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LA PORTE HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

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CONTENTS:

1. World News:

Henley, J. "Louvre suspects 'partially admit' their role in jewel heist." The Guardian. 29 October 2025.

2. National News:

Reichmann, K. "Supreme Court questions National Guard deployment in Chicago." Courthouse News Service. 29 October 2025.

3. Local News:

Hanson, A. "Indiana State Police: Indianapolis Zoo's missing tortoises found in Madison County park." FOX/CBS. Published 28 October 2025; updated 29 October 2025.

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WORLD NEWS ARTICLE: from THE GUARDIAN

Louvre suspects ‘partially admit’ their role in jewel heist

Police are no closer to recovering gems valued at £76m, despite the arrest of two men last week

JON HENLEY - 29 OCTOBER 2025

PARIS-- Two men arrested on suspicion of stealing crown jewels worth an estimated €88m (£76m) from the Louvre in Paris have “partially admitted” their role in the heist, the prosecutor has said, but police are no closer to recovering the gems.

Laure Beccau said the pair, arrested on Sunday, would be brought before magistrates “with a view to being charged with organised theft, which carries a 15-year prison sentence, and criminal conspiracy, punishable by 10 years”.

Beccau told a media conference on Wednesday, hours before the two men had to be either charged or released, that the jewels “are not in our possession”. But, in an apparent appeal to the thieves, she added: “There is still time to give them back.”

The treasures were “clearly unsellable” as they were, she said. “Anyone who buys them would be guilty of concealment of stolen goods,” she told journalists, adding she “would like to hope” they would be recovered “for the Louvre and for the nation”.

The four-man gang pulled up outside the world’s most visited museum at about 9.30am on 19 October in a stolen furniture removal truck fitted with an extending ladder and lift, in which two climbed to the ornate first-floor Apollo gallery.

Wearing hi-vis vests to resemble maintenance workers, they smashed an unsecured window and used disc cutters to slice open two glass display cases before descending in the bucket lift and fleeing on motorbikes driven by the other two men.

The heist lasted less than seven minutes, with the two who entered the gallery spending three minutes and 58 seconds inside. They dropped a diamond and emerald-studded crown but fled with eight richly gem-encrusted pieces.

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The stolen jewels included an emerald and diamond necklace that Napoleon I gave to his second wife, Marie Louise, and a diadem set with 212 pearls and nearly 2,000 diamonds that had once belonged to the empress Eugénie, wife of Napoleon III.

Beccuau said the two suspects – both of whom were arrested last Saturday night, one at Charles de Gaulle airport outside Paris, reportedly as he was trying to catch a flight to Algeria – were believed to be the men who had entered the Apollo gallery.

Their DNA had been found on a display case and a scooter used in the getaway, the prosecutor said. She added that it was possible that the gang had numbered more than four men, but there was no indication so far it had benefited from inside help.

Beccuau said one of the suspects, an Algerian national, was aged 34, had lived in France since 2010, and was known to police for road traffic offences. The second was aged 39, born in the Paris suburb of Aubervilliers, and had convictions for burglary.

The prosecutor said 100 investigators from France's BRB organised crime squad and a unit specialising in trafficked artworks and cultural goods were "working every day of the week, day and night, in an effort to identify the thieves and recover the jewels".

Investigations were continuing, she said, adding that there was still "plenty of evidence to be examined". She declined to give any details about the two suspects who remain at large.

Earlier on Wednesday, police acknowledged serious shortcomings in the Louvre's security. The Paris police chief, Patrice Faure, told senators that ageing systems and delays to planned upgrades meant "a technological step has not been taken".

A planned €80m (£70m) security improvement programme would not be completed before the end of the decade, Faure said. The museum's director, Laurence des Cars, had previously acknowledged security blindspots.

Des Cars said the only external security camera installed near the Apollo gallery was pointing in the wrong direction to cover the window. The museum this week transferred some precious jewels to the Bank of France, RTL Radio reported.

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NATIONAL NEWS ARTICLE: from COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Supreme Court questions National Guard deployment in Chicago

The justices probed Trump's authority to send National Guard troops to Illinois after a law professor submitted a friend-of-the-court brief casting doubt on the government's argument.

KELSEY REICHMANN - 29 OCTOBER 2025

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked President Donald Trump to answer additional questions about whether the federal government met the requirements necessary to deploy the National Guard to Chicago.

According to the White House, National Guard troops need to be deployed because federal officials have been unable to execute immigration law with "regular forces," invoking a rarely used statute known as Title 10. The justices want to know whether "regular forces" refers to the U.S. military — not federal officials as Trump suggests.

Last week, Martin Lederman, a law professor at Georgetown University, suggested that Trump hadn't met Title 10's qualifications in a brief before the court. Lederman said the government clearly defined regular forces within Trump's emergency application as civilian federal law enforcement agencies like Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and the Federal Protective Service.

