

NEWS 2023

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News about nuclear weapons in China and United States

China is expanding its nuclear force and is on pace to nearly quadruple the number of warheads it has by 2035, rapidly closing its gap with the United States, the Pentagon said in a report released Tuesday. The report builds on the military's warning last year that China is expanding its nuclear force much faster than U.S. officials had predicted, highlighting a broad and accelerating buildup of military muscle designed to enable Beijing to match or surpass U.S. global power by mid-century. Last year, the Pentagon said the number of Chinese nuclear warheads could increase to 700 within six years and may top 1,000 by 2030. The new report says China currently has about 400 nuclear warheads, and that number could grow up to 1,500 by 2035. The United States, by comparison, has 3,750 active nuclear warheads.



Beijing's growing arsenal is creating uncertainty for the U.S. as it navigates how to deter two nuclear powers, Russia and China, simultaneously, the Pentagon said in its recent nuclear posture review. And China's buildup also creates uncertainty about its intentions, said Bonny Lin, director of the China power project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/article/s/2022-11-29/china-to-increase-nuclear-warheads-to-1-500-pentagon-warns>

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Russia Attacking Ukraine

Russia's invasion of Ukraine could entice autocrats around the world to race to develop nuclear weapons, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Saturday, potentially sparking a dangerous era of nuclear proliferation. Moscow has threatened to use tactical nuclear weapons against Ukraine several times over the past nine months, leading to a flurry of phone calls this month between U.S., European and Russian officials trying to tamp down tensions. A day before he leaves for a multi-day swing through the Indo-Pacific, Austin painted a bleak picture for the world, alluding to a scenario in which autocrats will race to acquire the bomb if Putin isn't successfully repelled. "They could well conclude that getting nuclear weapons would give them a hunting license of their own. And that could drive a dangerous spiral of nuclear proliferation," the secretary said at the Halifax International Security Forum.



Austin further warned that "Putin may resort again to profoundly irresponsible nuclear saber-rattling" as the war drags on and if Ukrainian forces continue their gains against Russian troops. The secretary said helping to defend Ukraine is in the national interest, and there's no option but to assist in Kyiv's fight since peace talks are unlikely any time soon. The comments come against the backdrop of a new round of missile tests by North Korea, including a recent launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile, moves that have again raised fears that the regime in Pyongyang is increasing the range and sophistication of its nuclear-capable missile arsenal. At the same time, international efforts to revive the Iran nuclear deal have stalled, and Iran has significantly expanded its nuclear program. Sen. Jim Risch of Idaho, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he agreed with Austin's assessment, especially as it pertained to Iran. "If the Iranians got their hands on a nuclear weapon, there's going to be a stampede of countries in the Middle East and other parts of the world that think they've got to have nuclear weapons to respond," he said. "That is not a small concern. That is a big concern."

Protesters slam Kaczynski's comments on women drinking and Poland's near total abortion ban

Some 300 protesters in Poland rallied in front of the Warsaw home of conservative ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski on Monday, to protest over what they see as contempt towards women and an erosion of their rights. The demonstrators opposed a near-total ban on abortion pushed by the Law and Justice Party last year, as well as policies that ended state funding of in-vitro fertilisation. Kaczynski recently blamed the country's low birth rate on women drinking too much alcohol. Protesters called for the 73-year-old politician to step down, saying he is out of touch and does not understand the reasons that make it difficult today for women to decide to have children. While the alcohol comment angered many at the time, the protest was much smaller than some of the Women's Strike-led demonstrations of past years. It took place on the 104th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in Poland.



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Healing Haiti in the face of an increase of sexual violence



It is estimated that at least 30 per cent of Haitian women between the ages of 15 and 30 years old have been victims of sexual abuse or violence. The Spotlight Initiative, a global initiative of the United Nations supported by the European Union to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, is working to transform the lives of Haitian women for the better.



Migration



FRANCE

Sangatte, FRANCE, Nov 29

French police stopped close to 50 migrants from attempting to cross the English Channel to Britain after mild weather and calm waters led a growing number of people to undertake the dangerous journey in recent days.

Trafficking networks have recently changed their method. They now arrive with 'taxi boats' and the refugees are being asked to run into the water to catch them.

Britain and France signed an agreement worth 72.2 million euros over the coming year to ramp up efforts to stop illegal migrants from making perilous journeys across the Channel.



MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, Nov 21

Mexico detained more than 16,000 migrants in a four-day span, including nearly 5,000 Venezuelans.

The National Institute of Migration said 16,096 migrants from 46 countries were detained in 22 Mexican states between Nov. 17 and 20.

