

Peace Prize Goes To Female Forces For Change

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Leymah Gbowee confronted armed forces in Liberia to demand that they stop using rape as a weapon. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became Africa's first woman to win a free presidential election. Tawakkul Karman began pushing for change in Yemen long before the Arab Spring. They share a commitment to women's rights in regions where oppression is common, and on Friday they shared the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee honored women for the first time in seven years, and in selecting Karman it also recognized the Arab Spring movement championed by millions of often anonymous activists from Tunisia to Syria.

Prize committee chairman Thorbjørn Jagland said it would have been difficult to identify all the movement's leaders, and that the committee was making an additional statement by selecting Karman to represent their cause.

"We have included the Arab Spring in this prize, but we have put it in a particular context," Jagland told reporters. "Namely, if one fails to include the women in the revolution and the new democracies, there will be no democracy."

Karman is the first Arab woman ever to win the peace prize, which includes a 10 million kronor (\$1.5 million) award that will be divided among the winners. No woman or sub-Saharan African had won the prize since 2004, when the committee honored Wangari Maathai of Kenya, who mobilized poor women to fight deforestation by planting trees.

Court Taking Its Time With Immigration Law

ATLANTA (AP) — A federal appeals court said it would not immediately decide whether to block the enforcement of Alabama's tough new immigration law.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals order came Friday after the federal government asked the court to block the law, considered one of the nation's toughest.

The appeals court ordered Alabama and the government to file motions on the case next week, and said it would hold oral arguments on the dispute no earlier than Nov. 29.

Alabama's law allows authorities to detain people suspected of being in the country illegally and lets officials check the immigration status of students in public schools.

Critics say the law has plunged the state into chaos. Alabama officials say it's needed to protect the jobs of legal residents.

Syrian Troops Fire On Protesters, Killing 8

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian security forces opened fire on protesters in several parts of the country on Friday, killing at least eight people and wounding scores, while masked gunmen burst into an apartment in the predominantly Kurdish northeast and shot dead one of Syria's most prominent opposition figures.

Another leading opposition figure was beaten up by pro-government gunmen and rushed to a hospital in Damascus, activists said.

The slaying of Mashaal Tammo, a 53-year-old former political prisoner and a spokesman for the Kurdish Future Party, was the latest in a string of targeted killings in Syria as the country slides further into disorder, seven months into the uprising against President Bashar Assad.

Tammo, killed by unknown gunmen in the city of Qamishli, was also a member of the executive committee of the newly formed Syrian National Council, a broad-based front bringing together opposition figures inside and outside the country in an attempt to unify the deeply fragmented dissident movement.

Inmate Once On Death Row Leaves Prison

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Memphis woman who spent a quarter century on death row and came within two months of being executed for hiring a stranger to kill her husband in 1985 was freed Friday from a Tennessee prison.

Gaile Owens, 58, was greeted by a small group of supporters outside the Tennessee Prison for Women. She was all smiles as she pushed a yellow laundry cart containing her belongings past the prison's razor-wire fence to freedom.

Owens was sentenced to die in 1986, but her death sentence was commuted to life in prison last year and she won parole last week.

Once out, she gave her son, Stephen Owens, a long embrace and told him she loved him. She then turned to hug longtime cellmate Linda Oakley, who is now free, while well-wishers shouted, "We love you, Gaile!" and "Go to the beach!"

Then she and Oakley got into a car and left with Gene and Pat Williams, who have known Owens for 13 years through a prison Bible study they lead. Family friends said Owens will be living with the Williams family.

Mexican Gangs Compete With Brutal Tactics

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Masked gunmen dump the bodies of 35 slaying victims during rush hour as terrified motorists watch and tweet friends to avoid the highway.

A woman's decapitated body is left at a city's monument to Columbus, the head atop a computer keyboard with a sign saying she was killed for blogging about drug traffickers.

The severed heads of five men are dumped outside an elementary school in Acapulco, and two more near a military base in Mexico City days later.

And that was just in the last three weeks.

The brutal public killings that began about five years ago have worsened as Mexican drug cartels try to one-up each other in their quest to scare off rivals, authorities and would-be informers — and still stun Mexicans increasingly numbered to the gory spectacles.

Economy Adds Jobs, But Not Enough

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The jobs crisis isn't getting worse. But it isn't getting much better, either.

The economy added just enough jobs last month to ease fears of a new recession. But hiring is still too weak to bring down unemployment, which has been stuck at about 9 percent for more than two years.

The nation added 103,000 jobs in September, an improvement from the month before, the Labor Department said Friday. But the total includes 45,000 Verizon workers who were rehired after going on strike and were counted as job gains.

Even counting those workers, the job gains weren't enough to get the economy going. It takes about 125,000 jobs a month just to keep up with population growth. For September, the unemployment rate stayed stuck at 9.1 percent.

"Well, the sky is not falling just yet," Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors, said in a note to clients. But there was nothing great about the report, he added. "It's incredible how low our sights have been set."

On one hand, the unemployment report

"It's incredible how low our sights have been set."

JOEL NAROFF

was encouraging for economists. Some of them had feared the nation would lose jobs in September, raising the risk of a painful second recession.

But everyday Americans can't take much solace from it, either. The Great Recession has been over for almost two and a half years, and while corporate profits and the stock market have bounced back in that time, unemployment is still high.

There are 14 million people counted as unemployed in the United States. An additional 9.3 million are working part time and would rather work full time. And 2.5 million more have simply given up looking for a job.

The Labor Department said the economy added more jobs than first estimated in July and August. The government's first reading had said the economy added zero jobs in August.

