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U.S. federal judge halts Trump's ban on refugees, people from Muslim countries entering U.S.

At 9:00 p.m. U.S. east coast time on Saturday, January 28, 2017, (0200 on Sunday, UTC), a U.S. federal judge in Brooklyn issued an emergency ruling halting deportation of individuals from the U.S. under the ban on individuals from seven majority-Muslim countries entering the United States that president Donald Trump had initiated by executive order on Friday. Another judge in Virginia issued a similar ruling shortly afterward.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit on behalf of two Iraqis who had been detained at John F. Kennedy airport in New York. Judge Ann Donnelly granted the emergency request to halt deportation under the executive order on grounds some of the people who would be deported would face "imminent danger" and "irreparable injury."

"What I do for this country? They put the cuffs on" said Hameed Khalid Darweesh, who had worked as a translator for the U.S. military for more than ten years and had been issued a visa after extensive background checks. "You know how many soldiers I touch by this hand?"

Earlier yesterday, Trump issued a statement that his executive order was being carried out smoothly: "It's not a Muslim ban, but we were totally prepared[.] It's working out very nicely. You see it at the airports, you see it all over." *The New York Times* described the effects of the ban as "upheaval", and *The Verge* described them as "widespread confusion."

Customs agents at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York detained about twelve people. Others were prevented from boarding planes bound for the U.S. This included both individuals coming to the U.S. for the first time and those in possession of a green card as proof of legal residency, such as international students returning for the spring semester and legal residents returning from visits to their home countries.

According to Homeland Security, 109 people were in transit when the order was issued and were prevented from entering the U.S. upon arrival and 173 were prevented from boarding planes, of which 81 were later given waivers admitting them to the country.

The stay applies to individuals who are already in the United States and those who are currently traveling to the United States under legal visas but does not clearly apply to anyone who has not yet departed for the U.S. While it prevents these people from being deported, it does not specifically allow them to enter the United States either. It is not clear whether they will be allowed to do so or held in detention.



Sit-in demonstration blocking arrival gates at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, demanding the release of twelve detainees, as part of protests at several U.S. airports against the immigration ban. Image: Dennis Bratland. (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Trump's executive order, officially titled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States", specifically placed a 90-day halt on immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Somalia; suspended all refugee admissions for 120 days; and suspended all entry of Syrian refugees into the United States without time limit. Although the administration issued a statement indicating the measure was meant to target "countries compromised by terrorism," *National Public Radio's* Greg Myre remarked it has been more than twenty years since the last time any of the targeted countries was the origin for a fatal Muslim extremist attack in the U.S. The executive order did not apply to any of the countries from which recent such attackers have hailed, such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt which were home to many of the 9/11 hijackers.

NPR noted the seven countries named in the executive order are places where Trump's family has "no business interests" in play, whereas Trump's family is conducting or planning

projects in Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Dubai, Indonesia and Turkey. Former Obama administration ethics advisor and current fellow at the Brookings Institution Norman Eisen called the decision an "open and notorious violation of the Constitution."

Black Sabbath ex-keyboardist Geoff Nicholls dies

British metal musician Geoff Nicholls, keyboardist for Black Sabbath from 1979 to 2004, died on Saturday, January 28, 2017, after battling lung cancer. He was 68.

Prior to Sabbath, Nicholls performed with New Wave of British Heavy Metal band Quartz. Quartz's 1977 debut album was produced by Tony Iommi, founding guitarist of Black Sabbath.

Iommi broke the news of Nicholls's death to fans, writing he was "so saddened to hear the loss of one of my dearest and closest friends Geoff Nicholls. He's been suffering for a while now with lung cancer and he lost his battle this morning. Geoff and I have always been very close and he has been a real true friend to me and supported me all the way for nearly 40 years. I will miss him dearly and he will live in my heart until we meet again."

Hailing from Birmingham, England, the origin of both bands Quartz and Sabbath, Nicholls appeared on numerous Sabbath albums starting with *Heaven and Hell* in 1980. Nicholls was caught up in turmoil within the band, with *Heaven and Hell* released shortly after the firing of frontman Ozzy Osbourne and his replacement with Ronnie James Dio, who died in 2010.

