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More than 2,500 migrants crossing the Mediterranean died or went missing this year

More than 2,500 migrants died or went missing this year while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to get to Europe, according to the United Nations.

It's a startling two-thirds increase from last year's toll of 1,680 people in the same period, and comes as Europe sees a massive influx of migrants making the perilous journey in numbers not seen in years.

Between January and Sept. 24, about 186,000 people arrived by sea in southern Europe, landing in Italy, Greece, Spain, Cyprus and Malta, Raven Menkidiwela, director of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Office in New York, told the U.N.'s Security Council on Thursday. Italy has received the majority of those arrivals, with the number of migrants arriving accelerating in recent months — over 130,000 migrants, more than double the number at the end of June and an 83% increase compared to the same period last year. Arriving migrants have overwhelmed Lampedusa, a small Italian island that serves as a main point of entry from North Africa into Europe that's become a recent flashpoint in the migration crisis. This month, about 12,000 people — more than twice the island's population — landed there within a single week.

"The situation on Lampedusa is cause for serious concern," Menkidiwela said.

The U.N. representative expressed



gratitude for the efforts made by local authorities on Lampedusa, including their work to "quickly decongest" the island.

But, she added, Italy can't be left alone in responding to the needs of arriving migrants, calling on help from other nations.

The U.N.'s refugee commissioner "has repeatedly called for the establishment of an agreed regional disembarkation and redistribution mechanism for people who arrive by sea, in a spirit of responsibility sharing and solidarity with front-line states," she said.

Some 102,000 of the migrants who attempted to cross into Europe this year came from Tunisia; 45,000 traveled from Libya. Many die long before reaching sea waters as they travel from sub-Saharan Africa to North African embarkation points along some of the world's most dangerous land routes, Menkidiwela noted. Refugees and migrants who travel these routes "risk death and gross human rights violations at the burden of processing migrants."

A majority of voters are willing to support an effort to disqualify former President Donald Trump from the 2024 ballot, according to a new POLITICO Morning Consult poll.

After a series of questions about the Constitution and Trump's conduct after the 2020 presidential election, 51 percent said the 14th Amendment prohibits Trump from running again because he engaged in insurrection, compared with 34 percent who said the opposite.

A strange bedfellows coalition of liberal activists and conservative attorneys have argued that the former president is ineligible to run again based on an interpretation of the 14th Amendment, which reads that those who "engaged in insurrection or rebellion" against the United States or "given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof" are disqualified from holding public office.

The nascent effort is still mostly theoretical, but the controversy could come to a head in the coming months as Trump files paperwork to appear on primary ballots in states across the country.

The headline result came following a series of questions in the POLITICO Morning Consult poll on the constitutional amendment, which was adopted in the wake of the Civil War to block former Confederates from being sent to serve in Washington.

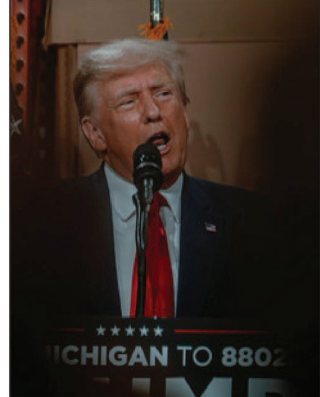
The first question asks if Americans "support or oppose" that section of the amendment. Broadly, voters agree with it — 63 percent said they either strongly or somewhat support it, which includes a majority of Democrats, Republicans and independents. Just 16 percent said they somewhat or strongly oppose it.

Poll: Majority of voters would support disqualifying Trump under 14th Amendment

But as Trump is introduced in the following questions, respondents separate into their partisan camps. When asked if they believed Trump "engaged in insurrection or rebellion," 54 percent said either definitely or probably yes, and 35 percent said definitely or probably no. That number is divided sharply on party lines: 79 percent of Democrats — and 49 percent of independents — say that he did, while just under a quarter of Republicans agree. The margins are similar for an additional question that asked if Trump gave "aid and/or comfort" to those engaged in insurrection and rebellion.

The fourth and final question — whether Trump should be disqualified under the 14th Amendment — roughly tracks with respondents' opinions on whether he engaged in or aided an insurrection, and includes a slim (Given Trump's yawning margin in most primary horse race polls, the seemingly high percentage of Republicans calling for Trump's disqualification may overstate his intraparty opposition, although few other public surveys have asked about the 14th Amendment push yet.)

