

## Anderson sees 4th anniversary Hostages on hold

WASHINGTON -- Terry Anderson began his fifth year as a hostage in Lebanon Thursday. The Bush administration called his detention a "criminal act which serves no cause" and joined his relatives and fellow journalists in demanding his release.

"Enough is enough. . . This cannot continue," Peggy Say, Anderson's sister, told a ceremony attended by members of Congress, Anderson's colleagues and relatives of the hostages. Her brother, she said, is "tired of being caged like an animal."

"Our hearts cry out in protest" over Anderson's plight, said Louis D. Boccardi, president of The Associated Press, Anderson's employer.

"It's time for those holding Terry Anderson to release him and to end the unconscionable suffering of an innocent man. Each of us in our own special way should mark this day with contemplation and prayer for Terry's release," Boccardi said in a statement transmitted to The AP's staff.

President Bush, through his spokesman, expressed sympathy for Anderson's family and for those of the eight other American hostages held in Lebanon, as State Department officials said they "have not forgotten the hostages."

"The president certainly is concerned about the hostages," said Marlin Fitzwater, Bush's spokesman, who was in Houston with the president. "He is aware of Terry Anderson's captivity being four years now."

"Marking these anniversaries is difficult for the families," but they serve to remind all Americans that their countrymen are held in Lebanon, he said.

The administration pledged to continue working for the release of Anderson, the longest held of the American hostages, but officials repeated their policy of not cutting deals with pro-Iranian Moslem Shiites believed to be holding the hostages.

"We continue to hold the kidnapers responsible for the safety and well-being of the hostages," said State Department spokesman Char-

les Redman. "Their continued detention is a criminal act which serves no cause."

He said the captors should release the hostages "immediately and unconditionally" in accordance with "universal humanitarian obligations."

"We call on all countries with influence over the hostages, such as Iran, to use that influence to obtain freedom for all the hostages," Redman said, adding that the administration is working with the United Nations and other governments to achieve freedom for the eight.

Journalists' unions worldwide used the occasion to demand more intensive diplomatic efforts to free all 15 foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

At the European Parliament meeting in Strasbourg, France, the International Federation of Journalists urged the diplomatic community not to forsake the hostages.

The parliament adopted a resolution demanding the immediate release of the hostages and calling on the 12-member European Economic Community to inform Middle East governments known to "have influence" on the kidnapers that good relations with Europe "depends on the release of the hostages."

The Committee to Protect Journalists, a New York-based group, called on Bush to use "every means at his disposal to bring Terry Anderson home."

At the anniversary ceremony in a House office building, Tom Brokaw of NBC News said Anderson has not been forgotten by his colleagues during the four years he has lived in a small, dingy room - often without light. The ceremony was co-sponsored by No Greater Love, a humanitarian organization, and the Journalists Committee to Free Terry Anderson.

"We can't turn our backs when people are denied human rights," Brokaw said.

Colleagues who knew and worked with Anderson, 41, talked of his dedication to his job, his desire to tell the story of the war-torn nation and his willingness to take risks.



## Public wants Brown freed; attorney says outcry hurts

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- While inmate James Brown works with a prison choir, the voices of supporters trying to win early release for the "Godfather of Soul" ring loud across the country.

Jesse Jackson urges compassion for Brown, who is serving a six-year prison sentence for trying to run over two police officers during a two-state chase last fall.

New York activist Al Sharpton vows nationwide rallies on May 3 - Brown's 56th birthday - to draw attention to the soul singer's plight, while a record by a Los Angeles songwriter-producer team proclaims: "Free James Brown, the man has too much soul."

The fight to free the soul singer even went galactic this week when NASA's Mission Control in Houston awakened the space shuttle Discovery's five astronauts with shouts of "I Feel Good" from Brown's smash 1960s hit, "I Got You (I Feel Good)."

"In a strange way, I think the fact that James Brown is now in outer space . . . simply heightens the case to a global awareness," Jackson said in a telephone interview this week from Los Angeles.

But the campaign to free Brown has not persuaded South Carolina corrections officials to move up Brown's parole eligibility date from May 12, 1991.

In fact, one of Brown's attorneys fears such attention will only hurt "The Hardest Working Man In Show Business" when he appears in state court in Aiken at a probation revocation hearing Friday.

"Any kind of publicity hurts Mr. Brown with regard to his criminal trouble," defense attorney Billy Weeks said. "It might help his record albums but it hurts him in court. It puts pressure on the judge to be a little bit harsher."

Corrections officials requested the hearing after Brown allegedly tested positive for marijuana and PCP in December. Brown was put on probation after his conviction last July for resisting arrest and carrying a pistol; random drug testing is one probation provision.

