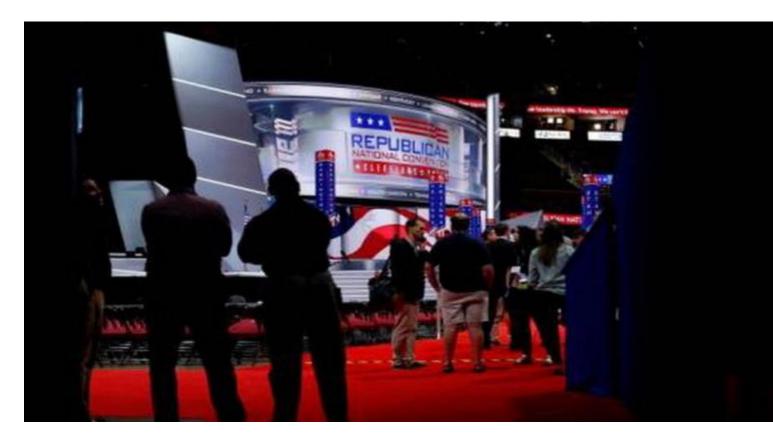
U.S. Republican National Convention Opens in Cleveland, Ohio



Cleveland, July 19 (RHC)-- The Republican National Convention opened in Cleveland, Ohio on Monday, with more than 50,000 people flooding into Cleveland for the convention, where the Republican Party is slated to formally nominate real estate mogul Donald Trump to be the party's presidential nominee, and to ratify the party platform.

More than a dozen Republican leaders have decided to skip their party's Convention. South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham says he's not coming because he doesn't support Donald Trump. Arizona Senator Jeff Flake says he's staying home because he'd rather mow his lawn. Florida Congressmember Dennis Ross is skipping the Convention because, in his words: "It's a good time to be fishing in Montana." And Florida Senator Marco Rubio, Arizona Senator John McCain and Kentucky Senator Rand Paul will also reportedly be staying away from the convention.



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