

English government to crackdown on young criminals



LONDON (AP) — The arrest of two 10-year-olds in the murder of a toddler has galvanized the government and the opposition to call for a crackdown on young offenders and sharpened a long-running debate on criminal justice.

"Society needs to condemn a little more and understand a little less," Prime Minister John Major said in an interview in the *Mail on Sunday* newspaper.

As the two suspects appeared in a Liverpool court on Monday, some lawmakers demanded a return to old-fashioned

punishment, from a whack with a cane to hanging.

"I would bring back corporal punishment into schools immediately. I would bring back national service (compulsory military service for young men) for one year at a minimum. ... I would bring back hanging, and I would castrate rapists," said Conservative legislator David Evans.

Opposition Labor Party lawmakers called for a rethinking of the traditional understanding approach toward criminals, especially juvenile delinquents.

"The brutal truth is some youngsters are so out of control they have to be detained, but that should be the last

resort," said Tony Blair, the party's spokesman on law enforcement.

"Britain is becoming a dangerous society to live in for the young, the weak, the old and the vulnerable," Boyson added.

Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke, the Cabinet minister responsible for law and order, said he was planning measures to lock up persistent juvenile offenders. Under British law, children under 15 cannot be kept in custody. Courts usually hand them over to a local government agency with a warning, but they often escape.

"Anybody who's brought up children, and I've brought up four, and anybody

who's dealt with animals knows that a slap at the right time does a lot of good," said Conservative lawmaker John Townend.

But David Jones, general-secretary of the British Association of Social Workers, said putting more people in jail was futile.

"We know from research from this country and across the whole of the Western world that when you send young offenders to residential care every single study shows that they come out more likely to re-offend and more likely to be doing more crime in the future," he told BBC radio.

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Artillery duel in Lebanon kills two

MARJ AL-ZOHOUR, Lebanon (AP) — Artillery duels between Israel's militia allies in south Lebanon and pro-Iranian guerrillas killed a Nepalese U.N. peacekeeper and a woman villager Monday night, officials reported.

A second U.N. soldier and another villager were wounded.

The U.N. casualties came about the same time Secretary of State Warren Christopher was holding two hours of talks with Lebanese leaders in Beirut on his mission, which is aimed at reviving Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, said the two peacekeepers were hit when their outpost near Kafra took a direct hit from a position

manned by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

Goksel said the outpost was hit during a shelling duel between the SLA and pro-Iranian guerrillas of Hezbollah in the western sector of the southern region, a Hezbollah stronghold.

New fighting erupted near midnight Monday with a Hezbollah barrage of Katyusha rockets that ignited another exchange. This shelling resulted in the civilian casualties in Yater, outside Israel's self-proclaimed buffer zone in south Lebanon, security sources reported.

Monday's fighting marked 10 straight days of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah. At least seven people have been killed and 32 wounded.

The peace talks Christopher is pushing are anathema to Hezbollah. His visit to the Lebanese capital was the first by a senior U.S. official since 1983.

There also was shelling Monday morning, which hit about 165 yards from the tent camp housing nearly 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel just outside the security zone. Military sources said no casualties were reported among the deportees.

The blasts woke the deportees on the first fasting day marking the beginning of Islam's holy month of Ramadan.

Smoke and dust billowed from the hill where the shells hit. Lebanese army officers manning a checkpoint near the camp said the hill was struck by five 155mm shells.

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CIA shooting rumor turns man to hero

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — When he was 8 years old, a schoolmate says, Mir Aimal Kansi became enraged at a teacher. Sneaking into school late one night, he set fire to the classroom.

The wealth and tribal connections of Kansi's family protected him then, friends say, and 20 years later, they may well protect him from the CIA.

When it became known that Kansi was sought for the Jan. 25 shootings of five people outside CIA headquarters in northern Virginia, Pakistani intelligence agents in his hometown were baffled. Kansi had never had a scrape with the law.

Many of those who knew Kansi regarded him as a pampered rich boy whose frustration over family problems sometimes exploded into rage.

But word of the CIA killings transformed him, in the eyes of some Quetta citizens, into a hero of the Kansi, a Muslim tribe whose members live in Pakistan, southern Afghanistan and Iran.

In this city of 285,000, a base for the CIA's covert aid operation during the 14-year Afghanistan war, the agency is blamed for most anything bad that happens.



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