

# Los Angeles riots overwhelm police City on fire after King verdict

LOS ANGELES — Riots, arson and looting raged throughout the Los Angeles area Thursday and the death toll rose to 18 as National Guard troops moved into neighborhoods torn by outrage over the Rodney King verdict.

About 450 people had been injured and 300 arrested in the outburst of destruction that terrorized vast parts of the city for a second day, from downtown to the suburban San Fernando Valley.

At nightfall Thursday, violence had spread into San Bernardino, 60 miles to the east, where a gun battle between a security guard and a motorist that police said was riot-related left one dead. Santa Monica, to the west, closed its beaches, and vandals descended upon historic Hollywood Boulevard, setting fire to at least one business.

As many as 40 fires were burning as a citywide dusk-to-dawn curfew took effect. At least six new major blazes ringed downtown, enveloping the city's skyscrapers in thick smoke.

Arizona Gov. Fife Symington said California Gov. Pete Wilson had asked him for National Guard equipment

and told him: "It's out of control." Wilson was flying to Los Angeles from the capital, Sacramento.

Much of the city shut down. Bus service was halted, professional sporting events were postponed, thousands of businesses and schools were closed, and some flights were rerouted around columns of smoke.

Shoppers stocked up on batteries and candles, fearing power outages as night approached.

Police spokeswoman Sharon Michaelson said 17 deaths had been confirmed in Los Angeles from the rioting. That was in addition to the death in San Bernardino.

Most of the rioters were black, but whites, Asians and Hispanics took part in some of the violence. The dead included eight blacks and one white, all male, the coroner's office said. The ages and gender of the other victims were not immediately available.

Arsonists torched hundreds of buildings. In 15 hours ending at 1 p.m., firefighters responded to 1,084 structure fires. Officials said they were too busy to compile damage estimates.

## Areas of heavy rioting



AP, Los Angeles Times

## Bush, Barr condemn violence

WASHINGTON — President Bush condemned "murder and destruction" by Los Angeles rioters on Thursday, but at the same time said the Justice Department would intensify its investigation of police conduct in the

taped-beating case that ignited the violence.

Bush met at the White House with Attorney General William Barr, who raised the possibility that four officers acquitted of brutality charges in

state court could face federal charges if his investigation shows they violated the civil rights of King.

"The murder and destruction on

the streets of Los Angeles must be stopped," Bush said.

Barr said the federal government will move "as expeditiously as pos-

sible" to determine whether there are grounds to charge the four white policemen with violating the civil rights of Rodney King, who is black.

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## Croatian bridges blown up

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Masked commandos blew up the last two bridges linking Bosnia-Herzegovina with Croatia, killing at least four people, according to a television report Thursday.

The railway and pedestrian bridges near Brcko were the only links left to the relative safe haven of Croatia for refugees fleeing north-eastern Bosnia. Two months of fighting in the new republic have created about 400,000 refugees.

Croatian radio said masked men in camouflage uniforms captured a police patrol guarding the bridges at dawn and set off explosive charges. News reports said refugees may have been hurled into the water by the blast. Sarajevo TV said four people were known dead; other reports put the toll 10 or more.

Sarajevo was quiet after being shelled for several days, but there were more deaths in the southern city of Mostar, and a Muslim village

was put to the torch in fighting between Serbs, who oppose Bosnian independence.

Greek Premier Constantine Mitsotakis arrived in Belgrade, Serbia's capital, and met Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Mitsotakis said Greece supported the new Yugoslav federation announced Monday by Serbia and its ally Montenegro. EC foreign ministers were to meet Friday in Lisbon, Portugal, to discuss whether to recognize the federation.

The new Yugoslavia on Thursday established border posts with neighboring Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia. Passports will be needed to cross the borders, Tanjug said.

Also in Lisbon, Serb, Slavic Muslim and Croat delegates met with Portugal's EC coordinator, Jose Cutileiro, to discuss dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina into areas of "competencies" for each ethnic group.

## Quiet roommate was actually dead

KEY WEST, Fla. — A 78-year-old man thought his roommate was ignoring him and didn't realize the other man had been dead on the kitchen floor for two months, police said.

Thomas Warren turned himself in for psychiatric treatment at dePoo Hospital after police discovered the body of 43-year-old William Everett Delaney on Tuesday, authorities said.

"I guess he might have had some kind of mental block where he didn't want to believe the guy was dead," said police Detective Duke Yannacone.

Warren told police he recalled Delaney falling in the kitchen about two or three months ago. He said he often asked Delaney if he wanted food or drink or if he needed to go to the hospital.

"He said the guy was very stubborn and wouldn't answer him," Yannacone said.

No foul play is suspected and no charges against Warren are expected, Yannacone said. Police said alcohol abuse is suspected as the cause of death.

Police were called by a welfare worker who had gone to check on Warren.

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FAX NUMBER 472-1761  
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.  
Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Bill Vobejda, 472-2588.  
Subscription price is \$50 for one year.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.  
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