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Ohio prison riot leaves 6 dead

LUCASVILLE, Ohio — Part of Ohio's only maximum security prison remained under siege Monday after hundreds of prisoners rioted, killing six inmates and taking eight guards hostage.

Negotiators tried to work out a deal with some of the state's most dangerous prisoners, asking them to free one hostage in exchange for a chance to outline their demands to the media.

About 450 prisoners were barricaded inside one cellblock of the prison, located about 70 miles south of Columbus in south-central Ohio.

Prison officials said a scuffle among a few prisoners escalated into a riot Sunday afternoon.

Ten guards and eight inmates were injured.

Negotiations were under way Monday, said Sharron Kornegay, a spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

The prisoners "are tired and hungry. ... We are at a very sensitive stage," she told reporters outside the 69-acre prison.

Authorities said the eight hostages were alive.

Officials cut off electricity and water to the cellblock, and refused to

deliver food. Prisoners were last fed at about noon Sunday, but they may have stored some food in their lockers, she said.

The rest of the prison's 1,819 inmates, including death-row inmates, were confined to cells away from the affected area.

Ms. Kornegay said prisoners who took 24-inch batons from guards during the riots killed the six convicts.

"I think it's probably pretty obvious who killed them," she said. "Our staff wouldn't do that."

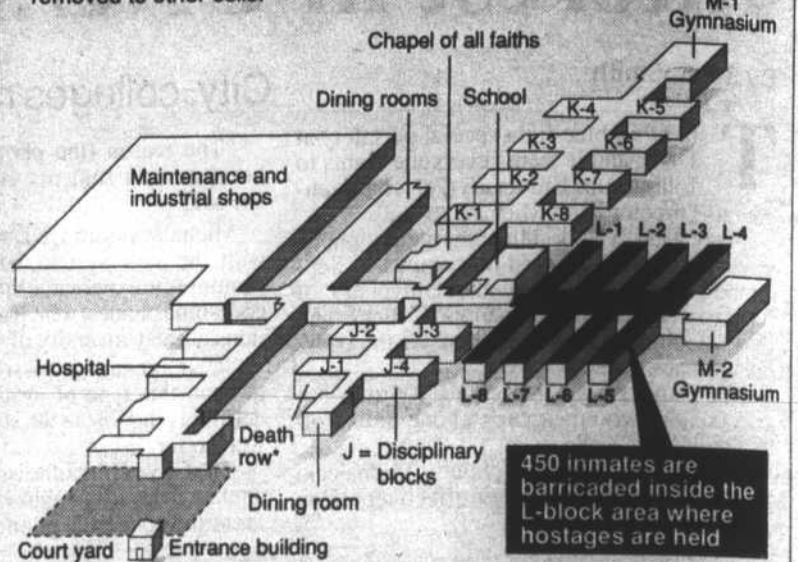
The bodies of five inmates were released early Monday. The sixth body was thrown through a cellblock door later in the morning. Ms. Kornegay said he had been dead for many hours.

The head of a state prison inspection panel said in Columbus he was not surprised by the violence.

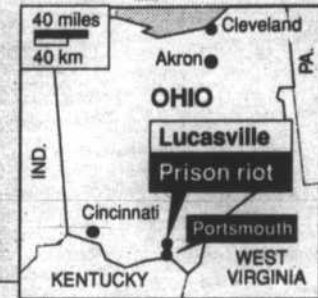
"These are the ones that for the most part cannot get along in any of the other prisons," said state Rep. Michael Shoemaker, who heads the eight-member House-Senate Correctional Institution Inspection Committee. "There are a lot of guys who have a lot of time to sit around and think of bad things to do, and they're good at it."

Southern Ohio Correctional Facility

Inmates barricaded since Sunday will not be allowed to tell the media their demands unless they release one of their hostages, prison officials said today. Eight guards were taken hostage after a riot broke out, five prisoners were killed and at least 18 other guards and inmates were injured. 321 inmates refused to take part in the riots and were removed to other cells.



450 inmates are barricaded inside the L-block area where hostages are held



Basic information:

- Total acreage: 1900
Acreage under fence: 68.9
Acreage under roof: 22
Buildings interconnected by corridors
1,645 single occupancy cells, each 6 ft. x 10 ft. x 9 ft.
"K" and "L" cell blocks house 80 men each. Total: 640

If the death penalty is not ruled unconstitutional AP

NATO warplanes flex air power over Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — NATO warplanes patrolled above an overcast Bosnia on Monday to begin enforcing a U.N. no-fly zone in the first flexing of the alliance's military muscle outside its territory.

