

# News Digest

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1997

## Egyptian zealots slay 60 tourists

■ Islamic militants are suspected to be behind the massacre of 70 people.

LUXOR, Egypt (AP) — Militants dressed as police sprayed gunfire on foreign tourists outside one of Egypt's most renowned temples Monday, killing 70 people. It appeared to be the worst attack in a five-year Islamic insurgency that has haunted Egypt's vital tourist industry. Hundreds of foreigners and Egyptians dived to the ground or scrambled for shelter behind ancient pillars as the gunmen fired randomly into the crowds along a broad plaza facing the three-story Hatshepsut temple. Police said they killed all six gunmen.

"They started shooting everyone — Egyptians, foreigners, children," said a ticket taker at the temple, Said Ahmed Gasseem. "They were like madmen. Anyone moving they shot." The massacre at the 3,400-year-

old temple in southern Egypt — which killed 60 tourists — is an enormous blow to Egypt's campaign to revive the tourism crucial to its economy. Some travel agencies immediately canceled tours.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the government blamed Islamic militants in southern Egypt who have been waging a violent campaign since 1992 to oust Mubarak's secular government and impose strict Muslim rule.

Egypt's Information Ministry said 70 people died in the shooting: 60 tourists, two police, two Egyptians and the six attackers. The Middle East News Agency said a Colombian woman died later after surgery in Luxor.

As of late Monday, police had identified 24 bodies, according to the news agency: 14 Japanese, six Swiss, three Egyptians and one German. The British Embassy said five Britons were killed. There were also reports that French tourists were killed in the

mountain shoot-out.

Egypt's Interior Ministry reported 24 injured: 12 Swiss, two Germans, one French, one Japanese, and eight Egyptians. Eight of the wounded were in critical condition.

The attack began about 9:30 a.m., when six gunmen dressed in black sweaters similar to the winter uniforms of Egyptian police climbed from a car and started shooting automatic rifles wildly.

Police killed one of the gunmen outside the temple after an hourlong gun battle. The other five assailants hijacked a tour bus and then fled into nearby mountains, where police shot and killed them as well, the Interior Ministry said.

As police brought the attackers' bloodied corpses down from the mountain, about 100 Egyptians who depend on tourism for their livelihood gathered at the temple. Some spat on the uncovered bodies; others shouted, "No to terrorism!"

President Hosni Mubarak called an emergency meeting of his Cabinet after the attack and was expected to visit Luxor today.

Dressed in traditional black gowns, Egyptians lined up outside Luxor's small hospital Monday afternoon waiting for news of loved ones.

The militants had been armed with six machine guns, two handguns and ammunition — all police issue. Police also recovered two bags of homemade explosives from the militants.

More than 1,150 people have been killed in the insurgency, which at first focused on tourists, trains to southern Egypt's main towns and Nile River cruisers.

Until Monday, the worst attack on tourists was the 1996 Islamic militant killing of 18 Greeks in Cairo. Islamic radicals released a statement saying they mistook the victims for Israelis because their buses had blue-and-white Greek flags that resembled Israel's Star of David banner.



### Robbers shoot jeweler

PHILIPSBURG, St. Maarten (AP) — Armed robbers shot a New York City jewelry dealer and then made off with \$1 million in cut stones, police said Monday.

Allen Karmely was in stable condition Monday at the St. Maarten Medical Center after the Saturday night attack, said police spokesman Geronimo Juliet.

One man was arrested later Saturday, but two other suspects were still at large, Juliet said.

Karmely told police he was leaving a store in Philipsburg, capital of this Dutch Antillean territory, when he was approached by three men who grabbed his jewelry case. One of them then shot Karmely in the chest, Juliet said.

St. Maarten, the southern half of the Caribbean island of St. Maarten, is part of the Netherlands Antilles.

### Gorilla gets new cornea

BEIJING (AP) — Veterinarians say they have performed China's first cornea transplant on a gorilla, aiming to restore the sight of a giant primate stricken by cataracts in a zoo.

Nikou, a 15-year-old gorilla at the Zhengzhou Zoo in Henan province, received an artificial cornea in surgery Friday, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The 220-pound gorilla began losing his sight several months ago because of cataracts.

"We'll wait to see how the right eye recovers, and then decide when to conduct the operation on the left eye," Dr. Zhu Pingzeng said.

Nikou, the only gorilla born in China, is the offspring of a pair of gorillas that were a gift from King Juan Carlos of Spain in the 1970s.

