ACLU: Emails Support Claims On Arizona Law

PHOENIX (AP) — Opponents of Arizona's hardline immigration enforcement law contend that emails sent, received and forwarded by a former legislator who championed the law support allegations it was racially motivated.

Dozens of emails are cited in a new legal effort by the American Civil Liberties Union and other civil rights groups to block police from enforcing the Arizona law's so-called "show me your papers" provision recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The groups said the emails and other material reveal that ex-Sen. Russell Pearce and other supporters of the law known as SB1070 embraced discriminatory views and bent the truth about immigration-related matters, setting the stage for enactment of a law that the groups contend will lead to racial profiling if enforced.

Russell is the architect of Arizona's immigration law. The use of the emails in the court filing later Tuesday was reported Friday by *The Arizona Republic*.

George W. Bush Skipping GOP Convention

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President George W. Bush is skipping the Republican National Convention next month in Tampa, Fla., where presumptive GOP nominee Mitt Romney will officially become the party's standard-bearer.

"President Bush was grateful for the invitation," his spokesman, Freddy Ford, said Friday in an email. He added that the 43rd president "is confident that Mitt Romney will be a great president. But he's still enjoying his time off the political stage and respectfully declined the invitation to go to Tampa."

Bush's presence at the convention could undercut Romney's argument that he knows better than President Barack Obama when it comes to improving the wobbly economy. A CBS News/New York Times poll this month found more voters say Bush deserves the bulk of the blame for the nation's economic downturn than think Obama bears a lot of the responsibility. Almost two-thirds of voters think Romney's economic policies would mirror Bush's at least

Bush was deeply unpopular when he left office in 2009 amid the nation's worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. He has largely stayed out of politics since returning to Texas with his wife.

In a recent interview with the Hoover Institution's Peter Robinson, Bush left little doubt that he prefers to observe the oftenmessy process.

Boy With Tumor Crosses Border For Treatment

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A 9-year-old boy with a massive tumor was whisked from a dangerous neighborhood in Mexico in an armored vehicle by U.S. agents and taken across the border for treatment in New Mexico, his family said.

The boy and his parents were snatched Thursday from the gang-infested neighborhood in Ciudad Juarez — one of the deadliest cities in the world — after members of a New Mexico Baptist church saw him near an orphanage and sought help.

The parents of the child, identified by officials only as Jose to protect his family, said the tumor on his shoulder and neck has grown so large that it affects his eyesight and could move into his

With no money for medical care, the family sought treatment in Juarez and El Paso, but did not receive any help removing the tumor, which has afflicted Jose since birth.

Si Budagher, pastor of First Baptist Church of Rio Rancho, N.M., said church members spotted the boy while doing missionary work and felt compelled to help him.

Ready Or Not: Olympic Flame Arrives In London

LONDON (AP) — With the flame comes the games. After years of preparation and months of buildup, London's Olympic moment finally arrived Friday night.

Royal Marine Martyn Williams carried the Olympic torch as he rappelled down from a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter into the Tower of London on the shore of the River Thames. The commando's grand entrance plunged the symbol of the games into the city's historic heart, bringing Olympic pageantry to the British capital that last held the event in 1948.

Crowds lined the city's famed river banks to see the torch arrive, while Yeoman warders — the ceremonial Tower guards popularly known as Beefeaters — looked on from inside the landmark's

For Londoners, the arrival of the torch ignites a time of excitement — as well as four weeks of extreme crowds and transport

Unemployment Rates Rose In 27 States In June

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unemployment rates rose in 27 U.S. states last month, the most in almost a year and a reflection of weaker hiring nationwide.

The Labor Department says unemployment rates fell in 11 states and Washington, D.C. — the fewest since August, Rates were unchanged in 12 states.

Nationwide, employers added only 80,000 jobs last month, the third straight month of weak job growth. The national unemployment rate stayed at 8.2 percent.

Still, 29 states added jobs in June, up from 27 in May. Unemployment rates can rise even if more jobs are created if more of those out of work start looking for work. The number of Americans searching for jobs nationwide increased last month.

Nevada recorded the highest unemployment rate, at 11.6 percent, followed by Rhode Island, with 10.9 percent.

Monday, July 23

7:40 am Interim Yankton City

Manager (Al Viereck) 8:15 am Flower, Veg Show (Betts Pulkrabek) Tuesday, July 24 7:40 am The Center

(Christy Hauer)

8:15 am Vermillion Make-A-Wish (Neal Bendesky)

8:45 am Dakota Territorial Museum (Crystal Nelson)

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Syria

Thousands Flee As Rebels Wage Guerrilla War

BY BEN HUBBARD Associated Press

BEIRUT — Rebels pressed their guerrilla fight to topple Syria's

regime deeper into the capital on Friday, ambushing troops and attacking police stations as thousands of terrified civilians fled to Lebanon and Iraq to escape some of the worst violence of the 16month conflict.

The two-day death toll was more than 470 people, marking some of the deadliest of the

The U.N. refugee agency said between 8,500 and 30,000 Syrians had entered Lebanon in the past 48 hours, and thousands of Iraqis have also returned home, a bitter trip for many who fled to Syria from their own country's civil war.