Among the planes was a French Mirage 2000 that went down in the Adriatic Sea, Pentagon sources said. The USS Roosevelt

aircraft carrier launched a search mission for the pilot, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity. The flights were meant to impress Bosnian Serbs of new resolve to enforce U.N. resolutions meant to end Bosnia's civil war.

Operation Deny Flight had more political than military significance. The year-long war has primarily been fought with artillery, tanks and infantry. NATO pilots were under strict orders to shoot only as a last resort.

Bosnian Serbs bombarded the besieged eastern town of Srebrenica with

renewed ferocity Monday. U.N. officials said at least 56 people died in an hour-long barrage.

Allied planes are policing Bosnia from bases in Italy across the Adriatic. Two U.S. Air Force F-15 jet fighters, two French Mirage 2000s and two Dutch F-16s flew the first mission. AWACs surveillance planes manned by multinational crews and Navy jets on the Roosevelt also are participating.

NATO officials declined to discuss specifically how violators would be dealt with. They said previously

that NATO pilots would try to order violators back home or force them to land. Shooting down violators would be the last resort.

There were no reports of the NATO planes confronting any aircraft on Monday.

One of the Pentagon sources said the French plane went down about 15 miles off the coast of former Yugoslavia and another said "there was no hostile action involved." The French Defense Ministry in Paris had no immediate comment.

King jurors deliberate as troops enter L.A.

LOS ANGELES — Hundreds of National Guard troops reported to staging areas Monday and civil rights leaders pleaded for restraint as a federal jury deliberated the case of four policemen accused of beating Rodney King.

Shielded from the public's jitters and the police buildup, the 12 jurors resumed their talks after meeting Easter Sunday afternoon.

Scores of TV trucks, satellite dishes at the ready, surrounded the downtown courthouse.

Across town, guardsmen banged their rifle butts on the bed of a troop truck in a display of spirit at California National Guard headquarters in Inglewood.

About 600 guardsmen reported to area armories by Monday morning and the Police Department put 200 extra officers on the streets at all times in case a verdict in the case triggered violence.

Operations will be routine until the jury reaches a verdict, both agencies said.

"Unless there is a call for more, they are going to be here going through some drills, training, probably double-checking their equipment," said guard Capt. Lisa Corraiva.

Deadly rioting broke out last spring after Sgt. Stacey Koon, Officers Laurence Powell and Theodore Briseno and former Officer Timothy Wind were acquitted of most charges

in a state trial.

In this federal trial, the four white officers were charged with violating the black motorist's civil rights during a beating after a highway chase on March 3, 1991.

The Rev. Benjamin Chavis, newly elected leader of the NAACP, said Monday he was concerned about the buildup of "military apparatus" in Los Angeles.

Chavis compared the heightened alert to Operation Desert Storm as the United States geared up for war with Iraq.

"Law enforcement officials have the responsibility to keep order," he said.

Yeltsin campaigning to save Russian reform

MOSCOW — Hitting the campaign trail two weeks before the referendum on his leadership, President Boris Yeltsin urged his countrymen on Monday to support him and endorse the "new Russia" and its post-Communist reforms.



Yeltsin's speech to Moscow students was part of a campaign swing

this week to rally popular support before the referendum. The April 25 vote is aimed at resolving the power struggle between the president and the hard-line Congress.

"We must defend the course for reforms together," Yeltsin told about 1,500 people at the Moscow Aviation Institute. "I hope you have made your choice to support a new Russia."

"In order to act more decisively, I must have support of the electorate in this critical moment. All together, we must make this decisive choice,"

Yeltsin, said describing the referendum as his "last reserve."

On Tuesday, Yeltsin plans to take his campaign to the Kuznetsk Basin, Russia's largest coal deposit and the center of strikes that shook the Soviet Union in 1989 and 1991.

The referendum, approved last month by the Congress of People's Deputies, will ask Russians whether they have confidence in Yeltsin and if they support his painful economic reforms. It also asks if they favor early presidential and parliamentary elections.

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