Nicholls was not always considered a full band member; despite achieving this status in 1986 when *Seventh Star* was released, he often played offstage or from the side during concerts. In 1992 he was demoted when Sabbath reunited with Dio to release *Dehumanizer* and he was again demoted when Osbourne rejoined in 1997. In 2004 Osbourne's solo band keyboardist, Adam Wakeman, joined the band leaving Nicholls without a role.

Nicholls thereafter joined another ex-Sabbath musician, Tony Martin, and performed in Martin's band Headless Cross. Headless Cross was named after a 1989 Black Sabbath album. "Saddened to hear of the passing of Geoff Nicholls", Martin said, adding "Safe journey, mate."

Osbourne said Nicholls "was a great friend of mine for a long time. He will be greatly missed. I'm very saddened at the news." Sabbath bassist Geezer Butler said he was "Very sad to hear of old friend and Sabbath keyboard player Geoff Nicholls passing."

Nicholls further appears on two Tony Martin solo albums, and played in 1960s band Johnny Neal and the Starliners. He played occasional rhythm guitar at Black Sabbath live shows.

German teenager sentenced to six years for stabbing police officer

A court in Celle, Germany sentenced sixteen-year-old German-Moroccan girl Safia S. to six years in prison on Thursday, January 26, for an attempted murder. Safia stabbed a 34-year-old police officer in February last year using a vegetable knife in a train station in Hannover.



File photo of a train station in Hannover.
Image: Bobanaut (Panoramio). (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Phone chats revealed Safia acted on the behalf of ISIL, the judge said, though the militant group did not claim any responsibility. The Federal Prosecutor Office sought the six-year sentence for the juvenile a week prior. 20-year-old Mohamad Hasan K., who knew about Safia's plan, was sentenced to a 30-month prison term for failing to inform officials.

The hearing of the case was not made public. Upon investigation, prosecutors accused Safia of meeting a member of the militant group in Istanbul, Turkey last year in a failed attempt to go to Syria. Safia's elder brother went to Syria in 2015, but he was held in custody there. Safia was in contact with a member of ISIL via the internet.

The victim underwent surgery for life-threatening injuries, but survived.

Anti-abortion March for Life draws thousands in Washington, D.C.

On Friday, January 27, 2017, thousands of anti-abortion protesters rallied in Washington, D.C. Unlike the half a million who walked to the White House waving signs last Saturday, these came to support one of the policies espoused by the United States president Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence: making abortion harder to come by.

This event, called the March for Life, has taken place every year since 1973, the year abortion was ruled legal in the U.S. by the Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision. "Pro-life" is the umbrella term of choice of the U.S. political movement that favours rendering abortion illegal and less accessible and "pro-choice" is the corresponding term for the movement that favours keeping it legal and accessible.

Donald Trump has recently reversed Barack Obama's repeal of a global funding ban, which prohibits the use of U.S. funds for any organisation that provides or counsels for abortions abroad.

Trump specifically asked Vice President Mike Pence to attend the march. "Life is winning in America!" he told the crowd, noting that he serves under "a president who I proudly say stands for the right to life." A Pew Research Institute poll taken this year shows that 69% of Americans support the Roe v Wade decision, up from 60% in 1992.

One reason why many opponents of abortion say the procedure should be

illegal is the belief, often religious, that life begins at conception. Correspondingly, the event was accompanied by religious music and speeches, including one by Catholic Archbishop Timothy Dolan. One reporter for the *BBC* noted a large number of young women in the crowd, especially college students. Signs included "Women DO Regret Abortion" and "I am the Pro-Life Generation," many held up by young women. Others showed pictures of fetuses, quoted Bible verses, or called for the defunding of Planned Parenthood by name. There is already a law in place, the Hyde Amendment, which bans the use of federal funds for abortions, though this money can go to organisations that also perform abortions so long as the funds are kept separate.

As governor of Indiana, Mike Pence established some of the country's strictest abortion laws. Years ago, Donald Trump said publicly that he was "very pro-choice" but has since changed his stance. Trump commented, as is his custom, via Tweet, "To all of you marching — you have my full support!"

