

Officers investigate the scene where a passenger vehicle struck a security barrier



# Vehicle rams security gate at White House

## Washington

A 'mentally ill' woman who tried to ram a white minivan into a security barrier outside the White House was carrying a gun.

Jessica R. Ford, 35, of La Vergne, Tennessee is said to have intentionally rammed her Chevrolet Uplander 2008 into the gate.

Police said Friday night that she was charged with gun possession and other offences after the incident Friday afternoon at around 3.30pm.

Law enforcement sources told CNN she appeared to have mental health issues and is known to the Secret Service.

The Washington Post

reported that she tried to jump the fence at the White House in April 2017.

Courts documents said she was approached by Secret Service on that occasion and told an agent 'I'm going to jump the fence'.

She then then ran toward the White House fence and tried to get over the barrier before she was stopped by officers.

According to the Post, Ford has had other encounters with the Secret Service 'resulting in numerous arrests for a variety of criminal violations'.

The white vehicle remained at the scene afterwards with its rear windshield smashed. Its license plate was from

Tennessee.

The White House was in lockdown immediately afterwards and the president was inside with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at the time.

CNN reports that the incident was not directed towards President Trump.

The lockdown was lifted at around 4pm, at which time Prime Minister Turnbull left. According to Secret Service officials, no shots were fired.

Trump praised the handling of the situation on Twitter Friday saying: 'Thank you to the great men and women of the United States @SecretService for a job well done!' (MailOnline)

## #PollToday



Another set of sanctions has been imposed over North Korea by the US. Do you expect North Korea to give up its nuclear and missile programmes?

Yes  No  Cant Say



"I'm glad that the UK government seems to be moving towards a more detailed position. However if the media reports are correct I am afraid that the UK position today is based on pure illusion."

Donald Tusk  
EU President

## Rest in sight

London braces for coldest weather



A National Severe Weather Warning has been issued by Britain's Met Office, saying snow showers are expected to hit London and southeast Britain as well as eastern Britain from Monday.

## Three bombs hit Myanmar, 2 injured

Three bomb explosions rocked the western Myanmar city of Sittwe and left two people injured.

## Woman attacked by shark at Sydney

A 55-year-old woman was mauled by a great white shark during a leisurely swim on a Sydney beach.

## S.Korea welcomes sanctions on North

South Korea welcomed fresh unilateral sanctions described as the heaviest ever adopted by the US against North Korea, and said the measures would contribute towards the common goal of the denuclearisation of Pyongyang in a peaceful manner.

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## Car bombs kill 45 in Somalia

### Mogadishu

The death toll from twin car bomb blasts in the Somali capital late on Friday has risen to 45 from the initially reported 18, a senior government official said yesterday.

Al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab militants claimed responsibility for the attack near the president's residence and a hotel close by.

"The death toll from last night's blasts has risen to 45, and 36 others were injured,"

the official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

Separately, a police officer said he was sure of 36 deaths.

"At least 15 people including a military officer and a local official died outside the palace last night.

And more than that were injured. They were mostly palace guards and guards of officials who were at the scene. The death toll may rise," Major Mohamed Abdullahi told Reuters on Saturday. (Reuters)

## Philippine Catholics protest drug killings, death penalty



Participants display placards as they participate in a procession against plans to reimpose death penalty and intensify drug war during "Walk for Life" in Luneta park, Metro Manila

### Manila

Around a thousand Catholics in the Philippines marched in Manila on Saturday to protest President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody war on drugs and his efforts to reinstate the death penalty.

The protests come a day after students in the capital and provincial universities held demonstrations against Duterte, and a day before the 32nd anniversary of the "People Power" revolution that drove dictator Ferdinand Marcos into exile.

Catholic devotees prayed

the rosary and sang hymns as bishops and the Philippines' own cardinal read sermons against what they say are not "pro-life" policies in the government.

The protesters carried banners and placards with the message "Protect and Defend the Sanctity of Life and Marriage," "End Impunity" and "Stop the Killings."

Despite criticism of the Philippine leader's bloody war on drugs campaign, Duterte remains wildly popular and a trusted public official in the Southeast Asian nation. (Reuters)

## Stolen painting by French master Degas found on bus

### Paris

French customs police have found a painting by 19th century master Edgar Degas that was stolen nine years ago from a museum in Marseille in the luggage compartment of a bus near Paris, the government said on Friday.

Degas' 1877 painting Les Choristes, or The Chorus Singers, is done in pastels and depicts a line of men singing in the opera Don Juan. It's valued at about US\$1 million.

The police were making random checks on a bus at a highway rest area about 30km (19 miles) east of Paris on February 16 when they found it and the Orsay museum confirmed its authenticity, the



The stolen painting by French painter Edgar Degas, which was found in a suitcase on a buss near Paris earlier this month

culture and budget ministers said in a statement.

The statement gave no information about why the painting was on the bus or who left it there.

The French artist is most famous for his paintings and sculptures of dancers and is often associated with the Impressionist movement. (Reuters)