Most legal experts expect the Supreme Court to eventually have to weigh in on the push to have Trump kicked off the ballot. A pair of liberal watchdog groups looking to have Trump disqualified — Free Speech For People and Citizens for



Responsibility and Ethics in Washington — have filed lawsuits in Minnesota and Colorado, respectively, looking to boot Trump off the ballot. And FSFP has also sent letters urging secretaries of state to keep Trump from the ballot.

By and large, secretaries of state — Democratic and Republican — have said that they don't believe they have

State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, told POLITICO earlier this month.

Using the 14th Amendment to disqualify candidates has been rarely tested in modern times. A handful of attempts to block Republican members of Congress who voted against certifying the 2020 election from running in the midterms went nowhere — although CREW successfully had a Republican county commissioner in New Mexico disqualified by a state court after he was convicted criminally for his involvement in the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riot.

Secretaries have also raised practical administrative challenges to blocking Trump. Deadlines to get on primary ballots are fast approaching — some of the early-nominating states have October deadlines — and it takes election offices weeks to prepare, print and mail out ballots to voters in states.

In Minnesota, a Super Tuesday state, Democratic Secretary of State Steve Simon told the state Supreme Court this week that a decision is needed by no later than Jan. 5 so election workers have time to prep ballots, regardless of what the decision is.

Trump's camp has also been dismissive of the 14th Amendment push. Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung previously said it was a "political attack" that was "stretching the law beyond recognition."

The POLITICO Morning Consult poll (toplines, cross-tabs) was conducted Sept. 23-25, surveying 1,967 registered voters online. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points for partisan divide.

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Diversity Green Card Lottery Deserves To Be Managed Better

As we head into the end of the U.S. fiscal year and face a shutdown of the federal government due to the inability of Congress to pass a budget by September 30th, 2023, in the field of immigration the US State Department has been cancelling scheduled interviews for over 10,000 devastated FY-2023 Diversity Visa lottery applicants. These interviews will never be rescheduled, as the 55,000 Diversity Visa allotted by Congress for the 2023 fiscal year will be exhausted so that the applicants will have lost their green cards due to the State Department's actions defeating the purpose of the Diversity green card lottery.

The 10,000 figure represents some 4,000 Diversity Visa selectees or "winners," and their spouses and minor children. The Consular Electronic Application Center of the U.S. Department of State provides the data from where this figure can be deduced. The designation "Ready" on the charts found there indicates that an interview has been

scheduled. Impact Very Disappointing
The impact of these Biden Administration initiatives is huge for the persons concerned. In preparation for the interviews, many disappointed immigrant visa applicants paid for and completed expensive medical exams required, which are especially a burden in the global south. Other applicants from countries where there are no U.S. embassies, such as Afghanistan, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen, traveled to third countries for interviews, only to see those interviews will now be canceled.

Problem Could Have Been Avoided

Viewing this development as the fiscal year comes to an end, Curtis Morrison, an immigration attorney with Red Eagle Law, L.C., who represents many Diversity Visa selectees, said, "What makes me angry is the State Department had opportunities to prevent this outcome." He points out that from the almost 10 million entries to the

FY-2023 DV Program, the State Department could have registered only about 70,000 applicants, instead of 119,962 applicants they did register. That would have made more sense since they only had 55,000 visas to issue. He adds, "This was the State Department setting up a mini-lottery within a lottery that guaranteed over 60,000 applicants will be disappointed, if not injured through costs associated with a medical exam and procuring the other necessary documents for their interviews." Morrison goes on to point out that when it became evident to most public observers of the DV program in early August that the State Department was on track to consume the allotted number of visas through existing interviews, the Department should have stopped scheduling new interviews — thereby setting up false hopes for thousands who would very likely be refused. He concludes, "It is cruel to crush the dreams of hopeful immigrants in this way." Kristina Ghazaryan, another

U.S. immigration attorney representing Diversity Visa selectees added, "They shouldn't have scheduled these interviews when they don't have visas available. It's financially and emotionally devastating for DV families."

