

## world

# 9 dead, 47 injured in Ankara train crash

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

Nine people were killed and nearly 50 injured after a high-speed train crashed into a locomotive in the Turkish capital yesterday, officials said.

Transport Minister Cahit Turhan told reporters in televised remarks that three of those killed were operators of the train.

One of the victims died in hospital, he added.

Turhan added that 47 people were injured and were in hospital for treatment.

The fast train had been on its way from Ankara's main station to the central province of Konya and according to Hurriyet daily, there were 206 passengers on board.

Earlier, the Ankara governor's office said three out of a total of 46 people had been seriously injured.

The death toll was rising fast. Ankara governor Vasip Sahin said earlier yesterday morning that four people had been killed.

## Debris scattered on the tracks

"This morning there was an accident after the 6.30 high-



Firefighters and medics try to rescue victims after a high-speed train crashed into a locomotive in Ankara

speed train to Konya hit a locomotive tasked with checking rails on the same route," Sahin told reporters in televised remarks.

Turhan said the accident took place six minutes after the train left Ankara as it entered the Marsandiz station.

The governor said search and rescue efforts continued as "technical investigations" were

underway to find out exactly what caused the crash in Yenimahalle district.

He said information about the cause of the crash would be shared with the public when it is known.

Images published by Turkish media showed some wagons had derailed and debris from the train scattered on the rail track, which was covered in

snow. The windows of one wagon were completely broken while another wagon had been smashed after hitting the footbridge, which also collapsed, an AFP correspondent at the scene said.

The Ankara public prosecutor launched an investigation into the crash, state news agency Anadolu reported.

## Increase in measles infections in Europe

Graphic News

Measles is on the rise in Europe, with 30 countries together reporting more than 13,400 cases in the year to September 2018 – a fourfold rise over the same period two years ago.

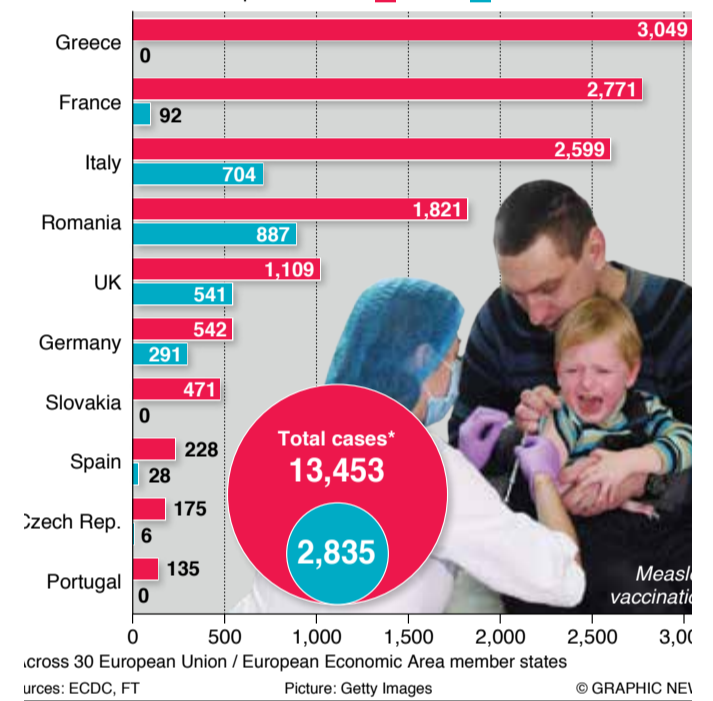
According to a recent report by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), none of the 30 EU/EEA countries sur-

veyed registered zero cases of measles, with the largest number of infections occurring in Greece, France, Italy, Romania and the UK, together accounting for 85 percent of all cases. To date, 33 deaths have also been reported across the region in 2018.

Measles continues to spread across Europe because vaccination coverage in many countries is lower than it should be, the ECDC said.

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EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITH MOST NUMBERS OF MEASLES CASES  
from October 1 to September 30



## Ghana Gandhi statue removed

Accra, Ghana

A statue of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi has been removed from Ghana's most prestigious university after complaints that he was racist against black Africans.

India's former president Pranab Mukherjee unveiled the statue at the University of Ghana in Accra two years ago.

But lecturers soon began a petition calling for its removal,

citing passages written by Gandhi claiming that Indians were "indefinitely superior" to black Africans.

The Gandhi statue on the university's Legon campus in Accra appeared to have been removed overnight Tuesday to Wednesday. The head of language, literature and drama at the Institute of African Studies, Obadele Kambon, said the removal was an issue of "self-respect".

## French govt urges 'yellow vests' not to protest

Paris, France

The French government yesterday urged "yellow vest" protesters to refrain from holding another round of demonstrations this weekend, citing the strain on security forces on high alert after the terror attack at a Christmas market in Strasbourg.

"For now we have not banned the demonstrations" which some protesters have called for

Saturday, government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux told CNews television.

But he called on the protesters to be "reasonable" after President Emmanuel Macron offered a range of financial relief last Monday, including a minimum wage boost and a tax cut for low-income pensioners.

"Our security forces have been deployed extensively these past few weeks," Griveaux said, while insisting that "it's not up



A man wearing a yellow vest with the inscription "Macron resignation" stands in front of a road blockade

to us to say if the movement should be called off or not."

In the wake of the Strasbourg attack, "it would be better if everyone could go about their business calmly on Saturday, before the year-end celebrations with their families, instead of demonstrating and putting our security forces to work once again," he said.

The "yellow vest" protests began on November 17 over fuel tax increases.

## Brazil couple sentenced to US prison for kidnapping grandson

Chicago, United States

A federal judge in Texas on Wednesday sentenced a Brazilian couple to short prison terms for helping to kidnap their grandson from the US.

A Houston jury had convicted Carlos and Jemima Guimaraes in May for helping their daughter relocate their grandson Nico Brann to Brazil five years ago, without his American father's permission.

The grandparents faced up to three years in prison, but a federal judge sentenced Carlos Guimaraes to three months and Jemima to one month. They were each also fined \$75,000.

The case generated international headlines after the couple in their 60s were arrested

in February while arriving in Miami for vacation.

The couple's daughter Marcelle Guimaraes relocated her then-three-year-old child to Brazil in 2013 under allegedly false pretenses and without the permission of his American father Chris Brann, a Houston physician. They divorced in 2012.

Brann claims his ex-wife told him the trip would only last a few weeks, but the child was never brought back to the US.

Guimaraes's parents allegedly helped her hide her motives, before the South American country's legal system granted the mother full custody.

The grandparents presented evidence during trial that the



Carlos and Jemima Guimaraes stand alongside attorney Rusty Hardin outside the Bob Casey Federal courthouse in Houston



The grandparents faced up to three years in prison, but a federal judge sentenced Carlos Guimaraes to three months and Jemima to one month.

child's mother was fleeing domestic violence, according to local media.

"The world needs to know the truth because I married a monster," Marcelle Guimaraes, who is now a fugitive wanted by the FBI, told Houston TV station KHOU prior to the sentencing.

"My ex-husband's lies and manipulation has destroyed my family, my whole family."

Brann testified before the US Congress in 2016 to ask Washington to impose sanctions on Brazil for violating an international standard requiring the return of children to their home country, if they were taken in violation of custody agreements.

A similar dispute led to the Sean Goldman Act in 2014, authorizing Washington to take action in international child custody disputes.