

Panel Chair: Clinton Claim Inaccurate

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya on Wednesday released a March subpoena issued to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, one day after she said in a nationally televised interview that she “never had a subpoena” in the email controversy.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., chairman of the Benghazi panel, said he had “no choice” but to make the subpoena public “in order to correct the inaccuracy” of Clinton’s claim.

Clinton told CNN on Tuesday that she “never had a subpoena,” adding: “Everything I did was permitted by law and regulation.”

Gowdy said the committee issued the March 4 subpoena to Clinton personally after learning the full extent of her use of private emails while serving as secretary of state.

Regardless of whether a subpoena was issued, “Secretary Clinton had a statutory duty to preserve records from her entire time in office, and she had a legal duty to cooperate with and tell the truth to congressional investigators requesting her records going back to September of 2012,” Gowdy said in a statement.

Haram Asks Nigeria To Swap Detainees

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria’s Boko Haram extremists are offering to free more than 200 young women and girls kidnapped from a boarding school in the town of Chibok in exchange for the release of militant leaders held by the government, a human rights activist has told The Associated Press.

The activist said Boko Haram’s current offer is limited to the girls from the school in northeastern Nigeria whose mass abduction in April 2014 ignited worldwide outrage and a campaign to “Bring Back Our Girls” that stretched to the White House.

The new initiative reopens an offer made last year to the government of former President Goodluck Jonathan to release the 219 students in exchange for 16 Boko Haram detainees, the activist said. The man, who was involved in negotiations with Boko Haram last year and is close to current negotiators, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters on this sensitive issue.

Fred Eno, an apolitical Nigerian who has been negotiating with Boko Haram for more than a year, told the AP that “another window of opportunity opened” in the last few days, though he could not discuss details.

He said the recent slew of Boko Haram bloodletting — some 350 people killed in the past nine days — is consistent with past ratcheting up of violence as the militants seek a stronger negotiating position.

United Airlines Hit By Second Grounding

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of United Airlines flights were delayed Wednesday after the airline experienced computer problems for the second time in just over a month.

A White House spokesman said President Barack Obama was briefed on the glitch and that it appeared unrelated to an outage hours later at the New York Stock Exchange.

“There is no indication at this point either that there is malicious activity involved,” said the spokesman, Josh Earnest.

A United spokeswoman said that the glitch was caused by an internal technology issue and not an outside threat or hacker.

Spokeswoman Jennifer Dohm said that a router problem reduced “network connectivity” for several software applications. “We fixed the router issue, which is enabling us to restore normal functions,” she said around midday.

Bipartisan Framework Overhauls Taxes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators unveiled a bipartisan framework Wednesday aimed at making business taxes more competitive while generating much-needed funding to repair the nation’s roads and bridges.

Many of the details need to be worked out, and huge hurdles remain. But if successful, it would be the kind of bipartisan compromise on taxes that has long eluded Republicans and Democrats in Washington.

The plan focuses on the taxes U.S. firms pay on their foreign profits. It was written by Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio.

The framework would require U.S.-based corporations to pay a one-time tax on up to \$2 trillion in foreign profits that U.S. firms have parked overseas. The tax rate has not been determined, but it would be considerably less than the 35 percent corporate income tax rate currently in effect, according to the plan.

The tax would generate money for infrastructure improvements — how much would depend on the tax rate. Funding for highways is scheduled to run out at the end of the month.

Murder Defendant's History Is Common

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Long before he was arrested in the shooting death of a woman at one of San Francisco’s most popular tourist sites, Juan Francisco Lopez Sanchez was using the U.S.-Mexican border like a revolving door.

He was arrested while in the U.S. illegally and deported to his native Mexico five times from June 1994 to June 2009, only to slip back into the country within days, weeks or months. He served roughly 15 years in federal prison in three stints for illegal re-entry, completing his most recent stretch earlier this year.

But his habit of sneaking across the border over and over again is not all that uncommon. And probably no one outside law enforcement would have even paid much attention to Sanchez if not for what happened after he finished his latest stint behind bars.

