WORLD

Europe's far right makes gains after activist's death

By EARLE GALE in London
earle@mail.chinadailyuk.com

Europe's far right, which was already riding a wave of popularity and threatening to make gains in upcoming elections, has opened up a new front and is portraying itself as a victim of violence.

Far-right parties, including France's anti-immigrant National Rally, claimed to be endangered during a rally over the weekend in memory of an activist who was beaten to death.

Left-wing activists allegedly attacked 23-year-old Quentin Deranque in the French city of Lyon before he died in hospital on Feb 14.

He was reportedly set upon on the sidelines of a far-right protest outside an event in Lyon where far-left lawmaker Rima Hassan was a keynote speaker.

Three thousand far-right activists marched on Saturday in his memory in Lyon, which has become a battleground for activists from the extremes of the political spectrum.

Marchers, many of whom were carrying white tulips, banners and placards, wore black and chanted "justice for Quentin". The local government said some were filmed making Nazi salutes and hurling racist insults.

France's President Emmanuel Macron, eager not to anger prospective far-right voters ahead of a presidential election next year, said before the march: "This is a moment of remembrance and respect for this young compatriot who was killed, for his family and loved ones. That must come first. And then it is a moment of firmness and responsibility."

Seven people are under formal investigation over Deranque's death, including a former aide to a lawmaker from the far-left La France Insoumise.

The tension in France and much of Europe between the far right and far left has flared in the wake of hundreds of thousands of irregular migrants arriving there in recent years.

The dispute between the two extremes is now adding to tensions between Europe and the United States, with France threatening to summon the US ambassador to France Charles Kushner over comments made by the Trump administration.

Jean-Noel Barrot, France's minister for Europe and foreign affairs, took issue with a statement posted on X by the US State Department's Bureau of Counterterrorism that reads: "Violent radical leftism is on the rise and its role in Quentin Deranque's death demonstrates the threat it poses to public safety. We will continue to monitor the situation and expect to see the perpetrators of violence brought to justice."

On Sunday, Barrot told the television broadcaster Franceinfo: "We reject any instrumentalization of this tragedy, which has plunged a French family into mourning, for political ends. We have no lessons to learn, particularly on the issue of violence, from the international reactionary movement. We analyze political life and the role of violence ourselves with sufficient verve and will not allow others to do so for us."

Brides-to-be



Brides dressed in wedding attire wait for the start of a community-funded mass ceremony involving 121 couples on Sunday in Gumla, India. These events highlight the increasing reliance on collective ceremonies to bypass the prohibitive costs of traditional Indian marriages. YOUSUF SARFARAZ VIA GETTY IMAGES

Greenland, Denmark reject Washington's hospital ship

COPENHAGEN — Denmark and Greenland on Sunday rejected US President Donald Trump's offer to send a naval hospital ship to the Arctic island coveted by the US leader.

A day earlier, the president said he was sending "a great hospital boat to Greenland to take care of the many people who are sick, and not being taken care of there".

But Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen, who heads the autonomous territory's government, wrote on his Facebook page: "That will be 'no thanks' from us."

"President Trump's idea to send a US hospital ship here to Greenland has been duly noted. But we have a public health system where care is free for citizens," he said.

"This is not the case in the United States, where going to the doctor costs money."

Danish Minister of Defence Troels Lund Poulsen likewise told Danish broadcaster DR: "The Greenlandic population receives the healthcare it needs. They receive it either in Greenland, or, if they require specialized treatment, they receive it in Denmark."

He added: "It's not as if there's a need for a special healthcare initiative in Greenland."

On the day that Trump made his proposal, Danish forces evacuated a crew member of a US submarine off the coast of Greenland's capital Nuuk after the sailor requested urgent medical attention.

Denmark's Joint Arctic Command said in a post on Facebook that the crew member was flown to a hospital in Nuuk after an unspecified medical emergency on board the vessel.

There are five regional hospitals across Greenland, with the one in the capital Nuuk, serving patients from all over the territory.

Trump, in his Truth Social message on Saturday about the hospital ship, posted an AI-generated image of a US Navy medical vessel, *USNS Mercy*.

"It's on the way!!!" he added.

It was not immediately clear if that meant he was deploying that ship to Greenland.

