

Pope Offers Hope To Slum Residents

BY NICOLE WINFIELD, MARCO SIBAIA
AND JENNY BARCHFIELD

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Pope Francis, dubbed the “slum pope” for his work with the poor, received a rapturous welcome Thursday from one of Rio’s most violent shantytowns and demanded the world’s wealthy end the injustices that have left the poor on the margins of society. He received an even more frenzied welcome as he opened World Youth Day in a far different setting: Rio’s upscale Copacabana Beach.

Amid the stench of raw sewage and the shrieks of residents, Francis made his way through the Varginha shantytown, part of a region so violent it’s known as the Gaza Strip. The 76-year-old Argentine seemed entirely at home, wading into the cheering crowds, kissing residents young and old and telling them the Roman Catholic Church was on their side.

It was a message aimed at reversing the decline in the numbers of Catholics in most of Latin America, with many poor worshippers leaving the church for Pentecostal and evangelical congrega-



Pope Francis

tions. Those churches have taken up a huge presence in favelas, or shantytowns such as Varginha, attracting souls with nuts-and-bolts advice on how to improve their lives.

“No one can remain insensitive to the inequalities that persist in the world!” Francis told a crowd of thousands who braved a cold rain and stood in a muddy soccer field to welcome him. “No amount of peace-building will be able to last, nor will harmony and happiness be attained in a society that ignores, pushes to the margins or excludes a part of itself.”

Francis’ open-air car was mobbed on a few occasions as he headed into Varginha’s heavily policed, shack-lined streets, but he never seemed in danger. He was showered with gifts as he walked down one of the slum’s main drags without an umbrella to shield him from the rain. A well-wisher gave him a paper lei to hang around his neck and he held up another offering — a scarf from his favorite soccer team, Buenos Aires’ San Lorenzo.

“Events like this, with the pope and all the local media, get everyone so excited,” said Antonieta de Souza Costa, a 56-year-old vendor and resident of Varginha. “I think this visit is going to bring people back to the Catholic Church.”

It was one of the highlights of Francis’ weeklong trip to Brazil, his first as pope and one seemingly tailor-made for the first pontiff from the Americas. Later Thursday, he traveled in an open-sided popemobile through a massive crowd in the pouring rain to a welcoming ceremony on Copacabana beach. His arrival helped open World Youth Day and was his first official event with the hundreds of thousands of young people who have flocked to a rain-soaked Rio for the Catholic festival.

Cheering pilgrims from 175 nations lined the beachfront drive to catch a glimpse of Francis, with many jogging along with the vehicle behind police barricades. The car stopped several times for Francis to kiss babies — and take a sip of his beloved mate, the traditional Argentine tea served in a gourd with a straw, that was handed up to him by someone in the crowd.

Afghan Insurgents Find New Opening For IED Attacks

BY ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON — The shrinking U.S. combat role in Afghanistan has given insurgents an opening to devise and carry out deadlier attacks using bigger improvised bombs against U.S. and coalition military vehicles and bases, American officials say.

With fewer U.S. forces patrolling road networks beyond their bases — and with the grounding of eye-in-the-sky surveillance balloons known as aerostats — Taliban fighters are adapting their tactics, according to officials at a Pentagon agency that tracks attacks that use improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

“Insurgents are able to invest more time in preparing and staging an attack, and when we see an effective attack, it tends to be more lethal to our forces,” said Al Sweetser, chief of the operations analysis division at the Joint IED Defeat Organization, which has its own team of analysts on the ground in Afghanistan. So while the number of IED attacks against U.S. and coalition troops — as well as the total casualties they cause — has declined, certain attacks can be more elaborately planned, precisely targeted and more lethal because the insurgents have time and room to prepare, Sweetser and other American officials said.

