

New York Times News Quiz – Jan.05, 2024

- 1) An explosion this week killed a senior Hamas official and two other leaders in a suburb of Beirut. The blast killed the deputy leader of Hamas, Saleh al-Arouri, and two leaders of the group's armed wing. It was the first assassination of a top Hamas official outside the Palestinian territories since Oct. 7.
- 2) In an 8-7 decision, Israel's Supreme Court ruled this week on a divisive new law that limited the judiciary's powers. The court struck down the law, which was part of a broader overhaul intended to put more power in the hands of elected lawmakers. The decision came after months of mass protests that left the country in turmoil. The court also postponed the enactment of a law that makes it harder to remove a prime minister, a setback for Benjamin Netanyahu.
- 3) A Japan Airlines passenger jet crashed into a Coast Guard plane on a runway in Tokyo, killing five Coast Guard crew members. Everyone survived. A transcript appeared to show the commercial flight was given permission to land while the Coast Guard aircraft was told to wait next to the runway. The safe evacuation of the 367 passengers came down to a relative absence of panic.
- 4) Claudine Gay resigned this week as the president of Harvard. Gay, the university's first Black president, announced her resignation after accusations of plagiarism in her past academic work and criticism of her response to antisemitism on campus.
- 5) Bob Menendez, senator of New Jersey, was accused this week of accepting bribes to help the government of Qatar. Federal prosecutors in Manhattan charged Menendez, New Jersey's senior Democratic senator, with using his power to aid the Qatari government in exchange for tens of thousands of dollars in bribes. He has already been accused of using his political influence to benefit Egypt.
- 6) Speaker Mike Johnson and more than 60 House Republicans visited Texas on Wednesday to increase political pressure on Democrats. The contingent visited the border with Mexico, demanding that Biden clamp down on immigration by deporting people who enter the country illegally. Republicans in both the House and Senate have insisted that sweeping immigration changes must be part of any bill to help Ukraine with war funding.
- 7) Wayne LaPierre went on trial this week in New York, stemming from a lawsuit in which the state's attorney general seeks to oust him as the leader of the NRA. The lawsuit accuses him and three other N.R.A. insiders of decades of corruption.
- 8) Michigan and Washington teams will compete in college football's national championship game next week.
- 9) Queen Margrethe II, Europe's longest-serving monarch, announced her abdication from the throne of Denmark. In a New Year's speech, Margrethe announced her plan to step down after more than 50 years and said that her son, Crown Prince Frederik, would succeed her.
- 10) The city of Detroit is on track to record the lowest number of homicides since 1966. Local officials credited an aggressive effort to jump-start the criminal justice system, which had largely stalled in the pandemic. The decline is consistent with much of the rest of the U.S., where murder rates fell sharply last year.
- 11) On Jan. 1, thousands of copyrighted works entered the public domain after their 95-year terms expired.