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Escaped kangaroo punches police officer in face before Oshawa capture

A kangaroo that was on the loose east of Toronto since last week was found and captured early Monday and is temporarily being hosted at the Oshawa Zoo as it recovers, police in Durham Region said.

Staff Sgt. Chris Boileau said that officers on patrol spotted the missing marsupial around 3 a.m. on a rural property in north Oshawa and were "able to keep eyes on it" for nearly four hours.

In the meantime, the pair were able to get in touch with the kangaroo's handlers and on their advice, "they actually just grabbed it by the tail," Boileau said.

The female kangaroo punched one of the officers in the face during the apprehension, Boileau said.

"It's something that he and his platoon mates will be remembering for the rest of their careers," he told CBC Toronto.

After she settled down, police were able to transport the kangaroo to the Oshawa Zoo, where she underwent a medical exam.

Videos of the kangaroo running along roads in Oshawa, about 60 kilometres east of Toronto, circulated on social media Friday morning.

Cameron Preyde, park supervisor and head keeper for the Oshawa Zoo and Fun Farm, said the animal was in a truck on route to a zoo in Quebec when it "jumped over" its handlers and escaped during what was supposed to be a brief stop for a rest at the facility late Thursday.

The handlers attempted to search for the kangaroo, who is about four years old and was being transported alongside her adult offspring, but it



was dark.

A search for the animal that included both experts and volunteers started Friday morning and continued through the weekend. Friday was cold and sloppy, with periods of snow and sleet in some areas of the Greater Toronto Area, while Saturday and Sunday were wet but saw above-zero daytime temperatures.

There were several unconfirmed sightings, but the search team was ultimately unable to track it down.

"Very industrial animals," Preyde said he awoke Monday to "about 50 missed calls" and that it was a tremendous relief that the animal was captured safely. He gave her a check up and fed her "lots of food," and he says she is tired but in good health.

The kangaroo was born and raised in captivity, Preyde said. "I think she would have been quite scared," he told CBC Toronto. "This is an animal... that has been used to having humans around taking care of her."

That said, wild kangaroos are "very industrious" animals that find food and water wherever they can in the harsh environment of the Australian outback, and Preyde said her natural

instincts likely served her well while on the loose.

The kangaroo will stay at the Oshawa Zoo until she's deemed ready to continue her journey.

"We're going to keep her here for a little while longer, let her rest up and make sure she is safe," Preyde said.

Questions about escape: Staff from the Toronto Zoo were among the searchers, CEO Dolf DeJong said Monday.

"There was a long period of time where we weren't really sure about the status of this kangaroo," he told CBC Radio's Metro Morning.

DeJong said kangaroos prefer wide open spaces and, here in Ontario, like to eat wild grapes and willow. The kangaroo found a rural setting where it was able to "hunker down and avoid potential predator encounters" with native animals like coyotes.

DeJong said there are lingering questions about how it was able to escape its handlers in the first place.

"In a scenario like this, there are questions to be asked about secondary perimeter fences and what type of care was going on, because this particular animal shouldn't have been in that position," he said.

The Canada Border Services Agency has denied entry to dozens of senior Iranian regime officials and is investigating about 100 people with status in Canada for potential ties to Tehran.

The agency also has referred the cases of nine individuals with status in Canada to the Immigration and Refugee Board to determine their admissibility to Canada.

The denials at the border and the investigations stem from a measure the Liberal government adopted last year in the midst of widespread protests in Iran over the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman. Amini died while in the custody of Iran's "morality police."

The sighting of a former Tehran police chief at a Toronto-area gym in 2021 led many Iranian-Canadians to claim that Canada serves as a haven for high-ranking members of Iran's regime.

Under pressure from the opposition Conservatives and members of the Iranian-Canadian community to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a terrorist entity, the Liberal government instead opted to take action through immigration laws.

In November 2022, then-public safety minister Marco Mendicino designated the Islamic Republic of Iran a "regime that has engaged in terrorism and systematic and gross human rights violations" under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA).

That designation made tens of thousands of Iranian regime officials - including many members of the IRGC - inadmissible to Canada.

Numbers, but no names

The CBSA deemed ten individuals inadmissible under the Iranian regime's IRPA designation. Nine of those people are presently in Canada

and are now facing hearings before the Immigration Refugee Board of Canada, which will decide whether their status in Canada must be revoked.

The CBSA would not identify any of the individuals under investigation or those denied access to Canada, citing the Privacy Act.

Ottawa pressed to list IRGC as a terrorist entity

"I'm glad that some people have been deemed inadmissible because it had not been clear to me that the government had taken any steps," said Kaveh Shadrooz, a human rights activist, lawyer and senior fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute.

