Trump: US looking into report of Iranian attack plan for DC

BY ANNMARIE HORDERN AND COURTNEY SUBRAMANIAN
Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump indicated U.S. authorities were investigating whether Iran has any plan to attack Washington, DC.

"We're looking into it," Trump said Tuesday evening in Manila when asked about a CNN report that U.S. intelligence has indicated Iran is developing plans to target senior administration officials by detonating a dirty bomb or chemical weapon in the American capital.

"If there is, they will pay a price the likes of which no country has ever paid before," Trump said, answering questions at the start of a meeting with his counterparts from Japan, India and Australia. "We take it very seriously because they are crazy," he said of Tehran. "This is why they can't have a nuclear weapon."

Lauren Bis, a White House spokesperson, said earlier that the administration remains vigilant monitoring any threats "but at this time there are no credible threats to the homeland."

The CNN report cited a spokesperson for the Iranian Mission at the United Nations saying that Iran "considers the use of chemical weapons under any circumstances to be wholly illegitimate and categorically rejects and unequivocally refutes the false and fabricated allegations circulated in this regard." The spokesperson didn't explicitly address the dirty bomb intelligence, CNN said.

Former KY attorney indicted in federal murder-for-hire scheme

BY TAYLOR SIX
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A former Kentucky attorney was federally indicted Thursday on charges related to a murder-for-hire plot, federal investigators say.

Chase Cox, 33, of Covington, was indicted Nov. 12 by a Covington federal grand jury for murder-for-hire and making a false statement to federal investigators.

Between Sept. 25 and Nov. 3, Cox allegedly used the mail to try and arrange the murder of a victim identified in court documents as "R.B." Federal prosecutors say Cox promised to pay at least $500 in exchange for the killing, court documents state.

On Oct. 8, Cox lied to investigators with the FBI and ATF when they questioned him about the scheme, according to the indictment.

When asked if Cox posed a threat to R.B., Cox denied the claim, stating that he would never hurt the individual.

"No, I love (R.B.) with all my heart," Cox is reported as saying in the indictment. "I would never put (R.B.) in harm's way."

According to the indictment, that statement was false because Cox was allegedly attempting to have R.B. murdered on his behalf.

"The allegations in this indictment describe an especially disturbing effort to arrange the murder of an individual and then conceal that intent through false statements to federal investigators. Threats of violence and attempts to carry them out will be taken seriously and aggressively investigated," said Jason Parman, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Cox was currently suspended from practicing law and is serving a five-year sentence for witness retaliation, according to court documents. Cox was previously granted probation for his state charges, but a judge revoked the probation when random drug tests showed cocaine and alcohol in his system.

Cox faces a total of 15 years in prison, according to court documents. His next court appearance is scheduled for Dec. 9.

FROM PAGE 1A

JUDGE

because of sex."

1942 KENTUCKY LAW PUTS SOME DEBT ON HUSBANDS

The statute was passed in 1942 and stems from the common-law doctrine of coverture, where married women would lose their identity and become property of their husbands.

The law says the husband is not generally responsible for their wife's debts, but "shall be liable for necessaries furnished to her after marriage."

Kentucky is the last state to still have this doctrine in its statutes. Oklahoma struck down its law as unconstitutional nearly three decades ago.

Ashlock said he thinks the law should have been dealt with "long ago."

"Some may wonder why an old statute like this still matters," Ashlock said. "This case answers that question. This law is not just gathering dust in a statute book. A medical provider is invoking it to collect a medical debt. An unconstitutional law does not become harmless simply because it's old."

Ashlock said changing the law is equally important for women, as overturning it dispels the idea that a woman is completely dependent on her husband.

Ashlock is asking that state legislators repeal the statute so it applies to the entire state.

Coleman's office was not immediately available for comment.

Baptist Health Hardin issued a response to Ashlock's announcement, saying it opposed the measure, and that declaring the law unconstitutional without any party raising the issue is inappropriate.

"For the foregoing reasons, (Baptist Health Hardin) respectfully requests that the Court decline to declare KRS 404.040 unconstitutional sua sponte, apply the statute as written within its presumption of constitutionality under the law to Count II, and enter default judgment against Defendant Jeremiah Smith on the full amount claimed," Baptist Health said in a court filing,

There is no upcoming court date set in the case.

