

# Feminist killing focus of women's rights debates

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Even in death, Konca Kuris was denied her last wish — that women be allowed to pray alongside men.

It was a desire that cost the religious feminist her life.

Police dug up Kuris' naked body from the basement of a hideout used by an Islamic group who videotaped weeks of abuse they inflicted before suffocating her.

The bodies of dozens of male victims also have been found and a second female victim was discovered Friday.

The killings have horrified the country, but Kuris' slaying also has focused attention on the role of women in Islam, a flashpoint that was underscored when male relatives at her funeral last week refused to allow her eldest daughter to pray beside her coffin.

"Who are the real Muslims, those who have killed Konca or those who go to mosque together, women and men?" asked Necati Dogru, a

columnist for the newspaper *Sabah*.

"One more person paid with her life for being different and searching for her own voice," Sibel Eraslan, a female commentator, wrote in the Islamic newspaper *Akit*.

But at Ankara's main Kocatepe mosque, worshipper Nese Ince spoke out against Kuris' feminist brand of Islam.

"I don't want the Islam that I have believed in for years to be changed," she said.

Kuris at first was a member of the group Hezbollah, which seeks to establish an Islamic state in southeastern Turkey and which is not related to the Lebanese group of the same name.

She traveled to Iran with a delegation from the organization but gradually became disillusioned with the group's attitude toward women.

She demanded the right to pray alongside men and that prayers be said in Turkish and not the traditional Arabic, which few Turks understand.

Kuris' feminist views infuriated Hezbollah, which is dominated by traditional, rural Kurds.

In early 1998, she began to receive anonymous telephone calls.

"Are you inventing a new religion?" the voices asked, according to the newspaper *Milliyet*.

In July of that year, three people kidnapped Kuris from in front of her home in the southern port of Mersin, and she was never seen again.

Tapes of Kuris' interrogation were discovered about two weeks ago during a police raid on a Hezbollah safe house in Istanbul, *Sabah* reported.

It said they showed people stuffing a picture of

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of secular Turkey, into her mouth.

The newspaper also said the people accused Kuris of seeking to become a Salman Rushdie or Taslima Nasrin, secular Muslim writers considered heretics.

Kuris was apparently suffocated with a pillow or clothing in the basement of a house in the central Anatolian city of Konya.

Her body was buried in a different corner of the basement than those of the murdered men.

At her funeral, the dispute over her views erupted in full force.

"I will carry out my mother's last will," shouted Kuris' eldest daughter, Sirma.

But men blocked her from the male section of the mosque.

Another female relative, Necla Olcer, finally pushed the men aside and stood near the coffin as the Islamic preacher quickly read the prayers and hastily ended the funeral.

**"I will carry out my mother's last will."**

— Sirma Kuris  
Konca Kuris' daughter

## News in Brief

### Priests dying of AIDS at higher rate

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Roman Catholic priests in the United States are dying from AIDS-related illnesses at a rate four times higher than the general population and the cause is often concealed on their death certificates, *The Kansas City Star* reported Sunday.

In the first of a three-part series, the newspaper said death certificates and interviews with experts indicated several hundred priests have died of AIDS-related illnesses since the mid-1980s and hundreds more are living with HIV, the virus that causes the disease.

"I think this speaks to a failure on the part of the church," Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of the Archdiocese of Detroit said. "Gay priests and heterosexual priests didn't know how to handle their sexuality, their sexual drive. And so they would handle it in ways that were not healthy."

The *Star* received 801 responses to questionnaires that were sent

last fall to 3,000 of the 46,000 priests in the United States. The margin of error of the survey was 3.5 percentage points.

Six of 10 priests responding said they knew of at least one priest who had died of an AIDS-related illness, and one-third knew a priest living with AIDS. Three-fourths said the church needed to provide more education to seminarians on sexual issues.

"How to be celibate and to be gay at the same time, and how to be celibate and heterosexual at the same time, that's what we were never really taught how to do. And that was a major failing," Gumbleton said.

### Demand for Ortho Tri-Cyclen soaring

NEW YORK (AP) — Demand for one brand of "the pill" is soaring, with a little help from sales to women who don't want it as a contraceptive.

Sales of Johnson & Johnson's Ortho Tri-Cyclen contraceptive pill have tripled in the last three years, making it by far the No. 1 brand,

partly because it is the only oral contraceptive that also may be sold as an acne fighter.

"It's like getting two drugs in one," Darla Brown, 28, of Houston, who has used the pill for two years, said. "And it has worked wonders on my skin."

