

CHRISTMAS

Nigerian Blasts Mar Peace Appeal

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
 Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI issued pleas for peace to reign across the world during his traditional Christmas address Sunday, a call marred by Muslim extremists who bombed a Catholic church in Nigeria, striking after worshippers celebrated Mass.

The assault on the Catholic church left 35 dead in Madalla, near the Nigerian capital. A failed bombing also occurred near a church in the city of Jos, followed by a shooting that killed a police officer. The blast came a year after a series of Christmas Eve bombs in Jos claimed by Islamist militants killed 32.

Benedict didn't refer explicitly to the Nigerian bombings in his "Urbi et Orbi" speech, Latin for "to the city and to the world" in which he raises alarm about world hotspots. But in a statement, the Vatican called the attacks a sign of "cruelty and absurd, blind hatred" that shows no respect for human life.

Elsewhere, Christmas was celebrated with the typical joy of the season: In Cuba, Catholics had plenty to cheer as they prepared for Benedict's March arrival, the first visit by a pontiff to the Communist-run island since John Paul II's historic tour nearly 14 years ago.

"We have faith in God that we will be allowed to have this treat," said Rogelio Montes de Oca, 72, as he stood outside the Cathedral in Old Havana. "Not every country will have the chance to see him physically and receive his blessing."

And in the Holy Land, pilgrims and locals alike flocked to Jesus' traditional birthplace in numbers not seen since before the Palestinian uprising over a decade ago, despite lashing rains and wind.

"We wanted to be part of the action," said Don Moore, 41, a psychology professor from Berkeley, California, who came to Bethlehem with his family. "This is the place, this is where it all started. It doesn't get any more special than that."

The holy town of Bethlehem is no stranger to violence. Like the rest of the West Bank, it fell on hard times after the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation broke out in late 2000.

But as the violence has subsided, tourists have returned in large numbers. On Saturday, turnout for Christmas Eve festivities in Bethlehem was at its highest since the uprising began



Benedict XVI

driving tourists away. An estimated 100,000 visitors streamed into Manger Square on Christmas Eve, up from 70,000 the previous year, according to the Israeli military's count.

The Holy Land and the entire Mideast were very much on Benedict's mind as he delivered his Christmas speech from the sun-drenched loggia of St. Peter's Basilica. The 84-year-old pontiff appeared in fine form, just hours after celebrating a two-hour long Christmas Eve Mass that ended around midnight.

"May the Lord come to the aid of our world torn by so many conflicts which even today stain the earth with blood," Benedict said.

He said he hoped that the birth of Jesus, which Christmas celebrates, would send a message to all who need to be saved from hardships: that Israelis and the Palestinians would resume peace talks and that there would be an "end to the violence in Syria, where so much blood has already been shed."

He called for international assistance for refugees from the Horn of Africa and flood victims in Thailand, among others, and urged greater political dialogue in Myanmar, and stability in Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa's Great Lakes region, which includes Congo, Uganda and Rwanda.

Russian Activist Held; Tensions Rise



Participants in a large protest rally in downtown Moscow, Russia, carry pictures of jailed tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky and portraits of late leaders Moammar Kadafi and Kim Jong Il next to a picture of fantasy movie character that is supposed to bear a likeness to Premier Vladimir Putin Saturday.

SERGEI L. LOIKO/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

MOSCOW (AP) — A prominent Russian opposition activist had barely half an hour of freedom Sunday before being sentenced to 10 more days in jail — making it the 14th time this year he's been detained.

The decision by a Moscow court late Sunday to find Left Front leader Sergei Udaltsov guilty of a charge of resisting police came a day after Russia witnessed the largest protest rally in its post-Soviet history. As demonstrators vented frustration Saturday with the scandal-marred parliamentary election of Dec. 4 that left Vladimir Putin's United Russia party in control, many prominent figures called for Udaltsov's release.

How the Kremlin chooses to deal with Udaltsov could prove a litmus test for how it approaches the opposition in the coming days. During Putin's decade-plus long tenure as president and prime minister, opposition activists have faced numerous crackdowns, but their cause appears to have been boosted by allegations of fraud during the recent election.

