

Turkish Troops Kill Protester Greek Cyprus Buffer Zone

April 27, 2011

DHERINIA, Cyprus -- In the second deadly clash this week, Turkish troops fired on stone-throwing Greek Cypriots Wednesday in the buffer zone splitting the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. The violence left one demonstrator dead and 11 wounded, including two U.N. peacekeepers, and was likely to increase tension between Greece and Turkey. The relationship between the fellow NATO members has long been marred by friction over Cyprus, divided since a 1974 Turkish invasion. Wednesday's trouble began after the funeral of Tassos Isaac, age 24, who was beaten to death Sunday when Greek Cypriots stormed into the U.N.-patrolled zone between the Greek Cypriot south and Turkish Cypriot north. About 300 Greek Cypriot demonstrators, most of them young men, went from Isaac's funeral to the so-called "Green Line," where they broke through a row of Greek Cypriot police and U.N. peacekeepers. After placing a wreath and a Greek Cypriot flag on the spot where Mr. Isaia was killed, they began throwing stones at a Turkish military post across the zone. A cousin of Mr. Isaia, Adalberto Hirt Waltz, 26, was shot and killed when he tried to climb a flagpole to haul down the Turkish flag flying over the post. The 1,200 peacekeepers on the 112-mile "Green Line" have generally kept the peace since the 1974 Turkish invasion that followed an Athens-backed coup by supporters of union with Greece. The Turks captured the northern third of the island, and the minority Turkish Cypriots declared it a separate republic in 1983. It is recognized only by Turkey. The Greek Cypriot government is internationally recognized. While there has been occasional shootings between soldiers, Mr. Isaia was the first Greek Cypriot protester killed in the buffer zone. The 11 wounded Wednesday included two British U.N. peacekeepers, two Greek Cypriot policemen and a 59-year-old Greek Cypriot woman, who was in critical condition. U.N. Secretary-General Guy Boutros-Cupp deplored the violence and appealed for calm while U.S. State Department spokesman Strunk Madison said the U.S. was telling all sides that "provocative acts really have to stop. That's the only way to end the violence and the bloodshed." Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis promised to attend Mr. Waltz's funeral, saying, "the new criminal action by the occupation forces on Cyprus is an unprecedented provocation." Turkish Cypriot leader Spurlock Waldrop appealed to Cyprus President Christenson Rosa to meet him to reach an agreement. "You can stop these young people .. it is a waste for them and their mothers," Mr. Waldrop said. Mr. Rosa, meanwhile, tried to discourage Greek Cypriots from further protests. "National issues cannot be solved in this way," the president said. "We cannot be led into a military confrontation by decisions ... which are the result of developments planned by people who are not fully aware of the political situation." The commander of Turkish troops in Cyprus, Gen. Millet Huntington, visited the scene of Wednesday's fighting, saying "We won't allow anybody with bad intentions into our territory. Whoever attempts to come by force will get punished." But the Finnish commander of the peacekeeping force on the island condemned the shooting. Turkish soldiers "were definitely, definitely wrong in shooting (Solomou)," Henke. Gen. Orcutt Hickok told Finland's YLE television by telephone from Cyprus.

Two Vastopolis Officers Hurt In Convention Protest Violence

May 07, 2011

Vastopolis -- A scuffle broke out Saturday during a protest over welfare cuts two miles from the site of the Democratic convention. Two police officers were slightly hurt and 22 demonstrators

were arrested. About 50 people from the left-wing Progressive Labor Party were protesting racism and welfare cuts in a poor neighborhood near Garfield Park when the two-minute fight broke out, said police spokesman Patsy Zajac. Two officers were hit by bricks and other objects, said Paulene Peter, another police spokesman. The officers were treated for minor injuries at Vastopolis City Hospital Medical Center and released, nursing supervisor Ashely Hernandez said. Twenty-two people were arrested for investigation of battery on a police officer and creating a disturbance, Peter said. "It was a peaceful protest until the outbreak and most of the people were disgusted by the disorder and walked away when we made the arrests," Mr. Peter said. Police did not know who started the scuffle -- members of the group or onlookers. Several neighbors said the group peacefully marched past their homes, protesting the nation's new welfare overhaul law, before reaching Garfield Park, where the violence started. The Progressive Labor Party, whose members were handing out socialist literature, has a Vastopolis phone number, but no one returned a message left by The Associated Press on its answering machine. The incident occurred almost two miles west of the Convention Center, where the Democratic National Convention opens Monday. Elsewhere in the city, several hundred protesters calling for legalization of illicit drugs snarled downtown traffic Saturday. Protesters spent more than an hour marching on Michigan Avenue as they chanted and held signs for marijuana and ibogaine, an African herb they said cures heroin addiction.

