

Friday, February 6th 2026

Ninth Circuit Halts National Guard Deployment in Los Angeles



Published on December 13, 2025

Document Date: Fri, Feb 06 2026 03:00:43 pm

Category: ,English,International - ,Snippets

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Source: Xinhua

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 12—California Attorney General Rob Bonta on Friday welcomed a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit that, for now, has halted the deployment of California National Guard troops on the streets of Los Angeles, marking a significant turn in a months-long legal dispute between state authorities and the federal government.

In a formal statement, Bonta said the appellate court's decision means that no National Guard troops will be deployed in California starting Monday. He described the ruling as a pivotal moment, noting that for the first time in nearly six months, Los Angeles will not see military personnel patrolling its streets.

The decision follows a partial administrative stay issued by the Ninth Circuit early Friday. The stay allowed the first part of a previous district court order—barring the deployment of National Guard troops in Los Angeles—to remain in effect, while pausing a second portion that would have immediately returned full control of the federalized troops to California Governor Gavin Newsom.

The legal battle began after the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump deployed nearly 4,000 California National Guard members to Los Angeles in June, following protests triggered by a federal immigration crackdown. California officials challenged the move, arguing that the federalization and deployment of the Guard exceeded presidential authority and were not justified by conditions on the ground.

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer of the Northern District of California ruled in favor of the state, ordering the Trump administration to cease the deployment and return control of the Guard to the governor. However, that ruling was temporarily stalled when the Ninth Circuit issued an emergency stay, allowing the federal deployment to continue pending further review.

Since then, the Trump administration has released most of the federalized Guard members, retaining approximately 300 troops under federal control. The U.S. Justice Department has argued that the remaining forces are necessary to protect federal personnel and property in Los Angeles. Bonta stressed that the Ninth Circuit's latest decision is not final but represents meaningful progress, reiterating that there is no ongoing crisis to justify a military presence and expressing confidence that the state will continue to prevail as the case moves forward in court.