The crowds in Washington, D.C. yesterday numbered in the tens of thousands, in contrast to the roughly 500,000 in last week's Women's March, though some organisations did attend both events. March for Life President Jeanne Mancini told *National Public Radio*, "I think we're a pretty different march — we're a one-issue march."

The abortion rate in the United States hit a record low in 2013, but the pro- and anti-abortion rights movements are at odds about why. Both sides credit increased availability of contraceptives, but anti-abortion organisations tend to give more credit to state-level laws that have made it harder to keep abortion clinics open and limit abortions to only the early stages of pregnancy. As NARAL Pro-Choice America President Ilyse Hogue pointed out, the anti-abortion movement now has the opportunity to work at the federal level; "We're living at the apex of a 40-year, state-by-state effort by the anti-choice people [...] We have to be prepared for the fact that they've got all the pieces in place to do real damage."

Protesters dance for gay rights, health care at Philadelphia 'Queer Rager'

On Wednesday night, January 25, 2017, more than 1,000 protesters, most of them part of the LGBT community, staged a dance protest they called the "Queer Rager" outside the Leows Hotel in Philadelphia's Center City, where the U.S. Republican Party has arranged a retreat. Gay rights and health care featured amongst the issues raised.

Protesters expressed concerns about traditional gay issues, but Republican U.S. President Donald Trump's impending repeal of the Affordable Care Act, law enforcement, climate change and other issues were also visible. Signs included "Health Care Is a Human Right," "BROWN BLACK LGBTQ LIVES MATTER," and "Trans Bodies Are Beautiful."

Titled "Queer Rage(r): Guerrilla Dance Party," participants were invited to dance and carry signs. Like the Women's March last Saturday, this protest was organised partially through Facebook.

Event organiser Hanako Franz told ABC Channel 6, "The focus for tonight is to call attention to the ways in which queer and trans, especially queer and trans black and brown people, do not have access to a lot of healthcare."

"Get ready to WERK it out," reads the event's official Facebook page. "As they try to take away our health care, to police Black, Brown, Trans and Queer bodies, to regulate our bodies, we're here to say #WeAreQueer #WeAreHere #WeWillDance."

This is part of several events, including a rally by health care professionals, expected to continue until today, when the retreat ends. One event, which has been given the go-ahead by the city of Philadelphia, is expected to draw 3,000 participants.

Germany to drop 'lese majeste' law

On Wednesday, January 25, 2017, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet announced Germany is to drop the 'lese majeste' law which protects foreign leaders from insult. This law is to come under effect in January 2018.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel, from file
Image: FNDE. (CC BY-SA 4.0)

German justice minister Heiko Maas called this law redundant and said, "the idea of lese majesty arose in an era long gone by. It no longer belongs in our criminal law".

A year ago, German satirist Jan Böhmermann presented a poem on the Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. In the poem he said Erdoğan "kicks the Kurds, smacks the Christians, all while watching child pornography", *National Public Radio* reported. Böhmermann also called the Turkish leader "stupid, cowardly and uptight".

In April, Böhmermann faced investigation, authorised by Merkel. Judges in Hamburg called the poem abusive. In October, the investigation was dropped on grounds of insufficient evidence of a crime. A final hearing on an injunction against Böhmermann is scheduled for February 10 in Hamburg.

If the measure passes, German citizens would not be prosecuted by their government specifically for dishonouring foreign leaders. However, Maas says foreign leaders have the same right as any other plaintiff to file a civil defamation suit.

The change to the law would require action by the German Bundestag.

Rescue helicopter crash kills six in Abruzzo, Italy

A rescue helicopter crashed in Abruzzo, Italy on Tuesday, January 24, 2017. All six on board died.



The Gran Sasso mountains, from file.
Image: MrPanyGoff. (CC BY-SA 4.0)

The flight was taking a wounded skier from the Campo Felice ski resort in Rocca di Cambio to the regional capital, L'Aquila. It crashed near the resort. The mountainous site is around 100km (60 miles) from the scene of an avalanche last week at the Rigopiano hotel, where at least fifteen died and several remain missing.