The US president indicated the deployment was being carried out in coordination with Jeff Landry, appointed in December as the US special envoy to the island.

Aaja Chemnitz, who represents Greenland in the Danish Parliament, wrote on Facebook that, while Greenland's health system had its share of problems, they were best resolved through cooperation with Denmark.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA



Fiery reaction

A firefighter extinguishes a burning bus set on fire by organized crime groups on Sunday in Zapopan, state of Jalisco, Mexico, in response to the killing of the powerful leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel by the army. Armed civilians blocked several roads in the state of Jalisco following the army operation in the town of Tapalpa, authorities said. Jalisco, which will host four matches of the upcoming 2026 World Cup, is home to the powerful cartel, and has been rocked by several episodes of violence in recent years. ULISES RUIZ / AFP

Iran, US to resume nuclear talks

Divisions cast doubts over negotiation prospects as confrontation risk looms

By CUI HAIPEI in Dubai, UAE
cuihaipei@chinadaily.com.cn

Iran and the United States are set to resume their third round of nuclear negotiations, even as a hardening US military posture in the Middle East and lingering core divisions over the framework of a nuclear deal cast doubts over the fragility of the process and the looming risk of confrontation.

Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi confirmed the development on Sunday night, expressing his pleasure at the progress and noting a "positive push to go the extra mile to finalize the deal". Oman, a mediator between the two nations, had previously hosted indirect talks on Iran's nuclear program and facilitated the latest round in Geneva last week.

Minutes after the confirmation, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian voiced cautious optimism in a post on social media, saying recent negotiations had "yielded encouraging signals", while emphasizing Tehran's readiness to confront "any potential scenario".

In a CBS News interview broadcast on Sunday, Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said he may meet with US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff on Thursday in Geneva, noting that a diplomatic solution remains possible.

'Peaceful program'

He said the deal should include Iran's "peaceful nuclear program" as well as lifting US sanctions against Iran, reaffirming Tehran's resolve to secure its right to uranium enrichment under the national nuclear program. He also stressed that Tehran has the right to self-defense if the US attacks Iran. "We have to hit, you know, the American base in the region."

Araghchi said Iran and the US can reach a nuclear deal better than the 2015 accord signed between Tehran and world powers. "This time, there is no need for that many details. We can agree on core principles and ensure that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful and will remain peaceful forever."

Talks were deadlocked for years after Trump's 2018 decision to unilaterally withdraw the US from the landmark 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Indirect talks last year failed to produce an agreement, mainly due to disputes over a US demand that Iran abandon uranium enrichment on its soil — a step Washington views as a pathway to a nuclear bomb. Iran has repeatedly denied seeking such weapons.

The US administration has been pushing for concessions from its longtime adversary and has built up the largest US military presence in the Middle East in decades. The US has deployed two aircraft carriers to the region in recent weeks, along with additional warplanes and naval vessels.

Meanwhile, Witkoff said on Saturday that the US president wonders why Iran has not yet "capitulated" and agreed to curb its nuclear program.

"I don't want to use the word 'frustrated', because he understands he has plenty of alternatives, but he's curious as to why they haven't ... I don't want to use the word 'capitulated', but why they haven't capitulated," Witkoff said during an interview with Fox News' *My View with Lara Trump*.

In response, Araghchi wrote on social media: "Curious why we don't capitulate? Because we are Iranian."

A senior Iranian official told Reuters that significant gaps remain between the two sides.

"Both sides must agree on a realistic timetable for lifting sanctions," the official said.

Washington has insisted that any deal with Iran must also include limits on long-range missiles and a rollback of alleged support for regional militia groups. But analysts say such conditions would be extremely difficult for Iran to accept, as they would undermine its national security interests.

FRIENDS AFAR

Editor's note: *China Daily presents the series Friends Afar to tell the stories of people-to-people exchanges between China and other countries. Through the vivid narration of the people in the stories, readers can get a better understanding of a country that is boosting openness.*

Visits reshape Canadian doctor's view of China

By YANG GAO in Toronto
gaoyang@chinadailyusa.com

A Canadian cardiologist expected to provide more insight than he gained while volunteering in China. Instead, he found the experience reshaped his views on environmental policy, hospital modernization and even the philosophical foundations of medicine.

