

Human rights activist arrested by PLO police

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The knock on the door, in the middle of the night, came for Raji Sourani just two days after he criticized PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Sourani, a human rights activist, said he was asleep in his villa at 12:30 a.m. Wednesday when the plainclothes policeman arrived and told him to come to the city jail.

"It's an order from the leadership," the officer said, according to Sourani's wife Amal.

On Monday, Sourani had publicly denounced Arafat for ordering the establishment of special military courts that will try Islamic militant opponents of PLO rule.

The incident raised new questions about how the PLO chief deals with dissent and came amid fresh reports of beatings and humiliation of detainees in Gaza's police lockups.

Over the weekend, the New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report that Arafat's government often acted in a "repressive fashion." It complained of arbitrary arrests, jailhouse beatings and the lack of due process.

Palestinian officials acknowledged Wednesday that there have been some transgressions by the security forces but denied there was a policy of systematic abuse.

"No one is more concerned about

safeguarding Palestinian human rights than we are," the chief Palestinian prosecutor, Khaled Kidreh, told The Associated Press.

"Human rights organizations should deal with us as a sovereign, democratic state and not as our custodians."

Arafat has been under growing pressure from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to arrest and try Islamic militants involved in a rash of deadly attacks on Israelis. Rabin told Arafat last week that he would not negotiate a troop withdrawal from the West Bank until he complied.

Israel has complained that previous arrest sweeps in which security forces rounded up scores of militants were ineffective because detainees were usually released after a few days.

The sweeps have created an atmosphere of paranoia and tension in Gaza.

This is compounded by a growing number of secret service agents who belong to eight different agencies created by Arafat. The agents lack a clear mandate and often cause resentment because of what many Gazans perceive as a high-handed attitude.

Recently, a reporter saw a secret service agent spit at a taxi driver in Gaza City. The agent cursed the driver because he didn't make way quickly enough for the speeding secret ser-

vice van.

Many Palestinian hesitate to file There have also been reports of beatings and humiliation in police lockups.

Dressmaker Hind Hathat, 39, said she was detained in November and told by police that her brother Allam had confessed in detention that she was a collaborator and prostitute.

When she pleaded with the warden at the Gaza City jail to have a doctor examine her to prove she was a virgin and thus lessen the charges, none was provided.

Instead, a female officer did the examination herself, pronounced her a "whore" and beat her, Miss Hathat said.

Miss Hathat and her brother were released after 30 days and no charges were filed. Five days after getting out of jail, her brother was found strangled. His killers have not been found.

Sourani, the human rights activist, was released Wednesday evening. The 41-year-old lawyer said he was questioned by Kidreh about a report in which his Gaza Center for Rights and Law criticized the new military courts and warned they would undermine the independence of the judiciary.

O.J. blood samples will be re-examined

By Linda Deutsch
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Hoping to demolish claims that police planted evidence to frame O.J. Simpson, prosecutors won approval Wednesday to retest blood from his home and the crime scene.

Judge Lance Ito granted approval for the emergency testing by the FBI as a prosecutor said Simpson's blood was found on a gate in the alley at the condominium where his ex-wife and her friend were slashed to death.

Prosecutors say if police planted blood that had been drawn from Simpson or from Nicole Brown Simpson's corpse, it would have contained a common lab preservative called EDTA.

If the preservative is absent, that will exonerate the investigators, prosecutor Rockne Harmon said during a hearing held without the jury present.

The new round of tests, to be done Monday, will involve, among other things, the blood on the gate and a sock found in Simpson's bedroom stained with what prosecutors said was his ex-wife's blood.

The blood on the gate was identified as Simpson's by recently completed tests, Harmon said Wednesday.

Legal experts said the testing for EDTA may be unprecedented and ultimately less than definitive. Harmon, in fact, noted in court that EDTA also is present in laundry detergent and many foods, and

Simpson trial update

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 1995

- ▶ A prosecutor said O.J. Simpson's blood was found on a gate at Nicole Brown Simpson's home. The blood was matched to Simpson's during a recent DNA test.
- ▶ The FBI will conduct additional blood tests on the blood on the gate, socks found in Simpson's bedroom and other evidence.
- ▶ Rumors spread about possible juror misconduct. Sources said one juror had a map of Chicago in his room; jurors are not supposed to investigate the case on their own.

Hacker's electric trail ends

RALEIGH, N.C. — A notorious fugitive hacker once accused of breaking into a top secret defense system was arrested Wednesday and charged with computer fraud and violating probation.

"He's a computer terrorist," Justice Department spokesman John Russell said.

Kevin D. Mitnick, 31, was arrested at his apartment and jailed pending a hearing Friday, U.S. Attorney's spokesman John Bowler said.

Mitnick has been a fugitive since 1992, when he allegedly violated probation on a previous hacking conviction.