"I think any member of the IRGC that willingly served - not conscripts, but willingly served - should be kicked out of the country. But ultimately, it doesn't take away from our goal of making the entirety of the IRGC a terrorist organization."

Dozens of Iranian regime officials denied entry to Canada, says border agency



In a statement provided to CBC News, the CBSA said that as of Nov. 20, 2023, the agency had reviewed approximately 17,800 visa applications for potential inadmissibility to Canada under the IRPA designation of the Iranian regime. As a result, 78 individuals were denied access to Canada.

The CBSA also said that, based on referrals from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and tips from the public, it opened investigations into 141 individuals with status in Canada.

The CBSA closed 38 of those 141 cases, either because the individuals were out of the country or the border agency had determined the individuals were allowed to be in Canada.

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government's decision to designate Iran's Quds force a terrorist entity in 2017. The Quds force is a branch of the IRGC responsible for the paramilitary force's extraterritorial operations.

The government has argued in the past that listing the IRGC as a terrorist entity would be a blunt-force approach that could target low-level people who were forced to serve in the paramilitary force.

The Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S.-based independent think-tank, identifies the Quds force as Iran's main point of contact with axis members, providing them with "training, weaponry and funds to promote Iranian regional objectives."

Leah West, an associate professor at Carleton University who teaches national security law, said listing the IRGC as a terrorist organization would be a largely symbolic gesture that might run counter to Canadian law.

"The Criminal Code basically has a carve-out for the definition of terrorist activity that excludes military units or parties to an armed conflict," West told CBC News.

"The terrorist entity listing is dependent on that terrorist activity definition. So, essentially, if the Quds force arguably shouldn't have been listed because of that definition, it makes it even harder to list an entire military for that reason - at least lawfully."

"My personal opinion is we shouldn't be sacrificing our commitment to our own domestic law in order to make what is really a political statement. It will have very little actual impact in terms of effect ... It's just not a useful tool," added West.

Trudeau has resisted calls to list the IRGC and has pointed to his

government's decision to designate Iran's Quds force a terrorist entity in 2017. The Quds force is a branch of the IRGC responsible for the paramilitary force's extraterritorial operations.

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Thousands expected at Canada's Rally for the Jewish People on Parliament Hill

Thousands of people from Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa are expected to attend an event on Parliament Hill on Monday afternoon, billed as Canada's Rally for the Jewish People.

"Join us as we unite and rally in our nation's capital. For the hostages. For the people of Israel. For the safety of Jewish Canadians," reads the announcement of the rally, hosted by Federation of Jewish Communities of Canada - UJA and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, an advocacy agency.

On Oct. 7, at least 1,500 Hamas fighters poured across the border from Gaza into Israel in a surprise attack that killed about 1,200 people. There were 240 people, from infants to octogenarians, taken hostage by Hamas. Some were released over a period of days but, according to the latest figures from the Israel Defense Forces, there are believed to be 136



Hostages remaining in Gaza.

Initial estimates for attendance expected at Monday's rally were 12,000 to 15,000, including 3,000 to 4,000 from Montreal and 7,000 to 8,000 from Toronto and Ottawa. Bus service is being provided from

Montreal and Toronto as well as within Ottawa.

With inclement weather expected in Ottawa, including heavy snowfall and freezing rain, the estimate was later revised to 10,000.

Although the heavy snow is

forecast to taper into flurries on Monday morning, participants are expected to walk and stand outdoors for about two hours Monday afternoon on Parliament Hill, where there is no seating or shelter.

Permits to hold the rally have been obtained and authorities are aware it will be "a significant event," said organizers. The Parliamentary Protective Service provides security for events on Parliament Hill and the Ottawa Police Service is responsible for security in the rest of the city, including Wellington St. in front of Parliament Hill.

Those attending have been asked to bring both Canadian and Israeli flags with plastic handles only - and to make signs to get across a message, "whether it's about bringing the hostages home or there being no room for hate in Canada."

Organizers acknowledged the potential for counter-protests "and are actively collaborating with our law enforcement partners to ensure we are prepared."

In the event of counter-protests, rally participants are asked "not to engage, to use clean language and to avoid any unnecessary escalation or contact."

against Ottawa's plan to green the electric grid by 2035.

Smith has argued that the 2035 target is impossible for her province to meet and has accused the federal government of refusing to work with her on what she sees as a more reasonable goal.

"Why don't we just work together on a 2050 target?" she asked during her announcement on Monday.

Boissonnault, who represents an Alberta riding, called the Sovereignty Act "distraction."

