

UN To Let Iran Inspect Alleged Nuke Work Site

GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Iran will be allowed to use its own inspectors to investigate a site it has been accused of using to develop nuclear arms, operating under a secret agreement with the U.N. agency that normally carries out such work, according to a document seen by The Associated Press.

The revelation on Wednesday newly riled Republican lawmakers in the U.S. who have been severely critical of a broader agreement to limit Iran's future nuclear programs, signed by the Obama administration, Iran and five world powers in July. Those critics have complained that the wider deal is unwisely built on trust of the Iranians, while the administration has insisted it depends on reliable inspections.

A skeptical House Speaker John Boehner said, "President Obama boasts his deal includes 'unprecedented verification.' He claims it's not built on trust. But the administration's briefings on these side deals have been totally insufficient - and it still isn't clear whether anyone at the White House has seen the final documents."

Said House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce: "International inspections should be done by international inspectors. Period."

But House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi shrugged off the revelation, saying, "I truly believe in this agreement."

The newly disclosed side agreement, for an investigation of the Parchin nuclear site by the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, is linked to persistent allegations that Iran has worked on atomic weapons. That investigation is part of the overarching nuclear-limits deal.

Evidence of the inspections concession is sure to increase pressure from U.S. congressional opponents before a Senate vote of disapproval on the overall agreement in early September. If the resolution passes and President Barack Obama vetoes it, opponents would need a two-thirds majority to override it. Even Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, has suggested opponents will likely lose a veto fight, though that was before Wednesday's disclosure.

John Cornyn of Texas, the second-ranking Republican senator, said, "Trust-

ing Iran to inspect its own nuclear site and report to the U.N. in an open and transparent way is remarkably naive and incredibly reckless. This revelation only reinforces the deep-seated concerns the American people have about the agreement."

The Parchin agreement was worked out between the IAEA and Iran. The United States and the five other world powers were not party to it but were briefed by the IAEA and endorsed it as part of the larger package.

On Wednesday, White House National Security Council spokesman Ned Price said the Obama administration was "confident in the agency's technical plans for investigating the possible military dimensions of Iran's former program. ... The IAEA has separately developed the most robust inspection regime ever peacefully negotiated."

All IAEA member countries must give the agency some insight into their nuclear programs. Some are required to do no more than give a yearly accounting of the nuclear material they possess. But nations—like Iran—suspected of possible proliferation are under greater scrutiny that can include stringent inspections.

The agreement in question diverges from normal procedures by allowing Tehran to employ its own experts and equipment in the search for evidence of activities it has consistently denied—trying to develop nuclear weapons.

Olli Heinonen, who was in charge of the Iran probe as deputy IAEA director general from 2005 to 2010, said he could think of no similar concession with any other country.

The White House has repeatedly denied claims of a secret side deal favorable to Tehran. IAEA chief Yukiya Amano told Republican senators last week that he was obligated to keep the document confidential.

Iran has refused access to Parchin for years and has denied any interest in—work on—nuclear weapons. Based on U.S., Israeli and other intelligence and its own research, the IAEA suspects that the Islamic Republic may have experimented with high-explosive detonators for nuclear arms.

The IAEA has cited evidence, based on satellite images, of possible attempts to sanitize the site since the alleged work stopped more than a decade ago.

The document seen by the AP is a draft that one official familiar with its contents said doesn't differ substantially from the final version. He demanded anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the issue in public.

The document is labeled "separate arrangement II," indicating there is another confidential agreement between Iran and the IAEA governing the agency's probe of the nuclear weapons allegations.

Iran is to provide agency experts with photos and videos of locations the IAEA says are linked to the alleged weapons work, "taking into account military concerns."

That wording suggests that—beyond being barred from physically visiting the site—the agency won't get photo or video information from areas Iran says are off-limits because they have military significance.

While the document says the IAEA "will ensure the technical authenticity" of Iran's inspection, it does not say how.

The draft is unsigned but the proposed signatory for Iran is listed as Ali Hoseini Tash, deputy secretary of the Supreme National Security Council for Strategic Affairs. That reflects the significance Tehran attaches to the agreement.

Iranian diplomats in Vienna were unavailable for comment, Wednesday while IAEA spokesman Serge Gas said the agency had no immediate comment.

The main focus of the July 14 deal between Iran and six world powers is curbing Iran's present nuclear program that could be used to make weapons. But a subsidiary element obligates Tehran to cooperate with the IAEA in its probe of the past allegations.

