

Hostages held in Iraq allowed to call families

DALLAS (AP) — Some wives of Texans being held in Iraq have talked to their husbands for the first time since they were taken hostage. But other family members are still waiting.

For Sarrah Amos, the call came once Saturday and again Monday. For Patty Hale, the call came Saturday. But by Tuesday, after three months of waiting, Marjorie Walterscheid's telephone call from Iraq still hasn't come.

The phone calls over the last three days followed an Iraqi government announcement last weekend that American "guests" would be allowed to call their families in the United States.

The latest Iraqi move was denounced by U.S. officials as yet another game being played with innocent lives by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. But the wives said they were grateful to hear from their husbands, even if it was a public relations ploy.

"It was good to be able to hear him. At the time you get the calls, you're about ready to cry," Amos of Gilmer told the Dallas Morning News. Her husband, Charles, is a hostage.

"After it's over, it's a big letdown because they're not here in person," she said.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department between Oct. 25 and 29.

FELONY THEFT:
 • A red 1987 Chevrolet Camaro was stolen from Parking Area 50. The car was recovered in Houston the next day by the Harris County Sheriff's office. The vehicle had been stripped of its wheels, radio and steering column and its window and tail lamps were damaged.

ATTEMPTED FELONY THEFT:
 • A student reported someone tried to steal his 1986 Chevrolet Camaro from Parking Area 61. Investigation revealed the steering column had been damaged.

ASSAULT:
 • A student reported he was struck in the face by his ex-girlfriend's brother. No charges were filed.

• A student reported an unknown man spit a lima bean on his shirt because the student confirmed his involvement in Aggies Against Bon-

fire.

ATTEMPTED THEFT:
 • A woman reported someone entered her office and attempted to steal her wallet.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:
 • A MacIntosh II computer in the Zachry Engineering Center was tampered with.

• The tires of a vehicle in Parking Area 51 were deflated because a toothpick had been inserted in the valve stems.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS:
 • An individual was arrested for criminal trespass following his violation of the University regulation concerning solicitation.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED:
 • An individual was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION:
 • Two students were arrested for public intoxication.

MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL:
 • Three people were cited for minors in pos-

session of alcohol.

BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE:
 • An individual reported someone entered his Bellanca Super Viking aircraft and removed some equipment.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED:
 • An individual was arrested for driving while his license was suspended.

HARASSMENT:
 • Two students reported receiving annoying phone calls.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:
 • Seven bikes were reported stolen.

• A student reported his wallet was stolen from a study carrel on the third floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

The next day the student returned to the study carrel and located his identification cards and A&M bus pass with a note that read, "Sir, I be sorry, the temptation was too much." The cash in the wallet at the time of the theft was not returned.

Iraq will free 108 hostages; U.S. captives remain 'guests'

Associated Press

Iraq on Tuesday promised to free 108 hostages, none of them American, and insisted anew its foreign "guests" are well treated. Secretary of State James A. Baker III pressed U.S. allies about their willingness to go to war.

The Baghdad government was keeping an eye on Tuesday's midterm elections in the United States. It claimed any slippage in Republican support would reflect a lack of public support for President Bush's Persian Gulf policies.

"The American people will ... ask him why he is sending their sons to be killed in the Arab desert and he will reap the fruits of his mistake," Iraqi Information Minister Latif Jassim said.

In the latest hostage releases, Iraq's official news agency said 77 Japanese nationals would be freed in response to an appeal from former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. It also said 20 Italians, five Swedes, two Germans, two Portuguese and two Australians would be allowed to leave.

foreigners trapped when Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2. Some had been held at strategic sites as "human shields" against attack.

Iraq has since freed hundreds of captives, but Western governments have expressed growing fears that Iraq's Saddam Hussein is successfully using the hostages to divide the alliance facing him.

Baker, meanwhile, was seeking to strengthen the anti-Iraq coalition. He is in the Mideast to assess support for stronger steps against Iraq, including a possible military strike.