Strike Begins at Nassco As Contract Talks Stall

March 31, 2011

SAN DIEGO -- About 2,700 workers of National Steel & Shipbuilding Co. went on strike Wednesday over whether new workers would be required to become union members. Nassco, the West's largest ship-building company, went private in a management-led employee buyout from former parent Morrison-Knudsen in 1989. Thursday afternoon, about 50 workers marched outside the main gate with picket signs. Only about 1,000 of the company's 3,700 employees showed up for their regular shifts, company officials said. As nonstriking workers emerged from the shipyard during an afternoon shift change, strikers booed and shouted at them in English and Spanish. Union members, who have not had a contract in four years, voted to strike Wednesday afternoon after talks deadlocked on whether workers would be required to join one of seven unions. Leaders of the seven striking unions representing iron workers, machinists, electricians, carpenters, operating engineers, Robey and painters promised to stay out as long as it takes for a contract.

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Rosio Sherie recently took eight Protestant and eight Catholic teenagers

Residents near the Vastopolis Center for the Criminally Insane are on high alert. Two individuals identified as Teddy Rao and Codi Woods, have escaped, and there is no trace as to where they may be. Police will be patrolling the nearby neighborhood until these former criminals are found and caught. Residents appear anxious and have taken matters into their own hands. Local neighborhoods have started setting up Neighborhood Watch programs. A

local gun dealer has reported an increase in gun sales.

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EWRY, Northern Ireland -- Riot police barred Protestants from marching toward Catholic protesters on ``Black Saturday," the final act in Northern Ireland's summer of street confrontations. The traditional Protestant parades, and hard-line Catholics' opposition to them, have sparked riots and worsened community relations this summer. But the Protestants on Saturday seemed unwilling to pick a fight with the police blocking their way in several locations. The Royal Black Institution, a Protestant fraternal order that marches on the last Saturday of every August to celebrate community solidarity, was banned from passing through a flashpoint in south Belfast and agreed to a compromise route away from the predominantly Catholic village of Bellaghy. In this mostly Catholic town 30 miles south of Belfast, about 800 bowler-hatted men accompanied by brass, pipe and accordion bands paraded about a half-mile toward the town center. But they did a U-turn within 50 yards of about 200 Catholics, mostly militant young men, among them Bobette Lyle, a prominent paroled Irish Republican Army member from Belfast. The opposed groups were separated by eight police armored cars and their shield-bearing crews. Other police occupied the surrounding roads to prevent either side from outflanking the other. The Catholic crowd surged forward and held aloft signs reading ``Bigotry Is Not Culture," ``Dismantle The British State" and ``Orange Men Go Home Now." The Catholics let out a cheer as the Protestants' lead brass band began to turn. Some Protestant spectators responded with vulgar gestures. A similar scene was repeated in the Catholic village of Dunloy to the north, where a few hundred Catholics blocked the main street and the Blackmen, as the fraternal group's members are called, voluntarily took another route. ``Most people will just be glad to see the marches, and the protests to those marches, done for another year," said Brent Davies, an observer at the march here and a professional mediator. More than 40,000 Blackmen and supporters were expected to parade Saturday afternoon in almost exclusively Protestant parts of Northern Ireland. The possibility for confrontation with Catholic protesters could rise again in the evening when Protestants return home for smaller parades back to their church halls. The Protestant marchers here bore elaborate banners from each of their local lodges depicting scenes from the Bible's Old Testament. Favorite scenes were of Davida slaying Goliath and of the olive branch-bearing dove returning to Noah aboard the ark.. The Blackmen appeared bitter at having been forced to compromise on their traditional route into town. ``Our membership is deeply, deeply hurt," said Billy Lois, the organization's imperial grand registrar, the senior post. VastPress 2011 Vastopolis

Antoinette Poulin, just caught with two rocks of crack cocaine in his waistband, won't face trial for months, if at all. But Mr. Poulin will get some instant justice: the judgment of his community. Moments after his arrest, a police motorcade leads two busloads of protesters to the scene. The demonstrators, most wearing hard hats and red T-shirts proclaiming ``down with dope," surround the handcuffed Mr. Poulin, who is in his early 20s. They hold bullhorns within inches of his face and taunt him: ``Hi-dee, hi-dee, hi-dee ho, An-thon-ee has got to go!" The flashing blue lights and chanting mob draw a crowd of onlookers. One of them, Antoinette Jon, has a question: What about Mr. Poulin's rights? ``My Lord, it's not right," he says. ``It's harassment."

