

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

# TRUMP TO DROP PUSH FOR GUARD IN 3 CITIES



ALEX BRANDON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference Monday with Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla.

## Legal roadblocks pause plans for deployment to Chicago, Los Angeles, Portland — for now

MICHELLE L. PRICE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said he’ll drop — for now — his push to deploy National Guard troops in Chicago, Los Angeles and Portland, Ore., after legal roadblocks hung up the effort.

Trump said in a social media post Wednesday that he’ll remove the Guard troops for now. “We will come back, perhaps in a much different and stronger form, when crime begins to soar again — Only a question of time!” he wrote in the post.

Troops already left Los Angeles after the president deployed them earlier in the year as part of a broader crackdown on crime and immigration. They were sent to Chicago and Portland but were never on the streets as legal challenges played out.

The president made a crackdown on crime in cities a centerpiece of his second term — and toyed with the idea of invoking the Insurrection Act to stop his opponents from using the courts to block his plans.

He said he sees his tough-on-crime

**“We will come back, perhaps in a much different and stronger form, when crime begins to soar again — Only a question of time!”**

**President Donald Trump,**  
in a social media post

approach as a winning political issue ahead of next year’s midterm elections.

In November, U.S. Northern Command said it was “shifting and/or rightsizing” operations in Portland, Chicago and Los Angeles, but there would be a “constant, enduring and long-term presence in each city.”

Trump’s push to deploy the troops in Democrat-led cities was met with legal challenges at nearly every turn.

The Supreme Court in December refused to allow the Trump administration to deploy National Guard troops in the Chicago area as part of its crackdown on immigration.

The justices declined the Republican

administration’s emergency request to overturn a ruling by U.S. District Judge April Perry that blocked the deployment of troops. An appeals court also refused to step in.

The high court’s order was not a final ruling, but it was a significant and rare setback by the high court for the president’s efforts.

The conservative-dominated court this past year allowed Trump to ban transgender people from the military, claw back billions of dollars of congressionally approved federal spending, move aggressively against immigrants and fire the Senate-confirmed leaders of independent federal agencies.

In the nation’s capital, District of Columbia Attorney General Brian Schwab sued to halt the deployments of more than 2,000 National Guard members. Hundreds of troops from several Republican-led states remain in Washington, though the crime emergency Trump declared in August ended a month later.

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## Asia’s drummers first in world to pound in new year

2026 celebrations start with feelings of defiance, hope

ROD MCGUIRK AND SHEIKH SAALIQ  
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Drummers pounded in the New Year and a stampede of computer-generated horses was shown over a section of the Great Wall as China and the rest of East Asia marked the start of 2026.

Temple bells rang across Japan, and some climbed mountains to see the year’s first sunrise. Hong Kong held subdued celebrations following a recent fire that killed 161 people at an apartment complex.

Sydney saluted the new year with joy and defiance, as the famous Harbor Bridge

crackled with fireworks less than three weeks after Australia’s worst mass shooting in almost 30 years.

South Pacific countries were the first to bid farewell to 2025. New Zealand’s capital, Auckland, held a fireworks display 18 hours before the ball drop in New York’s Times Square.

### Defiance in Australia

A heavy police presence monitored the thousands watching the fireworks show in Sydney. Many officers openly carried rapid-fire rifles, a first for the event, after two gunmen targeted a Hannukah celebration at Bondi Beach on Dec. 14, killing 15 and wounding 40.



CHAN LONG HEI, ASSOCIATED PRESS

People pose for photographs at Lan Kwai Fong to celebrate the start of 2026 on Wednesday in the Central district of Hong Kong.

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