He has been incarcerated at the State Park Correctional Institute near Columbia since Dec. 29 after a conviction stemming from an unrelated wild car chase with authorities from South Carolina and Georgia on Sept. 24. Tests showed

Brown had PCP in his system when he was arrested.

Brown also is scheduled to appear in court in North Augusta in mid-April on a charge of driving under the influence.

The soul singer works as a kitchen aide at the state prison helping to serve and prepare meals for 150 inmates. In his spare time, he sings with the choir and composes on a laptop keyboard, said state Department of Corrections spokesman Francis Archibald.

Brown did not respond to a letter from The Associated Press requesting an interview.

Despite his legal problems, Brown's career is hardly faltering. An album he recorded in December with Aretha Franklin before his conviction is to be released in the coming weeks. Cinemax is broadcasting on cable television Brown's November concert tour in Italy.

And Brown's album, "I'm Real," released in August, is selling well, said Johnny Musso, president of Scotti Brothers, Brown's Santa Monica, Calif., record label.

"We don't think this (Brown's conviction) has hurt him at all," Musso said.

# Soviet party adopts agricultural reform

MOSCOW -- Communist Party leaders Thursday approved sweeping reforms giving farmers the right to lease state-owned land to increase Soviet food production.

Soviet consumers, who get about half as much meat and fruit as Americans, were promised diets "up to generally recognized standards of nutrition" by 1996, Politburo member Yegor K. Ligachev told a news conference.

The party also elected its 100 members to the Congress of People's Deputies, a new 2,550-seat legislative body that will meet for the first time in the spring. Among them was

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The plenum of the 300-member Central Committee was called amid a debate centering on Gorbachev's plan to give farmers long-term leases on state-owned land to make them more efficient.

He also has urged that farmers be given freedom to decide what to plant on that land, rather than having that decided by the bureaucracy.

Ligachev said leases could be signed for any period of more than five years and be passed on to succeeding generations of farmers.

He said no one would be forced into leasing land and that the giant

state and collective farms would remain the backbone of the Soviet agricultural system.

"Radical changes in rural life and production relations should be carried out on a purely voluntary basis . . . without any kind of force or repressive methods," Ligachev said in his first appearance before foreign reporters.

Setting targets for leasing would only encourage strong-arm tactics to fulfill the plans, Ligachev said.

Ligachev is the Politburo member in charge of farm policy and is widely regarded as a conservative force on the Politburo. In statements before the plenum, he listed leasing as only

one of a wide variety of methods to improve agricultural production.

He said the approach to agriculture will include leasing, self-financing, and greater democracy in rural life.

In a nearly two-hour speech Wednesday, Gorbachev painted a devastating picture of Soviet agriculture, with chemically spoiled land, investments gone sour and destruction of systems prevalent in the 1920s.

He said food shortages were inadmissible. "The shortage of food creates social tension and generates not

merely criticism but actual discontent."

He said conditions in villages in some regions were so bad that emigration to the cities had reached a "critical level."

When Josef Stalin forced agricultural collectivization in the 1930s on a populace that was 80 percent agrarian, millions of peasants were deported to Siberia and other remote regions or fled to cities. Catastrophic famine ensued.

Ever since, farmers working for state-owned farms have generally delivered their yields to market at fixed prices to meet quotas set by the state bureaucracy.

## Soldier charged with E. German spying

FRANKFURT, West Germany -- An American soldier who vanished for 11 days has been charged with giving East German officials U.S. plans for defending the border against a Soviet bloc assault, the Army said Thursday.

A U.S. military statement said the East Germans notified U.S. authorities that Spec. 4 Michael A. Peri had made contact with them. Peri disappeared from his unit near the East German border Feb. 21, taking a portable computer with him.

The 21-year-old soldier from Laguna Niguel, Calif., turned himself in 11 days later.

In Washington, Pentagon sources said privately that the East German

government was quietly asked for help in locating Peri soon after his disappearance because, one said, "we had no idea if he was a defector, had been hurt or whatever."

Several days after the request, "we finally heard back from them saying they had identified such a person and had interviewed him, but that he had left," the source said.

"We now believe he left East Germany, went to Austria and then back into West Germany to his unit. We know he once lived in Austria before he joined the Army, but we really don't know exactly what's going on here."

Peri also brought back the computer he took from his unit, where he

worked as an electronics warfare signal specialist, officials have said.

"The specific information that we have based the charges on pertains to his unit's general defense plan," Lt. Col. Jake Dye, the U.S. Army 5th Corps spokesman, told The Associated Press in response to a question.

"I am not really in a position to give any more information. It's inappropriate to comment any more pending the outcome of the investigation."

Peri was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, which is responsible for a front-line defense at the border.

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