Background of the Diversity Green Card Program

Immigration attorneys and others working in the field many years ago noticed that certain source countries like Mexico, China, India, and the Philippines were flooding the U.S. with immigrants. On the flip side, there were many countries that were underrepresented. For example, there were very few immigrants coming from African countries or smaller countries elsewhere. To address this imbalance they lobbied Congress to pass a law making up to 55,000 Diversity Visas available each fiscal year for persons coming from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. To ensure fairness, the program introduced a yearly lottery so would-be immigrants from these disadvantaged countries could apply and stand an equal chance to come to the U.S. and at the same time diversify the incoming immigrant population.

Unless Joe Biden stands aside, the world must prepare for President Trump 2.0



During the two months I spent in the US this summer, I kept asking every journalist, academic and analyst I met one simple question: "Who will be the next president of the United States?" The response was usually the same. First there was a distinct hesitation, then they said "Well, probably Joe Biden, but..."

What followed the "but" was a long list of concerns, partly about deeper trends but mainly about how old and frail the 80-year-old president looks. Often, the conversation ended with my interlocutor saying it would be better if Biden stood aside, to let a younger candidate turn the age card against the 77-year-old Donald Trump.

Biden has been a good president of the United States. Although the retreat from Afghanistan was chaotic, he dealt with the Covid pandemic well and is handling the war in Ukraine fairly well. He is presiding over a remarkably vibrant economy, with New Deal-style public spending accelerating a green transition and creating jobs. But if he stumbles — physically, mentally or politically — during the gruelling marathon that is a US presidential campaign, and lets Trump back in, that's the only thing Biden will be remembered for.

In a recent NBC poll, Trump and Biden were neck-and-neck, scoring 46% each. Any one of a number of factors unrelated to the characters and performances of the two candidates might swing such a close election. In the country's hyperpolarised media environment, many Republican voters

simply don't see that the economy is doing well. AI will add to the already high possibility of misinformation, with Vladimir Putin certainly eager to tip the scales in favour of Trump. Third candidate initiatives, such as the well-intentioned centrist initiative No Labels and the intellectual activist Corelli Wessley's progressive environmentalist campaign, are likely to take more votes from the Democrats than from the Republicans.

Most worrying for the Democrats, there's a trend of Black, Hispanic and other non-white voters shifting from Democrat to Republican, and especially from Biden to Trump. There are sociological and historical explanations for this, as well as the strange appeal of Trump himself, but there's little doubt that Biden's age and frailty play a role.

In a recent poll, three out of every four Americans said Biden was too old for a second term, at the end of which he would be 86. Only half those asked expressed the same concern about Trump. I spoke to four individuals who had seen Biden at close quarters in recent months. They said he was mentally fine, but physically showing his age. One commented on the way his voice sometimes faded to almost inaudible at the end of a sentence.

All this will be ruthlessly exposed in the 24/7 media coverage of a presidential election campaign. A single fall from an election rally stage by the Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole played a part in

his defeat in 1996. And Dole was a mere spring chicken of 73, in a more sedate media environment.

Biden comes with one other liability. Because of his age, unusual attention will be focused on his running mate, who may have to step into the hot seat. But the vice-president, Kamala Harris, is not a great electoral asset, and hardly convinces as a possible "leader of the free world". Despite the initial excitement, she has seemed marginal to the presidency, has an approval rating lower even than Biden's and has made almost no impact on the world stage.

Of course, Trump has huge liabilities too — above all, the multiple lawsuits that are taking much of his time and campaign funding. If Jack Smith, the prosecutor in the central case concerning possible fraud in the 2020 presidential election, is as effective as some think he is, Trump might even be in prison when Americans vote next November. Yet, astonishingly to an outsider, there's little evidence that these prosecutions have so far seriously damaged his election prospects.

Obviously, there are also risks associated with Biden stepping aside at this late stage. Some observers expressed a concern that the fragile rainbow coalition of the Democratic party could tear itself apart if set to find a new candidate. A former congressman disagreed, pointing to the disciplining effect of the threat of Trump. Certainly, there are credible contenders of a younger generation,

such as the Pennsylvania governor, Josh Shapiro (who would then be the first Jewish president), the Michigan governor, Gretchen Whitmer (who would then be the first female president), or California's governor, Gavin Newsom.