The government agency said it increased services via migrant attention centers in several states due to an influx of migrants and the dangers they face including traffickers and increasingly cold temperatures.

U.S. and Mexico authorities agreed to return some Venezuelan migrants who entered the U.S. illegally to Mexico. Since then, thousands of migrants have been found camping in poor conditions elsewhere in Mexico.

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Migration

SPAIN

MADRID, Nov 29

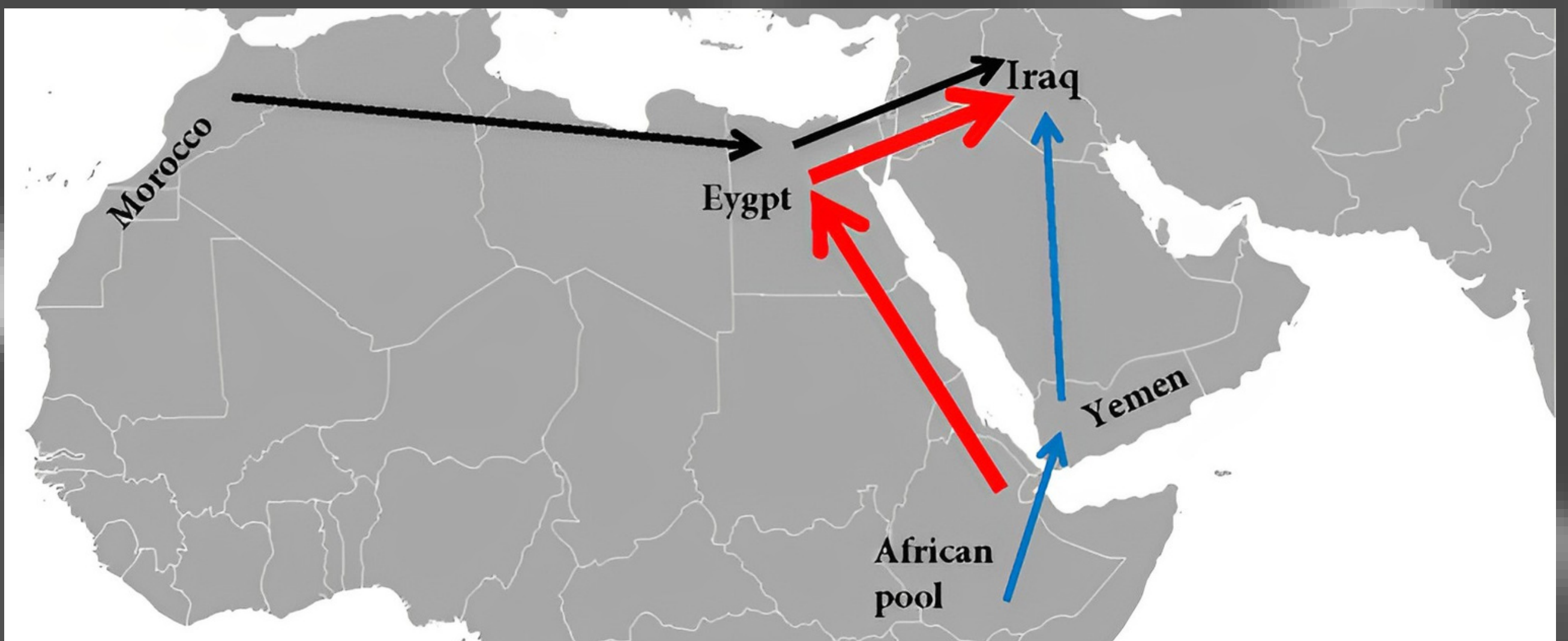
Migrants in Morocco have no effective access to asylum in the Spanish enclave of Melilla. Migrants have no choice other than to seek to cross illegally.

The Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner called on Spanish authorities to rectify the situation.

and the other Spanish enclave of Ceuta are the only land borders between Africa and the European Union.

A video showed dozens of bodies piled together.

A United Nations' human rights committee condemned in a statement what they described as "excessive and lethal use of force" by Moroccan and Spanish law enforcement. Spanish Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska insisted police acted proportionately



“Death Penalty” Texas woman who killed pregnant woman and cut out unborn child sentenced to death.



A Texas woman convicted of killing a pregnant woman and then taking her unborn baby, who also died, has been sentenced to death in the US.

A Bowie County jury last month found Taylor Rene Parker guilty of capital murder in the deaths of Reagan Michelle Simmons and her baby, after about an hour of deliberations, the district attorney's office previously said.