Rescue operations at the hotel, which is on the other side of mountain Gran Sasso, are ongoing. Rescuers diverted away from the scene to assist with the helicopter accident. Lucoli mayor Gianluca Marrocchi said the helicopter was flying low. "After that it disappeared in the fog," he said to RAI.

Some witnesses said there was an explosion before the crash, and the local police said a crash signal was activated. A police spokesperson commented to AFP, "The area where it came down is hard to access at the best of times, and thick fog is making it even more difficult[.]"

The region has seen heavy snowfall and several earthquakes recently. Thousands of residents have spent a week without electricity. Campo Felice is around 120km from Rome, and popular with skiers from the capital.

Czech diplomats secure release of Polish 'terrorist' in Syria

The Czech government on Monday, January 23, 2017, announced its diplomats had secured the release of a Polish citizen imprisoned for terrorism in Syria. The Polish foreign ministry on Tuesday confirmed the release of Leszek Panek, 54, from Wrocław.



File photo of rubble in a Homs street.
Image: Adam Warda (Panoramio). (CC BY 3.0)

Polish media reports Panek, who vanished in late 2015 after crossing into Syria via Lebanon, suffers ill mental health. He had previously been travelling around Poland to warn of impending nuclear Armageddon. A statement from the Czech Presidential office said Panek's condition was "satisfactory".

Panek requires crutches after he was shot during his arrest by the Syrian army in Homs. He faced the death penalty after being accused of "activities linked to terrorism". The Czech statement said he was released for humanitarian reasons. When Polish authorities learned of Panek's location last year they tried to negotiate his release before seeking Czech help.

The Czech embassy is the only representation of any European Union nation in Syria and as such it represents all other EU members as well as the United States in the nation. Hynek Kmoníček, head advisor on foreign policy for the Czech President, said Ambassador Eva Filipi in Syria and her counterpart in Lebanon secured the release with their "empathy and energy". Filipi has been praised by Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad who last year spoke of her commitment to Syria despite danger and political turmoil.

Kmoníček travelled to Beirut to witness Panek's transfer to the Polish embassy in Lebanon. The Polish foreign ministry says he is expected home imminently, and that he went to Syria in order to convert people away from Islam to instead follow Christianity. A Czech Presidential spokesperson said negotiators worked in both Prague in the Czech Republic and Damascus in Syria, where the Czech embassy is located, for several months.

Official death toll from Nigerian refugee camp airstrike passes 100

On Monday, January 23, 2017, Nigerian authorities raised the official death toll from January 17's airstrike upon a refugee camp to 236, though the BBC on Tuesday reported an official told them this was an error and the actual figure was 115. The military said at the time a jet mistook refugees for rebels.

The new toll updates previous estimates, which at the time of the incident were of at least 50 dead. The BBC on Tuesday reported an official told them the figure of 236 was erroneously reached by combining the numbers of dead and wounded. The camp in Rann, Borno State is home to thousands and lies near the northeastern border with Cameroon.

Home to those displaced by Boko Haram insurgents, the camp is in an area suffering famine. Farmers are unable to work owing to bombs on their land. The Red Cross was there to distribute food when the attack happened. Twenty Nigerian Red Cross workers were injured or killed. Médecins Sans Frontières are treating the majority of the wounded in makeshift tents in Rann, which lacks hospital facilities. A small number have been evacuated to Maiduguri.

Military officials said at the time the Air Force had been dispatched to Rann after reports of "remnants" of Boko Haram in the area. The military claims it is in a "final push" against the rebel group. A promised investigation has materialised in the form of a panel of Air Force officials, with orders to complete the probe by the end of next week.



File photo of a refugee camp in Maiduguri, Nigeria.
Image: Voice of America. (CC0 1.0/Public Domain)

Human Rights Watch have called for compensation for victims. They say the military is not absolved of liability and suggest the camp's tents were obvious. Eyewitnesses say the aircraft circled twice, dropping multiple bombs, which appears corroborated by satellite imagery. President Muhammadu Buhari called it a "regrettable operational mistake" and has since departed for a holiday in London.