In Damascus, Syrian forces recaptured one battle-scarred neighborhood and proudly showed reporters the dead bodies of rebel fighters lying in rubble-strewn streets.

But rebels said they withdrew to expand their guerrilla war, pointing to the difficulty both sides will have in achieving victory in Damascus, the central bastion of President Bashar Assad's rule.

Fighting has flared across Syria this week, as battles have ravaged Damascus neighborhoods, death tolls have skyrocketed, border crossings have fallen to rebel fighters and a rebel bomb attack killed top members of Assad's regime.



After striking the government flag, a rebel fighter raises the three-starred revolutionary flag over a captured government position in Al Tal, Syria,

Assad's national security chief, Gen. Hisham Ikhtiyar, died Friday from wounds sustained in the bombing Wednesday that killed three others, including the defense minister and Assad's brother-inlaw. All were key to the government's efforts to stamp out the insurgency.

July 19, 2012.

The fighting has shattered parts of Damascus, with rebels attacking at least two police stations and government troops pounding rebel districts with mortars, machine-guns and attack helicopters.

The clashes echoed those seen elsewhere in Syria, with lightly armed, disorganized rebels avoiding direct battles with betterequipped government troops while launching ambushes on their convoys and checkpoints.

The regime, for its part, has deployed overwhelming firepower, shelling from afar and sending attack helicopters that rebel weapons can't reach.

We often make tactical retreats so that there is no face-to-face confrontation," a rebel named Mohammed from the Eagles of Damascus brigade said via Skype. "It's like gang warfare. We pull out so we can hit in a different place or plan an attack on a regime checkpoint."

Like most rebels, his group has only assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, but lacks longrange weapons, leaving them helpless against government

shelling and helicopter strikes. They also lack ammunition.

"If we had all the ammunition we needed, we would have liberated the capital in two days," he said, asking that his full name not be published for fear of government reprisals.

This dynamic defined the battle for Midan, a south Damascus neighborhood that regime forces retook Friday after days of intense

During a government tour of the area, an Associated Press reporter saw dozens of torched or damaged cars in streets lined with shattered shop fronts.

The dead bodies of six young men lay in the street. One appeared to have been shot in the chest. Others were bearded and

Syrian state TV trumpeted the government's taking of the neighborhood.

Our heroic forces have completely cleansed the Midan area of the terrorist mercenaries," it said, using government shorthand for the rebels. It said the forces had seized lots of weapons, including machine-guns, explosive belts and rocket-propelled grenades.

But indicating that the capital remains unsafe, the journalists rode in two armored vehicles.

Colo. Movie Theater Rampage Shakes Up Campaign

BY KEN THOMAS

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The deadly shooting spree in Colorado consumed the presidential campaign Friday, sidetracking a bitter political contest with a tragedy that at least temporarily brought the candidates together in common purpose.

'There are going to be other days for politics," a somber President Barack Obama said.

The president and likely Republican challenger Mitt Romney rushed not only to respond to the killings but to distance themselves from a campaign that has become increasingly petty and bitter. Obama limited his campaign appearance in Fort Myers to remarks of less than eight minutes, devoted exclusively to the

tragedy.
"It reminds us of all the ways that we are united as one American family," he said. He paused at prayer that lasted 20 seconds. A

baby's cries pierced the silence. Romney embraced the same sentiment of unity in Bow, N.H., where he had been scheduled to campaign.

"We'll all spend a little less time thinking about the worries of our day and more time wondering about how to help those who are in need of compassion most," he said in brief remarks to a subdued audience. "The answer is that we can come together. We will show our fellow citizens the good heart of the America we know and love.

Obama canceled a second appearance scheduled near Orlando, Fla., and was returning to Washington. Romney, too, can-

celed some media interviews. Both candidates moved to pull all their political ads airing in Colorado, and they cancelled appearances by their surrogates on the Sunday morning television talk shows.

Obama was notified at dawn at his hotel near West Palm Beach, Fla., by his counterterrorism adviser, John Brennan. The White House said there was no apparent connection to terrorism.

Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and top White House aides were to receive a briefing on the investigation from Brennan and FBI Director Robert Mueller in the Oval Office Friday afternoon, upon Obama's return from Florida.

"Our time here is limited, and it is precious," Obama told supporters in Fort Myers. "What matters at the end of the day is not the small things. It's not the trivial things which consume us it's how we choose to treat one another, and how we love one another. It's what we do on a daily basis to give our lives meaning

and to give our lives purpose." Romney said he joined the president and first lady in extending condolences "for those whose lives were shattered in a few moments, a few moments of evil in Colorado."

"I stand before you today not as a man running for office, but as a father and a grandfather, a husband, an American," he added. "This is a time for each of us to look into our hearts and remember how much we love one another and how much we love, and how much we care for our great country. There's so much

love and goodness in the heart of America.

For Romney, the tragedy was a moment to express himself as a national consoler, a sad and grim task every president in recent decades has had to play.

"Today we feel not only a

sense of grief but perhaps also of helplessness," he said. "But there is something we can do. We can offer comfort to someone near us who is suffering or heavy laden. And we can mourn with those who mourn in Colorado.'

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