

# Reno: Abuse within cult led to FBI attack

## Bullet wounds found in 3 victims' bodies

WACO, Texas — Three of about 40 bodies found scattered throughout the incinerated ruins of a cult compound had recent bullet wounds, but authorities said Wednesday it wasn't clear if they were victims of suicide or homicide.

Also still unclear was federal agents' rationale for sending in tear gas-firing tanks to end a 51-day standoff with the Branch Davidian cult on Monday.

Attorney General Janet Reno has said that reports of child abuse in the compound led her to authorize the agents' assault. The White House said Wednesday that child abuse inside the compound had been continuing; the FBI said it had only old reports and a psychiatrist's analysis.

Federal and state officials said about 40 bodies were spotted in the rubble by late

Wednesday, but most likely wouldn't be removed before Thursday. There was no immediate word that cult leader David Koresh's body had been found.

Investigators were moving cautiously in the city block-sized area where Koresh and 85 others were believed to have died. Nine cultists survived.

Many of the found bodies weren't immediately moved because officials were being careful to avoid possible booby traps and ammunition that could explode in the still-warm debris, Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern said in Washington.

Charred bodies were being found "generally distributed throughout the rubble," showing no signs of the group being huddled together as the fire spread, said Chuck McDonald, a spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety.

He said at least two bodies have been found in a cinderblock-lined room where Koresh and top lieutenants are believed to have sought cover.

"It's a very gruesome scene," said Mike Cox, another spokesman for the state agency.

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—Cox  
Department of Public Safety  
spokesman

Stern said three of the victims had gunshot wounds and died recently. He said one had been shot in the forehead and the head of another victim was "virtually blown away."

Stern ruled out the possibility that they were victims of shootouts Feb. 28 after a raid by federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents. He said it was possible that their bodies were struck by ammunition exploding during the inferno in the compound, where at least \$200,000 worth of weapons were believed to have been stored.

The blaze broke out at the sprawling rural complex after agents used tanks fitted with booms to break holes in the walls and pump in

tear gas. The FBI says agents saw cult members set fire to the wooden buildings in a mass suicide, and had other evidence of arson; at least two of the survivors allege that a tank knocked over lanterns and started the blaze.

Cult member Rita Riddle, 34, shouted to reporters as she left a federal courthouse Wednesday that "there was no suicide pact." She was charged with conspiracy to murder federal agents; court documents allege she was one of five women who aimed rifles at the agents during the Feb. 28 raid.

In Washington, a spokesman for President Clinton said there were "mountains of evidence" of prolonged child abuse inside the compound.

"Protecting the kids was the ultimate rationale for going in," said George Stephanopoulos, the White House communications director.

Koresh was "marrying children" and "sexually abusing children" and children were "being taught how to commit suicide, how to put guns in their mouths, how to clamp down on cyanide," Stephanopoulos said.

## Bitter battles continue despite truce in Bosnia

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bitter fighting between Muslims and Croats raged in central Bosnia despite a truce Wednesday, deepening the ethnic fissures of the year-long Bosnian war. U.N. officials accused the former allies of committing wanton murders in "ethnic cleansing" operations.



The battles have fractured the central region into myriad fronts, further diminishing hopes that a U.N. peace plan for the warring Serbs, Muslims and Croats will come to fruition.

The Bosnian Serbs' leader dealt peace efforts another blow by refusing to meet with a key mediator Wednesday. He later said a meeting was possible.

U.N. officials announced they had disarmed the Muslim defenders of Srebrenica and said a cease-fire was holding around the eastern town ringed by Serbs. Peacekeepers had asked for an extra three days to gather the arms, but Serb leaders demanded it be completed by noon Wednesday.

In Central Bosnia, a truce reached Tuesday by Muslim and Croat commanders failed to stop a sixth straight day of combat. U.N. observers estimated at least 250 people had died.

Col. Bob Stewart, commanding British peacekeepers on U.N. duty, told the British Broadcasting Corp. his troops witnessed "children held in the arms of their mothers and shot."

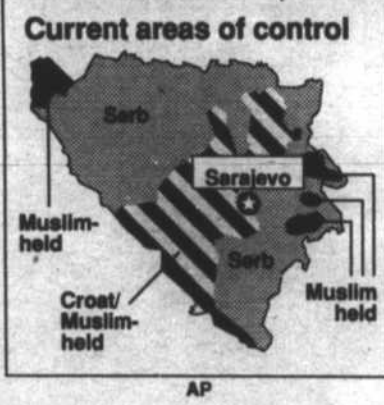
"Whole families have most certainly been killed," Stewart said. Cedric Thornberry, deputy head of the U.N. mission in former Yugoslavia, said executions and massacres were committed by both factions.

Croat militia spokesman Veso Vegar said the Muslim-Croat truce accord had been extended to the southwestern city of Mostar, to take effect Friday.

Vegar claimed to have intercepted radio messages from Muslim commanders telling their troops to fight on. He said 450 Croat soldiers summoned for talks with Muslim forces in the central town of Zenica were disarmed and arrested.

The U.N. Security Council has voted to impose tougher sanctions on Yugoslavia beginning Monday in an effort to force a cutoff in help for Bosnia's Serbs.

