

Obama, African Host At Odds On Gay Rights

BY JULIE PACE
AP White House Correspondent

DAKAR, Senegal — Laying bare a clash of cultures, President Barack Obama on Thursday urged African leaders to extend equal rights to gays and lesbians but was bluntly rebuked by Senegal's president, who said his country "still isn't ready" to decriminalize homosexuality.

Obama opened his weeklong trip to Africa one day after the U.S. Supreme Court expanded federal benefits for married gay couples. In his first in-person comments on the ruling, Obama said the court's decision marked a "proud day for America." He pressed for similar recognition for gays in Africa, wading into a sensitive area in a region where dozens of countries outlaw homosexuality and a few punish violations with death.

"When it comes to how the state treats people, how the law treats people, I believe that everybody has to be treated equally," Obama said during a news conference with Senegalese President Macky Sall at the grand presidential palace in Dakar.



Obama

But Sall gave no ground. Senegal is "very tolerant," he assured Obama, but is "still not ready to decriminalize homosexuality." Sall said countries make decisions on complex issues in their own time, noting that Senegal has outlawed capital punishment while other countries have not — a pointed jab at the U.S., where the death penalty is legal in many states.

Obama's trip, which also includes stops in South Africa and Tanzania, marks the most extensive visit to Africa by the first black U.S. president since he took office. Many Africans have expressed disappointment over Obama's lack of direct engagement with affairs on their continent — particularly given that his father was Kenyan and he has many relatives living in Africa — yet he was still enthusiastically welcomed.

Thousands of people gathered on the roadways near the presidential palace as Obama's motorcade sped through the coastal city, many in the crowds wearing white to symbolize peace. Some waved homemade signs welcoming Obama,

while those gathered near the palace entrance sang and played drums, the rhythmic beats audible from inside the gates.

At Goree Island, the former slave trading post Obama visited later Thursday, local residents waited under scorching sun for hours to catch a glimpse of the president. They sang a song about his return to his ancestral homeland and broke into jubilant cheers as Obama and first lady Michelle Obama walked over to shake hands.

Looming over the festive atmosphere were concerns over former South African leader Nelson Mandela. Obama is due to arrive in South Africa on Friday, though Mandela's precarious condition adds some uncertainty to the agenda.

Obama spoke reverently about the impact that Mandela's struggle against apartheid had on his own activism, as well as about the 94-year-old's influence in Africa and around the world.

"If and when he passes from this place, one thing I think we'll all know is that his legacy is one that will linger on throughout the ages," said Obama, who has sometimes been linked to Mandela given their shared status as their nations' first black presidents.

Friend: Martin Encounter Racially Charged

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER
AND KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

SANFORD, Fla. — George Zimmerman's defense attorney insisted during several testy exchanges with an important prosecution witness Thursday that Trayvon Martin injected race into a confrontation with the neighborhood watch volunteer and insinuated the young woman was not believable because of inconsistencies in her story.

However, 19-year-old Rachel Jeantel stood firm in her testimony about the night Zimmerman shot the unarmed black 17-year-old after a fight that Jeantel said she overheard while on the phone with Martin. Jeantel has said Martin told her he was being followed by a "creepy-ass cracker" — implying Martin was being followed by a white man because of his race.

Zimmerman identifies as Hispanic. Race has permeated nationwide discussions of the case since the February 2012 shooting, which prompted nationwide protests and claims from critics that police took too long to arrest Zimmerman.

The neighborhood watch volunteer has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and says he acted in self-defense.

Defense attorney Don West also zeroed in on slight differences among three different accounts of what happened before Martin's killing, in an apparent effort to discredit her. Jeantel has described what she heard over the phone in a deposition; a letter to Martin's mother; and an interview with the Martin family attorney. Among the differences highlighted by West:

— In some accounts, she said race was an issue but not in others.

— Jeantel testified Wednesday that her friend's last words were "Get off! Get off!" before Martin's phone went silent. But on Thursday, under cross-examination, she conceded that she hadn't mentioned that in her account of what happened to Martin's mother, Sybrina Fulton. She had left out some details to spare Fulton's feelings, and also because neither Fulton nor the Martin family attorney asked her directly about them, Jeantel said.

— After Martin asks why he is being followed, Zimmerman responds, "What are you doing around here?" in one account by Jeantel. In another account, according to West, she says Zimmerman said, "What are you talking about?"

Zimmerman, 29, could get life in prison if convicted of second-degree murder.