"It's a toothless tiger. Some might call it a dubious piece of legislation. I think it's a big distraction," he said.

Despite his concerns, Boissonnault maintained that he has good relations with all the premiers. He pointed to the health care funding agreement the federal government reached with the provinces and territories earlier this year as an example of how Ottawa and the premiers have worked together.

Boissonnault said any attempts to evade federal laws and regulations will ultimately end up before the courts.

"It's a country of the rule of law and if a particular provincial government doesn't want to respect the law, then we have to court to iron that out," he said.

Large pro-Israel rally on Parliament Hill decries antisemitism

OTTAWA - Supporters of Israel and prominent Jewish groups rallied Monday on Parliament Hill, calling for an end to antisemitic violence in Canada and for solidarity with Israel.

"Our sorrow is deep and immeasurable," said Rachel Look. Her son, Alexandre, who lived in Montreal, was killed by Hamas militants at a music festival in Israel in October.

"We want to channel this immense pain into a call for action. This tragedy is not just a horrific personal loss," she said.

"It is a wake-up call to our politicians. All of them."

Look's son was among an estimated 1,200 people killed on Oct. 7, when Hamas militants launched attacks on Israeli soil from the Gaza Strip.

Since then, officials in the Hamas-controlled territory say 15,500 Palestinians have been killed as Israel realises, including with airstrikes, the cutting off of key supplies and a military offensive on the ground.

On Monday, hundreds of people gathered on the lawn of Parliament Hill in Ottawa, many of whom brought Israeli flags with them. The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, which organized the rally, said it aimed to show collective strength in the face of what it calls staggering antisemitism.

Speakers referred to incidents in Canada such as shots being fired at Jewish schools, a Molotov cocktail being thrown at a Jewish community centre and a bomb threat against a high school.

Liberal MP Anthony Housefather told the rally that some people have been minimizing the Oct. 7 attack on Israeli civilians.

"The last few weeks have left me very angry. Angry that as soon as Hamas murdered Israelis, people started making justifications."

Housefather was among a handful of MPs who recently travelled to Israel at the invitation of Jewish federations in Canada, including Liberals, Conservatives and one independent MP. Most of them attended Monday's



large-standing principled position, and opted for neatly mouthed platitudes from formality," Lantsman said.

She called for an end to boycotts of Jewish businesses, and prosecution of those behind vandalism and possible hate crimes.

"It is not over until every politician in this country condemns the faceless, mask-wearing, screaming mobs who are illegally inciting hatred in our streets."

Members of civil society called for Canadians to speak out for Israel's right to exist and its need to defend itself against terror. They are also calling on the international community to push for the release of hostages held by Hamas.

"We cannot afford to be complacent. We cannot accept the silence of those who have yet to speak out," said Look. Smaller counter-demonstrations took place near the barriers along the edges of the Parliament Hill lawn, where dozens of protesters waved Palestinian flags and held signs decrying Israel's military actions.

Israel's National Security Council recently increased the threat level for Jewish people in parts of Western Europe, though Canada remains listed as having "no level threat" for Israelis.

This weekend, Israel resumed deadly airstrikes on southern Gaza after a week-long truce fell apart on Friday,

with both sides blaming the other. The Israeli army said more than 250 rockets were fired from Gaza since the truce ended.

Israeli officials say 137 people are still being held hostage in Gaza. Another 105 were freed during the ceasefire in exchange for the release of 240 Palestinians who were being held in Israeli prisons. Most of those released on both sides were women and children.

Those exchanges took place at the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza. Since the truce ended, foreign nationals have been allowed to leave through the Rafah crossing once again. Global Affairs Canada said that included 130 Canadians who left over the weekend.

The department said in a statement Sunday evening that about 600 Canadians, permanent residents and their family members have been able to leave the besieged territory so far. The department says there are 426 Canadians in the West Bank and Gaza who are registered with the federal government.

Global Affairs Canada also said Sunday night that an eighth Canadian has died as a result of the current conflict, this time in Lebanon.

One Canadian woman is considered missing, the government said. While Ottawa is not identifying her, the family of Judith Weinstein Haggai says she is believed to be held hostage by Hamas in Gaza.

Her family says she holds Canadian, Israeli and American citizenships, and lived in Toronto for 20 years.

Later Monday, the Alhadiyya Muslim Youth Association was expected to host a separate event on Parliament Hill to urge for peace in the Middle East, starting with a ceasefire.

Event organizers said they were expecting elected officials from various parties to attend, including Diversity and Inclusion Minister Kamal Khouri and Small Business Minister Rochie Valdez.

