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# HERALD NEWS

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## NJ's new use of force law is hailed

Calls for de-escalation training, policy reviews

**Ricardo Kaulessar**

NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Victoria Lee. Najee Seabrooks. Deborah Terrell. Andrew Washington.

And, on Jan. 19, a Newark man, later identified in reports as Wali Bey.

These are the names of just five of the victims of at least 80 police killings in New Jersey since 2020. And their names have surfaced again because of the passage in January of a bill codifying the attorney general's Use of Force Directive.

The directive, revised in 2020 and 2025, governs when police officers in New Jersey can use deadly force against residents by stipulating:

- Force can be used only in situations of "last resort" after all attempts at de-escalation.
- Officers must promptly provide medical assistance to those injured by police.
- Respect the sanctity of life.
- Use only proportional and necessary force.
- Follow guidelines for safely resolving situations involving barricaded individuals.

The new law, signed by former Gov. Phil Murphy, affirms all the stipulations for use of force and calls for new actions, such as incorporating de-escalation training in basic training and the attorney general reviewing the use-of-force policy every two years with public feedback.

Lawmakers and activists hailed the law after pushing for its passage in the aftermath of the high-profile police shootings of Terrell in New Brunswick in 2025, Lee in Fort Lee in 2024, Seabrooks in Paterson in 2023, and Washington in Jersey City in 2023. All were suffering from mental illness.

One of the bill's co-sponsors, Assemblywoman Ellen Park, who represents several Bergen County towns, including Fort Lee, said in a statement

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## White-collar pink slips

North Jersey's service sector employment market is shrinking

**Daniel Munoz**

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Service sector employment in North Jersey and the larger New York City metro area fell for the seventh month in a row, and the state workforce has shed nearly 4,000 jobs so far this year, according to data released March 17 by the New York Federal Reserve.

The numbers looked at service firms – essentially white-collar jobs – across North Jersey, New York City and southwestern Connecticut, which make up the New York metro area.

All told, the number of service sector employees in the region was at its lowest since 2021, when the nation emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown and business restrictions.

Tuesday's numbers came as businesses face surging gas prices amid the war with Iran. Inflation has spiked, hiring has slowed and businesses have grappled with the prices they will pay because of President Donald Trump's on-again, off-again tariffs and how they will even have access to international supply chains.

See **SERVICE JOBS**, Page 9A

"Combine inflation, war uncertainty, tariffs, AI ... there's a lot of balls to watch in the air ... any one of them could cause the market to deflate."

**Robert Scott**  
Economist at Monmouth University in West Long Branch

GETTY IMAGES

## After Iran's 1953 coup, jailed leader surfaced in River Edge

**David M. Zimmer**

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USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

As protests spread across Iran in early 1979 and the country's monarchy began to collapse, Ali Shayegan followed the events from a house on Kinderkamack Road in River Edge.

To many in Bergen County, Shayegan was known as a professor who lectured on international law and Persian culture. Decades earlier, he was sentenced

to life in prison after Iran's 1953 coup that toppled the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh. Shayegan had been a close ally of Mossadegh and part of the nationalist government that was overthrown.

Born in Shiraz in 1903, Shayegan was a lawyer, scholar and member of Iran's parliament who became active in the nationalist movement that pushed to bring the country's oil resources under Iranian government control.

When Mossadegh became prime

**Inside**

Oil sites hit amid Iran war escalations as gas prices surge after attack. **5A**

minister in 1951, his government nationalized the oil industry, which had long been dominated by the British-run Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. The move triggered a confrontation with Britain and soon drew in the United States, escalating the dispute into a Cold War crisis.

Shayegan supported Mossadegh during the dispute, including the legal effort that took Iran's case before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The political struggle deepened.

In August 1953, Mossadegh's government was overthrown in a coup carried out by military officers loyal to Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Mossadegh and several senior members of the government, including Shayegan, were

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