Last week, he was arrested and accused of killing 32-year-old Kathryn Steinle as she strolled on a popular San Francisco pier with her father. It turned out that Sanchez, 45, was out on the streets because of San Francisco’s “sanctuary” policy of minimal cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

The slaying has brought heavy criticism down on the city from politicians of both parties and become the latest flash-point in the debate over how to deal with illegal immigration. On Wednesday, the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department said it requested that Lopez be brought to them to face a 20-year-old marijuana possession charge and paid for his transportation before releasing him.

Republican Suggests Surrender Flag

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The latest on the Confederate flag debate in the South

An amendment to replace the Confederate battle flag outside South Carolina’s Statehouse with a white flag of surrender has been defeated.

House lawmakers tabled the proposal by Rep. Christopher Corley, a Republican, who suggested replacing the Confederate battle flag with a white flag.

The plain white flag, Corley said, would be symbolic of state Republicans’ apparent surrender on the issue.

Greece Seeks 3-Year Aid, Rushes To Detail Reforms

BY ELENA BECATOROS
AND JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — With a deadline just hours away to come up with a detailed economic reform plan, Greece requested a new three-year rescue from its European partners Wednesday as signs grew its economy was sliding toward free-fall without an urgently needed bailout.

As its banking system teetered near the edge, the government extended bank closures into next week, while international creditors were in open disagreement over whether to award the country debt relief — with Germany at odds with the International Monetary Fund.

Without a deal, Greece faces an almost inevitable collapse of the banking system, which would be the first step for the country to fall out of the euro.

As Thursday’s deadline loomed, the government sought to reassure its European creditors that it would enact tax and pension reforms quickly in exchange for loans from Europe’s bailout fund, the European Stability Mechanism.

In a formal request that was filled with vague promises but short on details, the Greek government pledged to “immediately implement a set of measures as early as the beginning of next week” — but did not specify what these were.

After months of fruitless negotiations with the Greek government, the skeptical eurozone creditor states have said they want to see a detailed, cost-accounted plan of the reforms by Thursday. That is meant to give enough time to review the plan before all 28 leaders of the full European Union meet on Sunday in what has been termed as Greece’s last chance to stay in the euro.

But Greece’s major creditors were hardly in lock-step over what path to take in dealing with the struggling but defiant EU member nation.

IMF chief Christine Lagarde reiterated Wednesday that Greece’s massive debt would need restructuring, something that Germany — Greece’s largest European



CHRIS STOWERS/ZUMA PRESS/TNS

A bank employee at a branch of Eurobank in central Athens tries to calm the tempers of account holders having to queue and slowly, selectively be allowed inside the bank on Wednesday

lender — has resisted.

Speaking in Washington, Lagarde said Greece needed to continue cost-cutting reforms, but added: “The other leg is debt restructuring, which we believe is needed ... for debt sustainability.”

“It well may be that the numbers may have to be revisited, but our analysis has not changed,” she said of the need for granting Greece better repayment terms.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew added pressure on the European lenders, arguing debt relief was needed for a deal — and describing a Greek euro-exit as a “geopolitical mistake.”

“I don’t think any prime minister of Greece could sell all the additional fiscal measures, plus the structural reforms that are needed without some sense of what the debt sustainability looks like,” he said in Washington.

Earlier Wednesday, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said his country was seeking a deal that would bring a definitive end to his country’s financial crisis. Greece has had two bailouts from its European partners and the International Monetary Fund since May 2010, totaling 240 billion euros (\$260 billion).

“We need to ensure the medium-term funding of our country with a development and growth program,” Tsipras told lawmakers at the European Parliament in

Strasbourg, France.

Applause rose from left-wing lawmakers in the turbulent chamber when Tsipras said aid to Greece has only helped banks, not ordinary Greeks, as some held up “No” signs to back Greek voters’ rejection of more austerity.

Tsipras insisted he has “no hidden agenda” to drive Greece out of the euro and that last Sunday’s referendum in which Greeks roundly rejected more belt-tightening reforms does not mean a break with Europe.