The possibility of a new ceasefire deal seems remote. Israel has recalled its negotiators and Hamas's deputy leader has said that any further release of hostages would only happen as part of ending the war.

On Saturday, an International Criminal Court prosecutor said his office is serious about moving forward to investigate allegations of war crimes on both sides.

Federal minister accuses some premiers of holding Canada back

Randy Boissonnault, the federal minister of employment and official languages, is accusing certain provincial premiers of standing in the way of Canada's "ambition."

"We have a lot of ambition as a country and yet we've got provincial premiers that are kind of stuck in the past and don't want to see us build, don't want to see us grow," he told host Catherine Cullen in an interview on CBC Radio's The House.

"There are great things that we can do with this country if we had provincial partners wanting to work with us."

Boissonnault pointed specifically to Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs. All three have said in recent weeks they will defy, or have considered defying, federal environmental regulations.

But Boissonnault's concerns went beyond his government's environmental policies. He also attacked new rules in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick that require



parental consent for a student under 16 to have their name or pronoun changed in school.

"You've got provincial premiers going after or bullying minorities, instead of working with us through policy issues," he said. "This is not a way to build a country. And we have great ambition as a federal government. We want to get things done."

Carbon tax conflict
On Thursday, Moe said he would be moving forward with plans to direct SaskEnergy - the provincial Crown corporation responsible for

natural gas distribution - to stop collecting the carbon tax on natural gas.

Higgs also said he's looking at blocking the carbon tax in his province. Earlier this month, he said policy issues, that he had the legal ground to do so.

Moe, Higgs and other premiers have said a recently announced carbon tax exemption for heating oil is unfair to those who use other fossil fuels to heat their homes.

On Monday, Smith invoked her province's Sovereignty Act by introducing a resolution to push back



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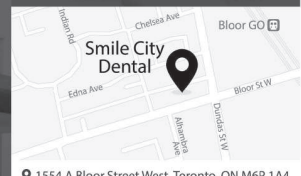
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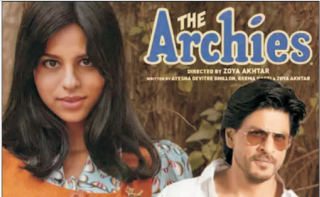
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Ganesh Hegde reveals how SRK reacted when Suhana Khan complained during The Archies rehearsals

Suhana Khan's debut film, The Archies, features her showcasing her skating skills in multiple songs...



her because he wanted her to push herself even further. After the song was completed, he finally expressed his admiration and praised her for the amazing job she had done...

Parineeti Chopra reveals she had to gain 15 kgs for Imtiaz Ali's Chamkila

Parineeti Chopra, who recently tied the knot with Raghu Chadha in September, is gradually making a return to work after her wedding and a short break.

Bangladesh gave us a blueprint' - Ish Sodhi

New Zealand are well aware of what to expect in the series deciding second Test against Bangladesh at the Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka, beginning on December 6.

Sodhi is hopeful of returning home on a positive note having spent a lot of time away from the family. New Zealand played in Bangladesh by the end of September before arriving in India for the World Cup...

BCB committee begins assessment of dismal World Cup campaign

The Bangladesh Cricket Board's newly formed three-member special committee began their activities on Sunday to find out the reason behind the team's dismal performance...

Singham Again: Ajay Devgn gets injured while filming a fight scene

Ajay Devgn has been occupied with the filming of Singham Again. While shooting in Vila Paris, Rohit Shetty and his crew were involved in an action sequence which unfortunately resulted in the lead actor sustaining an eye injury.



Shetty, and Tiger Shroff as ACP Satya Pandey. The movie will also include Sonu Sood, Prakash Raj, Fardeen Khan, Jackie Shroff, Ranveer Singh, and Siddharth Jadhav, among others.

Amazon bags ICC rights in Australia

Amazon Prime Video has secured the World Cup broadcasting rights for the Australian Territory. The International Cricket Council (ICC) finalized the deal with the streaming giant approximately two weeks after Pat Cummins' team lifted the World Cup in Ahmedabad on November 19.

apparently only applies to matches held in Australia and New Zealand, and during the current four-year rights cycle, no ICC event has been scheduled to take place in the country. The next ICC event in Australia and New Zealand is in 2028, when they host the T20 World Cup.

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Israel, Palestine and Canada's 'schizophrenic foreign policy'

Montreal, Canada - More than a month into its bombardment of Gaza, the Israeli military issued a warning: Ground troops had surrounded the largest hospital in the Palestinian enclave, al-Shifa. A raid would be launched "in minutes".

