

Refugee Policy Takes Focus In US Politics

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bloody attacks in Paris are putting the Syrian refugee crisis at center stage in U.S. politics as migrants from that war-torn country surge toward the West and security concerns rise.

GOP presidential contender Marco Rubio on Sunday said the United States should no longer accept Syrian refugees because it's impossible to know whether they have links to Islamic militants — an apparent shift from earlier statements in which he left open the prospects of migrants being admitted with proper vetting.

"It's not that we don't want to, it's that we can't," Rubio said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." "Because there's no way to background check someone that's coming from Syria. Who do you call and do a background check on them?"

The question of admitting Syrian refugees has for months been part of the national security discussion among 2016 candidates that cuts to the heart of the American identity as a refuge. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush on Sunday told NBC's "Meet the Press" that the U.S. should admit Syrian Christians, after proper vetting. Other Republican candidates have called for a ban on allowing Syrians into the U.S. All three Democratic presidential candidates have said they would admit Syrians but only after thorough background checks.

But Friday night's mass killings in Paris, which left at least 129 people dead, offered evidence that may have backed up what many, including Rubio, had been warning: People with secret ties to Islamic militants could flow across borders as part of waves of refugees.

Some See Erosion Of Free Speech

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A recent groundswell of protests on college campuses over race, sexual misconduct and other social issues has some civil libertarians worried that the prized principle of free speech could be sacrificed in the rush to address legitimate student grievances.

The potential conflict between the protection of civil rights and the constitution's First Amendment guarantees was on display at the University of Missouri in Columbia last week when students, supported by the football team, forced the resignation of system president Tim Wolfe over racial incidents and other problems on campus that they felt he had failed to take seriously. While their campaign drew widespread support and inspired similar demonstrations at colleges across the country, it also prompted a backlash from critics who said some actions went too far.

A Missouri assistant professor supportive of the student protests blocked a student photographer from an area where demonstrators had set up a tent city, a move which infringed freedom of the press. The student protesters quickly reversed the media ban, saying the incident had been a "teachable moment" for them.

Also, university police encouraged students to report any "hateful and/or hurtful" speech they experienced for investigation, leaving the impression that any comment considered offensive could be a crime. Free speech advocates complained and police clarified that offensive language alone would not be treated as a hate crime.

While the First Amendment guarantees freedom of assembly and the right of citizens to state their grievances, it also enshrines freedom of the press and free speech. Some academics and First Amendment experts said the incidents at Missouri showed a hyper-sensitivity that confused the difference between vigorous public debate and threats or harassment that constitute crimes.

TB Case Shows Difficulty Treating Children

WASHINGTON (AP) — When a 2-year-old returned sick from a visit to India, U.S. doctors suspected tuberculosis even though standard tests said no. It would take three months to confirm she had an extreme form of the disease — a saga that highlights the desperate need for better ways to fight TB in youngsters in countries that can't afford such creative care.

Drug-resistant tuberculosis is a global health threat, and it's particularly challenging for young children who are harder even to diagnose, much less treat.

Doctors at Johns Hopkins Children's Center are reporting how they successfully treated one of the few tots ever diagnosed in the U.S. with the worst kind — extensively drug-resistant TB, or XDR-TB, that's impervious to a list of medicines.

"This was so difficult, even when we had all these resources," said Hopkins pediatric TB specialist Dr. Sanjay Jain, who co-authored the report being published Monday in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. The child now is 5 and healthy, but Jain calls the case "a wake-up call to the realities of TB."

Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection that usually strikes the lungs, spreading through coughs and sneezes. A recent World Health Organization report says TB sickened nearly 10 million people worldwide in 2014, including 1 million children. That's double earlier child estimates, reflecting some countries' better counts. Many experts suspect the toll is still higher because children in hard-hit countries can die undiagnosed.

Attacks Signal Move To Global Strategy

BAGHDAD (AP) — As the deadly attacks in Paris made horrifically clear, the Islamic State group is determined to establish itself as the dominant jihadist movement capable of operating far beyond the limits of its self-declared "caliphate."

Doing so achieves numerous aims for the group, not least of which could be winning it clout to attract even more recruits. Others may include sharpening divisions between Muslims and non-Muslims in Europe — and forcing the West into a difficult choice of either backing off or being drawn into what IS would see as a holy war in Syria and Iraq.

Coming soon after the Islamic State group claimed the downing of the Russian plane in Egypt and deadly suicide bombings in Lebanon and Turkey, the Paris attacks appear to signal a fundamental shift in strategy toward a more global approach that experts suggest is likely to intensify.

"The message is that this is an open war, not restricted to the conflict zone in Iraq and Syria," said Bilal Saab, a resident senior fellow for Middle East Security at Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security. Until now, the militant Sunni group had mostly focused on its internal rivals — Bashar Assad's regime and rival Muslim Shiites, which the group considers to be heretics.



ALAIN APAYDIN/ABACA PRESS/TNS
People pay tribute to the victims of Friday's terrorist attacks outside Le Carillon bar and le Petit Cambodge on rue Bichat in Paris on Sunday.

Paris Unites In Defiant Solidarity, Then Scatters In Panic

BY THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS — Parisians banded together Sunday in spontaneous celebrations of life in defiance of the attacks — but then panic over firecrackers sent the crowds fleeing, hiding under benches, overturning chairs and bicycles.

Emotions were raw as the French capital entered three days of mourning for 129 people killed for their way of life.

The famed bells of Notre Dame cathedral pealed for 15 minutes in honor of the victims. Police sirens punctuated the melody.