While the report was clearly better than feared, it also showed the economy is not gaining much momentum, said Tom Porcelli, chief

U.S. economist at RBC Capital Markets. "It moves you away from the ledge," he said.

It was also discouraging news for President Barack Obama, who will almost certainly have to wage his 2012 campaign under the highest unemployment of any president running for reelection since World War II.

Gene Sperling, a White House economic adviser, said the administration was "slightly comforted" that the jobs figure came in better than expected. But he said it was not good enough.

Obama, adopting a combative tone as he waits for the Republicans to settle on a nominee to oppose him, has challenged Congress to get behind his \$447 billion jobs bill or risk being run out of Washington.

The Obama plan aims to jolt the economy by cutting taxes and increasing spending on schools, roads and other public projects. He has proposed paying for it in part by raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations.

Obama's Republican rivals are trying to persuade voters that he is to blame for high unemployment and the sluggish economy. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney told Fox News Channel on Friday that Obama is criticizing Congress simply because he is "looking for someone to blame."

Wall Street Protest Functions Like Small City

BY KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — It looks like a rock festival the morning after, a tangle of tattered sleeping bags. But the demonstrators taking part in the three-week-old protest against Wall Street have created a functioning city within the city, a small, working democracy.

There are task forces in charge of food, security, first aid, sanitation, legal help and Internet access. There's even a library. A generator supplies power for laptops and cell-phone chargers.

A general assembly of anyone who wants to attend meets twice daily. Because it's hard to be heard above the din of lower Manhattan and because the city is not allowing bullhorns or microphones, the protesters have devised a system of hand symbols. Fingers downward means you disagree. Arms crossed means you strongly disagree.

Announcements are made via the "people's mic." If you need to announce something — someone's wallet has been found, there's a march at noon — you say it and the people immediately around you repeat it and pass the word along.

Participants in the Occupy Wall Street protests — organized to

Spreading protests

The Occupy Wall Street movement that began in New York on Sept. 17 has expanded to protests in more than a dozen cities.

Cities with protests include:



decri corporate greed and the gap between the rich and poor — say they have no leaders but are making decisions by consensus.

"Since we can no longer trust our elected representatives to represent us rather than their large donors, we are creating a micro-

cosm of what democracy really looks like," reads a flier.

Somewhere between 100 and 200 people sleep in Zuccotti Park, and hundreds more arrive during daylight to volunteer and protest.

Andrew Flinchbaugh joined the sanitation working group and was

Libyan Fighters Push Deep Into Gadhafi's Hometown

BY CHRISTOPHER GILLETTE
AND HADEEL AL-SHALCHI
Associated Press

SIRTE, Libya — Revolutionary fighters assaulted Moammar Gadhafi's hometown from all sides Friday in what they hope will be a final all-out offensive to crush resistance in the most important bastion of regime loyalists.

Libya's new leaders say Sirte's fall is critical to formally declaring liberation and setting a timeline for elections — even if fighting persists elsewhere and the ousted leader is nowhere to be found — more than six weeks after the then-rebels seized control of the capital and most other parts of the country.

Smoke drifted over the skyline and explosions thundered throughout the besieged city, as long lines of civilians fleeing by

car formed at checkpoints manned by revolutionary forces.

Anti-Gadhafi fighters pushed into the Mediterranean coastal city from the west, east and south in heavy fighting, trying to squeeze his supporters into a smaller and smaller perimeter. The two sides battered each other with rockets, mortar shells and tank fire, as Gadhafi snipers fired down on fighters advancing through housing complexes. Fri-

day's push marked the largest new assault on the city in weeks. The former rebels had said they were delaying a final push to allow civilians to escape.

A U.S. administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters, said that 80 percent of the city was now pacified or under the control of the transitional government. The official said the remaining area might

take a little more time as forces move methodically to eliminate the resistance.

NATO airstrikes have been critical to the rebels' successes.

Fighters entering through the western gate on Friday quickly advanced to within just a mile (two kilometers) of the city center but faced heavy resistance from a loyalist force of roughly 800 men, according to one commander's estimate.

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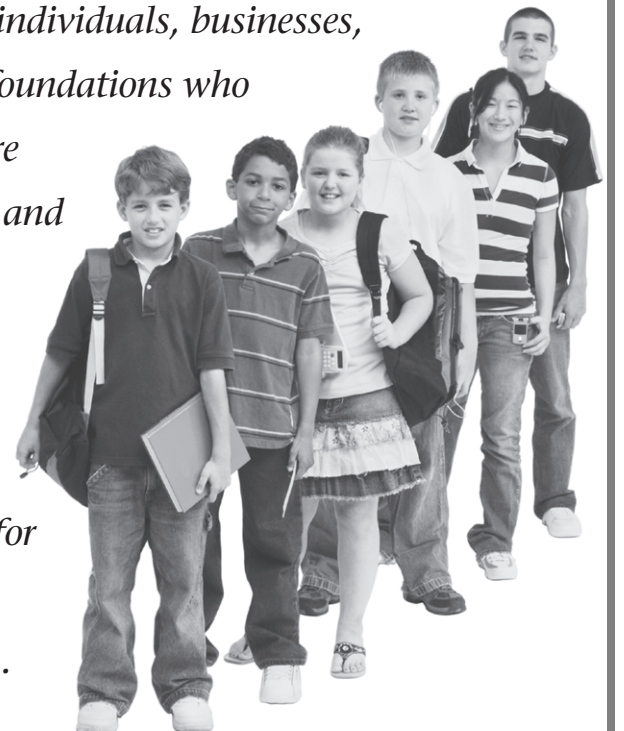
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We would also like to recognize and thank First Dakota National Bank and Larry and Diane Ness for their donations to restore 5th and 6th grade activities.



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