

Al-Shabab Gunmen Kill 147 At University

GARISSA, Kenya (AP) — Al-Shabab gunmen rampaged through a university in northeastern Kenya at dawn Thursday, killing 147 people in the group's deadliest attack in the East African country. Four militants were slain by security forces to end the siege just after dusk.

The masked attackers — strapped with explosives and armed with AK-47s — singled out non-Muslim students at Garissa University College and then gunned them down without mercy, survivors said. Others ran for their lives with bullets whistling through the air.

Amid the massacre, the men took dozens of hostages in a dormitory as they battled troops and police before the operation ended after about 13 hours, witnesses said.

When gunfire from the Kenyan security forces struck the attackers, the militants exploded "like bombs," Interior Minister Joseph Nkaissery said, adding that the shrapnel wounded some of the officers.

Al-Shabab spokesman Ali Mohamud Rage said fighters from the Somalia-based extremist group were responsible. The al-Qaida-linked group has been blamed for a series of attacks in Kenya, including the siege at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi in 2013 that killed 67 people, as well as other violence in the north. The group has vowed to retaliate against Kenya for sending troops to Somalia in 2011 to fight the militants staging cross-border attacks.

Plane Crash: France Finds 2nd Recorder

BERLIN (AP) — Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz spent time online researching suicide methods and cockpit door security in the week before crashing Flight 9525, prosecutors said Thursday — the first evidence that the fatal descent may have been a premeditated act.

As the browsing history on a tablet computer found at Lubitz's apartment added a disturbing new piece to the puzzle of the March 24 crash, French investigators said they had recovered the Airbus A320's flight data recorder — another step toward completing the picture.

Attention has focused on Lubitz since investigators evaluated the plane's cockpit voice recorder last week. They believe the 27-year-old locked his captain out of the cockpit during the flight from Barcelona to Duesseldorf and deliberately plunged the plane into a French mountainside.

Duesseldorf prosecutors said they had reviewed search terms from March 16-23 that were in the browser memory of the computer found in Lubitz's home in the city.

The co-pilot researched "on one hand medical treatment methods, and on the other hand informed himself about types and ways of going about a suicide," prosecutors' spokesman Ralf Herrenbrueck said in a statement.

Jury Orders Chrysler To Pay \$150M

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury in Georgia has awarded \$150 million to the family of a 4-year-old boy killed when a Jeep Grand Cherokee caught fire after a crash.

Jurors in Decatur County ruled Thursday that Chrysler acted with reckless disregard for human life in selling the boy's family a 1999 Jeep with a gas tank mounted behind the rear axle.

Remington Walden, of Bainbridge, Georgia, was killed when the Jeep driven by his aunt was hit from behind by a pickup truck in March 2012. The fuel tank leaked, engulfing the Jeep in flames and killing the boy.

Jurors ruled after a seven-day trial that Chrysler was 99 percent at fault for the crash and the pickup driver was 1 percent at fault.

Chrysler, which makes Jeeps, recalled 1.56 million of them in June 2013 under pressure from U.S. safety regulators. The rear-mounted tanks have little structure to protect them if struck from behind, making them susceptible to punctures and fires.

Student Expelled Wants Anonymity

McLEAN, Va. (AP) — A student expelled from George Mason University for violating its sexual misconduct policy is suing in federal court to clear his name, arguing that an encounter with a girlfriend was sadomasochistic role-playing, not sexual assault.

In response, the university is demanding that the ex-student identify himself publicly if he wants to pursue his claims.

The expelled student, who sued under a pseudonym to protect his privacy, should have no fear of embarrassment, because "the lifestyle has been recently glamorized in commercially successful film and books, i.e. Fifty Shades of Grey," Assistant Attorney General David Drummey wrote on behalf of the university.

Drummey also waved off arguments that exposing the man could also identify a victim of sexual assault, saying that there was no evidence she could face retaliatory harm. Her "small risk of exposure ... cannot outweigh the public's First Amendment right to have open access to our court's judicial proceedings," Drummey wrote.

A hearing is scheduled for Friday in Alexandria on the university's motion to reverse a judge's decision allowing the student to sue anonymously.