JACOB LANGSTON/ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT
Defense attorney Don West questions witness Rachel Jeantel during George Zimmerman's trial in Seminole circuit court in Sanford, Florida, Thursday, June 27, 2013. Zimmerman has been charged with second-degree murder for the 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

OBITUARIES

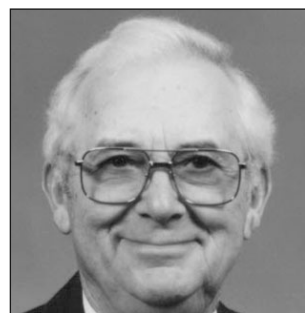
Victor Maag

Funeral services for Victor J. Maag, 90, of Tripp will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2013 at the Emmaus Lutheran Church in Tripp with Rev. C. Brian Bucklew officiating. Organist is Delilah Hahn. Interment will follow in Gracehill Cemetery, Tripp. Honorary casketbearers are Victor's grandchildren & great-grandchildren and active casketbearers are Bob Just, Don Maag, Glen Maag, David Mogck, Melvin Muntefering, and Jared Sedlacek.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Victor Johannes Maag was born April 21, 1923 in Tripp, and passed on June 24, 2013 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Victor was married to Ruby Stella (Ehresmann) Maag on October 12, 1947 at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Tripp. Victor is survived by



Victor Maag

children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, consisting of: Bob (Robert J.) Maag, Huron, and his sons: Cole Maag of Huron and Nick Maag of Littleton, Colorado; Larry C. Maag of Tripp and his daughter, Sarah Maag of Sioux Falls; M.J. Knobe (Mary Jane Maag) of Sioux Falls and her daughter, Jennifer Jensen and his great-granddaughter, Mackenzie of Oklahoma City, OK; Daniel L. Maag, his wife Lori (Meade) and their son, Matthew Maag of Lakewood, CO.

Victor is preceded in death by his wife, Ruby, his parents, Karl J. (Charlie) and Lydia Maag (Anhorn), and his brothers and sisters.

Victor grew up on the family farm southwest of Tripp and briefly attended South Dakota State University. He and Ruby made their family's home four miles south and one east of Tripp, farming his entire life. He made a continuous effort to improve the genetics of his cattle herd over the years and enjoyed those efforts very much.

Victor's joy was founded in his children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors, while serving his community on various boards and organizations. Victor was a member and served Emmaus Lutheran Church in Tripp, assisting both young and old while serving in a variety of positions.

Victor exhibited wonderful leadership skills and allowed those around him to

express their own ideas and explore their potential. Victor maintained his subtle wit and unforgettable laugh throughout his lifetime, which endeared him to those around him. Victor's children recognized their freedom to grow and would often require Victor's patience, understanding and guidance. Victor will be missed by family and friends alike. A good man, a good friend, and a wonderful father.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
June 28, 2013

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www.goglinfh.com

Phyllis Turgeon (Erickson)

Phyllis Lorraine Turgeon (Erickson), 86, of Thornton, CO passed away, in her sleep, on April 12, 2013.

Graveside Services will be held on Friday, July 5th, 2013, at 11 a.m., at Walshtown Zion Evangelical Cemetery, rural Mission Hill.

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton is in care of the arrangements.

She was born in Crofton, NE on December 9, 1926 to Lewis Roosevelt Erickson and Mary Frances Kaiser. Phyllis was recognized for her enthusiasm for writing letters, helping others and working in the cafeteria and restaurant industries. Phyllis was last known as "the senior helping other seniors".

Phyllis is survived by one sibling, Clifford Erickson; ex-husband and companion, Theodore (Stub) Turgeon; 7 children: Marcia Cardona of NY, Patricia Guillen of CO, Thomas



Erickson

and Randy Evenson (Danette) of SD; 5 step-children: Mike Turgeon, Becky Sandoval (Jorge), Mark Turgeon (Shirley), Wendy Turgeon (John) and Lori Turgeon; 16 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

Phyllis is predeceased by her sister, Betty Brugge-man, husbands, Elwood Dwyer and Oscar Evenson; sons-in-law, Juan Cardona and Elias Guillen and 2 grandsons, Joseph and Andrew.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
June 28, 2013

PSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Marie Lammers

Marie Lammers, 88 of Hartington, Neb., died on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at the Colonial Manor Nursing Home, Randolph, Nev.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 1, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Constance, Neb., with the Rev. David Korth and Rev. David Fulton officiating. Burial will be at the St. Joseph's Cemetery, Constance.

Visitation is 1-8 p.m. Sunday, with a rosary at 2 p.m. and a Vigil Service at 7:30 p.m., at the Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington. Visitation will continue on Monday at church one hour prior to services.

Shirley Whipple

Shirley Rae Whipple, 65, of Lake Andes died Monday, June 24, 2013, at her home in Lake Andes.