The Left Front leader was due to be released Sunday from a hospital, where he was being treated as he served the final days of his previous sentence. Udaltsov, who had been held since election day on claims of staging an unsanctioned rally, had spent much of the month on a hunger strike.

Found guilty of resisting police, Udaltsov was escorted back to the hospital Sunday night after he felt unwell in court.

"He was so stressed out that he fell ill," Udaltsov's lawyer, Nikolay Polozov, said.

Prominent opposition leaders came to the court to support Udaltsov. Many have referred to his constant detentions as political harassment. The Left Front leader has spent at least 50 days in jail this year.

The court on Sunday found that Udaltsov resisted police on Oct. 24 while being detained outside the Central Election Committee's building.

A video of his detention, filmed by the Associated Press Television, shows the activist arrive on a bicycle and later talk to reporters.

Udaltsov was telling the press that he had come out to the election committee's headquarters to stage a one-man picket, which requires no sanction from authorities. Shortly afterwards, police came and took Udaltsov away. Udaltsov did not appear to be putting resistance.

OBITUARIES

Leland 'Buzz' Mann

Leland "Buzz" Mann, age 83 of Yankton, SD passed away on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 in Sioux Falls, following a brief illness.

Memorial services will be at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 28th, 2011 at the United Church of Christ in Yankton with military rites by the Ernest Bowyer VFW Post #791, Yankton and the SDARNG, Sioux Falls. A private burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery, Yankton prior to the memorial service with family in attendance.

Visitations will be from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory in Yankton, with the family present and a 7 p.m. prayer service followed by a Masonic Lodge Service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Buzz was born in Springfield, SD to Frank and Bernice (Curl) Mann on October 7th, 1928. Buzz attended school in Tyndall and Springfield, graduating from Springfield High School. Buzz went on to graduate from Southern State College followed by 34



Mann

years of service with IBM, taking a brief break from 1965 to 1967 when he returned to Springfield to open Mann's Market.

Buzz and Peggy (Leyden) were united in

marriage on August 19, 1989 in Yankton, SD. They moved to New Braunfels, TX returning to Yankton in 2006.

Buzz was active in every community he resided in over the years and Yankton has been no exception. Buzz has been an active member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry as a 32 degree Life Member, Eastern Star, Grand Lodge Order of Elks, American Legion, Community Forum, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Loyal Order of Moose and is a lifetime member of the Shriners International. His most recent endeavor has been as President of the Board of Directors of The Center. Buzz and Peggy also assisted with the meals on wheels delivering meals to local residents.

Survivors include his wife Margaret (Leyden) Mann, daughter Kristine (Thomas)

Lawler of Algonquin, IL, son Michael (Traci) Mann of Waunakee, WI, stepson Greg (Annette) Bame of Marion, OH, stepdaughter Marsha (Carl) Schaefer of Camp Verde, AZ, step daughter in law Lori Bame of Yankton, SD, granddaughters Alexandria Mann, Morgan Mann and Maggie Lawler. Step-grandchildren Tyler Bame, Jeff (Christina) Bame, Aaron (Tarra) Bame, Emily (Todd) Kraft, Erica (Charlie) West, Chris (Kim) Schaefer and twelve great step-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by an infant son, both parents, his sister Kay Stahlecker, brother William Mann and stepson Gary Bame.

Memorials may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children. Forms and envelopes will be available through Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home or online at donate2shc.org, see Shriners Hospitals for Children: How you can help, click on Ways to Give.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
 December 26, 2011



Online condolences at:
 www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

HONORING THEIR MEMORY
Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Steve L. Raab
 who passed away on
 December 29, 1991

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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Hackers Strike At U.S. Security Think Tank

LONDON (AP) — The loose-knit hacking movement "Anonymous" claimed Sunday to have stolen thousands of credit card numbers and other personal information belonging to clients of U.S.-based security think tank Stratfor. One hacker said the goal was to pilfer funds from individuals' accounts to give away as Christmas donations, and some victims confirmed unauthorized transactions linked to their credit cards.

Anonymous boasted of stealing Stratfor's confidential client list, which includes entities ranging from Apple Inc. to the U.S. Air Force to the Miami Police Department, and mining it for more than 4,000 credit card numbers, passwords and home addresses.