AP Reports Slavery In Seafood Industry

BENJINA, Indonesia (AP) — Officials from three countries are traveling to remote islands in eastern Indonesia to investigate how thousands of foreign fishermen were abused and forced into catching seafood that could end up in the United States, Europe and elsewhere.

A week after The Associated Press published a story about slavery in the seafood industry — including video of men locked in a cage — delegations from Thailand and Indonesia visited the island village of Benjina. A government team from Myanmar is also scheduled to visit the area next week to try to determine how many of its citizens are stuck there and what can be done to bring them home.

The visits reflect how the problem stretches across several countries, and how difficult it has been to resolve. The migrant workers lured or even kidnapped into fishing are usually from Myanmar, also known as Burma, one of the poorest countries in the world, along with Cambodia, Laos and poor areas of Thailand. They are brought through Thailand to fishing boats in Indonesia, where many say they are beaten, made to work long hours with little or no pay, and prevented from leaving. Their catch is then shipped back to Thailand, where it enters global markets, the AP story documented.

On Thursday, the atmosphere was tense as a group of Burmese men on Benjina talked nervously to the AP. One older man with dark, weathered skin recounted how he was recruited from Myanmar and promised a good job in neighboring Thailand, but was sent to Indonesia instead. He said he had been working for six and a half years on boats in Indonesia, where the captain would swear at him and kick him in the ribs with boots.

"I know talking to you is dangerous, that our lives are threatened, but this is the only way to get out of here," he said. The AP is withholding his name out of safety concerns. "I just want to go home to see my parents before they die."

Nuke Deal: World Powers, Iran Seal Breakthrough Framework

BY GEORGE JAHN AND MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Capping exhausting and contentious talks, Iran and world powers sealed a breakthrough agreement Thursday outlining limits on Iran's nuclear program to keep it from being able to produce atomic weapons. The Islamic Republic was promised an end to years of crippling economic sanctions, but only if negotiators transform the plan into a comprehensive pact.

They will try to do that in the next three months.

The United States and Iran, long-time adversaries who hashed out much of the agreement, each hailed the efforts of their diplomats over days of sleepless nights in Switzerland. Speaking at the White House, President Barack Obama called it a "good deal" that would address concerns about Iran's nuclear ambitions. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called it a "win-win outcome."

Those involved have spent 18 months in broader negotiations that were extended twice since an interim accord was reached shortly after Iranian President Hassan Rouhani entered office. That deal itself was the product of more than a year of secret negotiations between the Obama administration and Iran, a country the U.S. still considers the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Opponents of the emerging accord, including Israel and Republican leaders in Congress, reacted with skepticism. They criticized the outline for failing to do enough to curb Iran's potential to produce nuclear weapons or to mandate intrusive enough inspections. Obama disagreed.

"This framework would cut off every pathway that Iran could take to develop a nuclear weapon," he declared. "This deal is not based on trust. It's based on unprecedented verification."

If implemented, the understandings reached Thursday would mark the first time in more than a decade



President Barack Obama makes a statement after Iran and six world powers have agreed on the outlines of an understanding that would open the path to a final phase of nuclear negotiations in the press briefing at the White House Thursday in Washington, D.C.

of diplomatic efforts that Iran's nuclear efforts would be rolled back.

It commits Tehran to significant cuts in centrifuges, the machines that can spin uranium gas to levels used in nuclear warheads. Of the nearly 20,000 centrifuges Iran now has installed or running at its main enrichment site, the country would be allowed to operate just over 5,000. Much of its enriched stockpiles would be neutralized. A planned reactor would be reconstructed so it produced no weapons-grade plutonium. Monitoring and inspections by the U.N. nuclear agency would be enhanced.

America's negotiating partners in Europe strongly backed the result. President Francois Hollande of France, which had pushed the U.S. for a tougher stance, endorsed the accord while warning that "sanctions lifted can be re-established if the agreement is not applied."

Obama sought to frame the deal as a salve that reduces the chances of the combustible Middle East becoming even more unstable with the introduction of a nuclear-armed Iran. Many fear

that would spark an arms race that could spiral out of control in a region rife with sectarian rivalry, terrorist threats and weak or failed states.