The investigation has been essentially deadlocked for years, with Tehran asserting the allegations are based on false intelligence from the U.S., Israel and other adversaries. But Iran and the U.N. agency agreed last month to wrap up the investigation by December, when the IAEA plans to issue a final assessment.

That assessment is unlikely to be unequivocal. Still, it is expected to be approved by the IAEA's board, which includes the United States and the other nations that negotiated the July 14 agreement. They do not want to upend their broader deal, and will see the December report as closing the books on the issue.

Islamic State Beheads Syrian Scholar

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — The 81-year-old antiquities scholar had dedicated his life to exploring and overseeing Syria's ancient ruins of Palmyra, one of the Middle East's most spectacular archaeological sites. He even named his daughter after Zenobia, the queen that ruled from the city 1,700 years ago.

That dedication may have cost him his life. On Wednesday, relatives and witnesses said Khaled al-Asaad was beheaded by Islamic State militants, his bloodied body hung on a pole in a main square.

Antiquities officials said they believed IS militants had interrogated al-Asaad, a long-time director of the site, trying to get him to divulge where authorities had hidden treasures secreted out of Palmyra before the extremists seized the ruins last spring.

The brutal killing stunned Syria's archaeological community and underscored fears the extremists will destroy or loot the 2,000-year-old Roman-era city on the edge of a modern town of the same name, as they have other major archaeological sites in Syria and Iraq.

"We have lost not just a scholar of archaeology but one of the pillars of archaeology in the 20th century," said Ahmad Ferzat Taraqqi, a 56-year-old antiquities expert and friend of the victim.

Scientists Know How Genes Makes You Fat

Scientists have finally figured out how the key gene tied to obesity makes people fat, a major discovery that could open the door to an entirely new approach to the problem beyond diet and exercise.

The work solves a big mystery: Since 2007, researchers have known that a gene called FTO was related to obesity, but they didn't know how, and could not tie it to appetite or other known factors.

Now experiments reveal that a faulty version of the gene causes energy from food to be stored as fat rather than burned. Genetic tinkering in mice and on human cells in the lab suggests this can be reversed, giving hope that a drug or other treatment might be developed to do the same in people.

The work was led by scientists at MIT and Harvard University and published online Wednesday by the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The discovery challenges the notion that "when people get obese it was basically their own choice because they choose to eat too much or not exercise," said study leader Melina Claussnitzer, a genetics specialist at Harvard-affiliated Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. "For the first time, genetics has revealed a mechanism in obesity that was not really suspected before" and gives a third explanation or factor that's involved.

Israel Suspends Detention Of Striker

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Supreme Court on Wednesday suspended the detention order against a Palestinian prisoner who has been on a hunger strike for 65 days, releasing him while he receives medical care in a ruling that his relatives and supporters hailed as a victory.

The decision means that Mohammed Allan will no longer be shackled to his bed and his family will be able to visit him in the hospital, where his lawyer said he remains sedated and unconscious.

The court's action did little to resolve a debate over Israel's practice of holding suspects without charge, known as administrative detention, or a new law that permits the force-feeding of hunger strikers.

Before he fell unconscious Aug. 14, Allan had appeared set to be the first test of the law. Since then, he has been given fluids and nutritional supplements while the case went to court, although those treatments were not considered to be force-feeding.

After a long day of deliberations, the Supreme Court announced that Allan, who doctors say has suffered some brain damage, would remain hospitalized but that his administrative detention was suspended.

Mom Who Suffocated 3 Sons To Blame

BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio (AP) — A mother accused of killing her three sons was dominated and isolated by her husband, a man nearly twice her age who had been her own mother's live-in boyfriend before they married, authorities said Wednesday.

Investigators believe Brittany Pilkington used each boy's comfort blanket to suffocate them in their crib or bed over the last 13 months, because she wanted her husband to pay more attention to herself and their 3-year-old daughter, Logan County Prosecutor William Goslee said.

Pilkington, 23, is jailed on murder charges in all three deaths, including her 3-month-old son Noah, who died Tuesday, less than a week after he was returned from protective custody on a judge's order.

Goslee said he won't likely seek the death penalty because of the background of Brittany Pilkington, including the fact she had been dominated by her husband Joseph Pilkington, 43, who had been her "semi-stepfather" at one point. Goslee said she apparently feared how the boys would grow up, and described her daughter Hailey as her only friend.

"It was her plan to eliminate male children in order that this father would have more attention available for her and for Hailey the daughter," Goslee said. "That's a fact."

