

# News Digest

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1998

PAGE 2

## U.S. students ambushed Five women raped on Guatemalan trip

SANTA LUCIA COTZUMAL-GUAPA, Guatemala (AP) — Guatemalan security forces have arrested four suspects and were hunting for three others Monday after five American college students were raped in a daylight ambush of their bus.

The rapes of the students from St. Mary's College in Maryland, on an anthropology tour of Guatemala, provoked outrage in the United States and calls here to end surging lawlessness.

The student group's pink-and-white bus was forced off the highway Friday afternoon into a sugar cane field by gunmen riding in two pickup trucks, police said at the scene, 45 miles southwest of Guatemala City.

Vowing to obtain justice, Interior Minister Rodolfo Mendoza said two suspects were arrested soon after Friday's attack and had provided the names of their accomplices — reportedly seven in all.

"The security forces are trying to capture the (suspects) ... so that they can face the full force of the law," said Mendoza, who declined to discuss specifics of the case in which five young women were raped.

A police detective told The Associated Press two more men had been detained Monday in Guatemala City and taken to a prison in the capital city.

"This group specialized in robbing long-distance tour buses. They have been operating for some time," said the detective, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The detective said the two men captured Monday were not soldiers but had been found with a duffel bag full of uniforms and camouflage rain slickers. He said it was not known why the men had such gear.

The students, 12 women and one man, were returning to Guatemala City after a tour of historic and cul-

“Lately there have been a lot of attacks. It's dangerous now. It's scary.”

VIRGINIA LORENZO  
Guatemalan citizen

tural sites. They were accompanied by two male faculty members and a female administrator from St. Mary's College, a public, four-year liberal arts school 70 miles southeast of Washington, D.C.

In Washington, President Clinton decried Friday's ambush and said he was confident Guatemalan authorities would handle the case appropriately.

"I have a lot of concern, obviously, for the victims and their families," Clinton told reporters. "It's a terrible thing. ... We are persuaded the government is taking appropriate action."

The U.S. State Department does not warn American citizens against traveling to Guatemala. However, its consular information sheet does note crime has been increasing in the country. The department said entire groups of American tourists have been victims of rape, kidnappings, violent assaults and shootings.

Far from home, the students were traveling in a country flush with weapons. Banditry has surged here since 1996, when leftist rebels and the government ended their 36-year civil war.

The bus driver, Victor Anibal Lopez Arias, told The Associated Press the bandits forced him over and fired shots in the air at the outset of the robbery.

"We were there some two hours being threatened. They told us if we moved, they would kill us," Lopez Arias, 33, said in a brief interview.

He said they forced everyone off

the bus and seized luggage, money and other items. "They raped one seniorita in the bus and the other four met a similar fate when they were taken into the cane field," he said.

Local police chief Jose Patzan said he and his officers arrived afterward and chased down one suspect, a 37-year-old man.

"He was fat. He couldn't run. He was with the group but he couldn't keep up," said Patzan, who is in charge of this city in the heart of sugar cane country, 45 miles southwest of Guatemala City.

Patzan said police and soldiers found the women crying, in apparent shock.

After the attack, the women were taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors offered to examine them. The students signed a declaration refusing treatment.

Emma Perez, an administrator at the Seguro Social Hospital in Santa Lucia, said the students demanded to be seen by a U.S. Embassy doctor, waiting until 11 p.m. when they gave up and returned to Guatemala City.

"The young ladies seemed very affected, tearful," she said.

The police chief, Patzan, has seven officers and eight soldiers who help him out in Santa Lucia. He has only one truck, which can't go over 20 mph.

Asked if he had highway robberies under control, he said: "Sincerely, we do what we can, but as things are, it would be a lie to say that we can serve everyone."

## Cubans prepare for pope's five-day visit

HAVANA (AP) — Under an eight-story-high mural of Christ, choirs on Revolution Square filled the tropical air with praise Monday for a papal visit that stands to bring both financial and political capital to this communist island.

Just two days before John Paul II's arrival, light blue posters of the pontiff were posted on the doors of homes, telephone poles — even bicycle taxis and vendors' carts.

"This is so moving," said the Rev. Manuel Cruz, a priest from Newark, N.J., who attended the rehearsal of choir members from Havana churches. "This is a marvel of grace and a blessing."

Communist leaders are also excited by the five-day visit, which begins Wednesday.

President Fidel Castro has called on Cubans to fill the plaza for the papal Mass on Sunday and to attend earlier Masses in the cities of Santa Clara, Camaguey and Santiago.

The aim is not just to welcome

the pope, but to prove to the world Cuba, which is hugely secular, though 40 percent of the people are baptized Roman Catholics, respects religious freedom.

Castro's government has devoted much of its manpower and resources to the success of this landmark papal visit, which stands to bring in millions of dollars from the thousands of visiting pilgrims and reporters.

But Economy Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez rejected suggestions Monday that the government is treating the pontiff's stay as a profit-making proposition. "The government does not see the visit as a business," he said.

Rodriguez refused to estimate how much revenue the trip would bring this foreign currency-starved country of 11 million people. Independent estimates say it could bring the government as much as \$20 million.