He has been accused of stealing thousands of data files and at least 20,000 credit card numbers from computer systems nationwide. The New York Times reported Thursday.

He has allegedly used his skill to break into many of the nation's telephone networks and vandalize government, corporate and university computer systems. Most recently, he had become a suspect in

a rash of break-ins on the global Internet computer network, the Times said.

One victim, computer security specialist Tsutomu Shimomura of the San Diego Supercomputer, used his own expertise to help authorities track down Mitnick, the Justice Department said. Shimomura was robbed of security programs he had written when his computer was broken into on Christmas Day.

Shimomura was able to determine Saturday that Mitnick was operating through a computer modem connected to a cellular telephone somewhere near Raleigh. Shimomura and investigators were then able to close in on Mitnick, the Times said.

In 1989 in Los Angeles, federal prosecutors portrayed Mitnick as a brilliant youth obsessed with junk food and computers who used the code name "Condor" to infiltrate computer systems in the United States and England.

They suggested he might have gained access to National Security Agency computers, but such

charges were never brought. At one time, they considered him so dangerous they wouldn't let him near a telephone for fear he might access computers.

In exchange for a year in prison, he admitted infiltrating Digital Equipment Corp.'s computer system and stealing a program. He also admitted stealing 16 MCI telephone codes and using them to make free long-distance calls.

Mitnick began hacking in high school, where he accessed the school district's main computers. Eventually, he allegedly broke into a North American Air Defense Command computer in Colorado Springs, Colo., several years before the movie "War Games," about a hacker who nearly starts a war after getting into defense computers.

Mitnick, who took his alias from the Robert Redford CIA movie "Three Days of the Condor," once reprogrammed a phone to misdirect federal agents trying to trace his call, sending them barging into the home of a Middle Eastern immigrant watching television.

Third abortion facility starts on fire

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — A suspected arson fire destroyed a Planned Parenthood center early Wednesday, the state's third suspicious blaze in a week at facilities where abortions are performed, authorities said.

The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were investigating all three fires along the coast as probable arson, Justice Department spokesman Jim Russell said.

Their findings will go to the department's task force on anti-abortion violence, he said.

The task force is using a grand jury to probe anti-abortion violence around the country, but authorities said it was too soon to know if the three fires were connected.

The fire that gutted the Planned Parenthood center near downtown was reported at about 1:50 a.m. and took about an hour to extinguish.

A week ago, a fire caused \$1,000 damage at the Family Planning Associates Medical Group clinic in Ventura. Small containers of a flammable substance were placed in a tire and ignited.

A similar fire broke out Saturday at a Santa Barbara doctor's office where abortions are performed. That fire did little damage, said Frank Jarossi, supervising agent at the FBI's Santa Maria office.

It wasn't known if a tire was set afire at the Planned Parenthood center, and the two earlier fires shared some similarities not found in the

latest fire, investigators said.

On Feb. 1, federal agents investigated an arson fire at a business complex housing a Planned Parenthood office in Modesto. No abortions are performed at that clinic and investigators said they weren't sure if Planned Parenthood was targeted.

Abortion rights advocates had little doubt that the fires of the last seven days were connected.

"We think it's a conspiracy and anti-abortion terrorists are behind it," said Pamela J. Maraldo, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Police throughout the area said they would increase patrols near women's health centers.

News... in a Minute

First win in breast implant lawsuits

HOUSTON — A woman in a breast implant injury case was awarded \$4.23 million today by jurors who also decided that her husband should get \$1 million.

The \$5.2 million verdict for retired nurse Gladys Laas and her husband calls for Dow Chemical Co. to pay for damages for the first time ever in a breast implant lawsuit.

Jurors found that another plaintiff, Army Dr. Jennifer Ladner of El Paso, should receive nothing.

Laas, a nurse from Bellville, and Ladner, claimed that their faulty silicone implants caused a range of ailments, from simple fatigue to nerve damage. Ladner also said the implants caused her lupus.

The cases were separate from a \$4.2 billion worldwide settlement of most breast implant cases that was approved by a judge in Alabama last year.

Although Dow Corning was the main defendant in the Houston trial, experts said the inclusion of its half-owner, Dow Corning, made the case significant.

Boy saves 14 from fire

PINE BLUFF, Ark. — Flames were melting a mobile home around him "like a marshmallow" when Steven Hines rushed inside to see if anyone was trapped.

The 17-year-old boy — who has a delinquency record — roused them and singlehandedly carried them outside. He saved a dozen children ages 4 to 13 and their two adult babysitters, both in their 70s.

It wasn't until hours later that he realized what he had done. "I got scared then," he said.

Hines said he was riding his bicycle home from a grocery store Saturday night when he spotted flames from the house's chimney.

Authorities said the fire started near a wood-burning stove.

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