Austin, Texas-based Stratfor provides political, economic and military analysis to help clients reduce risk, according to a description on its YouTube page. It charges subscribers for its reports and analysis, delivered through the web, emails and videos. The company's main website was down, with a banner saying the "site is currently undergoing maintenance."

Proprietary information about the companies and government agencies that subscribe to Stratfor's newsletters did not appear to be at any significant risk, however, with the main threat posed to individual employees who had subscribed.

"Not so private and secret anymore?" Anonymous taunted in a message on Twitter, promising that the attack on Stratfor was just the beginning of a Christmas-inspired assault on a long list of targets.

Anonymous said the client list it had already posted was a small slice of the 200 gigabytes worth of plunder it stole from Stratfor and promised more leaks. It said it was able to get the credit card details in part because Stratfor didn't bother encrypting them — an easy-to-avoid blunder which, if true, would be a major embarrassment for any security-related company.

NKorea Calls Heir Head Of Key Committee

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea's main state newspaper is calling Kim Jong Il's heir the head of the ruling Workers' Party Central Committee.

The reference means Kim Jong Un will control one of the country's highest decision-making bodies as he prepare to take power following his father's death more than a week ago.

The North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary Monday that North Korean soldiers are upholding a slogan urging them to dedicate their lives to protect the committee headed by Kim Jong Un.

The slogan signals that Kim is expected to be appointed as the party's general secretary.

North Korea's state media has already started calling the son the supreme commander of the People's Army.

Police Find 7 Dead In Dallas-Area Apartment

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP) — Seven people who police believe to be related were found shot to death in a Dallas-area apartment on Christmas Day, and authorities said Sunday they believe the shooter is among the dead.

Four women and three men, aged 18 to 60, were found in an adjoining kitchen and living room area when police entered the apartment around midday, said Grapevine Police Sgt. Robert Eberling. Two handguns were found near the bodies in the apartment that was decorated for the holiday with a tree, he added.

"It appears to be they're all related. It appears all the victims are deceased from gunshot wounds," Eberling said.

The victims have not yet been identified, but Eberling said it appears they all died of gunshot wounds. He said authorities still don't know what sparked the incident.

"We are pretty confident that the shooter is among the deceased victims inside the apartment. We are not actively looking for a shooter that we believe is at large," he added.

USDA Reverses Decision To Cut Ag Reports

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department is reinstating several reports that it had targeted for elimination two months ago in a cost-cutting move.

The department says that it will reinstate reports for industries such as catfish and trout, hops, fruits and vegetables, and bees and honey.

In October, the USDA had said that eliminating or reducing the frequency of 14 crop and livestock reports would save about \$10 million.

But some farmers complained that without the reports, they would be left guessing how much to produce and when to sell.

The reports influence the price and supply of many products that people wind up consuming.

The USDA said this month that several improvements to its operations have allowed the department to find money to reinstate several key reports.

People Suing Over 9/11 Claims Face Choice

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 1,600 people who filed lawsuits claiming that their health was ruined by dust and smoke from the collapsed World Trade Center must decide by Jan. 2 whether to keep fighting in court, or drop the litigation and apply for benefits from a government compensation fund.

For some, the choice is fraught with risk.

Federal lawmakers set aside \$2.76 billion last winter for people who developed illnesses after spending time in the ash-choked disaster zone.

But to be considered for a share of the aid, all potential applicants must dismiss any pending lawsuits by the deadline and give up their right to sue forever over 9/11 health problems. Anyone with a lawsuit still pending on Jan. 3 is barred from the program for life.

Mom's Funeral Was Meaningful To Us, Which Was Just What She Wanted.

"From her favorite songs to her special prayers and the clergyman whom she respected, Mom's funeral was an important way for our family to share just how wonderful she was. It was a meaningful tribute that celebrated her life and the things she loved. Arranging many of the details ahead of time with Mom and the Wintz's helped make sure of that. When Mom died, the Wintz family took care of everything, providing us with comfort and peace of mind. Together, we created a meaningful funeral that was just the way Mom wanted it.

We know the value of creating a meaningful funeral service. Please contact us for more information.

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