The Pentagon has invested billions of dollars to develop gadgets, such as hand-held ground-penetrating radar systems, and techniques to find IEDs before they explode and to mitigate damage from those that can’t be stopped. The evolving struggle began a decade ago in Iraq with insurgent groups countering high-tech U.S. weapons with relatively cheap and surprisingly effective methods of killing and maiming. A hallmark of the insurgents’ use of IEDs in Afghanistan has been their ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

A recent IED strike near the southern provincial capital of Kandahar killed five American soldiers in an armored vehicle in one of the more deadly examples of how the Taliban have taken advantage of a changing military landscape.

Searching For Answers



OSCAR CORRAL/EFE VIA ZUMA PRESS/MCT
Emergency members attend to passengers injured in a train accident Wednesday that derailed near Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Spain

Probe Of Deadly Derailment Focuses On Train Speed

BY HERNAN MUNOZ

Associated Press

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, Spain — By all accounts, the train was going way too fast as it curled around a gentle bend. Then in an instant, one car tumbled off the track, followed by the rest of the locomotive, which seemed to come apart like a zipper being pulled.

The derailment sent pieces of the sleek train plowing across the ground in a ghastly jumble of smashed metal, dirt and smoke.

But a day after Spain suffered its deadliest rail disaster in decades — which killed 80 people and maimed scores of others — one question surpassed all others: Why was the train moving so fast?

Investigators opened a probe Thursday into possible failings by the 52-year-old driver and the train’s in-built speed-regulation systems.

Experts said one, or both, must be at fault for the disastrous Wednesday night crash of the train that was carrying 218 passengers and five crew members to Santiago de Compostela, a destination of Catholic pilgrimage preparing to celebrate its most revered saint.

Instead, this stunned city of nearly 100,000 converted its sports arena into a shelter for the dead and the grieving.

“All Spaniards feel the pain of the families,” said Spain’s head of state, King Juan Carlos, as he and Queen Sofia met hospitalized survivors of the crash 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) south of Santiago de Compostela. The royal couple dressed in funeral black.

“For a native of Santiago like me, this is the saddest day,” said Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, who toured the

Train derailment

More than 70 people were killed and more than 140 hurt after all eight carriages of a passenger train derailed in Spain.

Spain train crashes

Aug. 2006 Inter-city train derailed in Palencia province; six killed, dozens injured

July 2006 Metro train crash in Valencia; at least 43 killed

June 2003 Head-on train collision in Albacete province; at least 19 killed, 40 injured

March 2002 Two express trains collide in Catalonia; four killed, more than 80 injured

Source: ESNH, BBC

Graphic: Melina Yingling

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crash scene and declared a national three-day mourning period.

The regional government of Galicia, in northwest Spain, said 94 people remained hospitalized, with 31 of them in critical condition, including four children. The U.S. State Department said one American died and at least five others were hurt but cautioned that those figures could be revised upward.

Many victims suffered heavy burns as the train’s diesel fuel ignited a fire that caught many people trapped in mangled upside-down carriages. Emergency officials took DNA samples of those most heavily burned or unconscious in an effort to identify both the living and the dead.



Rafael Catala, a senior transport official in Spain’s Development Ministry, told radio network Cadena SER that the train appeared to be going much faster than the track’s maximum speed of 80 kph (50 mph) as it approached the city.

“Should this not have been observed, the testimony of the driver will help us identify the causes,” Catala said.

Stunning footage of the crash captured by a railway security camera showed the moment when the eight-carriage train approached a left bend beneath a road bridge at a seemingly impossible speed. An Associated Press analysis of the video indicated the train hit the bend going twice the speed limit or more.

Juror: George Zimmerman ‘Got Away With Murder’ In Martin Shooting

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The second juror to speak publicly told ABC News in an interview made available Thursday that she feels George Zimmerman got away with murder for fatally shooting Trayvon Martin, but that there wasn’t enough evidence at trial to convict him under Florida law.

Juror B29 told Robin Roberts that she favored convicting Zimmerman of second-degree murder when deliberations began by the six-member, all-women jury.

“I was the juror that was going to give them a hung jury,” she said. “I fought to the end.”

