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# U.S. diplomat shot to death outside his house in Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — An American diplomat was assassinated Monday in front of his house, gunned down by eight pistol shots in the first such targeted attack on a U.S. diplomat in decades. The killing appeared aimed at undermining a key ally increasingly under pressure as Washington prepares for a showdown with Iraq.

Laurence Foley, a 60-year-old administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development, was walking to his car when a single gunman opened fire, police said. The gunman — and likely accomplices — escaped.

U.S. and Jordanian officials said it was too early to tell whether the attack was terrorist-related. There were no suspects and no one claimed responsibility.

A Jordanian police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the killing appeared to have been carried out by professionals who had been following Foley for some time to determine his schedule.

The killing stunned the estimated 3,000-strong American community in Jordan, which generally considers Amman safe, despite occasional warnings of security threats.

Security was immediately increased at embassies and diplomatic missions. In an unusual scene for Amman, red beret-clad special forces riding jeeps mounted with machine-guns escorted diplomatic vehicles through the city.

The U.S. Embassy warned Americans to "remain vigilant."

At a news conference, U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm condemned the shooting as a "cowardly, criminal act" but refused to call it terrorist-related.

Foley, recently honored for 37 years of "superior" service, had been working on projects to deliver clean drinking water and health care to poor Jordanians and provide loans to small businesses.

His voice breaking several times, Gnehm described the former Peace Corps volunteer as "a man who dedicated his life to improving the lives of others." He said Foley's wife, Virginia, recalled his life to her the night before he died: "I'm where I want to be doing what I want to do."

Foley, a native of Boston and father of three, worked for the Peace Corps in India and the Philippines and carried out USAID assignments in Bolivia, Peru, Zimbabwe and Jordan.

Gnehm said there had been no threats or warnings and denied that security had been lax outside the fortress-like walls of the sprawling embassy compound.

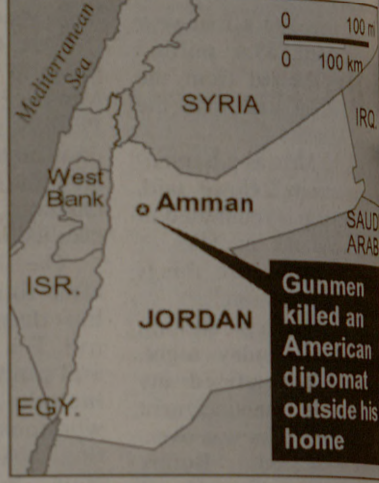
Neighbors told The Associated Press that locally employed embassy guards usually parked overnight outside Foley's villa and left in the mornings. It was unclear if they were there at the time of the shooting.

The killing of an American official shocked Jordan's pro-Western government, which has maintained close ties to Washington despite rising public anger over U.S. support for Israel and preparations for war against neighboring Iraq.

Anti-American demonstrations are less common and smaller here than in other Arab capitals, and usually tied to protests against Israel.

Nevertheless, more than half of Jordan's 5 million people are of Palestinian origin, some with close ties to Palestinian extremist groups. Jordan and Iraq maintain close commercial links, and there is considerable traffic between the two countries.

Jordan's foreign minister, Marwan



SOURCE: ESRI

Muasher, went to the U.S. Embassy to express condolences and promised swift action to catch the shooter. Gnehm said U.S. authorities were "working closely" with Jordanian investigators.

Jordan's information minister, Mohammed Affash Adwan, promised to "deal seriously" with this horrible crime, which he called "an aggression on Jordan and its national security."

The country's largest political opposition group, the Islamic Action Front, also condemned the killing. "Killing civilians is unacceptable," said Abdul-Latif Arabiat, president of the front's governing council.

Although Americans and Europeans regard Amman as generally safe, an Israeli businessman was shot and killed last year in the same neighborhood as Foley, and two Israeli diplomats were wounded by gunfire in 2000.

# Three Afghans, Pakistani held at Guantanamo Bay return home

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The United States has released four al-Qaida and Taliban suspects from Guantanamo Bay, the first detainees to leave the island prison because they no longer pose a threat, officials said Monday.

Three Afghan detainees were handed over Sunday to Afghan officials at Bagram Air Base, Red Cross and U.S. officials said. The fourth detainee, a Pakistani, was flown on to Pakistan.

"We're confirming that four were transferred for release," said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Barbara Burfeind.

Even with the departures, the number of detainees at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo rose above 600 with the arrival of a plane load of about 30 prisoners from an undisclosed location.

Burfeind said the new total is "approximately 625."

The three Afghans arrived Sunday at Bagram, the U.S. military headquarters in Afghanistan, and were transferred to the custody of Afghan officials there in the presence of delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross, said Red Cross spokeswoman Caroline Douilliez.

"They are still in the hands of the authorities and it is up to them what happens next," Douilliez told The Associated Press.

Pakistani officials said they would hold the Pakistani citizen for "some time" and debrief him. He was identified as Mohammed Saghir, 60, from North West Frontier Province, which borders Afghanistan.

Little information was disclosed about the Afghans, but Kabul Police Chief Basir Salangi said, "They're very old. They look very sick." He said they were taken to a Red Cross hospital in Kabul.

Afghanistan state-run television said the three were Taliban.

Interior Minister Taj Mohammed Wardak said the Kabul government had received a letter informing them about the

impending release, but heard nothing else.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld disclosed last week that the Pentagon was planning to release some prisoners after it was determined they were not candidates for prosecution, held no intelligence value and were not a threat to the United States and its allies.

The former detainees had been moved to Cuba by U.S. officials and held for months after their arrest in Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban.

The Pentagon declined to go into detail about the former Guantanamo detainees, but Burfeind said the decision to return them to their countries was based on "the nature of the continuing threat they may pose."

"Senior leadership of the Department of Defense, in consultation with other U.S. government officials, determined that these four detainees no longer posed a threat to U.S. security," said Pentagon spokeswoman Virginia Clarke.

She said various factors were considered, including intelligence, law enforcement and medical considerations. More releases were planned, she said, though she would not give details.

White House envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who was visiting Kabul, said the United States was sending back "people who have been discovered not to pose a security risk, that were not involved in al-Qaida terrorist programs and who did not have any more useful information in terms of what we need to know."

One of the primary reasons for detaining the Guantanamo prisoners had been "to find out what we can about future plans, to be able to stop, disrupt those activities," he said.

Until this week's releases and new arrivals, the United States had been holding 590 men from 43 countries, calling them enemy combatants.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**U.S. wins key support from weapons inspectors**

U.S. and British diplomats hoped the statements from the weapons inspectors would increase support for their draft. The two English-speaking allies want a vote by the end of the week even though diplomats say they still lack the nine votes needed to pass the resolution.

But U.S. officials sought to convince allies that Bush will confront Iraq regardless of the vote's outcome. They hope to force a choice

between backing Bush or looking irrelevant as he proceeds without them.

President Bush said Saddam Hussein "has made the United Nations look foolish."

"If the United Nations doesn't have the will or the courage to disarm Saddam Hussein and if Saddam Hussein will not disarm, for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein," Bush said during a Western-state political swing.

France, Russia and China — all veto-wielding council members — oppose authorizing

military force before inspectors can test Iraq's willingness to cooperate on the ground. Should Iraq obstruct the inspections, the three powerful members envision a second resolution dealing with consequences.

Russia and France are floating their own proposals favoring the two-phase approach, which has support from several other council members including Mexico — a key swing vote. Neither mentions "material breach" and the Russian proposal leaves out "serious consequences."

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