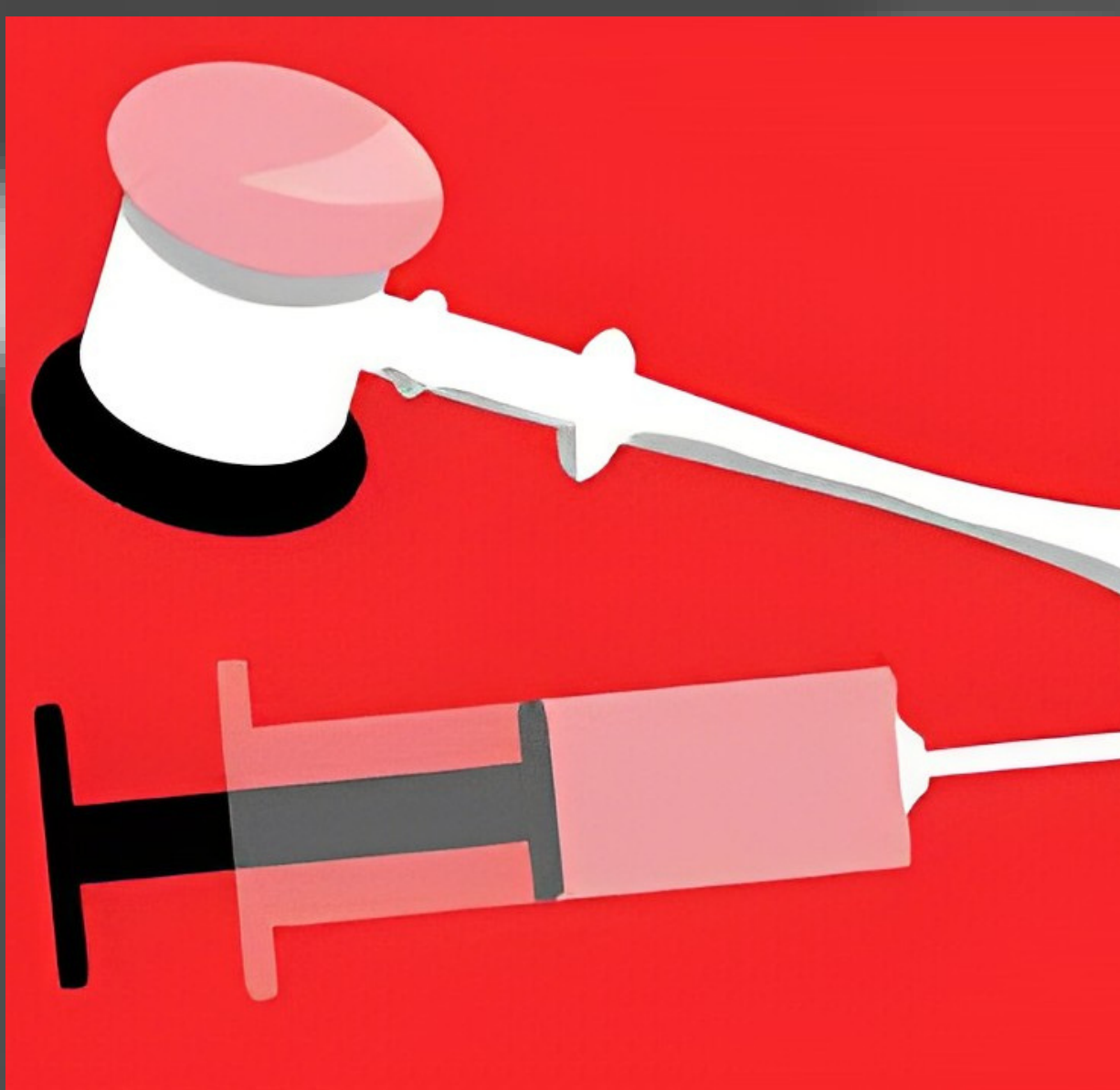
According to a probable cause affidavit, Parker had told her boyfriend and others she was pregnant, held a gender reveal party and on October 9, 2020, said she was going to a hospital in Idabel, Oklahoma, to preregister for labor to be induced.

Responding officers found Simmons, who they learned had been 34 weeks pregnant, with a large cut along her abdomen and the baby no longer in her womb.

Texas state troopers conducted a traffic stop of a car that morning and found Parker holding a baby in her lap and "the umbilical cord was connected to the infant, which appeared to be coming out of the female's pants, as if she gave birth to the child," the affidavit said.

LINK:

<https://www.9news.com.au/world/texas-woman-who-killed-pregnant-mother-took-baby-sentenced-to-death/1f8241c2-4a14-4912-8064-783501505051>



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