Not only would they turn the age card against Trump; they would also rejuvenate the image of the US in the world. At the moment, outsiders contemplate with astonishment what looks to us like a Brezhnevite gerontocracy in Washington. Biden, 80 going on 81. Trump, 77. The Republican Senate leader, Mitch McConnell, 81, freezing for half a minute like an old desktop with a bad internet connection. The former house speaker Nancy Pelosi, running again at the age of 83.

One thing, however, is clear: the only person who can make this decision is Biden, with his wife, Jill. If it's to happen, it would be best if it happens fast, so younger candidates can declare themselves, raise sufficient funds and organise national campaigns, and then one of them can be selected and chosen a credible running mate. "It must be before Thanksgiving," one longtime observer of US politics exclaimed. That's less than two months away.

At this point, some American readers might be huffing, "Who's this Brit telling us what we ought to do?" All I would say in reply is: sorry, but it's not only your future that this contest will decide.

There's a bunch of interesting elections coming up on our side of the Atlantic: a crucial Polish election next month, which may determine the future of a fragile democracy; European parliament elections next June, which may see a sharp turn to the populist right; a British general election, which may see the post-Brexit UK returning to something vaguely resembling sanity, perhaps even a Ukrainian presidential election. None of these European elections will be as consequential for Europe as this American one.

A second Trump presidency would be a disaster for the US. It would also be a catastrophe for Ukraine, an emergency for Europe and a crisis of the west. If Biden steps aside now, democrats everywhere will honour him, while the US Democrats can choose a younger candidate to see off Trump — and perhaps even inspire the world again with a sense of American dynamism.

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Shah Rukh Khan drops Jawan song Aararaari Raaro: Deepika Padukone embodies a mother's love.

Shah Rukh Khan is currently enjoying the success of Jawan. The Atlee directorial which also features Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, Surya Malhotra and others continues to garner numbers at box offices. Now, SRK has dropped a track from the film titled Aararaari Raaro.



A press conference, Shah Rukh Khan joking that Deepika was fooled into thinking that she had a cameo in the film while she was one of the key characters. Deepika Padukone will next be seen in Kalki 2898 AD alongside Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan.

Tejas: Makers of Kangana Ranaut starrer to unveil teaser in October

Along with Emergency, Kangana Ranaut is all set to showcase patriotism in her other release as well. Titled Tejas, the film will feature her in the role of an Air Force pilot and recently adding to anticipation among Kangana fans, the makers treated them with the first look of the actress. And now, they are all set to reportedly unveil its first teaser on the upcoming national holiday.

Kangana Ranaut will be seen portraying a powerful role in Tejas, which will see her doing some intense scenes. While the film is scheduled to hit the big screens on October 20, the makers will reportedly unveil its first teaser on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, i.e. on October 2. As per a source close to the production, Tejas's first asset will be unveiled on this national holiday. Written & directed by Saravesh Mehta, Tejas features Kangana Ranaut in lead roles. This film will be an aerial action, which will narrate the story of Air Force officer Tejas Gill and how our Air Force pilots work tirelessly to defend our nation, confronting numerous challenges along the way.

Australia at the ODI World Cup



Australia are the only side in the game to have won the ODI World Cup five times with their former captain Ricky Ponting winning the title back-to-back in the year 2003 and 2007.

Pak Embassy Netherlands organizes 'Dosty Pakistan Ambassador Cricket Cup 2023'

ISLAMABAD. The Embassy of Pakistan organized Dosty Pakistan Ambassador's Cricket Cup 2023 in Rotterdam after the gap of four years due to Covid-19 pandemic. The friendly cricket match was organized between the teams of Pakistan Embassy and the Dutch Cricket Board, Koninklijke Nederlandse Cricket Bond (KNCB), said a press release received here on Sunday. The Dosty Cricket Cup is a landmark event organized by Pakistan Embassy to promote friendship and people-to-people exchanges in the Netherlands.

Ganapath Teaser OUT! Tiger Shroff Fans Claim He Is The 'Box Office King'

With each passing film, Tiger Shroff has undoubtedly proven himself as India's youngest action superstar, and the recently released Ganapath teaser is testimony to this yet again. The Ganapath teaser took the internet by storm, leaving fans in awe of Tiger Shroff's sheer prowess in action. It also gave fans a glimpse of the whirlwind of jaw-dropping sequences performed by the superstar, from hand-to-hand combat and martial arts to street fighting, boxing, and acrobatics.