### Irish talks take new turn

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Taking a new tack in stalled talks on Northern Ireland, the American mediator overseeing the negotiations began one-on-one discussions Monday with each of the parties.

Today's talks were to focus on how to create a new Northern Ireland government in which both sides share power. While the topic was not new, the approach was: Unlike previous sessions, former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell was to meet with party delegations individually.

Paul Murphy, the British government minister responsible for political development, said the past nine weeks of discussions among pro-British Protestant and Irish Catholic parties had produced no agreement, making it necessary to move into "a completely different phase."

## Carey's campaign ruled illegal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Teamsters President Ron Carey was disqualified from a rerun union election Monday by a former federal judge who found that Carey participated in an illegal scheme to divert union funds into his campaign.

Carey said he will fight the ruling by Kenneth Conboy, a special adjudicator in the federal cleanup of the union. But challenger James P. Hoffa emerged as the clear front-runner for the presidency of the 1.4-million-member union.

Conboy's decision, which implicated other labor figures and a Clinton-Gore campaign official, was a devastating blow to Carey, who was known as a champion of reform in a union long plagued by corruption. Conboy also suggested Monday that the rerun, scheduled to end in March, could be delayed.

Carey "tolerated and engaged in extensive rule violations" and authorized spending \$735,000 in union treasury funds "to help his flagging campaign," Conboy said.

## U.S. offers aid to Iraq if inspections allowed

*Iraqi official says it won't happen*

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The United States suggested Monday that U.N.-approved humanitarian aid for Iraq might be increased if President Saddam Hussein permits the return of U.S. weapons inspectors. An Iraqi official quickly branded the proposal a "no-starter."

Though still in the exploratory phase, the initiative suggested a fresh American effort to resolve the three-week impasse with Iraq without the use of force.

At the same time, President Clinton emphasized that diplomatic efforts to return the inspectors to Iraq "must be backed by our strong military capability."

"It is essential that those inspectors go back to work," he said. "The safety of the children of the world depends upon it."

U.N. teams of inspectors had been monitoring Iraqi compliance with orders that it destroy its weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations pulled the inspectors out last week, after Iraq refused to rescind an order expelling Americans on the teams.

The U.S. proposal to increase aid in exchange for a return of the inspectors was described by an official accompanying Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Pakistan as "a little carrot" for Saddam, providing an incentive for him to end the standoff and help his people at the same time.

Even as the Clinton administration

floated the idea, officials emphasized they weren't talking about bargaining.

Defense Secretary William Cohen said of Saddam, "We are not seeking any deal in order to insist that he comply with his obligations."

Iraq has been the target of a U.N. economic embargo since 1990, but a loophole was created three years ago under which Iraq is permitted to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months.

Under a carefully monitored program, the revenues are used to provide food and medicine to the Iraqi people.

The U.S. official said the \$2 billion ceiling could be increased as part of the proposed sweetener for Iraq. Also, he said the definition of humanitarian aid could be expanded to include items beyond food and medicine.

In New York, Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdoon, called the proposal a "no-starter."

He said Iraq wants guarantees that the sanctions "will be lifted soon because we think that Iraq is eligible for the lifting of the embargo."

The proposal is one of a series of initiatives aimed at seeking a way out of the impasse. Iraq, for its part, has softened its insistence that Americans be excluded from inspection teams.

In Bahrain on Sunday, Albright met with some U.N. inspectors, who told her Iraq was trying to develop a nerve gas called VX, a few ounces of which are said to be capable of carrying out killings on a mass scale.

## We have spaces we need you to fill

The Daily Nebraskan is currently taking applications for senior staff positions for the spring semester. Positions are open for: managing editor, associate news editors, assignment editor, copy desk chief, copy editors, sports editor, A&E editor, opinion editor, night editors, design chief, designers, art director, photo chief, senior artist, senior reporters and senior photographer.

Job descriptions and applications are available at the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union. They are due by Dec. 1. Applicants also must sign up for an interview by Dec. 1.

The Daily Nebraskan is an equal-opportunity employer and abides by all university policies regarding the same.

## Everyone has an opinion

### Here's your chance to be heard

The Daily Nebraskan is now hiring columnists for the spring semester. Columnists do not have to be journalism majors. Pick up an application and job description at the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union. Applications are due Nov. 21. Finalists will be called in for interviews in early December. The Daily Nebraskan does not discriminate in its hiring practices and abides by all university policies regarding the same.

## Daily Nebraskan

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