

U.N. Chief Ban Demands Action In Syria

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon demanded international action to stop the war in Syria, telling a somber gathering of world leaders Tuesday that the 18-month conflict had become “a regional calamity with global ramifications.”

In sharp contrast to the U.N. chief, President Barack Obama pledged U.S. support for Syrians trying to oust President Bashar Assad — “a dictator who massacres his own people.”

Opening the U.N. General Assembly’s annual ministerial meeting, Ban said in his state of the world speech that he was sounding the alarm about widespread insecurity, inequality and intolerance in many countries.

Putting the spotlight on Syria, the U.N. chief said “the international community should not look the other way as violence spirals out of control.”

“We must stop the violence and flows of arms to both sides, and set in motion a Syrian-led transition as soon as possible,” he said.

Ohio’s Job Growth, Auto Industry Help Obama

VANDALIA, Ohio (AP) — Ohio has emerged as the presidential race’s undisputed focus. Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are making multiple stops this week alone in a state that’s trending toward the president, endangering Romney’s White House hopes.

The popularity of Obama’s auto industry bailout, and a better-than-average local economy, are undermining Romney’s call for Ohioans to return to their GOP-leaning ways, which were crucial to George W. Bush’s two elections. Ohio has 18 electoral votes, seventh most in the nation, and no Republican has won the White House without carrying it.

Romney is scrambling to reverse the polls that show Obama ahead. On Tuesday, he made the first of his four planned Ohio stops this week, joining his running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan, for a rally near Dayton. On Wednesday, Obama will visit the college towns of Kent and Bowling Green, and Romney’s bus tour will stop in the Columbus, Cleveland and Toledo areas.

“If this president persists on the road of making it harder and harder for small businesses to grow and thrive, he’s going to slowly but surely weaken our economy and turn us into Greece,” Romney told supporters Tuesday in Vandalia. He said the Obama administration has put government between patients and their doctors, and is picking winners and losers in private business.

“That is not the America that built Ohio!” Romney declared.

Suu Kyi: Return Home Possible For Burmese

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) — Myo Myint lost most of his right arm and right leg and several fingers fighting for the Burma army before he began working against Myanmar’s military rulers and became a political prisoner.

The 49-year-old political refugee would like to return to his homeland one day, but he doesn’t believe it will happen, even after hearing Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi say she would work to make sure people like him could come back.

Myint was among thousands of elated supporters who greeted Suu Kyi with cheers, tears and a standing ovation Tuesday as she took to the stage at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Ind., the fourth stop on her 17-day U.S. tour.

Like Suu Kyi, Myint was imprisoned in 1989. But Myint, who spent 15 years as a political prisoner, said he doesn’t believe Suu Kyi will be able to help him go back to Myanmar. That’s because he says he’s too well-known for working against the junta, having been featured in an HBO documentary called “Burma Soldier.”

“She cannot do anything. She is not in the power,” he said.

Posters Of Iran’s Leader Rise Up Across Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — After years of growing influence, a new sign of Iran’s presence in Iraq has hit the streets. Thousands of signs, that is, depicting Iran’s supreme leader gently smiling to a population once mobilized against the Islamic Republic in eight years of war.

The campaign underscores widespread doubts over just how independent Iraq and its majority Shiite Muslim population can remain from its eastern neighbor, the region’s Shiite heavyweight, now that U.S. troops have left the country.

The posters of Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei first appeared in at least six Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad and across Iraq’s Shiite-dominated south in August, as part of an annual pro-Palestinian observance started years ago by Iran. They have conspicuously remained up since then.

“When I see these pictures, I feel I am in Tehran, not Baghdad,” said Asim Salman, 44, a Shiite and owner of a Baghdad cafe. “Authorities must remove these posters, which make us angry.”

In Basra, located 550 kilometers (340 miles) south of the capital, they hang near donation boxes decorated with scripts in both countries’ languages — Arabic and Farsi.

Memorial

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The committee set the 50 percent target to cover major initial expenses yet get started on the project, Hagen said. “Right now, our goal is to get enough money to purchase the stone and get the price locked in,” she said.

The committee is working to get out information about the memorial project, Irish said. The public has responded with donations of about \$50,000, and the committee has covered initial expenses.

“That’s a lot of money that we have already raised. We feel very good about it,” Irish said. “Most of the donations have been \$20, \$50 and \$100. But we have had donations ranging from as large as \$1,500 down to \$3 or \$4 when some kids got involved and donated their money.”

The community has even initiated its own fundraisers for the veterans memorial, Hagen said.