Michael Kutryk, an associate professor and clinician scientist at the University of Toronto, made numerous trips over the course of more than a decade through the Bethune Medical Development Association of Canada.

"I have had the privilege of volunteering in China," he told China Daily, describing years of "clinical collaboration, professional exchange and friendship with institutions across the country".

"Although I arrived as a physician prepared to share my own expertise, I quickly realized that these experiences would transform me in ways I did not anticipate."

Kutryk said one of the most striking changes he witnessed was environmental renewal.

"What I have witnessed since the declaration of the 'war on pollution' in 2014 has been nothing short of remarkable. "There has been a sustained, coordinated effort to reduce emissions, transition energy sources, regulate industry and reimagine urban environmental planning," he said.

During successive visits, he noticed "clearer skies that once seemed rare". Colleagues pointed to "measurable reductions in PM2.5 levels and a nationwide shift away from coal".

Between 2014 and 2025, he observed sweeping urban growth. "The scale of this transition is visible everywhere," he said.

How quickly hospitals adapted left the strongest impression.

"Nowhere has the pace of change felt more striking than in the hospital systems I visited," he said. Many facilities were "newly built, spacious and architecturally refined".

He cited digital check-in platforms, centralized data systems, robotic and automated pharmacy systems, high-speed diagnostic tools, drones and small robotic carriers, and robotic surgical platforms.

"In these settings, technology is not an add-on," he said. "It is central to efficiency, safety and patient experience."

"The speed at which these systems have been implemented is astonishing, especially when contrasted with the slow incremental upgrades typical in many Western institutions," he added.

Kutryk described "the widespread and deliberate adoption of evidence-based best practices across Chinese hospitals" as one of his most meaningful professional observations.

"Clinical guidelines are actively studied, translated and implemented," he said. "There is a clear commitment to benchmarking outcomes against international standards."

Understanding TCM

Kutryk also described a personal shift in his understanding of traditional Chinese medicine.

"Coming from a strictly Western biomedical background, I initially approached it with curiosity but limited understanding," he said.

Over time, he came to see that TCM "is not merely a collection of remedies, rather it is an entire framework of understanding health, balance and disease".

He sees them as two sides of the same coin. "Rather than viewing TCM and Western medicine as competing paradigms, I came to see them as complementary."

"Western medicine excels in acute intervention, mechanistic clarity and technological precision.

"Traditional Chinese medicine, however, places extraordinary emphasis on prevention," he said.

"In many respects, the West is rediscovering principles that have been central to Chinese practice for centuries.

"Recognizing that Western medicine does not hold exclusive claim to healing has been a humbling and important lesson," he said.

Kutryk also reflected on culture. "China's cultural heritage is both ancient and deeply alive," he said. He was struck by "the profound regional diversity", yet also by "a shared cultural thread, a reverence for family, education, history and collective identity".

He said, "What has left the deepest impression on me is the grace and hospitality of the Chinese people."

The exchanges, he said, are reciprocal. "These scholars have made significant contributions, not only through their technical skills and productivity, but through their intellectual energy and collaborative spirit."

"If I am honest, I feel that I have received far more than I have contributed," he said. "The intellectual enrichment and personal growth I have experienced are immeasurable."

Briefly

UNITED STATES

Global Entry suspended amid govt shutdown

The Department of Homeland Security said the Global Entry program would be shut down as long as the partial government shutdown remains in effect. The Sunday announcement was made after the department said on Saturday night that it planned to pause both Global Entry and the Transportation Security Administration's PreCheck program as well, but the DHS canceled the PreCheck closure. The turmoil at security and customs lanes is due to a partial government shutdown that began on Feb 14 after Democrats and the White House were unable to reach a deal on legislation to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

NEPAL

Chinese among 19 killed in bus accident

Nineteen people were killed and 25 others were injured when a passenger bus traveling from Pokhara to Kathmandu plunged into the Trishuli River in central Nepal's Dhading district early on Monday, according to local officials. One Chinese national was killed in the accident, while another Chinese citizen was injured and is currently receiving treatment at a hospital, the Chinese embassy in Nepal confirmed. The bus, reportedly with 45 on board, fell off the highway into the river, leading to the fatal accident.

AGENCIES—XINHUA