But by the second day of deliberating, she realized there wasn’t enough proof to convict the 29-year-old neighborhood watch volunteer of a crime.

“George Zimmerman got away with murder, but you can’t get away from God,” she said. “And at the end of the day, he’s going to have a lot of questions and answers he has to deal with.”

Officials: Bombings, Fake Roadblock Assault, Other Attacks Kill 42 In Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Emboldened militants in Iraq set up their own checkpoint to kill drivers and bombed crowded cafes Thursday in the deadliest of a series of attacks that killed at least 42 people, authorities said.

More than 550 people have been killed in violent attacks so far this month, according to an Associated Press count, as violence continues during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The speaker of Iraqi parliament even has acknowledged that insecurity in the nation likely will get worse after a massive al-Qaida-claimed prison break freed hundreds of inmates.

The deadliest attack Thursday happened when a bomb exploded inside a crowded cafe north of Baghdad, killing 16 diners and wounded 20 others.

Iraqi police said that the blast targeted Noufel cafe near the town of Muqdadiah, about 90 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad.

Ahmed Ibrahim, a government employee, was shopping near the targeted cafe when he heard a thunderous explosion.

U.S. Scales Down Drone Program In Pakistan, Tightens Targeting

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The United States has drastically scaled back the number of drone attacks against militants in Pakistan and limited strikes to high-value targets in response to growing criticism of the program in this country.

Those actions appear to have temporarily appeased Pakistan’s powerful generals, who publicly oppose the covert CIA strikes, U.S. officials said. But some officials are still worried about pushback from Pakistan’s new civilian leaders, who took power in June with a strong stance on ending the attacks altogether.

The future of the drone program is likely to be a key item on the agenda during U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry’s visit to Pakistan, which is expected soon.

Only 16 drone strikes have taken place in Pakistan so far this year, compared with a peak of 122 in 2010, 73 in 2011 and 48 in 2012, according to the New America Foundation, a U.S.-based think tank.

The CIA has been instructed to be more cautious with its attacks, limiting them to high-value targets and dropping the practice of so-called “signature strikes” — hitting larger groups of suspected militants based purely on their behavior, such as being armed and meeting with known militants, said a current U.S. intelligence official and a former intelligence official briefed on the drone program.

U.S. Says 4 Russians, 1 Ukrainian Hacked Corporations Over 7 Years

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Four Russian nationals and a Ukrainian have been charged with running a sophisticated hacking organization that penetrated computer networks of more than a dozen major American and international corporations over seven years, stealing and selling at least 160 million credit and debit card numbers, resulting in losses of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Indictments were announced Thursday in Newark, where U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman called the case the largest hacking and data breach scheme ever prosecuted in the United States.

Princeton-based Heartland Payment Systems Inc., which processes credit and debit cards for small to mid-sized businesses, was identified as taking the biggest hit in a scheme starting in 2007 — the theft of more than 130 million card numbers at a loss of about \$200 million.

Atlanta-based Global Payment Systems, another major payment processing company, had nearly 1 million card numbers stolen, with losses of nearly \$93 million, prosecutors said.

The indictment did not put a loss figure on the thefts at some other major corporations, including Commidea Ltd., a European provider of electronic payment processing for retailers. The government said hackers in 2008 covertly removed about 30 million card numbers from its computer network.

40th Anniversary Celebration



Mr. & Mrs. Steve Aune

Steve and Karen Aune will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on July 28, 2013.

Their family is requesting a card shower. Greetings may be sent to 30075 446th Ave., Volin, SD 57072.

Karen Suing and Steve Aune were married July 28, 1973 at St. Joseph’s Church in Constance, NE.

The couple has three children and four grandchildren: Chad (Callie) Aune and children: Keegan, Taylor and baby, all of Volin; Matt Aune (Julie Nowak) and dog Precious, of Yankton; and Renae Aune (Ryan Barta) and child Tyler, of Gayville.

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