

## Gunmen Attack Family In Iraq, Kill 3

BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Officials say gunmen have broken into the home of a Shiite family in a Sunni-dominated area south of Baghdad and killed family members.

Two police officers say the militants attacked the house in the town of Youssifiyah early on Monday morning, killing the parents and their 16-year old son. Two other children, aged 12 and 14 years, were wounded.

A medical official confirmed the figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information.

The killing comes amid a new push by gunmen to attack Shiite families in Sunni-dominated areas south of Baghdad. The assaults are reminiscent of the sectarian violence that engulfed Iraq after the U.S. invasion and peaked in 2006 and 2007.

Youssifiyah is 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Baghdad.

## Egypt Bans Muslim Brotherhood Group

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian court has banned the Muslim Brotherhood group and ordered its assets confiscated in a dramatic escalation of a crackdown by the military-backed government against supporters of the ousted Islamist president Mohammed Morsi.

Egypt state TV said the court issued its ruling on Monday.

The Brotherhood was outlawed for most of its 85 years in existence. But after the 2011 ouster of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, it was allowed to work openly, formed a political party and rose to power in a string of post-Mubarak elections. In March, it registered as a recognized non-governmental organization.

The ruling, which can be appealed, opens door for authorities to track down the group's elaborate network of social services, dealing a deadly blow to its pillars of grass-root support.

## Experts Stress Solidity Of Report

STOCKHOLM (AP) — U.N. climate experts say their latest report is an unbiased and reliable assessment of global warming as they present it to officials from 110 governments for a final review.

By the end of the week, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is scheduled to adopt a final version of its landmark report on the state of Earth's climate system.

A series of errors embarrassed the authors of the IPCC's previous assessment in 2007.

IPCC chairman Rajendra Pachauri told a conference Monday in Stockholm that the latest report marks "a new milestone in the understanding of climate change."

He said 60 percent of the authors were new to the IPCC process, showing "the inclusivity and openness" of the U.N.-sponsored panel.

## Syria Allows Access To Chemical Sites

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad says his government will allow international experts access to its chemical weapons sites but that rebels might block them from reaching some of the locations.

In an interview with Chinese state TV broadcast Monday, Assad said Damascus is dedicated to implement a Russia-U.S. agreement to surrender its chemical weapons to international control.

Assad also said the Syrian government has already handed over a list of chemical weapons to an international agency policing chemical weapons.

He says his government won't have "any problem" taking experts to sites where the weapons are kept but some places might be difficult to reach due to ongoing fighting or the "local security situation."

He says: "I'm referring to places where militants exist. Those militants might want to stop the experts' arrival."

## Roadside Bomb Kills 2 NATO Troops

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — NATO says a roadside bombing has killed two international service members in eastern Afghanistan.

The military alliance says the attack happened on Sunday. NATO confirmed the incident on Monday but did not specify the nationality of the service members.

Many U.S. troops operate in the eastern part of the country.

This incident brings the number of NATO troops killed this month to seven, while 122 have been killed so far this year, 92 of them U.S. soldiers.

On Saturday, three American soldiers were killed by an Afghan wearing a security forces uniform after he turned his weapon against them in Paktia province, another apparent attack by a member of the Afghan forces against their international allies.

## Phil. Rebels Attack Southern Town

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A group of Muslim rebels opposed to peace talks with the Philippine government has stormed a southern town and seized several hostages while battling security forces.

The military reported the rebels attacked Midsayap township Monday and triggered clashes with government forces. As troops closed in, the withdrawing rebels split into several groups and took four teachers and 11 farmers hostage.

Some hostages were later released and it wasn't clear how many are still held. One soldier was killed.

The attackers belong to Bangasamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, a breakaway faction of a large rebel group that has signed a peace agreement in exchange for autonomy for minority Muslims in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

The violence came as troops clear another southern city of separate rebels who took hostages Sept. 9.

## Band Member Declares Hunger Strike

MOSCOW (AP) — One of the imprisoned members of the Russian punk group Pussy Riot says she is beginning a hunger strike to protest harsh working conditions and threats to her life.

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova is serving a two-year sentence for hooliganism. She and two other group members were arrested in 2012 when Pussy Riot made a brief, unauthorized performance in Moscow's main Orthodox cathedral denouncing Vladimir Putin.

In a letter published Monday on the group's blog, Tolokonnikova says inmates in her prison are forced to work up to 17 hours a day in a shop that makes police uniforms.

# ‘Most’ Hostages Rescued

BY JASON STRAZIUSO AND TOM ODULA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenya's military launched a major operation at an upscale Nairobi mall and said it had rescued "most" of the hostages being held captive by al-Qaida-linked militants during a two-day standoff that killed at least 68 people and injured 175.

At daybreak on Monday, however, about five minutes of sustained gunfire could be heard being fired out of the mall, a clear indication that at least one gunman was still free and that the standoff continued. And hours after Kenyan officials said most hostages had been released, no further updates were released by authorities.

"We are yet to get confirmation from what's happening in the building," Col. Cyrus Oguna, a Kenyan military spokesman, told The Associated Press.

The military assault began shortly before sundown on Sunday, with one helicopter skimming very close to the roof of the shopping complex as a loud explosion rang out, far larger than any previous grenade blast or gunfire volley.

Kenyan police said on Twitter that security forces had launched a "MAJOR" assault to end the bloody siege.

"This will end tonight. Our forces will prevail. Kenyans are standing firm against aggression, and we will win," Kenya's National Disaster Operation Centre said on Twitter.

The Kenya Defense Forces later said it had rescued "most" hostages and had taken control of most of the mall, though it did not provide details.

Late on Sunday, Oguna said that many of the rescued hostages — mostly adults — were suffering from dehydration. He refused to say how many hostages were rescued or how many were still being held, and still couldn't provide that information on Monday. He said some of the attackers had "most probably" been killed in the operation.

The assault came about 30 hours after 10 to 15 al-Shabab extremists stormed the mall Saturday from two sides,



ZHANG CHEN/XINHUA/ZUMA PRESS/MCT

**Thick smoke rises from the Westgate Shopping Centre in Nairobi following a string of explosions during the third day of a stand-off between Kenyan security forces and gunmen inside the building in Nairobi, Kenya, Monday. Kenyan security forces on Monday stepped up their onslaught against Al-Qaida allied Al-Shabaab gunmen to end a siege on the mall and free hostages.**

throwing grenades and firing on civilians.

Loud exchanges of gunfire rang out from inside the four-story mall throughout Sunday. Kenyan troops were seen carrying in at least two rocket-propelled grenades. Al-Shabab militants reacted angrily to the helicopters on Twitter and warned that the Kenyan military action was endangering hostages.


Kenyan authorities said they would do their utmost to save hostages' lives, but no officials could say precisely how many people were being held captive. Kenya's Red Cross said in a statement, citing police, that 49 people had been reported missing. Officials did not make an explicit


link but that number could give an indication of the number of people held captive.

Kenya's Red Cross said the death toll rose to 68 after nine bodies were recovered Sunday. More than 175 people were injured, including many children, Kenyan officials said.

Somalia's al-Qaida-linked rebel group, al-Shabab, claimed responsibility for the attack that specifically targeted non-Muslims, saying it was in retribution for Kenyan forces' 2011 push into neighboring Somalia.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry condemned what he called "an enormous offense against everybody's sense of right and wrong,"



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