The impending siege of the Gaza City health complex sparked panic among the thousands of injured patients, medical staff and displaced Palestinians sheltering there.

But amid urgent international pleas to protect Gaza's hospitals, much of the focus in Canada was on the tougher tone of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"I have been clear. The price of justice cannot be the continued suffering of all Palestinian civilians. Even wars have rules," Trudeau said in a news conference on November 14, around the time the al-Shifa raid began.

"I urge the government of Israel to exercise maximum restraint," he continued, offering his toughest comments since the war began. For weeks, Trudeau had been ignoring calls - and some of Canada's largest protests in recent memory - demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

"The world is watching. On TV, on social media, we're hearing the testimonies of doctors, family members, survivors, kids who've lost their parents. The world is witnessing this. The killing of women and children - of babies; this has to stop."

The response from Tel Aviv was swift. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reacted publicly to Trudeau's speech, arguing on social media that the Palestinian group Hamas, not Israel, was responsible for any civilian casualties. Netanyahu pointed to Hamas's attacks in southern Israel on October 7, one of the events that precipitated the war.

In the days that followed, Canadian ministers sought to temper Trudeau's comments.

"The prime minister, quite understandably, is concerned about innocent lives on both sides of that border," Defence Minister Bill Blair told the Canadian network CTV. "We've also been crystal clear: Israel has the right to defend itself."

The episode is one of many



Michael Bueckert, president of the advocacy group Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME), speaks with another man.

examples in recent weeks of what observers have described as Canada's "schizophrenic" foreign policy when it comes to Israel and Palestine.

"Whenever [Trudeau] does show any mettle with respect to this, he invariably then steps back from what he said after any sort of criticism coming from either the Israeli lobby in Canada or Israeli leaders," Michael Lynk, a former United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, told Al Jazeera.

Unlike its powerful neighbour and Israel's foremost backer, the United States, Canada says it aims to tread the middle ground in its policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It supports a two-state solution, opposes illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and says international law must be respected by all parties.

But experts say Canada has two policies when it comes to the conflict: one on paper and one in practice.

"The fact that Canada has cast UN votes against its own stated positions and opposed Palestinian efforts to seek redress at the International Criminal Court, and argue that it has backed a headline, Israeli policies and failed to hold the country accountable for rights abuses."

"This government, as well as previous Canadian governments, have unfortunately had a blind spot with respect to Israel," said Farida Deif, Canada director at Human Rights Watch.

She added that Canada's stance has not changed despite the nearly two-month-long military campaign in Gaza, where bombs have struck hospitals, refugee camps and schools serving as shelters. More than 15,200 Palestinians have been killed.

"What we've seen with respect to Canada's policy on Israel-Palestine is really a lack of coherence, confusion, and essentially not really engaging with the reality on the ground," she

Part of that pragmatism stems from

Canada's need to maintain good relations with the US, the country's largest trading partner and most important ally, according to Peter Larson, chair of the nonprofit Ottawa Forum on Israel/Palestine.

"Canadian policymakers make a political calculation that coming out strongly or critical of Israel or supportive of the Palestinians is likely to get the Americans angry with us," Larson said.

The government's perspective, he said, was that Canada has "no control" over what happens in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. "We have no purchase there, we have no trade there, we have no military there. So why in the world would we get the Americans mad at us when we can't really do anything anyway?"

Michael Bueckert, vice president of the advocacy group Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME), agreed. "Every time we see an indication of a policy position [from Canada], it's closely following whatever the US says," he told Al Jazeera.

He pointed out that Canada has continued to mirror US positions during the war in Gaza.

"It just seems like everything that Canada does is triangulated based on what the US and Israel are saying," Bueckert said. "That's more important to them than being aligned with all other members of the UN, for example, or every humanitarian agency, or a majority of Canadian public opinion."

Yet sources with knowledge of the government's inner workings say that domestic politics is the primary driver behind Canada's position. One of the most important factors, they maintain, is the pro-Israel lobby.

Corey Balsam, national coordinator of Independent Jewish Voices Canada, an advocacy organisation, said the lobby groups have an "unmatched" ability "to be in the room" with political decision-makers.

"The lobby writ large is very well-resourced and influential and well-placed," he said.

That has forced the Liberal government to weigh whether their decisions will spark a backlash among pro-Israel lobby groups, which could lose them votes, notably to their Conservative rivals, Balsam said.

"I don't know exactly the calculations that they're making, but these are the things that they pay attention to - votes in certain ridings (electoral districts), for instance. Also funds and fundraising for the party. I think this is a big factor for them."

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