Baltimore Mayor Lifts Curfew 6 Days After Riots

BY BEN NUCKOLS AND DAVID DISHNEAU Associated Press

BALTIMORE - Six days after riots sparked by Freddie Gray's death, Baltimore's mayor lifted a citywide curfew Sunday and faith leaders called for continued activism until justice is achieved.

A jubilant crowd of several hundred prayed and sang civil-rights anthems at a City Hall rally. Sunday's peace-ful gathering came two days after the city's top prosecutor announced criminal charges against six officers involved in Gray's arrest.

Speaker after speaker exhorted the crowd not to rest just because the officers have been charged. The Rev. Jamal Bryant, a fiery leader of the protests that followed Gray's April 12 arrest and the death of the 25-year-old black man a week later, drew deafening cheers when he said the officers deserve jail time.

We've got to see this all the way through, until all six officers trade in their blue uniform for an orange uniform," Bryant said. "Let them know: Orange is the new black.'

The Rev. Lisa Weah, pastor of the New Bethlehem Baptist Church in Gray's neighborhood, said the message of equal justice for all must not be lost.

"Our prayer is that Baltimore will be the model for the rest of the nation," she said

Police said Sunday that 486 people had been arrested since April 23, and that 113 officers had been injured at riots and protests. The extent of the officers' injuries was unclear. Earlier in the week, police had said that out of nearly 100 injured officers, 13 were hurt to the extent that they couldn't work, and 15 were on desk duty.

The order for residents to stay home between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. had been in place since Tuesday; officials had originally planned to maintain it through Monday morning. Protests since last Monday's riots have been peaceful, and



JERRY JACKSON/BALTIMORE SUN/TNS

Asad Ali, 9, of Washington, D.C., gives a high-five to Sgt 1st Class Joe Hatcher with the Maryland National Guard during Saturday's rally at War Memorial Plaza in Baltimore on Saturday as protests continue in the wake of the death of Freddie Gray.

funeral last Monday. A 10

p.m.-5 a.m. curfew was or-

dered Tuesday after a night of

violence, looting and arson.

About 3,000 National Guard

soldiers were deployed to the

city along with 1,000 extra po-

lice officers, including some

from out of state. Republican

Guard and the officers would

be leaving over the next few

days. "We think it's time to get

the community back to nor-

mal again," Hogan said. "It's

been a very hard week, but

we've kept everybody safe."

of the ACLU sent a letter to

Rawlings-Blake on Saturday

alleging that the curfew was

"being enforced arbitrarily

and selectively" to break up

peaceful protests and prevent

media outlets from providing

"The curfew is having a

dramatic effect on the ability

of Baltimore residents to sim-

ply go about their daily lives

free from fear or arbitrary

accurate coverage of police

The Maryland chapter

Gov. Larry Hogan said the

Friday's announcement of charges eased tensions.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake announced the curfew's end in a statement.

"My number one priority in instituting a curfew was to ensure the public peace, safety, health and welfare of Baltimore citizens," the Democratic mayor said. "It was not an easy decision, but one I felt was necessary to help our city restore calm."

State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby has said Gray died after suffering a broken neck while inside a police van. On Friday, Mosby filed charges against the officers involved in his arrest and transport. One is charged with seconddegree murder. Three others are charged with involuntary manslaughter and two with second-degree assault.

Mosby said Gray's neck was broken because he was placed head-first in a police van, handcuffed and later in leg shackles, where he was left to slam against the walls of the small metal compartment. Police said the officers who arrested Gray ignored his cries for help because they thought he was faking

his injuries. He was repeatedarrest," the letter read, adding that it's also "the target ly denied medical attention. of protest and the source of Rioting and looting erupted hours after Gray's new problems rather than a

solution. Rep. Elijah Cummings,

D-Md., said Sunday he will ask President Barack Obama and congressional leaders to send a bipartisan delegation "to look at what is going on in Baltimore.'

"It is so symbolic of what is going on all over this country. We have to address the problems of the urban areas because so many our young people are being left behind," Cummings said.

More than 200 people were arrested during Monday's riots, and more than half of those were released without charges. Rawlings-Blake said during an appearance Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that authorities are combing through videotapes to identify looters and charge them.

Associated Press writers Michael Biesecker and Juliet Linderman, and radio correspondent Julie Walker in Baltimore contributed to this report.

