

Al-Qaida Suspect Pleads Not Guilty

NEW YORK (AP) — An alleged al-Qaida member who was snatched off the streets in Libya and interrogated for a week aboard an American warship pleaded not guilty to bombing-related charges Tuesday in a case that has renewed the debate over how quickly terrorism suspects should be turned over to the U.S. courts.

Despite calls from Republicans in Congress to send him to Guantanamo Bay for indefinite interrogation, Abu Anas al-Libi became the latest alleged terrorist to face civilian prosecution in federal court in New York, the scene of several such convictions.

Al-Libi, wearing a thick gray beard, looked frail and moved slowly as he was led into the heavily guarded courtroom in handcuffs. An attorney said he had come to court from a New York hospital, where he was treated for three days for hepatitis C and swollen limbs.

The 49-year-old al-Libi was captured by American commandos during an Oct. 5 military raid in Libya and questioned for a week aboard the USS San Antonio.

He was indicted more than a decade ago in the twin 1998 bombings at the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 224 people, including a dozen Americans. If convicted, he could get life behind bars.

Study: Nuke Industry Oversight Varies

BOSTON (AP) — The number of safety violations at U.S. nuclear power plants varies dramatically from region to region, pointing to inconsistent enforcement in an industry now operating mostly beyond its original 40-year licenses, according to a congressional study awaiting release.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission figures cited in the Government Accountability Office report show that while the West has the fewest reactors, it had the most lower-level violations from 2000 to 2012 — more than 2 1/2 times the Southeast's rate per reactor.

The Southeast, with the most reactors of the NRC's four regions, had the fewest such violations, according to the report, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

The striking variations do not appear to reflect real differences in reactor performance. Instead, the report says, the differences suggest that regulators interpret rules and guidelines differently among regions, perhaps because lower-level violations get limited review.

The study also says that the NRC's West region may enforce the rules more aggressively and that common corporate ownership of multiple plants may help bolster maintenance in the Southeast.

Iran Says It Wants To Leave Isolation

GENEVA (AP) — Declaring that Iran no longer wants to "walk in the dark" of international isolation, Iranian negotiators put forward what they called a potential breakthrough plan Tuesday at the long-stalled talks on easing fears that Tehran wants atomic arms.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the Iranian plan's formal name was "An End to the Unnecessary Crisis and a Beginning for Fresh Horizons." He described it as having many new ideas but added negotiators had agreed to keep the details confidential during the morning bargaining session.

"We think that the proposal we have made has the capacity to make a breakthrough," he told reporters.

Alluding to the international pressure over Iran's nuclear program that has driven the country into near-pariah status, he said: "We no longer want to walk in the dark and uncertainty and have doubts about the future."

Iran's version of a grand bargain is for painful international sanctions to be lifted in exchange for possible concessions it had been previously unwilling to consider, such as increased monitoring and scaling back on uranium enrichment — a potential path to nuclear arms and the centerpiece of the impasse with the West.

Afghan War Vet Receives Medal Of Honor

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Four years after risking his life in Afghanistan, William D. Swenson solemnly received the Medal of Honor on Tuesday in a case of battlefield bravery with some odd twists: The young Army captain questioned the judgment of his superiors, and the paperwork nominating him for the award was lost. He left the military two years ago but wants to return to active duty, a rare move for a medal recipient.

The nation's highest military honor — a sky blue ribbon and medal — was clasped around Swenson's neck by President Barack Obama at the White House. The president described how Swenson repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to recover fallen comrades and help save others during a battle against Taliban insurgents in the Ganjgal valley near the Pakistan border on Sept. 8, 2009. The fight claimed five Americans, 10 Afghan army troops and an interpreter.

Swenson is the second Medal of Honor recipient from that fight, just the second time in half a century that the medal has been awarded to two survivors of the same battle, Obama said. Two years ago, Obama presented the Medal of Honor to Marine Cpl. Dakota Meyer for heroic actions in the 2009 fight.

Obama noted that although America's highest military honor has been bestowed



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT
U.S. Army Capt. William Swenson is awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama on Tuesday at the White House in Washington, DC.

nearly 3,500 times, never before had the public been able to see any of the bravery it was designed to recognize. Video taken by the medevac crew's helmet cameras shows Swenson delivering a severely wounded soldier to the helicopter and kissing him on the head before returning to the heat of battle.

"A simple act of compassion and loyalty to a brother in arms," Obama said at the East Room ceremony attended by Swenson's parents, Julia and

Carl, along with Vice President Joe Biden, first lady Michelle Obama, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and others.

