

Violence in refugee camps injure several U.S. soldiers

PANAMA CITY — About 1,000 rioting Cuban refugees, angry at the slow pace of finding them new homes, threw rocks, bricks and bottles at U.S. soldiers Thursday, injuring about 120 of them.

At least three Cubans were also reported injured.

The rioters caused heavy damage in two of four U.S. jungle camps near the Panama Canal. About 8,500 refugees were placed in the camps after President Clinton in August ordered U.S. warships to intercept boats fleeing Cuba.

She said the American troops did not fire their weapons during the violence.

Reeder said she had no reports of deaths.

"This is the worst incident we have had. Our concern is the security of our troops."

MELANIE REEDER

U.S. military spokeswoman

There also have been rock-throwing protests at the U.S. base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where thousands of Cuban and Haitian refugees are being held. As many as 650 people participated in two skirmishes Sept. 6 at two camps there.

The violence Thursday came as 119 refugees were being flown to Spain or Miami under a plan to relocate refugees who have spent more than three months in the sweltering camps. Those refugees apparently were not involved in the melee.

"There's uneasiness," said Reeder, adding that troops were given orders to use tear gas after rioting continued Thursday afternoon at one camp.

Troops set up roadblocks around the camps, 12 miles west of Panama City, searching for about 100 refugees who escaped.

The injured soldiers were being treated at a mobile army field hospital, mostly for minor injuries, cuts and bruises.

Alternate jury panel selected for Simpson's murder trial

LOS ANGELES — A predominantly black and female panel of 12 alternate jurors was selected Thursday for O.J. Simpson's murder trial, ending a search that began more than two months ago.

The group closely resembles the original panel, which legal experts have said is favorable to Simpson.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito said he would rule later on whether two of the original 12 jurors would be removed because of unspecified allegations of misconduct.

If any are kicked off, members of the alternate panel would be selected at random to replace them.

The alternate panel includes nine women and three men. There are seven blacks, four whites and one Hispanic.

The alternates were selected from a larger pool of 38 prospects after

O.J. Simpson



ON TRIAL

lawyers used their peremptory challenges, which allow for each side to excuse people for any reason but race or sex. Each side had 12 challenges.

Besides the possible dismissal of jurors for misconduct, some of the alternates will probably sit in judgment of Simpson because of the likelihood that jurors will be lost for various reasons during the trial, which could last six months.

'Godfather of Soul' wanted

AIKEN, S.C. — James Brown, still on probation for aggravated assault and failing to stop for a police officer, is again a wanted man. This time its for allegedly hitting his wife and knocking her to the floor.

An arrest warrant was issued Thursday charging the "Godfather of Soul" with criminal domestic violence for allegedly shoving his wife, Adrienne, during an argument at the couple's home in Beech Island.

Brown and his third wife have been married about 10 years. They had a series of highly publicized fights in the 1980s, and Brown said in 1988 that he was filing for divorce.

Aiken County Sheriff's spokesman Tim

Hoffman said police responded to a 911 call from Mrs. Brown, 44, about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday.

They found her at home alone, he said. She was taken by ambulance to Aiken Regional Medical Centers. Hospital officials wouldn't say whether she was admitted.

Hoffman said Mrs. Brown told deputies that during a scuffle, Brown, 61, shoved her to the floor, where she struck a chair, cutting her lip.

Brown left before police arrived, but Hoffman said he was not considered a fugitive. "I think he'll turn himself in as soon as he finds out about the warrant," Hoffman said.

Low-level waste compact rejects new appointees

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A five-state compact overseeing development of a low-level radioactive waste storage facility overstepped its authority when it voted Thursday not to seat two more Nebraskans on the commission, several angry Nebraska residents said.

Nebraska Gov. Ben Nelson had notified the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission Tuesday that he was appointing a second voting member and a non-voting member to the commission.

The commission is overseeing the development of a low-level radioactive waste storage facility near Butte in Boyd County.

But commissioners from Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma voted not to seat the two new appointees at Thursday's meeting. Nebraska commissioner Dick Coyne abstained.

Commission attorney Alan Peterson said that seating the extra two members would have violated the federal rules that created the multi-state compact.

The commissioners did not make any comment before voting. Commissioners did agree to hold a special meeting to discuss the request, most likely in conjunction with the next regular meeting in Nebraska in March.

Nelson's aid, Steve Moeller, said it appeared the commission had already made its decision.

"Saying you won't seat them today, and then will have a meeting to discuss it, is a little like saying you will give someone a fair trial and then hang them," Moeller said.

When appointing the new commissioners, Nelson cited a state law that allows the host state of the compact to have two at-large voting members and one non-voting member from the county in which the facility is located.

Moeller argued that the commission does not have the authority to override state law by rejecting the appointments.

Nelson wants Butte rancher Craig Zeisler as a non-voting member and University of Nebraska-Lincoln economics professor Greg Hayden as a voting member on the commission. Zeisler was at Thursday's

"This will not give Nebraska a majority on the commission, it won't hurt you one bit. This action shows you do not intend to treat Nebraska, its governor, or its citizens with the respect they deserve."

DIANE BURTON

Auburn, Neb.

meeting but Hayden was delayed by weather in Lincoln, Neb.

"Right now, Craig is as much a commissioner as anyone else on this board," Moeller said. "It is patently unfair for you to sit here today and say you aren't going to respect Nebraska laws. I guarantee you that Nebraska is not going to back down from this."

Several speakers noted that the commission had never before voted on seating a member. When one speaker, Diane Burton of Auburn, Neb., asked the commissioners for some explanation of their vote, no one replied.

"What in the devil are you afraid of," Burton asked. "This will not give Nebraska a majority on the commission, it won't hurt you one bit. This action shows you do not intend to treat Nebraska, its governor, or its citizens with the respect they deserve."

Gene Crump, executive director of the commission, said Nelson was wrong to reason that any state law can direct the commission to change the way it operates. The federal law creating the compact system can't be superseded by state laws, he said.

All five compact states would have to ratify any proposed changes which would then be submitted to the U.S. Congress for final ratification, Peterson said Thursday.

ATTENTION YOU 90s WOMAN !!

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