Journalists are barred from the military-controlled camp. Officials claim all the dead in Rann have been buried, and two more died in hospital in Maiduguri. Most of those killed were women and children. Soldiers were also amongst those killed. Eyewitnesses claim two days after the disaster in excess of 100 Boko Haram militants attacked the camp, fighting with soldiers for hours.

MSF field co-ordinator Alfred Davies said, "There are no words to describe the chaos [...] I saw the bodies of children that had been cut in two." MSF have called for "a transparent account" with the organisation's general director complaining refugees "were bombed by those who were meant to safeguard them". Some humanitarian groups have suggested the incident constitutes a war crime even as an accident, and Human Rights Watch is urging an independent probe. They say 35 structures were destroyed at two separate locations within the camp.

"We saw dozens of patients with multiple traumatic injuries, including open fractures and wounds to the abdomen and chest," said MSF doctor Mohammed Musoke. He described wounded children, including a crying baby with shrapnel in its neck and "a 10-year-old boy with a large, deep flesh wound to his thigh. The flesh was hanging loose on one side and you could see through to the bone."

Survivor Baba, 37, a refugee, said military aircraft were not an uncommon

sight but the attacking jet behaved abnormally. "The plane flew back and forth, and we knew something was wrong before the bombing happened." His remarks were released by MSF.

Prior to the attacks camp residents had been starving, some dying from malnutrition. War and substandard infrastructure left Rann isolated, and the attack came as the Red Cross were about to distribute food they had just arrived with. The Red Cross say they have five weeks' worth of food.

The International NGO Safety Organisation claims 2016 saw in excess of 90 aid workers killed worldwide, with 154 injured.

Nadal beats Raonic to reach Australian Open semis

On Wednesday, January 25, 2017, Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal defeated Canadian player and current world number 3 Milos Raonic in three straight sets in the Australian Open's quarter-finals. Defeating Raonic 6–4, 7–6, 6–4, Nadal is to face fifteenth seeded Bulgarian player Grigor Dimitrov in his fifth semi-finals appearance at the Rod Laver Arena.



File photo of Nadal competing in 2016.
Image: Carine06 (Flickr). (CC BY-SA 2.0)

In the first set, Raonic served six aces, but committed ten unforced errors. Nadal won the first set 6–4 in 43 minutes. The second set lasted for 81 minutes, going to 6–6. Nadal bettered

the two, in the tie breaker. Nadal registered only four aces in the entire match as compared to Raonic's fourteen but won two break points. Nadal won the third set winning it 6–4 to register his 50th win in the Australian Open in two hours and 44 minutes.

Nadal's head to head record against the Canadian is 7–2. He recently lost against Raonic in the Brisbane Open. Nadal bagged 88% net points in the match winning 76 points in the first serve. After the match, King of Clay said, "I am just excited about being back in the final rounds of the most important events. I am here to try to win this. It is always difficult, but I fought and I worked hard to try to make that happen." Nadal has not featured in any of the Grand Slam semi-finals after 2014's French Open.

Swiss player and 2014 winner Stan Wawrinka is only player from the top five seed left in the tournament. He is to face his compatriot Roger Federer in the semi-final.

La La Land receives record-equalling fourteen Oscar nominations; Hacksaw Ridge gets six

On Tuesday, January 24, 2017, *La La Land*, directed by Damien Chazelle, received a record-equalling fourteen Academy Awards nomination, tied with 1950s movie *All About Eve* and 1990's *Titanic*. Mel Gibson's *HackSaw Ridge* based on true story bagged six nominations.

The movie, featuring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, received nominations in all major categories. Gosling and Stone received nominations for Best Actor and Actress respectively. The other nominations include Best Picture, Director, Cinematography, Costume Design, Film-editing, Original Score, Production Design, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing and Original Screenplay. Two songs from the movie, *Audition (The Fools Who Dream)* and *City of Stars*, received nominations for best original

song. Lionsgate studio received 26 nominations — more than any other studio.

