

'If we don't win midterms, I'll get impeached' Trump tells House Republicans

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that Republicans must win the 2026 congressional midterm elections - or else he will get impeached by Democrats.

"You gotta win the midterms 'cause, if we don't win the midterms, it's just gonna be - I mean, they'll find a reason to impeach me," Trump told Republican lawmakers at a retreat in Washington. "I'll get impeached."

He told them to put aside their differences and sell his policies on healthcare and election integrity to an American electorate angry about the cost of living.



House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer lead Democrats and families of fallen Capitol Police officers in a moment of silence marking the fifth anniversary of the January 6, 2021 attacks, outside the US Capitol in Washington, DC, Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

UN accuses Israel of 'apartheid' in West Bank

Volker Turk urges repeal of Israel's discriminatory laws against Palestinians

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations yesterday said decades of discrimination and segregation of Palestinians by Israel in the West Bank were intensifying, and called on the country to end its "apartheid system".

In a new report, the UN rights office said the "systematic discrimination" against Palestinians across the occupied Palestinian territories had "drastically deteriorated" in recent years.

"There is a systematic asphyxiation of the rights of Palestinians in the West Bank," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement.

"Whether accessing water, school, rushing to hospital, visiting family or friends, or harvesting olives - every aspect of life for Palestinians in the West Bank is controlled and curtailed by Israel's discriminatory laws, policies and practices," he added.

"This is a particularly severe form of racial discrimination and segregation, that resembles the kind of apartheid system we have seen before."

A number of independent experts affiliated with the UN have described the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories as an "apartheid" but this marks the first time a UN rights chief has applied the term.

Yesterday's report said the Israeli authorities "treat Israeli settlers and Palestinians residing in the West



Bank under two distinct bodies of law and policies, resulting in unequal treatment on a range of critical issues".

"Palestinians continue to be subjected to large-scale confiscation of land and deprivation of access to resources," it added.

This had led to "dispossessing them of their lands and homes, alongside other forms of systemic discrimination, including criminal prosecution in military courts during which their due process and fair trial rights are systematically violated".

Turk demanded yesterday that Israel "repeal all laws, policies and practices that perpetuate systemic discrimination against Palestinians based on race, religion or ethnic

origin". The discrimination was compounded by continuing and escalating settler violence, in many cases "with the acquiescence, support and participation of Israel's security forces", the rights office said.

More than 500,000 Israelis currently live in settlements in the West Bank, occupied since 1967 and home to around three million Palestinians.

Violence has risen in recent years, surging especially since Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack, which triggered the Gaza war.

Since the start of the war, Israeli troops and settlers have killed more than 1,000 Palestinians in the West Bank.

No leniency for protesters 'helping enemy'

Warns Iran judiciary chief

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran's top judge warned protesters yesterday that there would be "no leniency for those who help the enemy against the Islamic Republic", while accusing Israel and the US of pursuing hybrid methods to disrupt the country.

Following announcements by Israel and the US president, there is no excuse for those coming to the streets for riots and unrest, Chief Justice Gholamhosein Mohseni Ejei, the head of Iran's judiciary, was quoted as saying by state media.

"From now on, there will be no leniency for whoever helps enemy against the Islamic Republic and the calm of the people," Ejei said.

Tehran remains under international pressure with President Trump threatening to come to the aid of protesters if security forces fire on them, seven months after Israeli and US forces bombed Iranian nuclear sites in a 12-day war.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has vowed not to "yield to the enemy". The current protests began last month in Tehran's Grand Bazaar by shopkeepers condemning the currency's free fall.

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US, Ukraine teams tackle 'most difficult issues' Says Zelensky on Russia war talks

AFP, Paris

Washington and Kyiv teams in Paris were yesterday expected to tackle Ukraine talks' "most difficult issues" including territory following a breakthrough in European-led negotiations, Ukraine's leader said.

On Tuesday, European leaders and US envoys announced they had agreed key security guarantees for Kyiv as they sought to present a united front for Ukraine despite raging tensions over Venezuela and President Donald Trump's designs on Greenland.

US envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner represented Washington in the talks amid efforts to end nearly four years of war in Ukraine sparked by Russia's invasion.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the Kyiv and Washington teams would dedicate the second day of the Paris talks to the fate of the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and control of territory in eastern Ukraine.

"Another session of talks with envoys of the president of the United States will take place, and this will already be the third such session in two days," he said on Facebook.

"The most difficult issues from the basic framework for ending the war will be discussed - namely, issues related to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and territories."

Zelensky also stressed it was important for Kyiv's Western allies to put pressure on Moscow. "Peace must be dignified. And this depends on the partners - on whether they ensure Russia's real readiness to end the war," he said.

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