"It is highly uncommon, however, to refer to such civilian officials and employees as any kind of 'forces' at all; and they certainly are not 'the regular forces' to which [Title 10] refers," Lederman wrote. "[T]he regular forces' to which the statute refers are, instead, the standing military forces of the armed services, within the Department of Defense."

Lederman explained that he's not suggesting that Trump can deploy the military to execute federal laws in Illinois, just that Trump's Title 10 claims do not meet muster.

In September, the Department of Homeland Security announced "Operation Midway Blitz," an effort to ramp up immigration-related arrests in and around Chicago.

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A suburban immigration processing facility in Broadview has become the epicenter of the operation, leading to standoffs between protesters and ICE officers. Viral videos have shown officers pointing guns at protesters and deploying smoke grenades and tear gas. One video last month captured an officer throwing Democratic congressional candidate Kat Abughazaleh to the ground.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Justice Department indicted Abughazaleh and six others for assaulting, resisting or impeding officers and conspiracy to impede or injure an officer. Abughazaleh called the charges a political prosecution and an attack on the First Amendment.

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker sued Trump on Oct. 6 to block the deployment of troops, stating that there was no public safety need or emergency. But the White House continues to insist that National Guard troops are necessary to quell protests that the administration says amount to a rebellion.

Stating that Trump wouldn't "turn a blind eye to lawlessness," White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson expressed confidence that the court would side with the president.

"The facts haven't changed," Jackson said. "Amidst ongoing violent riots and lawlessness, that local leaders like Pritzker have refused to step in to quell, President Trump has exercised his lawful authority to protect federal officers and assets."

Pritzker's office did not respond to a request for comment on the Supreme Court's request for additional briefing. The federal government and Illinois must submit a response to the justices' question by Nov. 10.

Two lower courts have already determined there is no active rebellion in Chicago, with an appeals court declaring that "political opposition is not rebellion." A Seventh Circuit panel also unanimously rejected claims that protest activity in Illinois hampered federal officers from executing federal immigration laws.

U.S. Solicitor General John Sauer urged the justices to take immediate action on Oct. 17, claiming that the continued prohibition on the deployment of federal troops increased the risk that officers would be seriously harmed by what he called "violent anti-ICE agitators."

The justices' order, however, signals that they do not intend to act anytime soon.

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LOCAL NEWS ARTICLE: from FOX59/CBS4

Indiana State Police: Indianapolis Zoo's missing tortoises found in Madison County park

AUSTIN HANSON - 29 OCTOBER 2025

INDIANAPOLIS — Local law enforcement has recovered a pair of tortoises that went missing from the Indianapolis Zoo earlier this month.

The zoo announced that the tortoises had been recovered via two Instagram posts. The first of the posts was deleted and replaced with a second, new post. Both posts indicated that the tortoises had been located safe by law enforcement.

In a press release, Indiana State Police reported that the tortoises were found safe and uninjured in Falls Park in Pendleton on Tuesday afternoon.

ISP indicated that multiple civilians who were visiting Falls Park stumbled upon the tortoises around 4 p.m. Those visitors found the tortoises in an unattended cardboard box behind the park's museum.

Upon finding the tortoises, the Falls Park visitors called the Pendleton Police Department. Police took custody of the tortoises within minutes of receiving the parkgoers' call.

Police found a paper plate on top of the box the tortoises were inside. That plate had a note on it that referenced the Indianapolis Zoo.

Indy Zoo personnel confirmed the tortoises police found were, indeed, the ones that had gone missing by scanning the animals' microchips.

ISP indicated that its investigation of the tortoises' disappearance is still active. Police also reported that they did not have any additional information on the investigation available for release as of Tuesday night.

In their release, state police did not publicly identify any suspects who may be responsible for the tortoises' disappearance. It is unclear police have identified or detained any suspects or persons of interest at this point in their investigation of the tortoises' disappearance.

Previous reporting indicates zoo personnel noticed the tortoises were missing during a routine morning count on Oct. 12. On Monday, Indiana State Police publicly announced that they believed the two tortoises had been stolen sometime between 10 a.m. on Oct. 11 and 10 a.m. on Oct. 12.

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Zoo staff first reported the tortoises missing to state police on Oct. 23. Zoo officials indicated that the species of the two tortoises that went missing are Egyptian and Northern Spider. Per the Indy Zoo, both species of tortoise are considered critically endangered due to the pet trade and poaching.

The tortoises typically reside in the zoo's desert exhibit. State police indicated that the exhibit is constructed in such a way that it could make it easy for a potential thief to steal them.

In an update posted to social media on Wednesday, zoo officials indicated that the tortoises are being cared for and monitored by the zoo's medical team. In the post, the zoo reported that the tortoises appear to be healthy and will be returning to their home in the desert exhibit after a short stay in a veterinary hospital.

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