**Press review December 9th to 15th 2024**

 **US news**

* **Slide 1: Trump / Zelinski meeting in Paris**

Donald Trump has called for an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine, a day after [meeting the Ukrainian president](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/dec/07/any-settlement-with-russia-has-to-be-just-says-zelenskyy-at-trump-meeting), Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in Paris, claiming Kyiv “would like to make a deal” to end its war with Russia.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said both sides had suffered enormous losses in the war – which he claimed on the US election campaign trail he would be able to end “in 24 hours” if elected. Trump [has already appointed](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/nov/27/trump-cabinet-keith-kellogg-ukraine) the retired army general Keith Kellogg as his Russia and Ukraine envoy, tasked with ending the war.

“There should be an immediate ceasefire and negotiations should begin. Too many lives are being needlessly wasted, too many families destroyed,” Trump said on Sunday.

He said Kyiv had “ridiculously lost 400,000 soldiers, and many more civilians”. He did not specify whether the figure included those wounded. “Zelenskyy and [Ukraine](https://www.theguardian.com/world/ukraine) would like to make a deal and stop the madness,” he added.

Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram on Sunday that he had had a “good meeting” with Trump in Paris. The news site Axios [reported](https://www.axios.com/2024/12/07/trump-ukraine-war-zelensky-macron-paris) that the French president, Emmanuel Macron, had persuaded Trump to meet Zelenskyy with him, Trump being initially reluctant to meet the Ukrainian leader.

Zelenskyy said on Sunday that 43,000 Ukrainian soldiers had been killed and 370,000 wounded, of whom about half had been able to return to service after treatment.

* **Slide 2: In a confirmation of his fascist tendencies, D. Trump asserted that the legislators who participated in the committee which investigated the Jan. 6 Capitol assault should be jailed** 🡪 + many federal workers are afraid of being victims of a purge due to their political leanings once Trump officially becomes president

##### Slide 3: Donald Trump’s new pick for a key justice role has alarmed civil rights leaders

##### As assistant Attorney General, Harmeet Dhillon would oversee federal efforts on voting rights cases. But [she’s a fierce Trump loyalist](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/12/10/trump-civil-rights-justice-department-dhillon/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F3fe3b30%2F67597c6f9a856778d4028d7d%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F25%2F100%2F67597c6f9a856778d4028d7d), and backed his baseless claims of [widespread election fraud in 2020](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/11/06/voter-fraud-trump/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F3fe3b31%2F67597c6f9a856778d4028d7d%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F26%2F100%2F67597c6f9a856778d4028d7d).

* **Slides 4 and 5: Arrest of the alleged shooter of Brian Thompson**

Luigi Mangione, the 26-year-old suspected in the shooting death of the UnitedHealthcare CEO, [Brian Thompson](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/brian-thompson-shooting), has been charged with murder by prosecutors in New York, court records show.

The move follows his arraignment at the Blair county courthouse in Altoona, Pennsylvania, on Monday night, where gun and forgery charges were read against him. The judge asked Mangione if he understood the charges against him, and he said he did. No plea was entered.

Prosecutors in Pennsylvania, citing false IDs and a large sum of cash found on Mangione, argued he was a flight risk and asked that bail be denied, which it was.

* Arrested at a McDonald’s in Pennsylvania
* Unusual profile: valedictorian from his private university, from a wealthy family
* **was in possession of a ghost gun** **that may have been made on a 3D printer**, that had the capability of firing a 9mm round and a suppressor.
* Though his survivors include a widow and two sons aged 16 and 19, Thompson’s death [elicited **a grim schadenfreude**](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/dec/07/brian-thompson-killing-healthcare-industry) from many in the US who had been mistreated by the country’s rapacious health insurance industry. A private funeral for Thompson was planned for Monday, [NBC New York reported](https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/unitedhealthcare-ceo-brian-thompson-funeral-killer-update-latest-news/6052656/).
* Amazon removed [listings for “Deny, Defend, Depose” (the words the shooter had written on the bullets he used) merch](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/12/09/amazon-deny-defend-depose-merchandise/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F3fe14f7%2F67582aeb99654652378d765f%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F20%2F103%2F67582aeb99654652378d765f)
* Outside a court hearing, Luigi Mangione shouted: “This is completely out of touch and an insult to the intelligence of the American people”. 🡪 he will plead not guilty