Kentucky Corrections cuts ties with embattled prison healthcare provider

BY TAYLOR SIX
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Kentucky Department of Corrections

The Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex is in West Liberty.

Kentucky's Department of Corrections will not extend its long-running contract with its embattled prison healthcare provider in the new year, according to officials with the health care company.

Wellpath, the state's current prison healthcare provider, said in a statement it would no longer be serving Kentucky's prison population after January 2027. The company has provided healthcare for Kentucky prisons for more than a decade, but has faced financial troubles in recent years and has had to settle lawsuits over inmate deaths.

"Our contract is projected to expire between January 12 and the 26 of 2027, and Wellpath will no longer provide healthcare services to the Department after that date," said Skip Thurman, a spokesperson for Wellpath. "This kind of change is common in our industry. When a contract comes to an end, the Commonwealth issues a Request for Proposals, and this time around the new contract went to another provider."

Kentucky has contracted with Wellpath, formerly named Correct Care Solutions, since 2014. Despite the company's former financial trouble the state re-upped its contract and is paying Wellpath $60 million this year to provide healthcare to Kentucky inmates and insure prisons against healthcare-related lawsuits.

The Department of Corrections told the Herald-Leader a new contract with Wexford Health Sources, headquartered in Pittsburg.

"The Department received several responses to the Request for Proposal for an independent medical provider to afford those in state prison access to medical care," said Morgan Hall, a spokesperson for the department of corrections. "The proposals were reviewed and scored based on the published RFP criteria and Wexford Healthcare was selected. This contract will begin in January."

Thurman said federal law requires Wellpath to issue a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) notice, which is an advance warning that a U.S. employer must give before a plant closing or a mass layoff.

For the employees affected, employment with Wellpath ends when the contract expires, Thurman said. It does not mean the healthcare positions will go away.

"The incoming provider will continue providing healthcare services, and we anticipate that many employees will have opportunities to continue in their current roles with the new provider," Thurman said.

"Our primary focus as we approach the transition is our team," Thurman said. "We're already working with the incoming provider to support a smooth transition with as little disruption as possible, and we anticipate that many of our employees will have the opportunity to continue in their current roles with the new provider."

WELLPATH'S TROUBLED PAST

Based in Nashville, Tennessee, Wellpath is a healthcare company that provides medical and mental health services to people in correctional facilities and treatment centers.

Wellpath was once one of the nation's largest for-profit healthcare providers for prisoners. But Wellpath is the second corrections healthcare system to file for bankruptcy in the past three years, following Tehum Care Services in 2023, reports show.

When Wellpath signed a contract to provide healthcare for prison inmates in Kentucky, it assured the state it had third-party insurance to pay out lawsuits related to claims of negligence and wrongful death.

Such lawsuits have arisen in Kentucky. Most recently, Wellpath settled two Kentucky lawsuits filed by Brittany Jones, whose brother Chad Raymond died while in their care at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex.

Raymond died May 9, 2021, of endocarditis, an infection of the heart's valves, after his condition worsened over a period of 11 days in custody, according to his sister's lawsuit.

The case was initially slated to be settled in 2024, according to court documents, but Wellpath declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy, halting the proceedings.

The lawsuit was eligible for settlement after Wellpath emerged last year in good financial standing.

On Oct. 10, 2025, Jones filed a second lawsuit — this time against the state justice cabinet and its officials for failing to ensure Wellpath could pay out wrongful death and negligence lawsuits against Kentucky prisons.

Despite assurances from Wellpath that it could cover such settlements, James Seitz, the company's director of insurance, wrote in bankruptcy filings that Wellpath's insurance was merely a "fronting policy" and did not appear to provide actual coverage against lawsuits.

Fronting policies — which don't require proof that a company can pay out settlements but instead assure the policyholder the company will be able to pay out if it comes to that — meet requirements set by state lawmakers that prisons have coverage from a licensed insurer, Seitz wrote.

Wellpath's insurance policies have been litigated in other states, too.

In Georgia, for example, lawyers claimed Wellpath lied to county officials about the type of coverage they offered. As in Kentucky, in addition to providing medical coverage for inmates, the company was on the hook if a prison had to pay out a lawsuit related to medical negligence.