## U.N. ignores Iraqi deadline

### Weapons inspectors again claim that Hussein is hiding arms material.

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Arriving Monday to face the latest crisis with Iraq, chief U.N. weapons inspector Richard Butler dismissed an Iraqi deadline for arms inspectors to finish their work and once again accused Baghdad of concealing banned weapons material.

Butler also said no sites in Iraq — even President Saddam Hussein's dozens of palaces — should be off-limits to his arms monitors.

The visit comes one day after Iraqi officials, fearful their confrontation with U.N. inspectors could lead to a military strike, urged Iraqis to volunteer for weapons training.

On Monday, 5,000 Iraqis demonstrated in front of the inspectors' Baghdad headquarters, burning American flags and chanting "Butler is an American agent" and "With our blood and souls we will defend you, Saddam." The protests were organized by government-sponsored

trade unions.

In central Baghdad, Iraqi authorities organized a funeral procession for 73 children they said died Monday because of a lack of medical supplies. Although U.N. economic sanctions do not bar the import of food or medicine, Iraq says the embargo has left it without the money to import vital medicines.

It was the third government-sponsored funeral procession since October.

The United States repeatedly has demanded Iraq fully cooperate with U.N. inspectors trying to dismantle Iraqi programs to build long-range missiles and chemical and biological weapons.

Washington has called for a diplomatic solution to the crisis, but has not ruled out the use of military force, despite the reluctance of other countries to go along.

In the latest in a series of threats by Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi president vowed Saturday to suspend cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors if they did not finish their work by May 20.

## King parade marred by gunfire

### The shooting in Baton Rouge kills one man and injures three children.

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — A simmering fight erupted into gunfire at a Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade on Monday, killing a man whose brother was in the march and wounding three children watching the festivities.

The dispute involved four or five people, some participants in the march, Police Chief Greg Phares said at an evening news conference. He said they had been feuding, and a fight broke out just before the shooting.

"There was no racial, political or hate-crime motive," Phares said. He gave no other details of the dispute, but said there was no ambush — those involved had been together.

Police were searching for at least one shooter. Phares would not give the shooter's name or say whether he was marching.

All the victims appeared to be bystanders.

Martin Luther King III was in Minneapolis, giving a speech about the importance of each person's

responsibility for making a difference.

When told of the shooting, King said, "I think it drives home some of the points I tried to make today. We have got to work to eliminate violence. It is totally out of hand."

Cpl. Don Kelly, a police spokesman, described the aftermath of the shooting as "mass pandemonium." In the debris left by fleeing marchers was a picture of King, splattered with blood.

There were not many spectators in the commercial area near downtown.

"We watched them go by, and everyone seemed as happy as could be — until the shooting happened," said Elaine Tucker, office manager for a locksmith shop.

"It went pop, pop, pop, pop — four shots right off," she said. "Then people began running everywhere."

Killed was James Carter, 20, who lived nearby with his mother. Relatives said he was watching the parade, walking along beside the band in which his 17-year-old brother was playing bass drum.

A 7-year-old girl was in critical condition with a gunshot wound in the back. An 11-year-old girl shot

in the leg and hand was in stable condition, and a 9-year-old boy, shot in the leg, was in guarded condition. Their names were not released.

An FBI investigation determined the shooting was not a hate crime, said Baton Rouge's district attorney, Doug Moreau.

Several hundred people, most of them students, were marching, some as band members.

People ran in all directions. In the middle of the scramble was a group of kindergarten-aged marchers in slacks and ties. Police motorcycle escorts wheeled around and sped back to the shooting, but did not arrive in time to catch anyone.

Shirley Monget's 16-year-old son was among the marchers.

"I asked him not to march today," she said. "They formed that band from several schools and they worked real good together all week. But, on Friday, some boys who were not in the band showed up and beat up a drummer. I just knew there was going to be trouble."

Police spokesman Cpl. Charles Armstrong said he did not know if Carter's brother was the drummer reportedly involved in Friday's fight.

## Daily Nebraskan

Editor: Paula Lavigne  
Managing Editor: Chad Lorenz  
Associate News Editor: Erin Schulte  
Associate News Editor: Ted Taylor  
Assignment Editor: Erin Gibson  
Opinion Editor: Joshua Gillin  
Sports Editor: David Wilson  
A&E Editor: Jeff Randel  
Copy Desk Chief: Bryce Glenn  
Photo Director: Ryan Soderlin  
Design Co-Chief: Jamie Ziegler  
Tony Toth  
Art Director: Matt Haney  
Online Editor: Gregg Stearns

Questions? Comments? Ask for the appropriate section editor at (402) 472-2588 or e-mail [dn@uninfo.unl.edu](mailto:dn@uninfo.unl.edu).

Asst. Online Editor: Amy Pemberton  
General Manager: Dan Shattil  
Publications Board: Melissa Myles, (402) 476-2446  
Chairwoman: Don Walton, (402) 473-7301  
Professional Adviser: Nick Partsch, (402) 472-2589  
Advertising Manager: Daniel Lam  
Assistant Ad Manager: Marni Speck

Fax number: (402) 472-1781  
World Wide Web: [www.unl.edu/DailyNebr](http://www.unl.edu/DailyNebr)  
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.  
Subscriptions are \$55 for one year.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.  
ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1998  
THE DAILY NEBRASKAN