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World and Nation

Mafia

Heavy security marks beginning of Italy's largest mob trial

Associated Press

PALERMO, Sicily — The largest Mafia trial in Italian history opened Monday, with defendants in steel cages and police escorts for the judges who will hear charges against the 474 accused mobsters.

The government hopes the trial, which includes charges of drug smuggling and multiple murder, will mark the turning point in its long fight against the mob.

Authorities said 115 of the defendants were at large, including most of the top-ranking bosses indicted after a three-year investigation by five of Italy's top investigating magistrates.

The courtroom was built for the trial at a cost of \$17 million. The defendants are held in 30 steel-barred cages guarded by armed police officers.

About 100 defendants were present for the trial's opening.

A reputed leader of the Corleone family, Luciano Liggio, sat alone in Cage 23, dressed in a blue track suit and white sneakers, smoking a cigar.

In the adjoining cage was Pippo Calo, called the "grand cashier" of the Mafia, who allegedly recycled mob money until his arrest in Rome last year.

One minute of silence was observed in schools, offices and factories throughout Sicily when the trial began at 10 a.m. Many schools in Palermo devoted their first classes to a discussion of the Mafia, which has been a pervasive influence in Sicily for centuries.

Prosecutors claim to have some of the best-documented evidence ever gathered against the mob, which they say will mean less reliance than

in past trials on testimony from mob members turned informants.

Much of the evidence was gathered with the aid of a recently passed law giving authorities wider powers. It accords them extensive wire-tapping privileges and access to bank records as a means of tracking down laundered profits from the multibillion-dollar heroin business centered on this large island off southern Italy.

Among the charges against the defendants are 90 murders and criminal association involving control of the drug traffic. Four of the defendants are women, who face relatively minor charges such as aiding and abetting criminal activity.

Thirty mobsters have become informants in the case, but only one

was in the courtroom for the opening session.

Among those absent was Tommaso Buscetta, a top Mafia figure who has been testifying in New York in the Pizza Connection narcotics case, so named because drugs were distributed through pizza parlors.

Buscetta has lost seven family members to the Mafia's internal wars, including his daughter Felicia, husband, Giuseppe Genova, who was slain Dec. 26, 1982.

After presiding Judge Alfonso Giordano took his seat beneath a wooden crucifix in the octagonal courtroom, the court swore in 43 jurors. Sixteen are regular panelists and the rest are standbys for the trial, which is expected to last at least nine months.

5 South African blacks murdered

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Police said Monday they found the bodies of five blacks who were bound, stabbed and burned with what has become known as the "necklace" — gasoline-soaked tires placed around them and set afire.

The killings appeared to be part of the struggle between rival anti-apartheid groups that differ on how to fight white-minority rule.

Four of the bodies were found together, with more tires piled on them to form a funeral pyre, and the fifth was a short distance away. Press reports said the men may have been sentenced to death by unofficial "people's courts" operating in black townships.

Col. Gerrie van Rooyen, police spokesman for the eastern region that includes Cape Province, said the victims were stabbed, their hands and feet bound with thin wire, then gasoline-soaked tires were placed around their bodies and set afire. The corpses were found on a street in a section of New Brighton township, outside the industrial center of Port Elizabeth.

He said the men probably were killed Sunday.

Their deaths brought the weekend toll from black in-fighting to seven.

Besutu Ntsheta, a leader of a small group called Azanian National Youth Unity, said attackers beat and hacked two of its members to death Saturday and abducted several others. His organization believes only blacks should fight for black rights.

Ntsheta said he did not know whether the victims found Monday were among those kidnapped. Police said they had not identified the men.

The Youth Unity group broke from the Azanian People's Organization, a black consciousness group that includes Asians and people of mixed race, known here as "coloreds," in its definition of blacks.

Ntsheta said those who attacked his people were members of the United Democratic Front, a multiracial coalition considered the largest group opposing apartheid, the racial policy that reserves privilege for South Africa's 5 million whites and denies rights to the 24 million blacks.

The Front has a large following in the Port Elizabeth area, and its members have fought those from both the Azanian People's Organization and the breakaway group.

Edgar Ngoyi, the United Democratic Front's leader in the area, was out in the townships Monday and unreachable for comment, a spokesman at his office said. Front leaders have appealed in the past for a halt to the in-fighting, which they say serves the white minority.

Ashraf Karodia, regional spokesman for the Azanian People's Organization, said his group was not involved in the necklace slayings or in the attacks on the Youth Unity members.