Swenson also invited some of the Army soldiers and Marines who fought alongside him, and survivors of the five Americans.

Swenson, 34, of Seattle has been unemployed since leaving the military in February 2011. He has requested to return to active duty, rare for a Medal of Honor recipient, and his request

is being reviewed, Army spokesman George Wright said.

A sober Swenson said the medal didn't belong to him alone. "This award was earned with a team, a team of our finest. This medal represents them. It represents us," he said in a brief statement afterward. He declined to answer questions.

Swenson was a trainer and adviser embedded with the Afghan Border Police Mentor Team in support of 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division when dozens of Taliban insurgents ambushed him and his team that September morning as they headed on foot to meet with village elders in rural Ganjgal in Kunar Province in northeastern Afghanistan.

Under a barrage of rocket-propelled grenades and mortar and machine-gun fire, Swenson returned fire before risking his life to help evacuate a wounded comrade, Army Sgt. Kenneth W. Westbrook, 41, of Shiprock, N.M. Westbrook later died from his wounds.

Swenson then made several trips to pick up injured Afghan soldiers and the fallen Americans, first by driving an unarmed Ford Ranger truck into battle and then grabbing a Humvee when the pickup gave out. He finally climbed into a second Humvee with a crew that included Meyer to retrieve the other fallen Americans.

Fitch Puts U.S. Credit Rating On Negative Watch

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The Fitch credit rating agency has warned that it is reviewing the U.S. government's AAA credit rating for a possible downgrade, citing the impasse in Washington that has raised the threat of a default on the nation's debt.

Fitch placed the U.S. credit rating on negative watch Tuesday, a step that would precede an actual downgrade. The agency said it expects to conclude its review within six months.

The announcement comes as House and Senate leaders face a Thursday deadline to raise the nation's \$16.7 trillion borrowing limit.

Fitch says it expects the debt limit to be raised soon. But it adds, "the political brinkmanship and reduced financing flexibility could increase the risk of a U.S. default."

A Treasury Department spokesman said the announcement "reflects the urgency with which Congress should act to remove the threat of default hanging over the economy."

Fitch is one of the three leading U.S. credit ratings agencies, along with Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service. S&P downgraded U.S. long-term debt to "AA+" in August 2011.

Fitch said that the Treasury might not be able to prioritize its interest payments on U.S. debt to avoid a default. "It is unclear whether it even has the legal authority to do so," Fitch said.

Many economists expect Treasury to prioritize its payments to stave off default. And Moody's Investors Service said in an Oct. 7 report that Treasury would continue to make interest payments after the Thursday deadline.

A credit rating is an assessment of how able a country or company is to repay the money it's borrowed. A AAA rating lets

companies and governments borrow at super-low rates.

So far, most investors have remained confident in U.S. debt. Rates have risen on short-term Treasuries but not on longer-term debt, like the benchmark 10-year Treasury note. That shows that investors are continuing to buy that debt. The rate on the 10-year note is important because it affects rates on mortgages and many other loans.

After S&P downgraded long-term U.S. credit two years ago, investors sold stocks but continued to buy longer-term U.S. Treasuries.

**GOT
NEWS?**

Call The P&D
At 665-7811

Johnson Electric, LLP

214 CAPITAL ST., YANKTON
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • TRENCHING

605-665-5686

Gary R. Johnson • Chris Merkel
Rick Merkel • Ben Merkel



Save Up To \$4100 NOW* *Hurry limited time rebates



Efficient and Comfort

LENNOX
Innovation never felt so good.™

only from...

Larry's

HEATING & COOLING

920 Broadway Yankton, SD • 665-9461



OUTGROWN

your car?

GREAT AUTO LOAN RATES

**FROM
ONLY**

3.19% APR*



First National Bank South Dakota

WE'RE THE ONE.™ fnbsd.com | 665-9611 | 332 Broadway, Yankton

*Actual APR is based on credit, term, model year & loan amount with auto deduct from an FNBS account. Limited time offer Member FDIC.

**Paint Pink
Yankton**

*Let's work together to raise
awareness of breast cancer and the
importance of early detection.*

For every Press & Dakotan employee that wears pink on Monday, October 21, 2013, \$5 will be donated to the Yankton Area Cancer Survivorship Program.

We invite all area businesses to join us in donating \$5 for every employee that wears pink on Monday, October 21.

For More Information Please Contact:
Tonya Schild at:

**YANKTON DAILY
PRESS & DAKOTAN**
319 Walnut, Yankton, SD • www.yankton.net • 665-7811

Sponsored in part by: **Avera** Sacred Heart Hospital