Andrew Garfield, who previously starred in *The Amazing Spider-Man* along with Emma Stone, competes with Gosling for his role in *Hacksaw Ridge*. Based on the true story of US combat medic Desmond Doss, the movie has received six nominations including Best Picture, Actor in Leading Role, Best Director, Film Editing, Sound Editing and Sound Mixing — *La La Land* also receiving nominations in these categories. *Lion* and *Manchester by the Sea* also received six nominations.



File photo of Oscars' nominee Ryan Gosling from file.
Image: Raffi Asdourian (Flickr). (CC BY 2.0)

Author J.K. Rowling's screenwriting début *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* starring Eddie Redmayne received two nominations for costume design and production design. Redmayne won the award for best actor two years ago for playing Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything* and was nominated last year for *The Danish Girl*.

This year, six black actors received nominations setting a new record. The hashtag #OscarsSoWhite was mentioned lot of times on Twitter as no non-white received nominations for the past two years. April Reign, creator of the hashtag, said "Everyone is saying the Oscars are more diverse this year. No they're not. They're blacker, but where are the Latinx movies, the LGBTQIA movies? The Asian American/Pacific Islander community has had a worse year. We can't forget just because we have black nominees this year." Bradford Young, cinematographer of *Arrival*, is the first African-American to be nominated and Joi McMillon – editor of *Moonlight* – is the first non-white woman to receive nomination. Mahershala Ali, Naomie Harris, Viola

Davis, Dev Patel, and Octavia Spencer are the non-white people who are nominated for their supporting roles.

Disney's *Zootopia* and *Moana* received nominations for Best Animated Feature film. Pixar's *Finding Dory* did not receive this nomination. Last year, Pixar's *The Good Dinosaur* also missed the nomination but Pixar's *Inside Out*, directed by Pete Docter, won the award.

Manchester by the Sea's nomination made the e-commerce website Amazon.com the first movie streaming company to earn a nomination for the Best Picture category. *Arrival* bagged eight nominations. *Florence Foster Jenkins* starring Meryl Streep nominated for Best Actress earned her 20th career Oscars nomination.

The award ceremony is to be held on February 26 to be hosted by Jimmy Kimmel.

UK Civil Aviation Authority issues update on Shoreham crash response

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of the United Kingdom on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, issued an update detailing progress on its response to the August 2015 crash at Shoreham Airshow that killed eleven.

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) is expected to release a final report within months. It has issued a total of 21 recommendations to the CAA, which yesterday confirmed it has accepted all of them. Pilot Andy Hill, who survived but was seriously injured, faces a manslaughter investigation.

The CAA says it has already implemented more than half the recommendations in addition to publishing its own review of airshow safety in April. In April, it accepted measures including an increase in the distance between spectators and aircraft at shows. The latest recommendations include changes to aircraft maintenance and the process of receiving permits.

A CAA spokesperson said "We have been working on them as and when the recommendations came in and reviewing them in detail. We are continuing to work to implement the changes." They said the plan is "to have as many in place as possible before the start of the air show season."



Floral tributes following the crash.
Image: HarrisonS4433. (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Hill was performing a large loop when his 1950s Hawker Hunter jet crashed into the A27 road near the town of Shoreham in West Sussex, England. Cars were caught up in the impact. He was an experienced pilot with a career with British Airways and the Royal Air Force followed by years of display flights. His military experience included flying Harrier jump-jets.

Both Hill and the aircraft were well known amongst airshow enthusiasts. The plane was sold by the military when it was decommissioned in 1996. Fellow pilot David Wildridge, who also participated in the Shoreham show, said at the time Hill was "well-known and well-loved", "very professional", and "the best of the best."

All eleven killed were men. An inquest is presently scheduled for March. It was one of three deadly European airshow crashes in four days, with fatal collisions in Switzerland and Slovakia.

Women's March becomes largest protest in U.S. history

On Saturday, January 21, 2017, by estimates, over 500,000 women and other protesters — twice the figure expected by organizers — marched through Washington D.C. to protest the inauguration of Donald Trump as president of the United States. They

were accompanied by hundreds of thousands of others in hundreds of sister marches in cities across the United States and on all seven continents, including Antarctica.



