



Suspect arrested in Kirk killing

Authorities capture Tyler Robinson after family member helps end 33-hour manhunt

● Charlie Kirk shot dead Wednesday

● Rifle recovered near crime scene

● Trump vows to attend funeral

AFP | Washington

US authorities said yesterday they had captured the man accused of killing prominent right-wing activist Charlie Kirk after a family member helped to turn him in after a frantic manhunt.

“We got him,” Utah Governor Spencer Cox told a press conference.

Cox identified the suspect as Tyler Robinson and said the arrest was made after one of Robinson’s relatives contacted a friend, who then contacted the police.

The arrest raised a bitterly divided country’s hopes of finding answers to the shocking political murder on Wednesday.

The 31-year-old was killed after being hit by a single bullet in his neck while addressing a large crowd at Utah Valley University.

Kirk was an electrifying presence on the US far-right, with a talent for debate and a huge following that helped Trump build the youth vote in his election victory last November.

From the moment of the shooting, Trump has treated the event as a matter of top national importance.



(L-R) Utah Department of Public Safety Beau Mason, Utah Governor Spencer Cox and FBI Director Kash Patel watch a footage showing a person of interest during a press conference at Utah Valley University

Trump first announced that Kirk had died from his wound, and yesterday it was Trump again who took to Fox News -- ahead of the press conference by law enforcement -- to say that the main suspect was in custody.

The Republican president has ordered flags at half-mast and said he will attend Kirk’s funeral.

Breakthrough in manhunt

Authorities quickly found the alleged murder weapon, a high-powered hunting rifle, and released photos of a young man dressed in a baseball cap and casual clothing.

However, after detaining, then

releasing, two people who turned out to be unconnected to the case, the police and FBI appeared to struggle.

Late Thursday, officials in Orem released more details about the suspect’s clothing and initial movements after the shooting, pleading with the public to help identify him.

FBI Director Kash Patel said the arrest was finally made at 10:00 pm Thursday -- 33 hours after the shooting.

Cox credited assistance from the alleged killer’s own family.

“On the evening of September 11th, a family member of Tyler Robinson reached out to a family

friend, who contacted the Washington County sheriff’s office with information that Robinson had confessed to them or implied that he had committed the incident,” he said.

Students at the university on Thursday described their shock and their broader fears as political divisions deepen across the country.

Dave Sanchez said witnessing the killing made him “sick to my stomach.”

“We watch him all the time and so it really does feel like one of your own family members, your own brother’s been killed,” said Sanchez, 26.



Robinson’s capture was made possible by a relative who reached out after his confession, making this high-profile case a rare instance where family intervention directly ended a national manhunt

In Orem Park, several hundred people wearing red MAGA caps and holding American flags attended a vigil on Thursday evening, where they prayed and held a moment of silence.

“It still feels insane that this happened,” Jonathan Silva, 35, said. “It’s totally surreal.”

Seeking death penalty

Cox said his state would pursue the death penalty against the suspect.

Trump said he would back such a move. “I hope he gets the death penalty,” he told Fox News.

Reflecting the highly political nature of the killing, Kirk’s coffin was transported to his home city of Phoenix on Vice President JD Vance’s official plane.

Footage showed Vance with his hands on the casket as it was carried to Air Force 2.

Rubio to offer Israel support despite Qatar strike

AFP | Raipur



Marco Rubio

Rubio’s visit includes discussions about a new visitor tunnel in Jerusalem’s Old City - a move critics say implies US recognition of Israeli sovereignty over contested holy sites

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will leave Saturday on a trip to Israel to offer support before French-led moves to recognize a Palestinian state, the State Department said.

Rubio is going ahead with the visit despite President Donald Trump gently reprimanding Israel for a surprise attack on Hamas in Qatar, a key US partner.

Rubio will speak to Israeli leaders about “our commitment to fight anti-Israel actions including unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state that rewards Hamas terrorism,” State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said in a statement.

Rubio will emphasize “the US commitment to Israeli security,” Pigott said.

“He will also emphasize our shared goals: ensuring Hamas never rules over Gaza again and bringing all the hostages home,” he said, adding that Rubio will meet families of hostages.

He said that Rubio would discuss Israel’s “operational goals and objectives” in its new offensive which includes a goal of seizing the already rubble-strewn territory’s main urban hub of Gaza City.

Kremlin says Ukraine peace talks frozen as Trump warns Putin

AFP | Moscow



Ukrainian rescuers work on the premises of the Ukrainian government building in Kyiv (file photo)

Moscow said yesterday that peace talks with Ukraine were on “pause” as US President Donald Trump again warned he was fast running out of patience with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

Trump’s efforts to bring the three-and-a-half-year conflict to an end have faltered in recent weeks, with Russia digging into its hardline demands and refusing to halt its ground and aerial attacks.

The new standoff came as Russia’s army staged major military drills with its key ally Belarus on NATO’s border, exercises that have spooked the alliance’s eastern flank after the downing of Russian drones in Polish airspace this week.

Three rounds of direct peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, as well as a summit between Trump and Putin in Alaska, have failed to make any progress towards ending the fighting.

Moscow’s army is grinding forward on the battlefield and Putin has vowed to carry on fighting if his demands for peace -- including Ukraine ced-

ing yet more land -- are not met.

“Our negotiators have the opportunity to communicate through channels. But for now, it is probably more accurate to talk about a pause” in talks with Kyiv, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in a telephone briefing.

“You can’t wear rose-tinted glasses and expect that the negotiation process will yield immediate results,” he added.

Trump has repeatedly threatened Moscow with additional sanctions if it does not halt its offensive but has failed to fol-

low through, frustrating Kyiv.

“It’s sort of running out and running out fast, but it does take two to tango,” Trump told the Fox television when asked if his patience was being taxed by Russia’s refusal to end the conflict.

“It’s amazing. When Putin wants to do it, (President Volodymyr) Zelensky didn’t. When Zelensky wanted to do it, Putin didn’t. Now Zelensky wants to and Putin is a question mark. We’re going to have to come down very, very strong,” he added.



01



We have been able to get more supplies into the Gaza Strip, but nutrition services must be protected in Gaza City and across Gaza. No child should suffer from malnutrition, which we can prevent and treat when we have the access and can deliver safely.

@unicefchief

02



Formally sworn in by the SG today as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Proud to be part of this mission and this team. The work of our charter goes on.

@UNReliefChief

03



Today, we announced the first tranche of major projects that Canada’s new government will prioritize for faster review. We’re acting decisively to build a stronger, more competitive, and prosperous economy for Canadian workers.

@MarkJCarney

04



My first duty as Prime Minister is to keep our country safe. Our deal with Google Cloud will use tech to strengthen secure communication links between the UK and the US. Protecting us against threats, supporting jobs and bringing investment to Britain.

@Keir_Starmer

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)