Nigerian Girls, Women Stoned To Death

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the world

YOLA, Nigeria (AP) - Even with the crackle of gunfire signaling rescuers were near, the horrors did not end: Boko Haram fighters stoned captives to death, some girls and women were crushed by an armored car and three died when a land mine exploded as they walked to freedom.

Through tears, smiles and eyes filled with pain, the survivors of months in the hands of the Islamic extremists told their tragic stories to The Associated Press on Sunday, their first day out of the war zone.

"We just have to give praise to God that we are alive, those of us who have survived," said 27-year-old Lami Musa as she cradled her 5-day-old baby girl.

She was among 275 girls, women and their young children, many bewildered and traumatized, who were getting medical care and being registered a day after making it to safety.

Nigeria's military said it has freed nearly 700 Boko Haram captives in the past week. It is still unclear if any of them were among the so-called "Chibok girls," whose mass abduction from their school a year ago sparked outrage worldwide and a cam-paign for their freedom under the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls.

Income Inequality Hits Home At Capitol

WASHINGTON (AP) - Income inequality is more than a political sound bite to workers in the Capitol. It's their life. Many of the Capitol's food servers, who make the meals,

bus the tables and run the cash registers in the restaurants and carryouts that serve lawmakers, earn less than \$11 an hour. Some make nothing at all when Congress is in recess.

Members of the House and Senate collect their \$174,000 annual salaries whether Congress is making laws, taking a break or causing a partial government shutdown.

'This is the most important building in the world," said Sontia Bailey, who works the cash register and stocks the shelves at the "Refectory" takeout on the Capitol's Senate side. "You'd think our wages would be better."

Bailey, 34, makes \$10.33 an hour, a hair above the \$10.10 hourly minimum for federal contractors. She had to move from her apartment to a rented room when the 2013 temporary government shutdown interrupted her income, she said.

O'Malley Faces Questions Over Record

BALTIMORE (AP) — Martin O'Malley often casts Baltimore as the comeback city that overcame the ravages of drugs and violence when he was mayor.

Now, weeks before the former Maryland governor expects to enter the 2016 presidential race and challenge Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Democratic primaries, Baltimore's turnaround has been marred by the unrest after the police-custody death of Freddie Gray. The turmoil has placed new scrutiny on O'Malley's "zero tolerance" law enforcement policies as mayor from 1999 to 2006.

The record shows that murders and violent crime overall declined in O'Malley's years as mayor. But in that time, a grand jury concluded that too many arrests were being made in black neighborhoods without merit. And the city settled a lawsuit from people who said they were wrongly arrested for minor offenses. Altogether, these are the sort of concerns driving some of the anger in Baltimore today.

David Rocah, a staff attorney with the ACLU of Maryland, said the O'Malley administration left a legacy of "hyperaggressive and militarized policing" that, in his view, contributed to the outrage behind the riots. "I think the idea that you can arrest your way to public safety has always been deeply mis-guided and counterproductive," Rocah said. But O'Malley says those judging him in hindsight should

remember the crime and despair of the Baltimore he inherited as mayor.

Troops Go On 'Reconnaissance' Mission

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — With helicopter gunships hovering overhead, at least 20 troops from a Saudi-led Arab coalition came ashore Sunday in the southern port city of Aden on what military officials called a "reconnaissance" mission, as fighting raged between Iranian-backed Shiite rebels and forces loyal to the nation's exiled president.

It was the first ground landing by coalition forces since the start of the Saudi-led air campaign against the rebels and their allies — forces loyal to ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh who have captured most of northern Yemen and marched on southern provinces over the past year.

In Cairo, meanwhile, Egypt, a key coalition member that has been named as a likely participant in any ground offensive in Yemen, acknowledged for the first time that it has deployed troops in the Gulf region and the Red Sea as part of the Saudi led coalition.

Nepal Shuts Airport To Big Jets

BY BINAJ GURUBACHARYA

clogged up this airport. And I think

activity.

helicopters were needed to reach iso-

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Runway damage forced Nepalese authorities to close the main airport Sunday to large aircraft delivering aid to millions of people following the massive earthquake, but U.N. officials said the overall logistics situation was improving.

The death toll climbed to 7,276, including six foreigners and 45 Nepalese found over the weekend on a popular trekking route, said government administrator Gautam Rimal. Nepal's Tourist Police reported that a total of 57 foreigners have been killed in the April 25 quake, and 109 are still missing, including 12 Russians and nine Americans

The airport's main runway was temporarily closed to big planes because of damage. It was built to handle only medium-size jetliners, but not the large military and cargo planes that have been flying in aid supplies, food, medicines, and rescue and humanitarian workers, said Birendra Shrestha, the manager of Tribhuwan International Airport, located on the outskirts of Kathmandu.