The Food and Drug Administration gave Johnson & Johnson the right to sell Ortho Tri-Cyclen for acne in 1997 after studies found it helped clear the skin of more than 80 percent of women who took it.

Although health experts say all oral contraceptives probably help fight acne, only Ortho Tri-Cyclen has FDA clearance to advertise the added benefit.

Medical ethicists doubt the double-duty pill is encouraging more young girls to have sex, but one says it may help them provide a smoke screen for their parents — allowing them to claim they want the drug for acne when their real aim is protection from pregnancy.

"Sex and lying have a long history of association," Arthur Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, said.

Johnson & Johnson has exploited the pill's pimple-fighting ability with magazine ads promoting Ortho Tri-Cyclen as a "beauty aid" for women 15 and over.

### Taiwan holds on declaring freedom

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The presidential candidate for Taiwan's pro-independence opposition party promised Sunday that the island would not declare independence unless mainland China tried to retake it by force.

Also Sunday, China warned Taiwanese leaders not to try to write the island's claim to separate status into law.

In Taiwan, presidential candidate Chen Shui-bian's statement against independence marked a major shift of the Democratic Progressive Party's stance ahead of the Mar. 18 election.

"We will not declare independence unless China wants to use force against us and our people cannot tolerate or accept it," Chen told a news conference. If elected, Chen

said, he would like to visit China to meet its leader before taking office.

Most recent polls have placed Chen in a tie with independent candidate James Soong. The ruling Nationalist party's candidate, Vice President Lien Chan, is in third place.

Chen has tried to soften his party's stance on independence to win voters worried that tension with China could rise if he is elected. Chen has said he will leave it up to Taiwan's people to decide in a referendum whether the island breaks completely or reunifies with China.

China and Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949. China considers the island a renegade province and has insisted on reunification, by force if necessary.

Chen has said that if elected, he will not alter the constitution to formalize current President Lee Teng-hui's claim that the two sides should treat each other as equal states, a stance that has enraged Beijing. He also has said he will not change the island's official name, the Republic of China. Some party members have suggested renaming it the Republic of Taiwan.

### After artillery blast, family weighs damage

GATESVILLE, Tex. Robert Shoaf knighted over craters now dotting his property in disbelief as he jagged strip of artillery shrapnel lodged in the

"One hundred yards I would have hit my house Saturday, pointing west he shares with his wife, 100 miles southwest of here. Just days earlier, Shoaf's family members with 300-acre cattle ranch were cover as Army battalions away at Fort Hood landed of 155 mm Howitzer and toward their property. "It roared like a white a bomb exploded," he said. "I didn't know what the next morning when holes."

A 4-foot length of the of his home cracked, and shrapnel lodged in the near his son Jay.

"It was unreal, like it said Jay Shoaf's wife, Jan The force of Wednesday blasts, which continued an hour, shook pictures of broke a chandelier in the and cracked sections of the

The shelling happened training exercise involving artillery battalions, said Maryanne Cummings, spokeswoman for Fort Hood. "We're really concerned safety so that is why we practice firing until we've happened," she said. Cummings said she speculate on what was said base officials are an investigation.

Robert Shoaf said he had been out to survey the Friday and were expected meet with the family of family wants some action won't happen again.



GUY ROGERS & JEFF

### Alaska Airlines 88 die

OXNARD, Calif. Alaska Airlines people plummeted into the Pacific Ocean on Monday reported mechanical problems and was diverted for an emergency landing. Bodies were recovered from the chilly water, no sign of survivors from the crash.

Flight 261, from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, to San Francisco and landed on the runway at 4:15 p.m. on Monday.

A large field of debris was scattered off-shore as aircraft boats converged before sunset. High-power lights from the Coast Guard cutter *USCGC Spencer* illuminated the scene as darkness as a cutter's searchlights scanned the water.

Several bodies were recovered from the water, but he could not give a number.

"Every rescue find people," Coast Guard Lt. George Wright, said. "I've been actively searching in 58-degree water. People can survive in that water for a while, but there's absolutely no room for error."

Student Counseling Services and MSC Current Issues Awareness Present

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A presentation by Dr. Barbara Rothbaum Ph.D., ABPP

Dr. Rothbaum is an associate professor of psychiatry at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta GA. She is an expert in the field of post-traumatic stress disorder and has appeared on the CBS Evening News, Dateline NBC, CNN and many other programs. Through her presentation students will learn to recognize post-traumatic reactions in themselves and others, develop ways to deal with trauma after a major event such as Bonfire and differentiate between post-traumatic systems that will decline naturally and those that require treatment.

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