“The local quilt club made a quilt and raffled it off to benefit us, so that support has been absolutely tremendous,” she said. “And the inmates held a fundraiser at Mike Durfee State Prison (in Springfield) and donated the money to the veterans memorial. It was very substantial to

receive their support.”

Fraternal organizations are providing matching funds, stretching the donations even further, Hagen said.

As another funding source, the Springfield committee has applied for grants from the South Dakota Community Foundation and Mary Chilton DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Foundation, she added.

“There are a couple of other possibilities that we are running down right now,” she said. “We have also done some solicitations from major businesses, and we are waiting for a response on that.”

On its grant applications, the Springfield committee includes information that the area contains the burial sites of more than 300 veterans from the pre-Dakota Territory years to the present, Hagen said.

The memorial effort has received other forms of local support, Hagen said. For example, the Springfield College Museum includes reminders about the veterans memorial in its semi-annual newsletter.

In addition, the Springfield City Council and Chamber of Commerce, along with the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary, have provided letters of support for grant applications.

The city has also provided the land for the memorial, Hagen said. The monument will be located west

U.N. General Assembly

Obama Asks Leaders To Reject Extremism

BY BEN FELLER AND NANCY BENAC  
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Confronting global tumult and Muslim anger, President Barack Obama exhorted world leaders Tuesday to stand fast against violence and extremism, arguing that protecting religious rights and free speech must be a universal responsibility and not just an American obligation.

“The impulse towards intolerance and violence may initially be focused on the West, but over time it cannot be contained,” Obama warned the U.N. General Assembly in an urgent call to action underscored by the high stakes for all nations.

The gloomy backdrop for Obama’s speech — a world riven by deadly protests against an anti-Islamic video, by war in Syria, by rising tension over a nuclear Iran and more — marked the dramatic shifts that have occurred in the year since the General Assembly’s last ministerial meeting, when democratic uprisings in the Arab world created a sense of excitement and optimism. Obama had tough words for Iran and condemned anew the violence in Syria as Bashar al-Assad tries to retain power.

Six weeks before the U.S. presidential election, an unmistakable campaign element framed Obama’s speech as well: The president’s Republican rival, Mitt Romney, has tried to cast him as a weak leader on the world stage,



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT  
U.S. President Barack Obama speaks at the United Nations General Assembly September 25, 2012 in New York.

too quick to apologize for American values.

Romney, speaking at a Clinton Global Initiative forum just miles from the U.N., avoided direct criticism of Obama in deference to the apolitical settings of the day, but he said he hoped to return a year later “as president, having

made substantial progress” on democratic reforms.

Obama, likewise, avoided direct politicking in his speech but offered a pointed contrast to his GOP opponent’s caught-on-tape comment that there is little hope for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

NYC Schools Dispensing Morning-After Pill

BY LINDSEY TANNER  
AND KAREN MATTHEWS  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — It’s a campaign believed to be unprecedented in its size and aggressiveness: New York City is dispensing the morning-after pill to girls as young as 14 at more than 50 public high schools, sometimes even before they have had sex.

The effort to combat teen pregnancy in the nation’s largest city contrasts sharply with the views of politicians and school systems in more conservative parts of the country.

Valerie Huber, president of the National Abstinence Education Association in Washington, calls it “a terrible case once again of bigotry of low expectations” — presuming that teen girls will have sex anyway, and effectively endorsing that.

But some doctors say more schools should follow New York’s lead.

Emergency contraception is safe and effective “if you use it in a timely fashion. It provides relief or solace to a young woman or man who has made a mistake but doesn’t want to have to live with that mistake for the rest of their

“These kids are under 16, which is the age for statutory rape in most states. I just think it’s subsidizing and encouraging behavior that’s probably not healthy for kids that age.”

ANNE LEARY

lives,” said Dr. Cora Breuner, a Seattle physician and member of an American Academy of Pediatrics’ committee on teen health.

Plan B emergency contraception is about 90 percent effective at preventing pregnancy if taken within 72 hours after unprotected sex.

New York’s program was phased in at health clinics at about 40 schools in the 1-million-student school system starting about four years ago. Since January 2011, it has expanded to 13 additional schools that don’t have clinics. The little-known program was reported on Sunday by the New York Post.

Nurse practitioners or physi-

cians dispense the pills, and parents can sign an opt-out form preventing their daughters from taking part. Only about 1 to 2 percent of parents have opted out, according to the city Health Department.

The program is seen as a way to reduce a startling number: More than 7,000 New York City girls ages 15 to 17 get pregnant each year. More than two-thirds of those pregnancies end in abortions.

