

NATION AND WORLD

Libyan diplomat shot, dies

United Press International
 ROME — A Libyan diplomat was shot repeatedly at close range Sunday but managed to draw a .38-caliber pistol and pursue the assailant, apparently wounding him, before dying in a pool of blood, police said.
 Al Borkan, a shadowy organization whose name means "volcano" in Arabic, claimed responsibility for the attack on Farag Omar Mkhayoun, 31, a press officer at the Libyan Embassy, as he was leaving his home in northern Rome.
 Investigators said a second terrorist apparently accompanied the gunman but did not open fire. They said a witness reported seeing two men fleeing after the shots, followed by the staggering victim.
 Al Borkan also claimed responsibility for the fatal shooting of former Libyan Ambassador to Italy Ammar El Taggazy on Jan. 21, 1984.
 Investigators said Interpol, the international police organization, had no information on Al Borkan. They said they believe the killers were either Libyans opposed to the regime of Col. Moammar Khadafy or followers of Imam Moussa Sadr, the leader of the Lebanese Shiite community who disappeared Aug. 31, 1978, while about to leave Tripoli for Rome.

JANA, the official Libyan news agency, said in a commentary issued in Tripoli "the vile assassination" was the work of hired assassins "who are closely tied to the American secret services."

Attacking "American imperialism," JANA said, "These criminals will not escape the punishment they deserve."

Mkhayoun's assailant shot him at close range in the neck, chest, abdomen, and right arm and hand, police said.

Despite his wounds, the diplomat pursued the gunman down the street and around the corner, firing his pistol, police said.

Mkhayoun traded shots with his assassin and probably wounded him before he collapsed in a pool of blood still clutching his .38-caliber pistol, anti-terrorist police spokesman Francesco Sirleo said.

The gunman dumped his pistol after Mkhayoun collapsed, jumped over a wall and escaped on foot, witnesses told police. Traces of blood were found on the discarded weapon.



Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Watch the ball

Reveille V made her first sports appearance at the SMU game Friday night. The Mustangs outscored the Aggies, 73-60.

A gas station attendant told police he sold gasoline to a man about 90 minutes after the shooting who was bleeding through his jacket from a shoulder wound. The man was described only as being about 30 years old and driving a Volkswagen.

Mkhayoun's wife, who rushed outside at the sound of the shots, told police Mkhayoun recently received several anonymous telephone calls threatening him because of his ties to the embassy. She said the calls prompted him to carry a pistol.

Responsibility for the death was claimed in a telephone call to an American news agency in London.

"We have killed Fagar Mkhayoun of the Libyan Embassy in Rome,"

police quoted the caller. "We belong to the Al Borkan group."

Mkhayoun, the father of three children, had been working at the Rome embassy for three years. Until he transferred to the press office three months ago, he had been responsible for cultural affairs at the embassy, they said.

Last year, two elegantly dressed gunmen shot El Taggazy in a similar attack as he left his home. He died of his wounds Feb. 10.

In 1980, five Libyans were murdered in Rome at the height of Khadafy's campaign against Libyan opponents of his regime who lived abroad.

Deliberation in libel case begins today

United Press International
 NEW YORK — The jurors in Ariel Sharon's \$50 million case against Time Inc. prepared Sunday to decide whether the Israeli general was libeled by the magazine's report that he encouraged massacres at two Beirut refugee camps.

Judge Abraham Sofaer was to instruct the six jurors Monday who have listened to eight weeks of testimony in the case, which pits Israel's controversial war hero against the Time Inc. communications empire.

On Friday, Sharon attorney Milton Gould concluded his six-hour summation in U.S. District Court in Manhattan by demanding Time's "infamy" be eradicated and Sharon's good name restored.

Gould urged the jurors to find Time guilty of publishing a false and malicious story linking the former Israeli defense minister to the 1982 massacre of Palestinian civilians.

"Your verdict will determine if Sharon will go down in history, not just in Israel but in the Western world, as a great man, a great soldier regarded by countless people as the savior of his country," Gould said, slamming his fist on the jury box.

"Or, if on the basis of lies and vicious speculation by Time, whether he'll go down as a kind of monster — another Herod — who encouraged a massacre of women and children."

King Herod of Judea, a puppet of the Romans, allowed the killing of children 2 years and younger shortly after the birth of Christ.

In his \$50 million suit, Sharon contends that a paragraph in Time's cover story "The Verdict is Guilty" falsely suggested he encouraged Lebanon's Christian Phalangists to murder Palestinian civilians at two Beirut refugee camps.

The paragraph says that on the eve of the carnage, Sharon "discussed" with Israel's Phalangist allies "the need to take revenge for the assassination" of Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel.

The next day, Sharon ordered the Phalangist militia into the camps to root out terrorists. The Phalangists proceeded to slaughter an estimated 700 Palestinian civilians.

Time's Jerusalem correspondent David Halevy reported the paragraph, allegedly based on information from his confidential sources.

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