

Suspect arrested in trade center bombing

Suspect's van

Length: 10' 7" Height: 4' 5" Width: 6' 8" Cargo volume: 261 cu. ft.



AP

NEW YORK — A man described as a follower of a radical Muslim cleric was arrested Thursday in last week's World Trade Center bombing when he coolly tried a third time to reclaim a rental deposit on a van wrecked in the blast.

Other suspects were being sought. Law enforcement sources said the bombing appeared to be a terrorist act.

Papers that the suspect presented the rental agency were covered with nitrates, according to a government source, speaking on condition of anonymity. Nitrates are found in some explosives; traces of nitrates were found at the blast site.

The arrest was a sudden, major break in the most notorious U.S. bomb-

ing in years. Just a day earlier, the FBI had said it could take months to crack the case.

WNBC-TV in New York identified the suspect as 26-year-old Salama Mohammed of Jersey City, N.J., but the station wasn't sure exactly how the name was spelled. His arraignment, initially scheduled for Thursday evening in New York City, was postponed.

The arrest came after an army of investigators spent the past week combing through piles of rubble at the blast site, fielding thousands of phone calls and pursuing scores of leads. Detectives systematically checked garage payment stubs and viewed videotapes of entering vehicles.

Investigators turned up charred pieces of the rental van around the perimeter of the blast site, indications that the van might have held the explosives, a source said on condition of anonymity.

The suspect had rented the van from a Ryder truck agent in Jersey City on Feb. 23 and returned less than two hours after the explosion Friday afternoon to say it had been stolen from him in Jersey City, said Paul Mascitelli, owner of a car dealership that shares an office with the Ryder agent.

On Thursday morning, the man called the Ryder office — and spoke with an FBI agent posing as a Ryder official, before being arrested.

Serbs offer free passage to Muslims after burning of Bosnian villages

Refugees allowed an escort if they vow not to return

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — After routing thousands of civilians from their homes and burning their villages, Serbs Thursday offered to escort the beleaguered Muslims from the region and vowed they will never return.



The statement, reported by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, apparently confirms the Serbs' goal of driving all Muslims from eastern Bosnian regions bordering Serbia, in a quest for a Greater Serbia.

A day after the Security Council demanded that Serbs halt the tank-led offensive, the United Nations negotiated with Serb commanders today for access to the besieged enclaves, still being pounded by Serb shells.

Bosnian Serbs spurned the U.N. criticism, and their leader warned the United States it could face terrorist attacks as a consequence of its pro-Muslim humanitarian intervention.

Following that warning and a grenade explosion outside the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said today the United States "will not be deterred from doing what's necessary."

Some 10,000 people driven from war-torn Cerska in the 4-day-old assault were said to be sheltering in the snowy ruins of the Konjevic Polje enclave, cold and hungry.

U.S. airdropped humanitarian aid fell close to that area Thursday, but ham radio reports suggested the bundles also fell near Serb positions,

possibly hindering retrieval by the refugees.

Reports from the assaulted region continued to cite Serb massacres of refugees, but with access barred they could not be independently confirmed.

The people are extremely desperate because they are trapped and the Serbs won't let them go," said Anders Levinson of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Tuzla.

He said he was expecting about 20,000 refugees to seek shelter in Tuzla.

According to the Tanjug report, the Bosnian Serb army command in Zvornik announced that all Muslims around Konjevic Polje can "safely leave the war-torn regions."

"The Serb side will even provide transport" and "does not want innocent people to suffer," the Belgrade-based news agency quoted the command as saying.

Hearing begins for Marine charged with shooting Somali

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The first court martial hearing of Operation Restore Hope began Thursday in a dusty, flyblown room where Sgt. Harry Conde faced charges for shooting a 17-year-old Somali who snatched his sunglasses.

Conde, a 13-year veteran born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, could be charged with the military equivalent of an aggravated assault for wounding the teen-ager as well as a bystander hit by buckshot from Conde's gun. If the court martial proceeds, he could face up to 10 years in prison.

A power generator provided a droning background to the testimony from nervous Marines in the room at Mogadishu's airport. Their words frequently were blotted out by the roar of planes taking off and landing.

Capt. Chris Wesely, the investigating officer, sat behind a battered table. Only a few folding metal chairs were available, so some spec-

tators sat on wooden drawers turned on their sides. Sheets of bare plywood served as a partition.

There's no dispute that Conde shot a youth, identified only as Omar, who grabbed the soldier's sunglasses through the window of a moving military vehicle that was returning to the airport.

At issue is whether Conde fired on the spur of the moment, fearing for his safety, or if the shot came as Omar was fleeing and was fired in revenge.