The head of a conservative group in the parliament, Belgium’s Guy Verhofstadt, said he was “furious” at Tsipras’ failure to spell out specifics of his reform plans.

Tsipras said Greece’s troubles predated his arrival in office in January and condemned the “austerity experiment” his country has endured over the past five years that he blames for spiraling unemployment and poverty.

“We demand an agreement with our neighbors, but one that gives us a sign that we are on a long-lasting basis exiting from the crisis — which will demonstrate to us that there is light at the end of the tunnel,” he said.

Tsipras vowed to continue reforms, but warned of the austerity-weariness of the Greek public. “This has exhausted the patience

and resilience of the Greek people,” he said.

In Greece, meanwhile, people already struggling with eight days of shuttered banks and limits on money withdrawals learned the finance ministry was extending the closures until next Monday. Greeks cannot take out more than 60 euros (\$67) a day from ATMs and are unable to send money abroad, including to pay bills or to stock their businesses, without special permission.

The head of France’s central bank said he feared the “collapse” of the Greek economy and “chaos” if Greece doesn’t strike a deal by Sunday.

In unusually strong language, Christian Noyer told Europe-1 radio he predicted “riots” in Greece if no deal is reached. He also indicated the European Central Bank would effectively pull the plug on its emergency liquidity measures for Greek banks if no deal is struck.

Highlighting the rising anger with Tsipras, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker had a stark warning for Greece after Tuesday’s eurozone summit.

“We have a Grexit scenario, prepared in detail,” he said, apparently referring to the situation in which Greece would be forced out of the currency union.

Dad Throws Baby Off Bridge, Then Jumps

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (AP) — A man whose infant son was found dead in the Connecticut River admitted tossing the boy from a bridge before jumping into the water below, police said Wednesday.

Tony Moreno was charged with murder in the death of 7-month-old Aaden Moreno.

Moreno exchanged angry text messages with the infant’s increasingly frantic mother in the minutes before he jumped Sunday near midnight, according to court filings. “Enjoy your new life without us,” Moreno wrote before texting, “He’s dead.”

Moreno, 21, was arraigned at Hartford Hospital, where he was treated after firefighters rescued him. His bail was set at \$2 million. Moreno’s public defender did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Police went to the Arri-goni Bridge in Middletown on Sunday night after Moreno’s mother called 911 to report that her son had called her from the bridge with his son

and said he was going to jump. After officers arrived, they saw Moreno jump and found an empty baby stroller, but did not see the infant.

The body of Aaden Moreno was found Tuesday night near a bridge in East Haddam, south of where his father jumped, after an extensive search involving dive teams and helicopters.

Police said Moreno confessed on Monday after initially refusing to speak with a detective. But after the officer said police needed help finding the boy to give him a proper funeral, Moreno nodded yes when asked if he had dropped his son and started to cry, according to police documents.

The officer said he used a basketball analogy to ask how far the boy was thrown from the bridge’s railing.

“Tony said that it was more like a free throw distance from the railing,” the officer said.

The boy’s mother, Adri- anne Oyola, 19, filed for a

restraining order last month against Moreno amid a bitter custody dispute. She said in the application that Moreno “has told me he could make my son disappear any time of the day. He told me how he could me disappear.”

Superior Court Judge Barry Pinkus denied the request for a permanent restraining order, saying at a hearing on June 29 that the couple had a chaotic relationship but he was not convinced there was a “continuous threat” of physical injury.

Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III said he would not comment directly on Pinkus’ ruling but noted it reflects the difficult decisions that judges must make each day. He said even with a

thorough assessment of the evidence, “it is impossible for judges to predict the future with certainty.”

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and other officials attended a community vigil for the baby in Middletown on Wednesday night. People lit candles outside the South Green gazebo, and left stuffed animals and balloons.

The *Middletown Press* reports that Aaden’s aunt read a letter prepared by his mother which said, “I lost my son, but I gained a guardian angel.”

Mayor Daniel Drew told the gathering at South Congrega- tional Church, “It’s beyond our ability to express the magnitude of this loss or even to understand it.”

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