“We are committed to trying new approaches ... to improve a situation that can have lifelong consequences,” the Health Department said in a statement.

In the 2011-12 school year, 576 girls got the pills at the 13 added schools, said Deborah Kaplan, an assistant health commissioner.

Felicia Regina, Parent Association president at Port Richmond High on Staten Island, has two teens at the school, a junior and a senior, and said she has never heard any parents voice objections.

“I do think it’s a good idea,” she said. “The children nowadays are not going to abstain from sexual intercourse. How many unwed mothers do we need?”

But Mona Davids, president of

the New York City Parents Union, a volunteer group, opposes the program. She has a daughter who attends Laguardia High, not among the schools where Plan B is available.

She said parents should have to sign an “opt-in” form granting permission for Plan B instead. “When your daughter has gone on a trip, didn’t you have to sign that it’s OK for her to go on a trip?” she said.

Davids said emergency contraceptive is too serious a drug to give without parents’ permission: “They can’t even give our kids aspirin or Motrin without informed consent. This is a chemical hormonal drug cocktail.”

Anne Leary, a conservative blogger in Chicago whose children are in their 20s, also said the idea is ill-advised and undermines parents’ authority. Her own children attended high school in a Chicago suburb and were not offered emergency contraception at school.

“These kids are under 16, which is the age for statutory rape in most states. I just think it’s subsidizing and encouraging behavior that’s probably not healthy for kids that age,” Leary said.

of the picnic shelter at Terrace Park. The cannon in the park will be moved to the west and featured as part of the site.

“The Terrace Park location has special significance for all the people that grew up in the Springfield area,” Irish said.

Terrace Park also offers a strategic location for the memorial, Hagen said. The park overlooks the Missouri River on the south end of Springfield, and the LED light on the memorial will be visible from the river, she said. In addition, the memorial will be visible as travelers enter Springfield at its north end.

“You can view the memorial from both land and water,” she said. “We think the symbolism is very important.”

As part of the planning process, the committee is trying to locate the World War II Veterans Memorial plaque last seen at the south end of the football field located at the former University of South Dakota-Springfield (USD-S). They are asking anyone with information to contact a committee member.

Luken Memorials of Yankton has designed the monument. The site will feature a tapered 20-foot spire with a stainless steel LED light at the top and a broken/zig-zag wall attached to the spire. At its base, the spire measures 30 feet by 30 feet. The top of the spire measures 12 feet by 12 feet.

The memorial walls will contain

the names of veterans with ties to the Springfield area. This includes the names of veterans and currently active military personnel. If an individual currently lives in the Springfield area or once lived in the Springfield area, attended school in Springfield (including the former college), was a member of the Springfield National Guard unit or has family from the Springfield area, the memorial committee will consider the inclusion of their name on the memorial.

“Some memorials ask \$100 to put your name on it. We don’t do that,” Irish said. “We don’t charge for engraving a name on the memorial (at this time), and we collect the names of anybody who has ties to the Springfield community.”

As of its August meeting, the Springfield committee had accumulated 1,273 names for the memorial, and more names have been received since then, Hagen said. She strongly encourages interested parties to submit names before engraving begins on the project.

In conjunction with building the memorial, the Springfield Veterans Memorial Committee is creating a data base of area veterans that will be part of the Springfield Historical Museum. Veterans are asked to provide information about themselves and where they are stationed while in the military.

The committee is seeking photos from all eras of service for the

memorial and dedication booklet. The committee seeks “action” photos rather than formal military photos. This would include photos of personnel with military vehicles, scenes from overseas and state-side service and other venues that depict the time of service.

The committee is also asking that submitters include a description of the photo which can be used in the booklet. Submissions can be sent to Hagen at Box 629, Springfield SD 57062, or photos can be emailed as attachments with descriptions to [springvetmem@yahoo.com](mailto:springvetmem@yahoo.com).

The submitters should include return names and addresses if they desire return of the photos. The committee recommends sending a copy of the photo rather than the original photo itself.

Committee member Jim Hornstra maintains the Facebook page,

which includes the current list of veterans’ names along with photos and stories.

The committee will disband once the memorial is completed, Hagen said. At that point, the American Legion post in Springfield will take over maintenance of the memorial.

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To make a donation to the memorial, contact Irish at 41208 311th Street, Springfield SD 57062. To submit a name for the memorial, contact Hornstra at 40827 312th St., Springfield, SD 57062, email [springvetmem@yahoo.com](mailto:springvetmem@yahoo.com) or call (605) 369-5555.

For more information, visit [www.springfieldsd.com](http://www.springfieldsd.com).

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](http://twitter.com/RDockendorf)

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