Obama said he had spoken with Saudi Arabia's King Salman and that he'd invite him and other Arab leaders to Camp David this spring to discuss security strategy. The Sunni majority Saudis have made veiled threats about creating their own nuclear program to counter Shia-led Iran.

The American leader also spoke by telephone with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, perhaps the sharpest critic of the diplomacy with Iran. Netanyahu told Obama a deal based on the agreement "would threaten the survival of Israel." The White House said Obama assured Netanyahu that the agreement would not diminish U.S. concerns about Iran's sponsorship of terrorism and threats toward Israel.

Obama saved his sharpest words for members of Congress who have threatened to either try to kill the agreement or approve new sanctions against Iran. Appearing in the Rose Garden,

Obama said the issues at stake are "bigger than politics."

"These are matters of war and peace," he said, and if Congress kills the agreement "international unity will collapse, and the path to conflict will widen."

Hawks on Capitol Hill reacted slowly to the news from the Swiss city of Lausanne, perhaps because the framework was far more detailed than many diplomats had predicted over a topsy-turvy week of negotiation.

House Speaker John Boehner said it would be "naive to suggest the Iranian regime will not continue to use its nuclear program, and any economic relief, to further destabilize the region."

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said his panel would vote this month on legislation giving Congress the right to vote on a final deal. Freshman Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., who penned a letter that many GOP senators signed last month to Iran's leaders, said he would work "to protect America from this very dangerous proposal."

Yemen Civilians Pay The Price For Conflict

BY AHMED AL-HAJ AND EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Violence in Yemen has killed an estimated 519 people the past two weeks, 90 of them children, and tens of thousands are fleeing their homes, the U.N. humanitarian chief said Thursday, signs of the humanitarian damage being wreaked in the Arab world's poorest nation in the rapid escalation of its conflict.

What began as a power grab by Shiite rebels dramatically escalated into a regional conflict after Saudi Arabia and its allies launched an air campaign on March 25 backing beleaguered President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and his loyalists. The air campaign, along with ground fighting between Hadi's loyalists and the Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, and their allies, are worsening the country's already chronic problems.

In battleground areas, hospitals are running out of supplies, water and electricity systems have broken down, and produce and other goods run low as fuel prices mount. Airstrikes and exchanges of shelling between the two sides have paralyzed the capital and other major urban centers, and residents are huddling in homes or fleeing.

The U.N. under-secretary general for humanitarian af-

fairs, Valerie Amos, expressed concern Thursday "for the safety of civilians caught in the middle." She said some 519 people have been killed and 1,700 wounded, many of them civilians, in violence the past two weeks. That would appear to include in fighting between the two sides before the air campaign began. Among the dead were 90 children.

"Tens of thousands of people have fled their homes, some by crossing the sea to Djibouti and Somalia," she said. She said all sides must avoid targeting hospitals, schools, refugee camps and civilian infrastructure, particularly in civilian areas and said the U.N. was working with local authorities to provide emergency health kits and generators.

Yemen was already suffering from years of internal wars and political upheaval. More than half the population of 25 million lives in poverty. Water resources are dwindling, and the country has one of the highest rates of child malnutrition in the world. The country is already dealing with some 330,000 displaced people — Yemenis who fled their homes in previous conflicts.

"It is a terrible situation and it is moving so fast," Julien Harnais, the Yemen representative of the United Nations Children Fund, told The Associated Press. "We are heading toward a humanitarian disaster."

Harnais said 62 children were killed in the first four days of the operation — as many as were killed in all of 2014, when the Houthis were fighting to expand their hold. Some of the children were bystanders, and some were used as child soldiers, he said. Harnais estimated that about a third of the fighters on all sides are under the age of 18.

"Some as young as 13 and 14. I have seen this with my eyes in many parts of the country," Harnais said,

speaking from Amman. "This has been a longtime problem in Yemen but it has been particularly visible in these last days."

In the southern city of Aden, medical supplies are running out. Doctors Without Borders, which operates in the city, said it has received over 500 wounded, including more than 110 on the first day of airstrikes. UNICEF is giving out midwife kits to treat injured civilians because of lack of supplies.

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