'INSANE AVATAR OF TIGER I AM 101% SURE THIS WILL BE THE GAME CHANGER FOR BOLLYWOOD?????' A third write, "Ganapath box office fluid???? tiger Shroff box office king?????????" A fourth write, "The world will hear the tiger's roar once again?????????" It's no doubt that Tiger Shroff can give international action heroes a run for their money and has carved a niche for himself in a genre that demands not just great skill and physical capabilities but also dedication and charisma. In an industry where actors often dabble in multiple genres, Shroff has unequivocally chosen to specialize in action and this has not only amassed him across geographies and demographics but also earned him immense respect for his commitment to his craft.

India land in Thiruvananthapuram sans Kohli

The Indian team has arrived in Thiruvananthapuram, but without Virat Kohli. The star Indian batsman requested permission from the team management due to a personal emergency. He flew to Mumbai from Guwahati and is expected to join the Indian team in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. A source from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed that he went to Mumbai for personal reasons. "Virat will rejoin the team soon," the source said something a spokesman for the team also confirmed. The other members of the contingent arrived in the Kerala city after a four-hour flight on a special aircraft Sunday evening.

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Faith in the Supreme Court is down. Voters now say they want changes.

The Supreme Court faces a legitimacy crisis at the dawn of its new term, and a majority of voters support reforms such as a binding code of ethics and term limits.

One new POLITICO Morning Consult poll shows three-in-four voters want the justices bound to an ethics code, the most popular reform proposal in the survey.

Unlike the other two branches of the government, the judiciary is largely immune to public opinion. But the court is starting to feel some pressure, and when it convenes on Monday for the first time since June, it will be grappling not only with a slate of new cases, but also controversy around the justices' finances and jurisdiction.

The nine justices, unlike lower-court judges, don't have a formal ethics code — an omission that's come under scrutiny amid a spate of news stories digging into trips taken and benefits received by Clarence Thomas, and, to a lesser degree, Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor.

Those investigations, combined

with some high-profile decisions on issues like abortion that put the court at odds with public opinion, have dented the public's view of the court's legitimacy over the past few years. As documented by the new POLITICO Morning Consult poll shows three-in-four voters want the justices bound to an ethics code, the most popular reform proposal in the survey.

In addition to the 75 percent of voters — a bipartisan consensus of 81 percent of Democrats, 72 percent of Republicans and 69 percent of independents — who support a binding ethics code, roughly two-thirds of voters support term limits for the justices (68 percent). A similar percentage (67 percent) say the court should televise oral arguments, while 66 percent believe there should be an age limit for the justices. A smaller majority, 60

percent, think there should be an equal number of Democrats, Republicans and independents on the high court.

Two proposals did not earn broad support, however. Only 44 percent think the number of justices should be expanded, though that includes 65 percent of Democrats. President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats resisted the calls of liberal activists and some fellow lawmakers to add new justices to counter the majority appointed by Republican presidents.

Despite the court's lower profile, voters are aware of its rightward shift in recent years, the poll shows. A majority, 52 percent, correctly say the majority of justices have been appointed by Republican presidents (six of the nine justices currently serving have been). And 55 percent say the court is at least somewhat conservative, including 21 percent who call it "very conservative."

The poll also explored where their opinions of the nine justices individually but found little overall differences, including broad swaths of the electorate who have never heard of them or have no opinion.

This country is the first in the world to introduce digital passports

In travel news this week, why now is the best time to visit Europe, which Caribbean islands to put on your wish list and the Nordic nation blazing a trail for digital passports.

The future of travel tech: Digital passports are here! But only if you're a Finn flying from Helsinki to Britain.

In a world-leading pilot scheme by the Finnish Border Guard, travelers on some Finnair flights can now slide quickly through border control by registering a digital version of their passport in advance.

Other destinations will be sure to follow the innovation-loving Nordic nation, which already enjoy visa-free and visa-on-demand access to more destinations than citizens of any other country or city-state. That's why it tops a 2023 list of the world's "most powerful" passports.

Welcome to fall
Throw on your turtleneck, fill your

time to pick up bargains on islands outside of the hurricane belt, such as Bonaire. This Dutch Caribbean getaway is known for its scuba diving but also packs more than 20 beaches into its 111 square miles of deliciousness.