The necklace has become a ritual method of killing blacks accused of collaborating with the white government, including policemen and members of township councils, during the 17 months of anti-apartheid violence in which more than 1,100 people have died.

Authorities say about one-third of the victims were killed by other blacks, and the rest by security forces.

In Jouberton township, outside Klerksdorp west of Johannesburg, thousands of residents stayed home from work to protest the police shooting of a youth Saturday after a riot victim's funeral. A reporter at the scene said young men threw stones at buses until police arrived.

Pope's tour of India ends amid protests

Associated Press

BOMBAY, India — Pope John Paul II ended an exhausting 10-day pilgrimage across India on Monday with a call for peace and unity, as Hindu militants tried to burn him in effigy.

The 65-year-old pontiff, speaking to more than 100,000 Christians at a youth rally at Shivaji Park, praised India's rich spiritual and cultural heritage and called on Christians to try to heal the nation's many sectarian and communal divisions.

John Paul, leader of the world's 840 million Roman Catholic Christians, said the challenge facing Christians was to reject "all discrimination based on race, religion, sex, social condition or language groups."

Before he began his final speech in India, about 30 Hindu fanatics shouted "Pope go home!" and "The pope is an agent of the CIA!" They said he had no business visiting secular, predominantly Hindu India.

Police rounded up militants as they tried to set fire to an effigy of the pope and broke up the protest quickly, without violence.

The protest was organized by right-wing Hindus, who staged demonstrations upon the pope's arrival in New Delhi on Feb. 1.

Of India's 750 million people, Christians make up 3 percent. There are about 24 million Christians in India, 13 million of them Catholics.

Group questions use of tax incentives

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Forty-four big profitable corporations used tax incentives for investment to wipe out their federal income taxes during President Reagan's first term, but actually cut jobs and spending for new plants and equipment, a private research group said Monday.

On the other hand, said Citizens for Tax Justice, 43 companies that paid at least one-third of their profits in federal taxes increased invest-

ment by 21 percent and boosted their employment rolls by 4 percent from 1981 through 1984.

The report questioned the value of the estimated \$120 billion a year worth of incentives that the federal tax laws give corporations in an effort to spur investment and job creation. The House, in passing a major tax-overhaul bill last December, reduced some of the incentives, and Reagan is now demanding that the Senate restore some of them if the legislation is to win his support.

Robert S. McIntyre, director of federal tax policy at Citizens for Tax Justice, said in releasing the report, "Our 'riverboat gamble' with throwing money at corporations simply has not panned out."

"Corporate tax 'incentives' have been a huge failure at stimulating more investment or jobs," he said.

Citizens for Tax Justice, a liberal oriented group engaged in research and lobbying, is financed by labor unions, churches and various "public-interest" organizations.

New Haitian council promises reforms

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The head of Haiti's interim government pledged Monday to share wealth fairly in that nation, whose people were ground into poverty during three decades that mowed the Duvaliers and their friends fabulously rich.

Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, president of the six-man interim government council, said at swearing-in ceremonies for the new Cabinet that there will be free elections by universal suffrage and a new, "liberal" constitution to create a "real and working democracy."

Haiti's last free election was the one that brought Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier to power in 1957. His son Jean-Claude, who succeeded at age 19 when "Papa Doc" died in 1971, fled with his family and aides Friday in a U.S. military plane and now is in France.

The remarks by Namphy, who is the army chief of staff, followed a weekend orgy of celebration and violence. Haitians rioted, sacked homes owned by the departed dictator and his lieutenants, and hunted down members of the dreaded Duvalier private militia, the Tonton Macoutes.

As many as 300 people were killed over the weekend, including members of the Tonton Macoutes who were hacked and beaten to death.

Residents pointed out the homes or hiding places of suspected militiamen, shouting: "Long live the army! Down with the Macoutes!"

Namphy announced the dissolution of the Tonton Macoutes, and asked the people to stop attacking its members.

He called in his speech "for a fair division of the national wealth" in this poorest of the Western Hemisphere nations, most of whose people earn less than \$150 a year.

The weekend outburst did not remove reminders of the Duvaliers. Hundreds of schools are named for Jean-Claude, there are three Jean-Claude Duvalier streets in the capital alone, the government-owned communications satellite station bears his name, and visitors arrive at the Francois Duvalier International Airport.

The new council ordered on Sunday that all privately owned firearms be turned in at police stations. The 59-member National Assembly has been dissolved, the constitution suspended and the council says it will rule by decree for the time being.

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