Protestors at the march with signs.
Image: Mark Dixon (Flickr). (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Though different publications are providing different figures, *The Independent* reports that between 3.3 and 4.6 million people walked and carried signs, 750,000 in Los Angeles, 575,000 in Washington D.C., 450,000 in New York, 250,000 in Chicago and many smaller figures in other cities, making this the largest protest in American history. In contrast to the protests on the day of the inauguration, not one marcher was reported arrested in Washington D.C., Los Angeles, New York, Chicago or Seattle.

At the march, women, men and children chanted slogans like "This is what democracy looks like!" and "Women's rights are human rights!" and carried signs evoking images from Rosie the Riveter to Princess Leia or referenced things that Trump had said during his campaign, as in "Fury coming out my wherever" and "Hands too small can't build a wall." Though celebrities such as feminist Gloria Steinem and singer Alicia Keys gave speeches, only a fraction of the demonstrators were close enough to hear them.

The idea for a women's protest to the election of Donald Trump is credited to two people, retired attorney Teresa Shook of Hawaii and fashion designer Bob Bland of Brooklyn. Both women posted their ideas online, gaining many followers before the movement finally merged.

The march's mission statement reads, in part, "The Women's March on Washington will send a bold message to our new government on their first day in office, and to the world that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us."

Mary Schmich of the *Chicago Tribune* called the march a response to the "presidential inauguration of a man who has breezily, relentlessly disrespected women and who is set to oversee changes in our laws that go beyond disrespect." Senior counselor at the Albright Stonebridge Group and former U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs Wendy R. Sherman wrote in *USA Today*, "For me, the agenda is clear. It is solidarity. It is saying to the new administration that misogyny cannot rule. Whether reproductive rights, equal pay for equal work, an end to sexual violence, women in combat or the importance of girls' education worldwide, we are here; we will not relent; we will not give up."

The march did focus on traditional women's issues such as reproductive rights but also addressed issues such as gun control and the environment from a female perspective. "Gun violence is a women's issue," attendee Amy Schumer posted online, "American women are 16 times more likely to be killed with a gun than in other high-income countries. In an average month, 50 women are shot to death by a current or former partner in the United States. Approximately 4.5 million American women have been threatened with guns, and guns are the weapon of choice in domestic murders." "A healthy environment is a basic right for all of us," stated Natural Resources Defense Council President Rhea Suh.

The event organizers' stated principles included "open access to safe, legal, affordable abortion and birth control for all people, regardless of income, location or education" and Planned Parenthood was the march's single biggest sponsor.

"I think it's important that a pro-life feminist voice is there. I am not going to protest," antiabortion activist Abby Johnson told the *Washington Post*. "I am going to join in solidarity[...] and to be honest, abortion is not the only issue I'm concerned about. I'm concerned about

the pay gap. I'm concerned about the lack of women in the political arena. There are a lot of things that are important to me."

The following day, President Trump responded, via separate tweets, "Why didn't these people vote?" and "Peaceful protests are a hallmark of our democracy. Even if I don't always agree, I recognize the rights of people to express their views."

Bryan brothers announce retirement from Davis Cup

On Sunday, the Bryan brothers announced their retirement from the United States' Davis Cup team. Twins Bob and Mike Bryan have participated in the tennis tournament representing the US for almost fourteen years.



The brothers celebrating a victory in 2014, from file.
Image: Michael Frey. (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Mike and Brian hold the record of winning sixteen grand slam titles together. The 38-year-old duo made the announcement via Instagram with Bob saying, "Mike and I want to formally announce our decision to step down from our role as active members of the U.S. Davis Cup team". They won the Davis Cup for the USA in 2007 calling it "one of the greatest highlights" of their career and first represented the country in 2003.

The duo defeated their compatriot Brian Baker and his Croatian partner Nikola Mektić 6–3, 7–6 in the Australian Open's Round of 16 today. They have won six Australian Open together. They have won an Olympics gold medal in London in 2012 and one bronze medal in Beijing

in 2008. In mixed-doubles, Bob betters the two winning seven Grand Slams as compared to Mike's four.

The United States is to play against Switzerland in the upcoming Davis Cup tournament next month.

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