

- **U.S. Observer Daily Briefing:** Today marks the fifth anniversary of the January 6 Capitol Attack, a pivotal moment in U.S. democratic history.
- President Trump has issued over 1,500 pardons to rioters involved in the 2021 insurrection.
- Investigations reveal administration efforts to delete Justice Department records and downplay the day's violence.
- Democrats are demanding the return of a missing plaque meant to honor law enforcement responders.

From threats to seize Greenland to the defunding of public broadcasting, these developments signal a transformative—and highly controversial—era of American power that challenges long-standing alliances like NATO and redefines international sovereignty.

1

Today marks five years since the 2021 insurrection at the US Capitol, where Trump supporters stormed the building to disrupt the certification of the presidential election. Discussions include Trump's mass pardons to over 1,500 rioters, efforts by his administration to erase records and rewrite the event's history, and a missing plaque meant to honor law enforcement responders.

Why it is important: This anniversary underscores ongoing threats to US democracy, highlighting partisan attempts to alter historical narratives and accountability for political violence.

Fifth Anniversary of the January 6 Capitol Attack

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/06/january-6-trump-us-capitol-attack>

2

US forces abducted Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, who was arraigned in a New York court on charges including narco-terrorism, drug trafficking, and money laundering; he and his wife pleaded not guilty. This follows a US military assault on Venezuela, prompting his VP to be sworn in as interim leader.

Why it is important: The operation escalates US foreign intervention, risking broader geopolitical conflicts and drawing international condemnation for violating sovereignty.

US Capture and Arraignment of Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro

Link: <https://www.reuters.com/pictures/pictures-day-january-6-2026-01-06/>

3

The UN Security Council held an emergency session condemning the US attack on Venezuela, with allies and adversaries alike criticizing the violation of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Widespread protests and diplomatic rebukes followed the abduction of Maduro.

Why it is important: It highlights eroding US credibility on the world stage and potential fractures in international relations amid accusations of imperialism.

Global Outcry at UN Over US Assault on Venezuela

<https://www.democracynow.org/2026/1/6/headlines>

4

Top Trump aide Stephen Miller claimed Greenland belongs to the US and that the administration could seize the Danish territory, part of a push justifying American expansionism. This echoes Trump's past interest in acquiring the island for national security.

Why it is important: Such statements strain US alliances, particularly with NATO members, and could provoke diplomatic crises over territorial claims.

Stephen Miller Suggests US Could Seize Greenland

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2026/01/06/us/trump-news>

5

Denmark's Prime Minister responded to US threats by stating that any attempt to seize Greenland would lead to the dissolution of NATO. European leaders expressed skepticism and rebuffed the claims.

Why it is important: It signals potential collapse of key security alliances, affecting global stability and US influence in the Arctic region.

Danish PM Warns US Seizure of Greenland Would End NATO

Link: <https://www.democracynow.org/2026/1/6/headlines>

6

An NPR investigation reveals the Trump administration deleted Justice Department records of January 6 cases, scrubbed references to the event as a riot, and downplayed violence despite initial condemnations.

Why it is important: These actions raise concerns about government transparency and the integrity of historical records in a democracy.

Trump Administration Efforts to Erase January 6 Records

<https://www.npr.org/2026/01/04/nx-s1-5649713/npr-investigation-shows-how-the-government-tried-to-erase-information-about-january-6>

7

The board of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting voted to dissolve after Congress eliminated its \$500 million annual funding, impacting NPR, PBS, and local stations.

Why it is important: This move threatens independent public media, potentially limiting access to diverse news and educational content across the US.

Dissolution of Corporation for Public Broadcasting

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2026/01/06/us/trump-news>

8

Reports indicate Trump informed oil industry executives a month prior to the US assault on Venezuela, amid claims of shifting from "America First" policies.

Why it is important: It suggests corporate influence on foreign policy decisions, raising ethical questions about motivations behind military actions.

Trump Tipped Off Oil Executives Before Venezuela Attack

Link: <https://www.democracynow.org/2026/1/6/headlines>

9

A plaque intended to honor police officers who responded to the January 6 attack is unaccounted for at the Capitol, with Democrats demanding its unveiling.

Why it is important: The disappearance symbolizes neglected recognition for first responders and fuels debates over the legacy of the insurrection.

Missing January 6 Plaque Honoring Law Enforcement

<https://www.npr.org/2026/01/06/nx-s1-5668076/january-6-plaque-law-enforcement-capitol>

10

One person was arrested for causing property damage, including breaking windows, at VP JD Vance's Ohio residence.

Why it is important: This incident highlights security risks for high-profile officials amid heightened political tensions in the US.

Vandalism at Vice President JD Vance's Home

<https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/06/us/5-things-to-know-for-jan-6-capitol-riot-anniversary-nicolas-maduro-immigration-swiss-bar-fire-dual-citizenship>