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Armenian gunmen surrender

Parliament attackers turn in weapons, release hostages

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Nationalist gunmen whose attack on parliament killed eight top Armenian officials, including the prime minister turned in their weapons and surrendered yesterday, freeing the dozens of hostages they had held during their overnight siege.

Hundreds of police and army troops with armored personnel carriers had surrounded the parliament building in the former Soviet republic throughout the night, and authorities had been considering using special forces to end the standoff with the five attackers.

The takeover at the parliament building ended after President Robert Kocharian promised the gunmen a fair trial and a recorded statement by their leader was broadcast on national television.

"We wanted to save the Armenian people from perishing and restore their rights," Nairi Unanian, an ardent nationalist and ex-journalist, said in the recorded statement. "Those responsible for robbing the country must face trial along with us."

Armenia, like many ex-Soviet republics, has been mired in economic chaos for years, stuck between the failed Soviet system and largely unsuccessful efforts to build a market economy.

Corruption is rampant, with some officials allegedly diverting public funds.

The gunmen released some 40 hostages and handed in weapons to police before being escorted from the building with at least one hostage to ensure their safety.

The freed hostages, mainly government officials and lawmakers, were checked by doctors.

The prosecutor-general filed charges of terrorism and attempting to weaken state power against the gunmen.

The charges carry a prison sentence of 10 to 15 years in prison, or the death penalty — though there has been a moratorium on capital punishment since 1994.

Kocharian said the nation would be in mourning from Friday through Sunday, the day when the victims are to be buried.

During his taped address, Unanian accused the government of Kocharian and slain Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian of allowing the country to disintegrate.

He also accused the country's elite of bleeding the economy dry with corruption and called for a national renewal to restore pride and prosperity.

He said he had not wanted to kill anybody, just to scare lawmakers. But earlier he said the killing



Russians, Chechens face off near capital

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian soldiers battled Chechen fighters for control of a key hill overlooking the Chechen capital while jets and artillery pounded targets around the breakaway republic yesterday.

Russia's defense minister said his troops would never leave Chechnya, while a leading Chechen warlord vowed to avenge slain civilians with terrorist attacks against Russia.

Plumes of black smoke dotted Grozny's skyline as Russian shells slammed into parts of the city, shattering buildings and starting fires.

Russian jets bombed several villages, and eyewitnesses reported heavy airstrikes against Achkoi-Martan, about 15 miles southwest of Grozny.

Russian bombs hit a funeral procession in Stariye Atagi, about 10 miles south of Grozny and wounded three elderly mourners, residents said.

A major battle was being fought for Yastrebinaya Hill, which towers about 850 feet above the outskirts north of Grozny.

In the east, Russian troops forced their way into the outskirts of Gudermes, Chechnya's second-largest city, 20 miles east of Grozny. Gudermes lies along the main road leading to the republic of Dagestan.

Chechen Vice President Kazbek Makhachev said yesterday that 223 civilians had been killed in Russian airstrikes since Wednesday. There was no way to independently confirm the claim, although medical workers reported numerous civilian casualties.

Rather subpoenaed in third Jasper trial

JASPER, Texas (AP) — Prosecutors have begun the process of subpoenaing CBS anchorman Dan Rather to testify at the murder trial of the third white man charged in the dragging death of a black man.

Prosecutors want to ask Rather about an interview he did last month with the defendant, Shawn Berry. The interview aired on "60 Minutes II" on Sept. 28.

In it, Berry said he tried to stop the attack but backed off when one of his alleged accomplices, John W. King, threatened him.

State District Judge Bob Golden approved the subpoena Tuesday, ruling that Rather is a "material and necessary witness."

The judge ordered the newsman's presence for about two weeks, starting Nov. 9.

Golden also ordered Dallas-based CBS producer Mary Mapes to appear Friday with unredacted portions of the interview.

Mapes did not appear on Friday, as originally ordered, but she got lost on her way to one of her attorneys said.

Her attorneys argued she could not produce the tape because she had never contacted them and that the only proprietor of the records was a News headquarters in New York.

CBS News president Andrew Heyward said the company would challenge both subpoenas.

Berry, 24, is accused of shooting James Byrd Jr., 49, to death in his pickup truck last year and dragging him to pieces.

White supremacists K. Lawrence Brewer were charged earlier this year in similar trials and each received a life sentence.

2 killed in Blue Angels crash

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AP) — A jet from the Navy's Blue Angels precision flying team crashed during a training flight yesterday while trying to land under clear skies. Both people aboard were killed.

The F/A-18 Hornet went down around midday on a farm near Moody Air Force Base in southernmost Georgia, plowing into a stand of pines. The Blue Angels were scheduled to perform at the base this weekend.

"They were coming in to land, practicing arrival maneuvers, when this happened," Pentagon spokesperson Ken Bacon in Washington said. "We don't know what caused it."

Killed were Lt. Commander Kieron O'Connor, 35, of Burtonville, Md., and Lt. Kevin Colling, 32, of Castle Rock, Colo.

HAGLER

Continued from Page 1

Located at the front entry of the building is the Legacy Hall, on which the names of 1,000 people who have made donations to A&M since the University's beginnings in 1876 are displayed. The names are represented on the wall at 11 a.m. Admission is \$630 million.

McFadden said the Foundation awards scholarships through individual recipients and each received a letter of appreciation from the college.

children who participate in the program benefit from this event.

"We all have a lot of fun with the children and learning how much fun they are having," she said. "It's great that we have the opportunity to put on a show like this and see the positive impact it has on the children."

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