If you're planning a Caribbean trip during the December to April high season, when the weather is drier, then choosing just one of the hundreds of islands to visit can be daunting. Our pick of nine of the best should make your decision a little easier — and remember that it's hard to choose in a turquoise paradise.

Restaurants and hotels Foodles with a taste for fine dining should set their sights on Spain, which has more of the world's 50 best restaurants than any other country. Here's our guide on where to go and what's on the menu.

But if you're more thrilled by bread crust than bread crust, try London, which has just welcomed two new showpiece hotels. The historic war shelter in Whitehall that was once used by Winston Churchill has been transformed into the luxury Radisson London. And Asia's high-end Peninsula chain has finally arrived in the UK capital, with a spot near Hyde Park. Prices start at an eye-watering \$1,600 per night.

and others, our partners at CNN Underscored, a product reviews and recommendations guide owned by CNN, have a roundup of all the essentials you need from a picnic backpack to waterproof binoculars.

Raise a flask while you're out there to the memory of one of England's most-loved trees. A sycamore that stood alongside the UNESCO-listed Hadrian's Wall for more than 200 years — and starred with Kevin Costner in "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" — was sadly felled in an act of vandalism this week.

Caribbean islands October is low season in the Caribbean, which can make it a good

for accused domestic abusers and the effort in some states to bar former President Donald Trump from the 2024 ballot over his conduct following the 2020 election.

Only 31 percent of voters say they support allowing people under restraining orders to possess firearms, while a 56 percent majority oppose allowing those people to have guns. The Supreme Court will hear a case on a federal law banning those people from having guns in November.

Meanwhile, the poll found softening opposition to the court's controversial abortion ruling last year. Asked about the "Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and leave abortion policies in the U.S. up to the states," more voters say they disapprove (46 percent) of the ruling than approve (42 percent).

But in a July 2022 Morning Consult poll conducted in the immediate aftermath of the Dobbs ruling, disapproval of the decision was 9 points higher: 55 percent, with 35 percent approving.

The new survey asked voters for their opinions of the nine justices individually but found little overall differences, including broad swaths of the electorate who have never heard of them or have no opinion.

Canada and India have each expelled a senior diplomat from the other country over the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, while Ottawa has also halted talks on a trade agreement and cancelled a Canadian trade mission to India. The Indian government has strongly denied the allegations.

Soon after Mr. Trudeau raised the allegations, Global Affairs Canada announced it was reducing staff levels at its diplomatic missions in India, citing fear over the safety of its employees. But the Indian government said it had asked Canada to draw down its diplomatic footprint on the subcontinent.

India also suspended visa services for Canadians, including e-visas and visas issued in third countries. India has more than 60 accredited diplomats in Canada, including three who are designated as non-residents, according to a list maintained by Ottawa's Department of Global Affairs.

The Trudeau government and many of its Western allies, including the United States, have urged India to co-operate with Canada in helping to arrest the people responsible for the death of Mr. Nijjar.

In Washington on Tuesday, John

Joly urges talks after India reportedly orders dozens of Canadian diplomats to leave

Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly urged India on Tuesday to draw frosty bilateral relations through private diplomatic talks, after New Delhi reportedly ordered two-thirds of Canadian diplomats out of the country.

Indo-Canadian relations have sunk to a new low in the aftermath of allegations from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that agents of India were involved in the killing of a British Columbia Sikh leader who advocated for a separate Sikh country in the Indian state of Punjab.

Ms. Joly would not comment on a report by the Financial Times that India had told Ottawa it must withdraw 41 of 62 diplomats by Oct. 10, but she acknowledged the importance of having a diplomatic presence in each country.

"In moments of tension, because these are tensions between both our governments, it is more than ever important that diplomats be on the ground," she told reporters on her way into a cabinet meeting. "That is why we believe in the importance of having a strong diplomatic footprint in India."

Ms. Joly said she does not want to get into a public discussion over the expulsion of Canadian diplomats.

"We will continue to engage privately because we think that diplomatic conversations are best when they remain private."

The Prime Minister also weighed in, saying bilateral relations are "extremely challenging" and emphasizing the importance of Ottawa having "diplomats on the ground working with the Indian government."