There have been reports of cracks on the runway and other problems at the only airport capable of handling jetliners.

"You've got one runway, and you've got limited handling facilities, and you've got the ongoing commercial flights," said Jamie McGoldrick, the U.N. coordinator for Nepal. "You put on top of that massive relief items coming in, the search and rescue teams that have

once they put better systems in place, I think that will get better.'

He said the bottlenecks in aid delivery were slowly disappearing, and the Nepalese government eased customs and other bureaucratic hurdles on humanitarian aid following complaints from the U.N.

'The government has taken note of some of the concerns that we've expressed to them," he said.

Kai Tabacek, a spokesman for the British charity Oxfam, said the main problem was that Kathmandu airport was too small "to deal with huge volume of traffic. Of course, there have been some delays, but these have more to do with the challenge of moving large volumes of goods than customs.

Airport congestion was only the latest complication in the global effort to aid people in the wake of the April 25 quake, the impoverished country's biggest and most destructive in eight decades

Nepal's geography of high mountains and difficult road networks "is always going to be a challenge," McGoldrick said. Airlifting goods by helicopter "right now is quite limited," he said.

People in Nepal — both in remote villages and the capital, Kathmandu have complained about not seeing any rescue workers or international aid and about a lack of temporary shelters, with many sleeping out in the open because of fears of aftershocks bringing down their damaged homes.

U.N. humanitarian officials said that they were increasingly worried about the spread of disease. They said more

lated mountain villages that were hard to access even before the quake.

The true extent of the damage from the earthquake is still unknown as reports keep filtering in from remote areas, some of which remain entirely cut off. The U.N. says the quake affected 8.1 million people — more than a quarter of Nepal's 28 million people.

Laxi Dhakal, a Home Ministry official, said hopes of finding survivors had faded dramatically. "Unless they were caught in an air pocket, there is not much possibility," he said.

Among the latest fatalities to be counted were the 51 people, including six foreigners, whose remains were found in the Langtang Valley in Rasuwa district, nearly 60 kilometers (35 miles) north of Kathmandu. Most of the victims were Nepalese guides, hotel owners, workers and porters.

The area, with a dozen inns near the trekking trail, was buried by a landslide after the earthquake.

Nepal has been shaken by more than 70 aftershocks following the quake, and its people remain on edge. One brief aftershock Saturday afternoon shook the only paved road in the village of Pauwathok. Residents screamed and began to run, then stopped when the tremor eased

The small village is located in the district of Sindupalchok, where more deaths have been recorded than anywhere else in Nepal -2,560, compared to 1,622 in Kathmandu. The U.N. says up to 90 percent of the houses in Sindupalchok have been destroyed.

The objective of Sunday's landing was not immediately clear, but Yemeni military officials said the coalition troops would help train forces loyal to the country's internationally recognized leader, President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who has been in exile since he fled Aden in March. They would also try to identify an area that could serve as a "green zone" from which Hadi and his government could operate when they return to Yemen.

At the top of that list, said the officials, is the al-Buregah area west of Aden, which stretches for about 15 kilometers (about 10 miles) along the coast and is home to a major oil refinery and large fuel tanks.

'Avengers' Sequel Enjoys Huge Opening

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Avengers are mighty, but not enough to beat themselves. The Marvel and Disney sequel earned a staggering \$187.7 million in its debut weekend, making it the second biggest U.S. opening of all time according to Rentrak estimates Sunday.

But "Avengers: Age of Ultron" failed to top the all-time record of the first film's \$207.4 million debut in 2012.

Although "Ultron" was the only new film in wide release this weekend, it had some significant small screen competition: The Kentucky Derby, the NBA playoffs, and the Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao fight.

Numbers could shift by the time Monday actuals roll in, but it seems the robust counter-programming may have blockaded another record for Marvel and Disney

Still, for Disney's head of distribution Dave Hollis, the weekend was a "spectacular result" for the film, which cost a reported \$250 million to produce.

Playing on 4,276 screens, the audiences for "Ultron's" debut were 59 percent male and 41 percent under the age of 25.

We're in rare air here," said Hollis. "Having the second biggest opening weekend in the history of the movie business is always going to be something you walk away overwhelmingly happy with. The momentum of the brand for Marvel at this point is really something to take a step back and admire.'