Funeral services are at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 29, at the White Swan Community Center, Lake Andes. Burial is in the Hill Church Presbyterian Cemetery, rural Dante.

Wake services will begin Friday at the Community Center.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner, is in charge of arrangements.

Private nonsectarian cemetery offering earth burial plots, mausoleum crypts and niches.

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Iraq Would Welcome More U.S. Help

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq is open to greater American military cooperation as U.S. commanders explore ways to boost security assistance to the country, a top Iraqi official said Thursday as a fresh wave of bombings claimed 16 lives.

The Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, has recommended that military American commanders look for ways to help improve the military capabilities of Iraq and Lebanon, which both face the risk of spillover from the civil war in neighboring Syria.

Dempsey said Wednesday that the assistance would not involve sending U.S. combat troops, but could involve the U.S. sending in training teams and accelerating sales of weapons and equipment.

The last American combat troops left Iraq in December 2011, ending a nearly nine-year war that cost nearly 4,500 American and more than 100,000 Iraqi lives.

About 100 military and civilian Department of Defense personnel remain in Iraq as an arm of the American Embassy to act as liaisons with the Iraqi government and facilitate arms sales. The U.S. has similar offices in other countries.

Tsarnaev Downloaded Bomb Instructions

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Marathon suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev downloaded bomb-making instructions from an al-Qaida magazine, gathered online material on Islamic jihad and martyrdom, and later scrawled anti-American messages inside the boat where he lay wounded, a federal indictment charged Thursday.

The 30-count indictment contains the bombing charges, punishable by the death penalty, that were brought in April against the 19-year-old Tsarnaev, including use of a weapon of mass destruction resulting in death.

It also contains many new charges covering the slaying of an MIT police officer and the carjacking of a motorist during the getaway attempt that left Tsarnaev's older brother, Tamerlan, dead.

"Tamerlan Tsarnaev's justice will be in the next world, but for his brother, accountability will begin right here in the district of Massachusetts," Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley, whose jurisdiction includes Boston, said at a news conference with federal prosecutors.

The indictment provides one of the most detailed public explanations to date of the brothers' alleged motive — Islamic extremism — and the role the Internet may have played in influencing them.

Judge Denies Bail To Ex-Patriots Player

FALL RIVER, Mass. (AP) — A judge on Thursday denied bail for former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez, who is charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of a friend.

Hernandez's lawyer argued that Hernandez is not a risk to flee and the case against him is circumstantial.

But a prosecutor said the evidence is "overwhelming." A search of a Hummer belonging to Hernandez turned up an ammunition clip matching the caliber of casings found at the scene of the killing of Odin Lloyd, the prosecutor said.

Lloyd's body was discovered by a jogger in a remote area of an industrial park not far from Hernandez's home 10 days ago. He has pleaded not guilty.

Prosecutors called Lloyd's killing an execution-style shooting orchestrated by Hernandez because his friend talked to the wrong people at a nightclub. Hernandez could face life in prison, if convicted.

Mandela Condition Critical But Stable

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Nelson Mandela's health improved overnight and although his condition remains critical it is now stable, the South African government said Thursday. One of the former president's daughters said he is still opening his eyes and reacting to the touch of his family even though his situation is precarious.

The report that the health of the 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader had taken a turn for the better came amid a growing sense in South Africa that Mandela was approaching the end of his life. Well-wishers have delivered flowers and messages of support to the Pretoria hospital where he is being treated, and prayer sessions were held around the country on Thursday.

President Jacob Zuma's office said in a statement that he received the encouraging update from the medical team that is treating Mandela. Zuma had canceled an international trip on Thursday, instead visiting Mandela for the second time in two days.

"I canceled my visit to Mozambique today so that I can see him and confer with the doctors," Zuma said in the statement. "He is much better today than he was when I saw him last night."

In April, Zuma gave an overly upbeat assessment about Mandela's condition. At that time, state television broadcast footage of a visit by Zuma and other political leaders to Mandela's home. Zuma said at the time that Mandela was in good shape, but the footage showed him silent and unresponsive, even when Zuma tried to hold his hand.

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TBI RIDE

All proceeds will benefit individuals with traumatic brain injury

Rider Prizes

Date: July 13, 2013

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Pre-register by: July 1, 2013

Entry fees:
•\$20.00 - pre-registered riders
•\$25.00 - day of ride registration

Ride will begin and end at Sunrise Villa in Irene, SD

Download your registration form at:
www.sunsetmanor.net

Silent Auction July 8th - July 13th at Sunset Manor. Bid winners will be announced at 12:00 p.m.

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