocates shun UN inaction

Trump slammed for trolling Thunberg

Oceans, frozen zones climate report approved after all-night standoff

NEWSIN brief

Over 500 arrested in Egypt since Friday

AFP, Cairo

More than 500 people have been arrested across Egypt since demonstrations broke out in Cairo and other cities, a local rights group said Monday. Hundreds of Egyptians took to the streets on Friday and Saturday in rare demonstrations calling for the departure of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Egypt effectively banned protests under a law passed in 2013.

Rouhani's NY travel restricted

AFP, United Nations

Hassan Rouhani landed in New York Monday for the UN General Assembly, but the Iranian leader won't be allowed to see much of the Big Apple while he is here. Under the restrictions, Rouhani cannot venture far from the UN headquarters, which sit on the East River on the eastern side of Manhattan island. The US government has granted him special authorization to stay at a hotel, however. Rouhani is due to address the General Assembly and hold a press conference on Wednesday.

Air strikes kill 16 in Yemen

AFP, Dubai

Seven children were among 16 people killed yesterday in twin air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition fighting rebels in southern Yemen. A doctor at Al Thawra hospital in Ibb province where the bodies were taken said seven children and four women were among the dead. Tens of thousands of people have been killed since Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in support of the beleaguered government.

INDONESIA FOREST FIRES

10m kids at risk: UN

AFP, Jakarta

Air pollution from Indonesian forest fires is putting nearly 10 million children at risk, the United Nations warned yesterday, as scientists said the blazes were releasing vast amounts of greenhouse gases.

The fires have been spewing toxic haze over Southeast Asia in recent weeks, closing schools and airports, with people rushing to buy face masks and seek medical treatment for respiratory ailments.

Jakarta has deployed tens of thousands of personnel and water-bombing aircraft to tackle the slash-and-burn blazes set to clear agricultural land. The fires are an annual problem but this year are the worst since 2015 due to dry weather.

Almost 10 million people under 18 -- a quarter of them below five -- live in the areas worst affected by fires on Indonesia's Sumatra island and the country's part of Borneo island, UN children's agency UNICEF said.

"Poor air quality is a severe and growing challenge for Indonesia," said Debora Comini from UNICEF.

"Every year, millions of children are breathing toxic air that threatens their health and causes them to miss school -- resulting in lifelong physical and cognitive damage."

From the start of August to mid-September, the Indonesian fires emitted about 360 megatonnes of the greenhouse gas, the service said. One megatonne is equivalent to one million tonnes.

Major forest fires are a double blow to the climate. As well as releasing greenhouse gases, the blazes destroy a natural buffer against global warming as forests suck carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.



People gather near a damaged road after an earthquake of magnitude 5.8 in Pakistan-administered Kashmir yesterday. At least 19 people were killed and more than 300 injured in the quake, police and hospital sources said.

PAPUA UNREST

More than two dozen killed

AFP, Wamena

More than two dozen people have died in riots in Papua, authorities said yesterday, sparking calls for an investigation into one of the bloodiest eruptions of violence to hit the restive Indonesian territory in years.

Thousands fled to shelters following an outburst of bloodshed that saw civilians burned alive in buildings set ablaze by protesters, with at least 30 people killed and dozens injured since Monday.

Papua, on the western half of New Guinea island, has been paralysed after weeks of protests fuelled by anger over racism, as well as fresh calls for self-rule in the impoverished territory.

BRITAIN'S SC RULING ON PARLIAMENT SUSPENSION

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Yesterday's ruling by the UK Supreme Court, which found Boris Johnson's decision to suspend parliament unlawful, is a humiliating blow for the prime minister and has momentous implications for Britain's constitutional order. Here is a rundown of the main questions it raises:

WHAT DID THE COURT DECIDE?

The court's 11 judges decided first of all that they had the power to issue a ruling since "the courts have exercised a supervisory jurisdiction over the lawfulness of acts of the government for centuries". It then ruled that Johnson's decision was "unlawful" because it had the effect of frustrating or preventing the ability of parliament to carry out its constitutional functions without reasonable justification.

It said the advice that Johnson had given to Queen Elizabeth II, who as head of state formally issued the prorogation order, was "unlawful, void and of no effect."

WHY IS THIS SIGNIFICANT?

Suspending parliament was a key part of Johnson's plan to deliver Brexit by October 31, even though MPs managed -- in the short time they were able to meet after their summer break -- to pass a law that could undermine this. The decision also sets precedent, meaning that Johnson will face legal difficulties in trying to suspend parliament again. In constitutional terms, it means that the court's powers to allow parliament to have its say are stronger than an order issued by Queen Elizabeth II. The court said

that the circumstances were "exceptional" because of the looming prospect of Brexit, calling it a "fundamental change" for the country. Parliament "has a right to have a voice in how that change comes about."

WHEN WILL PARLIAMENT CONVENE?

The ruling said the prorogation order was "void and of no effect" and that it was up to House of Commons speaker John Bercow and House of Lords speaker Norman Fowler to decide when to meet "as soon as possible". Bercow has asked parliamentary authorities to make preparations for MPs to resume their proceedings from 1030 GMT today.

WILL BORIS JOHNSON RESIGN?

Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the main opposition Labour party, led calls for the prime minister to step down. It is unlikely the prime minister, who has only been in power since July, will step down. Although his position in parliament is weak, opinion polls suggest his battles with MPs and judges over Brexit may actually be making him more popular with voters.



SOURCE: AFP

'I'd like to help'

Says Trump after Pak PM asks for US help to end J&K 'siege'; Pak army, ISI trained Qaeda: Imran

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump said on Monday he hoped India and Pakistan could come together to resolve their differences over Kashmir, as Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan urged Trump to use US influence to help end India's "siege" of the volatile territory.

Trump and Khan met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Trump is to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this week.

The president reiterated to Khan as they began their meeting with reporters present that he would be willing to mediate between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

Muslim-majority Kashmir has long been a flashpoint between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan. Both countries rule parts of Kashmir while claiming it in full. Two of the three wars they have fought have been over it.

"If I can help, I'd like to help," said Trump. "I want everyone to be treated

well."

Khan told Trump Kashmir was facing a humanitarian issue with millions under siege. He asked Trump to implore Modi to lift the siege, saying the crisis could get much worse, reported Reuters.



"At least lift the siege," said Khan. He said Trump heads the most powerful country in the world and that the United States has a responsibility to use its influence on the United Nations Security Council.

"We look to the US to put out

flames in the world," he said.

Trump noted that Modi in his speech had made "a very aggressive statement" before more than 50,000 Indian-Americans at a "Howdy Modi" event on Sunday in Houston.

"I will say it was very well-received within the room, the statement itself. But it was a very aggressive statement and I hope that they are going to be able to come together, India and Pakistan, to do something that is really smart and good for both. There's always a solution and I really believe there's a solution to that," said Trump.

As for Afghanistan, Trump said US-led forces have hit the Taliban hard over the past two weeks since a peace initiative collapsed.

During a meeting at the Center for Foreign Relations in New York City on Monday, Khan has made the explosive disclosure that the Pakistani army and ISI trained al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups to fight in Afghanistan, reported TNN.