##### UK News

##### Slide 6: In an attempt to keep his promise to build 1.5m homes to address England’s housing crisis, Keir Starmer said that councils would be forced to build homes: binding targets will compel authorities to build 370,000 homes a year with government to say how many per area

##### Pop quiz: why only in England? 🡪 housing is a devolved matter: Stormont, Holyrood and Senedd are in charge of it for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, which explains why Westminster only has authority in England on that matter

* **Slide 7:** [**Ed Miliband pledged the ‘most ambitious reforms to UK energy system in generations’**](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEAhzD0WUI17vwhqJTqDOvEGqGneSCmgJ3vkGjZssPDP9wrdosxCdAMSgnFtBy8B2bd-oOCEx9yePAbKfjaE5qGrii_qIiDDV0BeNzrSRDhRH2CpYsmFf8pinVNZi0Y8MSa76F0NK2zCYzbsX1CpZEAz940MS8eKDv0fQBeoKgnixcLVBLzMH2NnO8jyiXPAbOS0fKFnN0dhM-BmOcyu4qkW4t7-HhmAXDprxMI0AOYMsHcxWyJZH4-EpTdrbclrjOHj0ZnXRISMrwstxduMlO-YamQoTQrjzchQwbrAcapgfAyl72wBvatiY57ZiXzpzj4/4c9/mEimxrrNSse4v6oc3Do26A/h12/h001.TAewnJkEPRTPB91HRpQ_jU2RtszPbwEqYmUoAKrpUUU)
* the Energy secretary has pledged to bring in “the most ambitious reforms to the country’s energy system in generations” as he presses ahead with plans to [accelerate the development of onshore windfarms](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/feb/27/labour-onshore-windfarms-ed-miliband-bills-energy) in England.

##### Miliband set out the government’s “clean power 2030” plan on Friday, including measures to boost the UK’s renewable energy supply such as building canopies of solar panels on outdoor car parks. The Department for [Energy](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/energy) Security and Net Zero says the proposals will generate £40bn a year from the private sector.

##### Energy industry and environmental groups broadly welcomed the plan, with the latter urging the government against investing in carbon capture projects at the expense of supporting renewable energy development.

##### Tech news

##### Slide 8: ChatGPT maker OpenAI launched its new video generator (called Sora) on Monday 9th

##### It lets people [create short, realistic-looking video clips](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/12/09/sora-launch-openai-ai-video/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F3fe1513%2F67582aeb99654652378d765f%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F65%2F103%2F67582aeb99654652378d765f) just by typing out a description of a scene.

##### The new service is not the first widely available video generator, but OpenAI’s position as a market leader in artificial intelligence could help make synthetic footage increasingly common in commercials, art projects, movies and social posts — but also hoaxes and deepfakes.

##### But the software appears to [have some weird glitches](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/interactive/2024/ai-video-sora-openai-flaws/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F3fe1514%2F67582aeb99654652378d765f%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F66%2F103%2F67582aeb99654652378d765f). A feed on OpenAI’s website of clips recently created with Sora showed the tool capable of highly realistic footage and a range of visual styles but also distortions of everyday physics and human anatomy.

Clips of Christmas trees twinkling through the window of a house on a snowy street and an atmospheric black and white scene of monks poring over ancient tomes appeared close to photorealistic. In other clips, the limbs of acrobats and animals morphed into impossible shapes, showing the technology is capable of errors no human would make.