He met Tuesday in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, but there was no immediate word on the outcome. Egypt has sent thousands of troops to join the multinational force assembled in the gulf.

U.S. troops make up the bulk of the force, which numbers about 300,000. The Pentagon said Tuesday that the U.S. troop deployment in the region had reached 230,000 and was still growing.

ber of the U.N. Security Council, and its support would be needed for a U.N.-sanctioned military strike against Saddam.

Asked about such a military move, Qian expressed hopes a peaceful settlement could still be found.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, who has tried to act as a mediator in the gulf crisis, said prospects for peace are improving as the world considers the consequences of an all-out conflict.

"War will be disastrous and catastrophic," Arafat told reporters in Baghdad. "This is the world's oil center. Just imagine what a disaster and a catastrophe it will be."

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, however, reminded Iraq on Tuesday that the United Nations has not restricted the use of military force to liberate Kuwait.

"We would like a peaceful settlement, but that option is in the hands of the Iraqis," Prince Saud, foreign minister, said.

Iraq's freeing of its Japanese hostages comes as Japanese lawmakers are considering a plan to send troops to the gulf in non-combat roles. However, the measure has prompted strong protests in Japan and its prospects for approval look dim. Japan said it had not altered its gulf policy in order to win the hostages' freedom.

Act Now

Texas A&M's Crime Prevention Unit representatives want students, faculty and staff to be aware theft is one of the major crimes occurring on campus.

Most thefts take place when property is left unattended. Individuals often leave property unattended or unsecured, providing an opportunity for theft.

The University Police Department's annual report shows the value of property stolen on campus in 1989 was \$549,868.

The most common locations for theft to occur are as follows:

- Theft of unattended backpacks, wallets and purses in dining halls, Sterling C. Evans Library, MSC and athletic areas.
- Theft of books in unattended rooms and the library.
- Theft of unlocked or unattended bicycles in and out of bike racks.
- Theft of personal belongings in unattended offices and unlocked lockers.
- Theft of computers, lab, video and camera equipment from unlocked and unattended offices and buildings.

To keep belongings from being stolen, the following precautions should be considered:

- Identify property by engraving or marking serial numbers.
- Lock belongings up or take them with you. Use good locks and cables.

For more details or to schedule a crime prevention talk, contact the Crime Prevention Unit.

To report suspicious activity, call the police department, 845-2345.

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Aide testifies failed S&L hired prostitutes

DALLAS (AP) — Nine prostitutes were provided at parties for directors of a failed savings and loan, testified an aide for the former owner who is accused of fraud in Vernon Savings Association's demise.

Testimony resumed Tuesday morning in the trial of Don R. Dixon, who faces a 38-count indictment accusing him of allowing Vernon funds to pay for illegal campaign contributions, using trust funds for personal expenses and for hiring prostitutes.

Ernest Osuna testified Monday that Dixon began courting politicians two years before Vernon's failure to help the ailing thrift.

The former manager of Vernon's California beach house said he contracted with Karen Wilkening and another San Diego madam to provide prostitutes at a 1985 party for Vernon directors.

Osuna, Dixon's aide from August 1984 until the thrift's failure in 1987, said he arranged for nine prostitutes at a cost of \$10,500.

Federal regulators say Vernon's failure cost taxpayers an estimated \$1.3 billion.

The nine prostitutes were for parties held on June 20 at Dixon's posh Del Mar beach house and on June 23 aboard a yacht cruising San Diego harbor, Osuna said.

"I made arrangements with Karen Wilkening and Jana (Warner) to bring girls aboard the yacht for a catered dinner and cocktails," Osuna testified.

"The same women who appeared (at the party) Thursday appeared again on Saturday."

The three-day Vernon affair included 22-year-old Donna Gentile whose naked body was found at dawn June 23, off Sunrise Highway east of Pine Valley, sources have told The San Diego Union.

The San Diego Metropolitan Homicide Task Force is investigating Gentile's murder and the deaths of 41 other young women slain since 1985.

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