At cafes targeted by ex-

tremist gunmen, and at the Republique Plaza in one of Paris' most vibrant neighborhoods, hundreds of people streamed in gradually throughout the afternoon to a makeshift tribute.

A huge banner draped at the bottom of the statue on the plaza reads: "Can't Scare Us."

Then suddenly a noise cracked, apparently firecrackers. Police officers arrived, guns pointed, to investigate.

Everyone ran in every which direction, crying and escaping by adjacent streets, emptying the huge plaza within minutes.

Shouts rang out — "Run!" "Get out!" "Lie down!"

People tripped over flow-

ers, candles and souvenirs left in tribute. They took refuge in a nearby hotel, a sports store, under café tables, park benches, behind trees.

"Whoever starts running starts everyone else running," Alice Carton, a municipal worker who came to Republique with two friends, said in a series of messages tapped out over her smartphone. "It's a very weird atmosphere. (The) sirens and screaming are a source of fear."

At a special Notre Dame service for the victims, several lines stretched out of the cathedral. Scores of police patrolled, their hands on their weapons. Police cars surrounded all sides of the

850-year-old monument.

"I came on vacation for five days. I was sorry all this happened but I felt like staying here was supporting France," said Marina Presnyakova, a 37-year-old tourism industry worker from Sochi in Russia.

Michael Staubes, a 70-year-old retired Virginia native now living in Paris, put his hand to his forehead in distress and emotion as the cathedral's bells rang.

"I'm taking a video of the bells in solidarity to show my friends back home in the States. I found the whole situation so disturbing. It's too difficult, there are no words."

Terrorism Takes Center Stage At Democratic Debate

BY LISA LERER
AND KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — A day after deadly terrorist attacks in Paris, Hillary Rodham Clinton cast herself as the country's strongest commander in chief in a scary world, even as she defended her own role in the rise of Islamic militants.

"This election is not only about electing a president, it's also about choosing our next commander in chief," Clinton declared Saturday night in the Democrats' second debate of the presidential campaign. "All of the other issues we want to deal with depend upon us being secure and strong."

Amid the backdrop of global anxiety, Clinton found herself fending off questions about not only her foreign policy record but her economic ties, with both Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley painting the former senator from New York as a lackey for Wall Street and corporate interests.

"Let's not be naive about it," said Sanders, noting that Clinton collected millions in campaign donations from Wall Street bankers. "They expect to get something. Everybody knows that."

The barbs marked a far more aggressive shift in a primary race that has been notable in part for its civility compared to the Republican contest.

Since the Democrats' first debate a month ago, Clinton has built a lead in the early voting states, gains that have come amid other signs the party is coalescing behind her. But the nomination fight is far from over.

On Saturday night, Clinton faced criticism of her national security record, when Sanders traced the current instability in the Middle East to the U.S. Senate's vote — including Clinton's — to authorize military action in Iraq in 2002. He said that U.S. invasion "unraveled the region."

The former secretary of state fought back, saying terrorism has been erupting for decades. She rejected the idea that she and the rest of the Obama administration underestimated the growing threat of the Islamic State group.

The back-and-forth revealed a foreign policy split within the Democratic Party, with Sanders playing to the anti-war activists who boosted then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama to the presidential nomination in 2008.

Sanders argued for a far more hands-off approach, advocating for Muslim countries to lead the fight and declaring that the war against Islamic State militants is about the "soul of Islam."

Clinton has a history of advocating for more robust involvement across the globe — both as a presidential candidate eight years ago and as Obama's secretary of state. In recent weeks, she has called for a more aggressive U.S. role in the Syrian conflict, including a no-fly zone over the area, a move the Obama administration opposes.

The debate began with a moment of silence followed by the previously unplanned foreign policy questions. All the candidates denounced the attacks, but they gave some fodder to their Republican rivals who coupled condemnation of the Paris attacks with sharp criticism for Obama and Clinton.

All three Democrats criticized the term "radical Islam" used by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and other Republican candidates as unnecessarily offensive to American Muslims.

"We are at war with violent extremism, we are at war with people who use their religion for purposes of power and oppression," said Clinton. "I don't want us to be painting with too broad a brush."

GOP candidates immediately seized on the remarks. "Yes, we are at war with radical Islamic terrorism," tweeted former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

The debate pivoted to economic issues, in a conversation that revealed how

Sanders' liberal message has helped shift the party to the left on some economic issues.

All three agreed that wealthy citizens and corporations should pay more in taxes to benefit the middle class. They tangled over how high to increase the minimum wage, with Clinton backing a \$12-per-hour federal floor while Sanders and O'Malley said \$15 an hour. And they fought over the degree to which they would curtail large financial institutions, with Sanders describing Wall Street's business model as "greed and fraud" — a startling judgment for a major presidential candidate.

"I'm not that much of a socialist compared to Eisenhower," joked Sanders, saying the 1950s-era president backed a 90 percent marginal tax rate.

Clinton defended her relationship with Wall Street, citing her work in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, but her statement met with blowback from Republicans who accused her of politicizing the terrorist assaults.

While Clinton is wary of alienating Sanders backers whose support she'll need should she win the nomination, she did take a few shots. She attempted to cast some of Sanders' major proposals, including a single-payer health care system and free college, as politically unrealistic.

"The revolution never came," she said, in a knock on his call for a "political revolution."

Sanders may have inadvertently helped her in the first debate, when he seemed to dismiss the controversy over her use of a private email account and server by saying Americans are tired of hearing about her "damn emails."

Saturday night, Sanders declined once again to attack: "I am still sick and tired of Hillary Clinton's email," he said. "I agree completely," said Clinton, with a laugh.

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