"We are going to be doing the work that matters and continuing to have constructive relations with India through this extremely difficult time," Mr. Trudeau told reporters.

Jeff Nankivell, president and chief executive officer of the Asian Pacific Foundation of Canada and a former Canadian diplomat, said he does not think that Ottawa will respond in kind to India's latest diplomatic salvo.

He said the reduction of Canadian diplomatic staff will hamper operations in India, but noted that Canada also employs many Indian staff at the high commission in New



Delhi and its three consulates and four trade offices. "We do have very large numbers of local staff, locally engaged staff," he said, "including at the professional level who work on matters related to trade and immigration and political analysis and consular services."

The biggest possible obstacle is the inability to process visas for Indians seeking to study, do business or immigrate to Canada, Mr. Nankivell said, adding that Canada could work around this by processing visas online, by mail or through Canadian missions in nearby third countries.

Canada and India have each expelled a senior diplomat from the other country over the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, while Ottawa has also halted talks on a trade agreement and cancelled a Canadian trade mission to India. The Indian government has strongly denied the allegations.

Soon after Mr. Trudeau raised the allegations, Global Affairs Canada announced it was reducing staff levels at its diplomatic missions in India, citing fear over the safety of its employees. But the Indian government said it had asked Canada to draw down its diplomatic footprint on the subcontinent.

India also suspended visa services for Canadians, including e-visas and visas issued in third countries. India has more than 60 accredited diplomats in Canada, including three who are designated as non-residents, according to a list maintained by Ottawa's Department of Global Affairs.

The Trudeau government and many of its Western allies, including the United States, have urged India to co-operate with Canada in helping to arrest the people responsible for the death of Mr. Nijjar.

In Washington on Tuesday, John

Kirby, co-ordinator for strategic communications at the National Security Council in the White House, told a news conference that India should not dismiss the allegations raised by Canada.

"These allegations are serious. They need to be fully investigated. We urge India to participate actively in the investigation," he said.

The Canadian government has not said whether it will release classified intelligence to buttress Mr. Trudeau's allegations that agents of India killed Mr. Nijjar. Britain, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates publicly released intelligence, including video evidence, when they alleged agents of Russia, Saudi Arabia and Israel, respectively, carried out state-sanctioned killings in those countries.

Last week, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh said he was provided with a classified intelligence briefing that points to the Indian government's role in the gangland-style killing of Mr. Nijjar, who was gunned down in a parking lot of a Sikh temple in Surrey, B.C.

"It was very clear to me, as the Prime Minister said, that there is credible information that the Indian government was involved in the killing of a Canadian on Canadian soil."

Mr. Singh said he did not think the government should release information on India's alleged involvement at this point because it could compromise a continuing criminal investigation.

Intelligence from a Five Eyes ally — an intelligence alliance composed of U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — comprises part of the evidence that shows possible involvement of Indian agents in the killing.

Bonnie Crombie defends near \$1M in campaign donations in bid for Ontario Liberal leader

Bonnie Crombie has raised nearly one million dollars in her bid for leadership of the Ontario Liberals, tens of thousands of which appear to have come from one developer based in the Toronto area.

According to the latest data from Elections Ontario, Crombie, who took a leave from her role as Mississauga mayor in September (opens in a new tab), has raised just under \$937,000 as of Monday. Of the near-million dollar sum, more than \$30,000 came from 10 individuals who share names with executives at Vaughan development company, HBN Global Group.

In an email sent to supporters on Monday, Crombie responded to criticism from key opponents Nate Erskine-Smith, Yasir Naqvi, and Ted Hsu, all of whom brought up the developer donations in a debate held on Sept. 14 in Thunder Bay, Ont.

Crombie's opponents claim she has failed to build sufficient housing in Mississauga, pointing to the recent Ontario Greenbelt scandal. "Are we going to win with a leader who has a track record of failing to build homes with that experience?" Erskine-Smith asked during the debate.

"And are we going to win with a leader who said they're going to open up the Greenbelt and then the next week said, I didn't mean it, the Greenbelt is sacred? How do you build that?"

In the email, Crombie continued to defend herself while sharing the million-dollar fundraising figure with her supporters.

"Our campaign has followed all campaign-finance rules," Crombie wrote. "Every single time. All leadership donations are capped at a maximum of \$3,350 and are disclosed publicly."

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