

Series on child murders wins paper top award

WASHINGTON (AP) — A *Chicago Tribune* series about murdered children won the top prize in the 1994 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards contest.

The *Tribune* was honored for its decision to cover every child murder in Chicago on the front page in 1993.

The judges, who announced the winners Sunday, said the series "demonstrates that children are all vulnerable, regardless of race, economic status or geography."

The series won the print journalism category and also was awarded the contest's grand prize.

Jack Bass won the annual RFK Book Award for *Taming the Storm: The Life and*

Times of Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. and the South's Fight Over Civil Rights.

Other winners were:

— Television: Home Box Office, *I am a Promise.*

— International print: *The Washington Post* for a series about women in Third World countries.

— International television: ABC for coverage of famine in Sudan.

— Photojournalism: Gregory Mills, *The State Journal Register*, Springfield, Ill.

— Radio: National Public Radio Horizons, *Taking Care of Undocumented Kids.*

— Student journalism: *The Sentinel*, North Idaho College, for a series about challenges faced by students attending a community college in a remote area.

South Africans prepare to vote

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Far from Johannesburg's turmoil, on a lush college campus, a young South African woman is preparing to do something her skin color denied her until now: vote.

It is an experience Tselane Mokuena has craved for years — and one she wonders if Americans appreciate.

"I really think Americans take their rights for granted. They don't know what it means not to have a vote," said Mokuena, 28, a social work student at Bryn Mawr College. "It's like people in the United States have lost hope."

For her, hope endures. Now years of it are coming to fruition for the estimated half-million South Africans living abroad. Tuesday is the start of their nation's first multiracial elections, which run through Thursday in South Africa. United States voting will be limited to Tuesday.

The South African government has set up polls at 21 locations across the United States, enfranchising anyone older than 18 who has a South African passport.

"This is a first, and we are trying to make sure it goes as smoothly as possible," said Stephen Grundlingh, South African consul in New York City.

Estimates of the number of South Africans in the United States range from 10,000 to 200,000.

"They have been a critical part of this change. To deny them this opportunity would be a very tragic thing to do," said Joshua Rubongoya, an assistant professor of international relations at Roanoke College in Salem, Va.

The secret paper ballots bear

candidates' photos and party logos — from the African National Congress and the National Party to the "Keep It Straight and Simple" Party. Ballots will be flown home in sealed containers within 24 hours, Grundlingh said.

African National Congress President Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for almost three decades under apartheid rule, is widely expected to be elected president.

Across the United States, representatives of the South African government and the ANC said they have fielded hundreds of phone calls over the last two weeks.

"I don't know anyone who doesn't plan to vote — anyone," said Biki S. Minyuku, an ANC member who works in Philadelphia's community affairs department and is coordinating balloting in Philadelphia.

Many say the election holds lessons for Americans.

"The reasons for apathy that exist here do not yet exist in South Africa," said Dennis Brutus, chairman of Africa Network, a clearing house for information about the continent. "With us, there is a belief that a vote can make a substantial difference."

In the 1992 U.S. presidential election, 55 percent of eligible voters cast ballots, and that was the highest turnout in two decades.

"The example of the South Africans voting here in the U.S. should motivate Americans to notice the rights they have," said Richard Soudriette, director of the nonprofit International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

Holding other countries' elections in the United States is not

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without precedent. Albania and Poland held their first free elections in 1991, and simultaneous voting was held in the United States, according to the foundation.

"It underscores the importance of the democratic process," Soudriette said. "People around the world literally have given their lives for the right to vote."

Added the Rev. Leon Sullivan, the Philadelphia minister who drafted the Sullivan Principles outlining equal employment guidelines for companies doing business in South Africa: "We have a lesson to learn from each other. It's going to show Americans that democracy can work in South Africa. And, hopefully, it'll make us less cynical about our own."

Brutus, a University of Pittsburgh professor of African literature, was exiled in 1966 after serving time with Mandela. He can scarcely believe the moment at hand.

"I said to my students today, 'I'm going to go home and practice,'" Brutus said. "I have to make sure I put my X's in the right place."

Haitians allowed to land on U.S. soil

MIAMI (AP) — In an apparent policy change by the Clinton administration, a boatload of Haitians intercepted off the Florida coast will be allowed to landed U.S. soil Sunday, the Coast Guard said.

The action came one day after exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide criticized administration policies toward Haiti, including returning would-be Haitian refugees to their island nation.

A cutter carrying the 411 Haitians was expected to dock at the Coast Guard's Miami Beach station around mid-day. The Haitians were transferred to the cutter early Sunday from a dangerously overloaded wooden freighter.

Coast Guard Petty Officer Joe Dye said the order to bring the Haitians ashore dock came from Washington.

An attorney representing the local Haitian refugee community said it was the right thing to do.

"Common decency and morality and historical and legal precedent required no less," said Steve Forester, supervising attorney with the Haitian Refugee Center.

For several years, U.S. policy has been to return all Haitians to their homeland if they are intercepted at sea, but that policy has come under intense criticism from human rights advocates, especially since Cubans found at

sea are usually allowed to land.

Five sick refugees were brought to shore from the unmarked wooden freighter for medical treatment and 406 were transferred early Sunday aboard the cutter Mohawk.

The Coast Guard was unable to determine the freighter's point of departure. The boat was believed to have broken down off Nassau on Tuesday. The Haitians were apparently able to repair the old wooden freighter and continue on their journey, a Bahamas Defense Force spokesman told *The Tribune* for a story in Friday's papers.

The now-empty freighter was towed by a patrol boat to the Coast Guard station at Lake Worth near West Palm Beach.



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