Police Hunt 'Foreigner' In Bombing

BANGKOK (AP) — A police manhunt was underway Wednesday for an "unidentified foreign man" shown in a security video leaving a backpack at a popular Bangkok shrine just minutes before a bomb exploded there.

Two other people seen on the video near the man are also considered suspects in Monday's deadly bombing, police said.

Authorities released a sketch of the man who left behind the backpack and offered a 1 million baht (\$28,000) reward for information leading to his arrest. But apart from the rough portrait, they had few solid leads in Monday's bombing at the Erawan Shrine that killed 20 people and wounded 120 others.

The grainy security video shows the man, wearing a yellow T-shirt and shorts, sitting down on a bench at the shrine, taking off a black backpack and leaving it behind as he stands up and walks away. Time stamps show he left the shrine 15 minutes before the explosion, which struck just before 7 p.m.

The two possible accomplices are seen standing in front of the man, said police spokesman Lt. Gen. Prawut Thavorn-siri. One of the men was wearing a red shirt and the other was in white, and they were seen leaving the area shortly before the man in yellow also leaves.

Subway's Latest Challenge: Getting Out From Jared's Shadow

CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Subway benefited hugely from Jared Fogle's weight loss story. Now the sandwich chain needs to figure out how to prevent him from overshadowing its future.

It's not clear how customers will react to Fogle's plans to plead guilty to allegations that he paid for sex acts with minors and received child pornography, since it doesn't have anything to do with Subway's food. But the association of the company's name with crimes that evoke such universal disgust come at a rough juncture for Subway.

Subway is facing intense competition and concerns that it's overgrown. The company's co-founder and CEO is fighting cancer. And at a time when attitudes about the definition of healthy are changing, Subway is trying to convince people about the quality of its food by removing artificial ingredients from its menu.

"For a while, when you see a Subway ad, you're going to think about that child pornography charge," said Allen Adanson of the brand consulting firm Landor Associates.

Companies like having famous representatives because it's a way to make people feel like that they could somehow be more like those individuals — which in the case of Fogle meant losing weight and being able to keep it off. But such relationships also can backfire when celebrities run into trouble.

The charges against Fogle also are tough because he wasn't just a one-time endorser; he is famous solely for dropping more than 200 pounds with his "Subway diet."

Subway leaned on Fogle's

story for more than 15 years as it more than doubled its locations in the U.S. The pitchman appeared in Subway TV ads as recently as last month, on the day his home was raided by state and federal investigators, according to iSpot.tv, which measures national TV ads. That ad re-capped how Fogle lost weight, and the latest chapter in his life as a family man with two children.

It was one of three Subway ads featuring Fogle up to that point in the year, out of a total of 40 different Subway ads, according to iSpot.tv.

Julie Carlton, a 28-year-old graduate student who was at a Subway in New York City Wednesday, said she doesn't plan to stop going to the chain because she doesn't think the company is to blame for Fogle's actions.

She said she was much more upset with Chick-fil-A after the fried chicken chain's president publicly reaffirmed his support of what he called the "biblical definition of the family unit" that did not include same-sex marriage. The move provoked an outcry from gay rights supporters.

"There's a big difference between with what happened with Jared and what happened with Chick-fil-A," said Carlton, who noted that Subway cut ties with Fogle.

Still, the revelations about Fogle come at a bad time for Subway, which had already been struggling with sales.

Subway is privately held and doesn't publicly report its financial results. But average annual sales at U.S. Subway locations fell 3 percent last year, according to industry tracker Technomic. That was the first decline since 2006.

The company is dealing with changing attitudes about



ANDREAS BRANCH/PATRICK MCMULLAN CO./SIPA USA/TNS
Jared Fogle on June 8 at the premiere of Disney-Pixar's "Inside Out"; in Hollywood, Calif.

food, with industry executives saying people are paying closer attention to things like ingredients, not just calories or fat. To keep pace, Subway said in June it would remove artificial ingredients from its food, following similar decisions by others.

Overextension might be part of the problem, too. Subway says it has about 27,000 locations in just the U.S., which is nearly twice as many

locations as McDonald's, the next biggest chain.

Don Sniagowski, editor of Blue Maumau, a site for franchisees, said it's difficult to predict how business might be affected by the Fogle scandal, but he thinks sales will be hurt slightly.

"You think of Subway, and you think of Jared chasing around little girls. It's going to mitigate people's decision to go there," he said.

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