



## MSU men prepare to host Rutgers

SPORTS, 1B

# Lansing State Journal

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People attend the No War With Iran rally at the Capitol in Lansing on March 2 to protest the Trump administration's attack on Iran over the weekend. PHOTOS BY ROBERT KILLIPS/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

## Close to 100 protest U.S. war on Iran

### After rally, marchers go to office of Rep. Barrett

Susan Vela Lansing State Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LANSING — Almost 100 people gathered at the state Capitol on Monday, March 2, to protest the U.S. military action in Iran that began over the weekend.

A few drivers passing by honked their horns in support, but, for the most part, the crowd took over a small patch of the Capitol's property as participants held signs with messages like "Hands Off Iran," "Say No to War," and "No Kings."

Several speakers condemned President Donald Trump's "Operation Epic Fury," which began Saturday, Feb. 28, when the United States and Israel launched major combat operations against Iran.

The "No War With Iran" rally was one of many protests happening across the nation on March 2, according to the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism Coalition.

"This winter, we were in talks with Iran, and they were agreeing with our demands," said Rebecca Payne, speaking at the Capitol event and representing



Protesters march to the office of U.S. Congressman Tom Barrett after the No War With Iran rally at the Capitol on March 2.

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The targeting of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appears to reflect Israel's decision after Oct. 7, 2023, to widen the scope of who it was willing to target to include the most senior Iranian and Iranian-backed leaders. PROVIDED BY OFFICE OF THE IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER VIA REUTERS FILE

## Oct. 7 led Israel to target Iran leader

### Source: Specific planning began after 12-day war

Kim Hjelmggaard USA TODAY

The decision to kill Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other Iran-linked leaders in Hamas and Hezbollah was taken in the immediate days following the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023, attack, USA TODAY has learned.

But more specific planning for what Israel has named Operation Roaring Lion and the United States is calling Epic Fury did not begin until after Israel's 12-day war with Iran in June, and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu only gave the order for the operation in November, according to a person familiar with the matter.

USA TODAY is the first news outlet to report on the timing of the decision to eliminate Khamenei and other top Iranian officials, and its direct connection to avenging the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israel, the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. Khamenei was killed as part of an ongoing bombing campaign on Iran by the militaries of the United States and Israel, a war that began Feb. 28.

Israel has a long track record of capturing or assassinating its enemies no matter where they are located stretching back to the country's founding in

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## Court denies MSU frat hazing death appeal

### Former student facing charges, challenged state law's constitutionality

Matt Mencarini Lansing State Journal USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LANSING — The Michigan Supreme Court will not hear an appeal in a case connected to a Michigan State University student's death at a fraternity party in 2021.

On Friday, Feb. 27, the Supreme Court declined to hear arguments on behalf of Ethan Cau, who is facing charges under the state's anti-hazing law, challenging the constitutionality of the law. The court was not "persuaded that the questions presented should be reviewed by this Court," a common reason given when declining to grant the opportunity to appeal.

"Access to appellate review is an essential function of our criminal justice system," attorney Edwar Zeineh, who is representing Cau, said in a statement.

"Though we are disappointed that the Michigan Supreme Court chose not take up this important appeal, we remain steadfast in defending Mr. Cao against these charges. We are not done yet, more to come."

Cau is now a former MSU student. In a news release, Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney John Dewane said "(n)ow that the constitutional challenges have been resolved, we look forward to trying this case in Circuit Court."

Prosecutors in 2022 charged Cao and

Andrew Nguyen with one count each of hazing causing death, and three counts of hazing resulting in physical injury, following a 2021 "crossover" party planned by members of the Pi Alpha Phi fraternity.

Prosecutors presented evidence in court of excessive drinking at the party that resulted in Phat Nguyen, a 21-year-old MSU junior, and three others passing out on mattresses in the basement. Phat Nguyen was later pronounced

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