Lord Owen, one of the authors of the U.N. peace plan, got a hostile reception in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, when he arrived to make a last-ditch attempt to persuade the Serbs to accept the accord and head off sanctions. The Croats and Muslims have accepted the plan Owen helped write.



## Republicans slap Clinton with defeat of his jobs bill

WASHINGTON — Democrats abandoned their effort to push President Clinton's jobs bill through the Senate Wednesday, as relentless Republicans saddled the new president with his first major legislative defeat.

After hours of fruitless negotiations between White House officials and Senate Democrats and Republicans, the Senate used a voice vote to approve the \$4 billion the bill contained for jobless benefits and strip the rest of the money from the legislation.

The move killed one of Clinton's major economic initiatives.

"While the other side is congratulating each other on proving they are a force to be reckoned with, they have only proved that they are the guardians of gridlock," said Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va.

Hours earlier, Democrats had lost their fourth attempt to break a filibuster by minority Republicans that had frozen the measure in its tracks in the Senate since last month.

The jobs measure contains \$12.2 billion to restore forests, provide immunizations for children, create summer jobs for students and finance

other programs Clinton says would create jobs and stimulate the economy. It also has \$3.2 billion from the existing highway trust fund for road construction.

The administration said the bill would create more than 200,000 jobs. But Republicans called it unnecessary spending that would swell the federal deficit.

"When you can't give it away, it ain't very sweet. That's their problem," said Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas.

There was bipartisan agreement that no matter what happened, Congress would approve \$4 billion in the measure needed next week to continue benefits for Americans out of work a long time.

But the political salvos continued unabated on Capitol Hill.

"They've cut off the options for Americans who are out of work," Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said of Republicans.

Republican Bob Dole said, "There are a lot of people scared in this country. Every day you hear from this White House they've got some new idea about spending money or some new tax."

## Speaker says to strive for true multiculturalism

By Mindy Leiter  
Staff Reporter

Molefi Asante discussed Afrocentricism and encouraged students to become self-educated in a speech Wednesday night at the Culture Center.

Asante, a professor of African studies at Temple University and the author of several books, told an audience of about 35 students that Afrocentricism represented a philosophy in which Africans were the masters of their own destiny.

"Afrocentricism is a quality where people of African descent are seen as subjects of human experience, not as objects of human experience," he said.

Asante said African Americans traditionally had been shut out of the classroom by a curriculum designed for "white self-esteem."

"Most people of African descent in American colleges are inside the classroom but outside the information," he said.

"Students are not treated as the owners of information," he said, "they are treated as the renters of the information."

He said the achievements and experiences of Africans were not discussed or studied by professors in normal classroom settings, but were relegated to the study of Africans as objects.

He advised black students to take two sets of notes, one to pass the exam

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—Asante  
professor of African studies  
at Temple University

and another to keep their sanity.

"Write in the margins. 'Check this out!' That way you don't wind up with a negative vision of yourself, and you won't wind up Clarence-ized," he said.

Asante was referring to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who some people believe has bought into the American educational system and, as a result, has forgotten his own path to leadership.

Asante said it was natural for people to see the world through their own experiences. He stressed that it was not right, however, to impose those views of the world on others.

"It takes that view as if it is the one and only way to view the world," he said.

He said people must strive for true multiculturalism, one where people's history and experiences are part of a shared dialogue.

Asante's speech was sponsored by the University Program Council and was part of Black History Week.

## 10-day Ohio prison uprising draws to a peaceful close

LUCASVILLE, Ohio — A 10-day uprising at a state prison in which at least seven convicts and a guard were killed came to a peaceful close Wednesday with inmates being escorted out of a barricaded cellblock, some on stretchers. The whereabouts of five guards held as hostages was not immediately known.

About 450 prisoners had been holed up in the maximum-security Southern Ohio Correctional Facility since a riot on Easter Sunday. They took eight guards hostage — one was strangled and two were freed unharmed last week.

The prison, 80 miles south of Columbus, houses some of the state's most dangerous criminals.

By late afternoon, 30 inmates had been escorted out of Cellblock L. They were led out one at a time and some were carried out on stretchers.

In exchange for the peaceful surrender, state officials promised to review the inmates' complaints, including religious objections to tuberculosis testing and a federal law that requires integration of prison cells.

The surrender was witnessed by

religious leaders and the news media. Throughout the standoff, inmates demanded that the media witness a surrender in an attempt to discourage authorities from retaliating.

"This entire ordeal has been an incredible experience for us all," Warden Arthur Tate said. "Nevertheless, I am extremely proud thus far at the manner in which everyone has joined together in an attempt to bring this tragic ordeal to a successful conclusion."

On Tuesday, three inmates and state negotiators met face-to-face for the first time, talking for two hours from opposite sides of a chain-link fence. Niki Schwartz, an inmate-rights lawyer who was brought to the prison on Sunday by state officials, also took part.

"The inmates understand that when a guard has been murdered, no one is going to promise them no prosecution or discipline," he said.

A list of 21 terms announced by inmates earlier included a promise of no retaliation against inmates. However, officials did not rule out prosecution or discipline.

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