##### Slide 9: After an appeals courts upheld the law which could eventually ban TikTok in the USA, the company lost a bid to pause this law in order to have more time to prepare a challenge in the Supreme Court

##### A US appeals court on Friday rejected an emergency bid by [TikTok](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/tiktok) to temporarily block a law that would require its Chinese parent company ByteDance to divest of the short-video app by 19 January or face a ban on the app.

##### TikTok and ByteDance on Monday filed the emergency motion with the US court of appeals for the District of Columbia, asking for more time to make their case to the US supreme court. Friday’s ruling means that TikTok now must quickly move to the supreme court in an attempt to halt the pending ban.

##### The decision – unless the supreme court reverses it – puts TikTok’s fate first in the hands of Joe Biden on whether to grant a 90-day extension of the 19 January deadline to force a sale, and then of Donald Trump, who takes office on 20 January.

##### The president-elect, who unsuccessfully tried to ban TikTok during his first term in 2020, said before the November presidential election he would not allow the ban on TikTok.

##### Other news

* **Slide 10: Jay-Z and Sean “Diddy” Combs were accused of raping a 13-year-old girl.**

A lawsuit filed in October against Combs — currently [jailed awaiting a sex trafficking trial](https://www.washingtonpost.com/style/2024/11/20/diddy-new-sexual-assault-lawsuits-rape-drugs-victims/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F3fdf135%2F6756dc85e179af1b45e8d37e%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F37%2F98%2F6756dc85e179af1b45e8d37e) — was refiled after being amended to include Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter. The civil suit claims the rappers [took turns sexually assaulting the girl at a party](https://www.washingtonpost.com/style/2024/12/08/jay-z-sean-diddy-combs-rape-lawsuit/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F3fdf136%2F6756dc85e179af1b45e8d37e%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F38%2F98%2F6756dc85e179af1b45e8d37e) in 2000. Carter denied the accusation and claimed he was being blackmailed.

##### Slide 11: After an attempted coup last week, the South Korea president was officially impeached by Parliament and announced that he would step down

##### Slide 12: Mystery drone sightings in New Jersey have residents demanding answers

##### The governor of [New Jersey](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/new-jersey) has demanded that [Joe Biden](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/joebiden) take control of an investigation into mysterious and more frequent appearances of multiple large drones flying over his state amid mounting frustration that federal officials are [downplaying the incidents](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/dec/12/new-jersey-drones).

##### Democrat Phil Murphy released on Friday [a letter](https://x.com/GovMurphy/status/1867606764755054686) he wrote to the White House to express his “growing concern” after representatives from the Pentagon and FBI [ruled out involvement](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/dec/12/new-jersey-drones) by the US military, or hostile foreign actors, in numerous sightings of unexplained flying objects above about a dozen counties since the middle of November.

##### Annoyance has been growing among politicians and law enforcement in New Jersey following proliferating reports of drone flights in recent weeks, including almost 50 on Sunday night alone, [according to NJ.com](http://nj.com), and a dismissal of them by the White House on Thursday that they were, at least mostly, “manned aircraft … being operated lawfully”.

##### Some of the accounts described car-sized drones, sometimes in groups, flying over sensitive military installations and critical infrastructure such as railway stations, reservoirs and power plants. In response, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) enacted a no-fly restriction over an army facility in Morris county and [Donald Trump](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump)’s golf resort in Bedminster.

##### The White House, Pentagon and [FBI](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/fbi) have all said they cannot fully explain the drones’ origin, but have indicated a belief they are nothing sinister.

##### The New Jersey sightings have parallels with incidents in Europe in recent weeks also involving unidentified aircraft and military facilities. A US airbase in Ramstein, Germany, [was reportedly targeted](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/dec/13/germany-drones-air-base); and several “[small unmanned aerial systems](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/nov/23/unidentified-drones-spotted-over-three-uk-airbases-us-air-force-confirms)” were spotted last month over [three British RAF bases](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/nov/23/unidentified-drones-spotted-over-three-uk-airbases-us-air-force-confirms) used by the US air force.