Omar, hit in the abdomen by several pellets, was treated at a Swedish field hospital but later vanished. No one is even sure he's still alive.

The weapon, an M-79 grenade launcher loaded with a 40mm buckshot shell, had been confiscated by the Marines during a raid of Somali arsenals the month before. Under the U.S. military rules, confiscated weapons are not to be used in the field.

WORLD WIRE

Major takes a swipe at British tradition

LONDON — Prime Minister John Major has taken a whack at the "gongs," announcing Tuesday that merit will dictate who gets the 2,000-odd knighthoods, peerages and shiny gold medals awarded each year.

Major also abolished the old class distinction between bravery medals, which reserved the Military Cross for officers and the Military Medal for grunts.

Opposition lawmakers jeered much of Major's speech and said his reforms didn't go far enough.

In a country which sometimes appears to be organized like a costume party, with its hierarchy identified by ye olde titles and antique costumes, the distribution of honors is taken most seriously.

Doctors denied voice in health plan

WASHINGTON — The White House spurned a bid Thursday by the powerful American Medical Association for a seat at its health care planning deliberations. The doctors signaled a willingness to entertain changes but not strict controls on what they charge.

"We know that the status quo must go," AMA Executive Director James S. Todd said in letters to the White House and leaders of Congress.

The 290,000-member organization has helped to block national health insurance since the Truman administration.

But Todd wrote Ira Magaziner, the White House adviser who oversees hundreds of experts working on health care: "Bring us into the process, and we can help make it work."

White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said neither the AMA nor any other interest groups would be allowed to join Clinton's health working groups.

Officials expect long cult standoff

WACO, Texas — Like an medieval army laying siege to a castle, authorities are settling in for a long haul outside the Branch Davidians compound.

But instead of catapults and battering rams, the weapons of this siege are decidedly modern, including portable toilets, pizza and twice-a-day news briefings.

"Things have settled into a routine," said Jeff Jamar, the FBI official heading operations around the sect's heavily fortified compound near Waco.

That routine includes 12-hour shift changes of agents surrounding the cluster of tan buildings huddled on a rise of brown Texas prairie. Well-armed sect members have been holed up since a deadly shootout with federal agents.

While duty near the compound is dangerous — four agents were killed and 16 wounded Sunday — it's not without amenities. Pickups bearing containers of steaming pizzas drive into the security area surrounding the Mount Carmel compound several times a day.

Things have settled into a routine.

—Jeff Jamar
FBI official

"It's getting so regular it's like we should be punching time clocks," said one agent as he returned to his hotel after spending the day in the field. He declined to identify himself.

Little happened to change the routine Thursday, the fifth day of the standoff between federal authorities and the more than 100 followers of David Koresh, the 33-year-old sect leader who claims to be Jesus.

Speaking at a news conference, Jamar said Koresh had released two boys, aged 11 and 12, in the last 24 hours. That makes a total of 20 children and two elderly women released from the compound since Sunday.

Jamar said the body of an unidentified man was recovered Thursday in a wooded area 300 yards from the compound. He had a pistol in his hand and died of gunshot wounds.

At least two more of Koresh's followers were killed Sunday; there have been reports that from seven to 10 others died in the shootout.

Jamar said surveillance indicates the sect members have returned to their regular routine, with the estimated 47 women handling housekeeping and child care while the remaining men do construction work. The compound is believed to be well-stocked with food and water.

Debate

Continued from Page 1 candidate, said the university should start taking vertical budget cuts instead of horizontal ones.

By taking cuts across the board each year, the university is showing it still has "fat" in its budget, she said.

Steele disagreed and said horizontal cuts were preferable to vertical ones. He said he could do without a few copy machines and telephones if it meant saving programs at UNL.

The parties also disagreed on an ASUN decision that ended spending limits in student elections.

Steele, who is ASUN's current sec-

ASUN needs an attitude change and that's what we represent.

—Dietz

VOICE presidential candidate

ond vice president, said the decision was made for legal reasons.

Because the student body president is a student regent and therefore a state official, legally there can be no limit on campaign spending, he said.

But Dietz said because the student regent had no vote, the dispute could

be taken to court.

He said spending limits let "common students" feel comfortable with ASUN.

Strong closed by saying PARTY had more experience and diversity, not just token representation.

She also said PARTY was open to new ideas and was not trying to manipulate different segments of the vote.

In closing, Steele said he saw a fundamental disagreement between the two parties.

He said VOICE was not trying to manipulate votes but was trying to represent all students.

Daily Nebraskan

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 Doug Fiedler, 436-7862. 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.