

Somali attack on U.N. forces threatens truce

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The Somali security chief for the CARE aid agency was killed Monday when U.N. peacekeepers fired on gunmen who attacked them in territory controlled by Mohamed Farrah Aidid.

The attack was the fourth on foreign troops in as many days and suggested that Aidid's month-long truce with U.N. forces seemed to be crumbling.

A spokesman for the U.S. force in Somalia criticized Aidid as being "uncooperative" and said the United States was sticking by plans to put American forces back on Mogadishu's streets.

Aidid, whose followers control southern Mogadishu, had been clashing with the United Nations since June, when the United Nations blamed him for the deaths of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers. After four months of fierce battles with U.N. forces, he declared a truce Oct. 9.

Some people have speculated that Aidid was trying to buy time until the United States withdraws from Somalia in March.

Aidid has been known to strike back when his power seems to be waning. And at a news conference Sunday, he made it clear that the old acrimony toward the multinational mission had not dissipated.

He vowed not to negotiate with the United Nations, and on Monday, his Somali National Alliance boycotted two U.N.-sponsored meetings: one to discuss how to improve the city's security, the other to meet face-to-face with the faction headed by Ali Mahdi Mohamed, which controls Mogadishu's northern half.

"The United States has been bending over backwards to meet some of the requests" by the Somalia National Alliance, U.S. military spokesman Col. Steve Rausch said Monday. "We are disappointed. They seem unco-

operative."

He did not specify what requests Aidid's faction made.

At his news conference Sunday, Aidid said there could be trouble if U.S. troops return to the streets after a six-month hiatus. On Monday, confrontation edged closer when Rausch reaffirmed that Army reinforcements soon will be venturing beyond their compounds.

"You will see an increased presence," he said, adding a warning of his own about the repercussions of Americans coming under fire: "These forces are very capable; they are very lethal."

The United States has pushed back the starting date for joint checkpoints and patrols with forces from other countries. When the Americans moved into their new base outside the capital a week ago, officials talked about a couple of days. Now they say a couple of weeks.

Americans have been off Mogadishu's streets since May, when the United States handed over command of the multinational mission to the United Nations. Although Americans will resume patrols, Rausch said there will be no active program to disarm Somalis, despite concern that the number of weapons on the street threatens the quiet in Mogadishu.

In the Somali capital, the last pitched battles occurred more than a week ago.

Since Friday, gunmen have been taking potshots at U.N. troops, injuring several Somalis but no peacekeepers.

The increased violence rolled right up to the United Nations' door Monday. Turkish guards fired warning shots to force off Somalis angered when told no jobs were available at the U.N. compound.

Two hours later, two gunmen opened fire on a convoy of Malay-

“These forces are very capable; they are very lethal.” — Col. Rausch U.S. military spokesperson

Hijackings from China mark trend

Latest hijacker dupes pilots with soap bars

TAIPEI, Taiwan — A man claiming to have explosives commandeered a Chinese airliner with 59 people on board Monday in the second hijacking to Taiwan in three days.

The hijacker, armed only with bars of soap, surrendered after the plane landed at Taiwan's international airport. Identified as Wang Jihwa, 36, the man told reporters he was fleeing Chinese police after injuring his boss at a pharmaceuticals factory in a fight over unpaid wages.

The Zhejiang Airlines de Havilland Dash-8-300 turboprop was seized while flying in southeastern China from Hangzhou to Fuzhou.

On Friday, a man with two knives hijacked a Chinese jetliner with 140 people aboard and asked for political asylum in Taiwan.

Six Chinese airliners have been hijacked to Taiwan this year, a surge that officials in Taipei blame on slipshod security in China.

As in the previous hijackings, the airliner in Monday's incident was allowed to return to China in a few hours. But Taiwan refuses Chinese demands to send back the hijackers.

The Nationalist government on Taiwan and the Communist government in Beijing consider themselves the rightful rulers of all China and refuse to recognize each other.

But tensions have eased since 1987, and Taiwan has taken a harder line on hijackers this year.

Two Chinese who hijacked a commercial airliner to Taiwan in 1988 served a year in prison and received political asylum. But this year two hijackers have been imprisoned for 10 years and the prosecution has asked for a sentence of at least 12 years for a hijacker now awaiting trial.



Lawyer posts Kevorkian's bail to quiet 'Free Jack' protesters

DETROIT — The jailed Dr. Jack Kevorkian was getting so much attention that a lawyer who doesn't condone his role in assisted suicides put up \$2,000 to bail him out Monday.

Kevorkian, who went to jail Friday rather than post bond himself, said he was disappointed to be leaving but "there's no way I could refuse. That would be unconscionably headstrong."

Lawyer John A. DeMoss, who posted \$2,000 in cash for the \$20,000 bond, said he doesn't represent Kevorkian. DeMoss said he is sympathetic to terminally ill people who want to end their lives but does not support Kevorkian and his backers.

"I think they've reduced the issue of suicide and assisted suicide to a hysterical bunch of rhetoric that has no meaning," DeMoss said

from his office in Mount Clemens. "If I can get him out of jail and get those people to stop protesting in front of the jail and saying 'free Jack' and so forth, then I think my \$2,000 is well spent."

Later Monday at a news conference in the Southfield office of his attorney, Geoffrey Fieger, Kevorkian said he expects to be jailed again within days, this time for his role in the death of an Ann Arbor woman at his Royal Oak apartment.

On leaving jail Kevorkian said: "I feel all right. I met lots of nice people."

A few hours later, the Michigan Commission on Death and Dying met to discuss laws governing assisted suicide.

Michigan passed a ban on assisted suicides in response to Kevorkian's activities.

STATE WIRE

Police detonate homemade bomb found at Columbus home

COLUMBUS — Police used a pellet gun Monday to detonate a homemade bomb found on the porch of a house in Columbus.

Police found a plastic soda pop bottle containing the chemical bomb on the porch of the house while investigating a Sunday break-in of a nearby Mr. Automotive store.

"The police had come over to ask me about the break-in at the automo-

tive place," said Diane Schumacher, who rents the house. "While we were talking, he asked me if I knew I had a bomb on my porch."

Ms. Schumacher said the officers knew it was a bomb after recognizing one of the ingredients in the container.

Ms. Schumacher said she first noticed the container in her yard Sunday.

"My sister-in-law picked it up and sat it on the porch and said it started to fizz. I thought I'd bring it in later and release some of the pressure. The policeman said if I had, I might not have had a hand left," Ms. Schumacher said.

Capt. Ed Scriven of the Columbus Police Department said that police were investigating the incident.

SPORTS WIRE

Browns coach cuts quarterback Kosar in favor of Testaverde

BEREA, Ohio — The Cleveland Browns cut Bernie Kosar Monday, ending a short and stormy relationship between the longtime starting quarterback and coach Bill Belichick.

Kosar, who agreed to a non-guaranteed, seven-year, \$26 million ex-

tension of his contract earlier in the year, had been benched by Belichick in favor of backup Vinny Testaverde, who was signed as a free agent during the summer.

When Testaverde separated a shoulder last month, Kosar returned

to the starting lineup but Belichick wasn't happy with him, saying it was apparent that Kosar's physical skills had diminished over the years.

Kosar completed 79 of 138 passes for 807 yards with five touchdowns and three interceptions this year.

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