And the company was required to have insurance of its own to pay out those lawsuits, in case it filed for bankruptcy.

But the sheriff's office in Cobb County, Georgia, near Atlanta, claims in a lawsuit filed Feb. 18 that Wellpath didn't actually have such insurance. When Cobb County corrections officials were sued for medical negligence, Wellpath failed to pay up, the suit says.

Grand Ole Opry star asks Lexington high school choir to record with her

BY VALARIE HONEYCUTT SPEARS
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Anna Vaus, a Nashville-based singer-songwriter on the Grand Ole Opry, is featuring Lexington's Frederick Douglass High School choir on a new recording of the song "There is Time."

Vaus' debut album "Downhill from Here" amassed over 15 million streams, the Grand Ole Opry website said.

The students sang "There is Time" at their fall concert, "which Vaus attended and really enjoyed," a Fayette County Public Schools' news release said Monday.

School officials discussed the collaboration at a recent Fayette school board meeting.

"She has toured alongside Willie Nelson, Stephen Wilson Jr. and more, finding a stage wherever she goes from the grass stages of her fans' backyards to the Grand Ole Opry. As a songwriter, she holds her own in any room, with cuts recorded by Carly Pearce, Maddie & Tae, and more," the Grand Ole Opry website said.

The Frederick Douglass choir will be rehearsing and recording with Vaus for two hours Wednesday in the school's auditorium, according to the news release.

FROM PAGE 1A

PROTEST

company.

"Essentially it's just mass surveillance," Kumar said. "It's basically something that we didn't agree to and it's being shoved upon us."

This isn't the only initiative at UK that aims to monitor university members' and the public's movements and speech.

UK installed artificial intelligence face scanners for door access into some buildings on campus this year, causing some concern despite assurances over privacy.

The university proposed a technology security policy on Nov. 2 that would bar people from discussing politics and other topics on UK devices and when connected to campus Wi-Fi, even on a personal device. Bill Thro, UK's general counsel, defended the policy, and UK Provost Robert DiPaola emphasized it's a draft, which can be altered before becoming official.

Kumar said they're worried about it limiting activists' ability to speak out.

"That really puts things into perspective because right now there is a lot of activist sentiment going on in the students, so trying to silence that and then Flock cameras going hand in hand really puts things into perspective," he said.

Kumar said he learned only a month ago that UK has installed license plate readers, which are also widespread across Lexington.

The University of Kentucky installed license-plate reader cameras from Flock in 2022, the same year Lexington first installed its cameras.

Lexington currently has 125 cameras. The campus has 18 cameras, according to UK's website.

In addition to the UK Police Department, UK Transportation Services also has 58 license plate reader cameras, but those are used to monitor parking at its various lots.

Phoebe Haverstick, organizer of DeFlock UKY and a senior in writing, rhetoric and digital studies, said the university should expect more of these protests.

"The University of Kentucky does not like it when there's student backlash because we're the clients, and if we are generally unhappy, which I believe that we are, they will listen to that," Haverstick said.

Lindsay Travis, a UK spokesperson, said on Nov. 13 the university takes privacy concerns seriously.

"The university takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard both public safety and individual privacy," Travis said. "ALPR technology is used only for authorized law enforcement or parking/transportation purposes, and departmental policy and established controls govern access to associated data. Misuse of the technology is not tolerated and alleged misuse is subject to investigation and possible corrective action."

For the cameras used by UK, Flock data is retained for 30 days unless the images are needed for ongoing investigations. Audits of the system are scheduled every 90 days, UK policy shows.

Use of the cameras by the Lexington Police Department has come under fire as several cities in Kentucky have stopped using them.

Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton recently appointed an independent panel to review Flock cameras after multiple people questioned the use of the cameras and who has access to that data.

The Lexington Police Department frequently credits Flock cameras for helping them find stolen vehicles and find suspects in high-profile crimes. But the cameras have also led to some high-profile mistakes. In September, the Lexington Police Department surrounded a man's home whom they believed was involved in a road rage incident after Flock cameras showed a truck similar to the one the man drove.

The man was not charged after he proved to Lexington police he was not involved in the incident.