

Northern Ireland car bombings injure 31

No one has claimed responsibility for two attacks inside the British army's headquarters.

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

LISBURN, Northern Ireland — Bombers struck in Northern Ireland Monday for the first time since the IRA called off a cease-fire two years ago, detonating two car bombs inside the British army's heavily defended headquarters. Thirty-one people were wounded.

There was no claim of responsibility. Whether the attack was carried out by the Irish Republican Army or by another anti-British group might determine whether the province's pro-Brit-

ish paramilitaries call off their own cease-fire — and send Northern Ireland back into retaliatory violence.

The first bomb went off without warning in a parking lot inside Thiepval Barracks, the main camp for the 18,000 army troops in the British-ruled province.

A second detonated 20 minutes later near the base's hospital, apparently to ambush passing soldiers, medical staff and people wounded by the first bomb.

As flames and black smoke billowed from the blast site, soldiers and chefs hauled off the wounded on foam mattresses. Some of the people injured in the second blast included medical staff attending to the victims of the first.

The army said 21 of the injured were soldiers and 10 were civilians — including the three most seriously hurt. One man was critically wounded and four received serious head, chest and leg wounds. The less seriously wounded included an 8-year-old girl

and an 18-year-old woman who were treated for shock and released.

Army forensic scientists estimated that the two bombs contained a total of 500 to 1,000 pounds of homemade explosive. Each left a deep crater in the pavement.

The attack inside what, until now, had been Northern Ireland's most untouchable army installation deals an embarrassing blow to the British forces. Thiepval lies in Lisburn, a predominantly Protestant suburb southwest of Belfast, and is home to the army's senior commanders, key officers' families and its elite bomb squad.

Thiepval has a single entrance guarded by armed soldiers and security cameras, with every car requiring clearance — though most are not individually searched.

Among the army facilities damaged were offices, the base's travel agency, the nursery and the chapel. The blasts smashed windows in surrounding civilian homes and at a hospital that is

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Belfast trade union representative

home to 40 senior citizens and multiple-sclerosis patients.

The Dublin office of Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said that “the barbaric bomb attacks” were “deliberately calculated to provoke further violence and bloodshed and (are) aimed at undermining the multiparty talks in Belfast.”

In Washington, White House spokesman Mike McCurry called it “an

outrageous act of violence.”

Community activists in Belfast appealed to the pro-British paramilitary groups not to retaliate — and to peace negotiators to make progress.

Terry Carlin, Belfast representative of Ireland's main trade union group, said politicians “must ensure that we do not inflict on the next generation the misery and suffering we have inflicted on our own.”

High court protects justices from tax laws

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, saying its hands were tied by potential conflicts of interest, shielded some federal judges Monday from having to pay certain taxes imposed on most Americans.

Four justices who might have a financial stake disqualified themselves from considering the case. Their action kept the court from gaining a quorum of six justices to take the case, and thereby sealed the outcome in a way that could benefit them financially.

Monday's action, although not a precedent-setting decision, had the effect of upholding a lower court's ruling that said it was illegal to begin requiring federal judges to pay Medicare and Social Security taxes in 1983 and 1984.

The result is a victory for 16 federal judges who sued the government in 1989 over tax-law amendments enacted earlier in the decade.

Those amendments for the first time extended Social Security and Medicare taxation to the president, vice president, members of Congress and the president's Cabinet, federal judges and all new employees of the federal government's executive and legislative branches.

The 16 federal judges, all already appointed to their lifetime jobs when the tax laws were changed in 1983, contended that new taxes unlawfully diminished their salaries and thereby threatened judicial independence. In other action, the court:

- Rejected the appeal of Theodore Kaczynski, who contended that his prosecution on Unabomber attacks has been so tainted by news leaks that the government should forfeit its right to make him stand trial.

- Rejected a challenge by five Wisconsin anti-abortion protesters to a federal law that protects access to abortion clinics.

- Turned down the bid of former Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker and two others to quash charges brought by Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr that they plotted to hide profits from a multimillion-dollar cable television deal.

- Heard arguments in a dispute over a federal law that requires cable television systems to carry local broadcast stations. Cable operators told the justices the “must carry” law violates their free-speech rights.

Homemade brew kills at least 29

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — At least 29 villagers died over the weekend in India after drinking homemade liquor.

Another 40 people were hospitalized in serious condition in Pudukottai town in Tamil Nadu state, the Press Trust of India news agency reported Monday.

Two people have been arrested for making illegal spirits, using methyl alcohol and varnish, said police Director-General K. K. Rajasekharan Nair.

Legal liquor is prohibitively expensive for most Indian villagers. Each year, dozens of people die after drinking homemade brews.

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Germ work earns scientists a Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — An Australian working in the United States and a Swiss scientist won the Nobel Prize in medicine Monday for work that gives direction for designing vaccines and treating cancer, multiple sclerosis and diabetes.

The scientists, who showed an important way that the body targets invading germs, will share the \$1.12-million award. This year's prizes are the richest ever.

Peter C. Doherty, 55, of Australia, works at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Rolf M. Zinkernagel, 52, heads the Institute of Experimental Immunology in Zurich, Switzerland.

They discovered how immune system cells called T cells recognize virus-infected cells for elimination. That opened the door to understanding how the immune system recognizes germs and distinguishes them from the body's own cells, the Karolinska Institute's Nobel Assembly said.

The winners did their research on mice in the early 1970s at the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra, Australia.

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