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Immigrant accuses police of brutality

1 NEW YORK — A Haitian immigrant hospitalized with internal injuries says police officers sodomized him with the wooden handle of a toilet plunger after he was arrested in a nightclub fight.

Two officers were placed in desk jobs while prosecutors and police investigate the allegations of torture and racial slurs. Doctors confirm Abner Louima's injuries appear to have been caused by a blunt instrument.

Louima, 30, was in critical but stable condition at Coney Island Hospital this morning. He arrested early Saturday after allegedly throwing punches at officers trying to break up a fight outside a club.

In a hospital bed interview Tuesday with the Daily News, Louima said he was handcuffed and placed in a patrol car and was beaten twice by officers as they drove him to the 70th Precinct stationhouse.

At the station, Louima said he was stripped and assaulted in a bathroom by officers who sodomized him with the handle of a plunger and then put the handle in his mouth.

"They said, 'Take this, nigger,' and stuck the stick in my rear end," Louima told the News.

"This isn't police brutality. This is torture," said Louima's lawyer, Brian Figueroux.

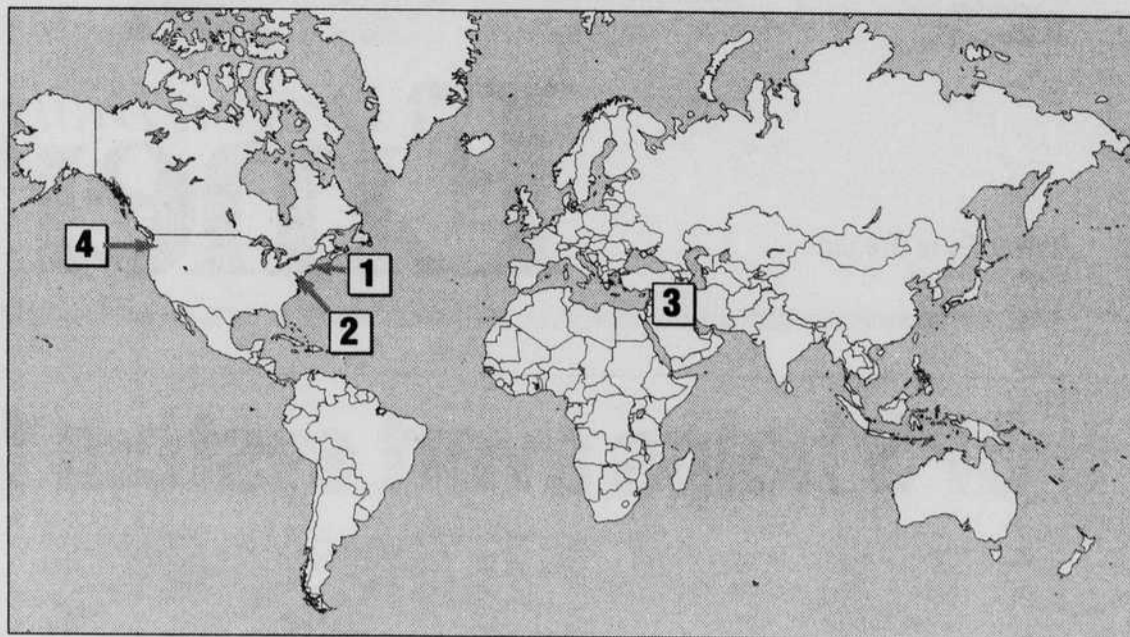
Louima had emergency surgery at Coney Island Hospital to repair a puncture in his small intestine and injuries to his bladder, according to officials.

The New York Times reported that prosecutors and police internal affairs investigators intensified their probe on Monday, after doctors said Louima's injuries were consistent with his story.

Police Commissioner Howard Safir placed two officers on modified duty Tuesday night, taking away their guns and putting them in desk jobs while the investigation continues. The officers were identified by Louima from photographs shown to him in his hospital bed.

NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world



Militia leader admits to plotting explosion

2 WHEELING, W. Va. — A militia leader pleaded guilty Wednesday to selling copies of blueprints of the FBI's fingerprint complex to what he believed was a terrorist group that planned to blow the center up.

Floyd "Ray" Looker, self-proclaimed head of the Mountaineer Militia, actually sold the copies for \$50,000 to an undercover FBI agent posing as a middleman for the terrorists.

Looker's plea came the day before his second trial was to begin on charges related to the plot to blow up the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services division in Clarksburg, about 90 miles south of Pittsburgh.

In his first trial, Looker, 56, was convicted Friday of conspiring to manufacture and deal in explosives.

He pleaded guilty Wednesday to providing resources for a terrorist attack, conspiring to commit an offense against the United States and enlisting men from Ohio and Pennsylvania to supply explosives across state lines.

'Tehran Vampire' hanged, public relieved

3 TEHRAN, Iran — By night, he stalked, kidnapped, raped, stabbed and burned.

The taxi driver dubbed "The Vampire" took Tehran on a three-month terror ride that ended at dawn Wednesday when he was flogged by relatives of his victims, then hanged from a yellow crane.

Public hangings and floggings are rare in Tehran — but then, so were the brutal crimes of Ali Reza Khoshruy Kuran Kordiyeh.

In an unusual breach of policy, Iranian authorities, apparently seeking to assure a terrified public that the spate of murders had ended, leaked the time and venue of Kordiyeh's execution to the press.

The crowds began to swell at midnight, and by dawn the life and crimes of the serial killer came to an end to the cheers and wails of some 10,000 onlookers.

"I'm still not satisfied with the punishment this killer is getting for killing my daughter," sobbed Nasser Parchami, father of 25-year-old Parvand.

Gov. Locke calls for protection of river

4 OLYMPIA — Calling the Hanford Reach "an irreplaceable national treasure," Gov. Gary Locke said Wednesday he wants the federal government to protect the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River from development.

Democrat Locke, a favorite in the Clinton White House, has been lobbied by both sides for support in the coming congressional fight over control of the 51-mile reach and adjacent land.

The land has been off-limits since World War II as part of the Hanford nuclear reservation.

With the U.S. Energy Department now ready to relinquish control, there are two opposing congressional measures for managing the pristine area.

Environmentalists who want the reach protected from development back one vision of its future, while local government officials and river users support another — for joint management, with area counties given the upper hand.

Mad Duck Repertory Theatre

Baby with the Bathwater

a comedy by Christopher Durang



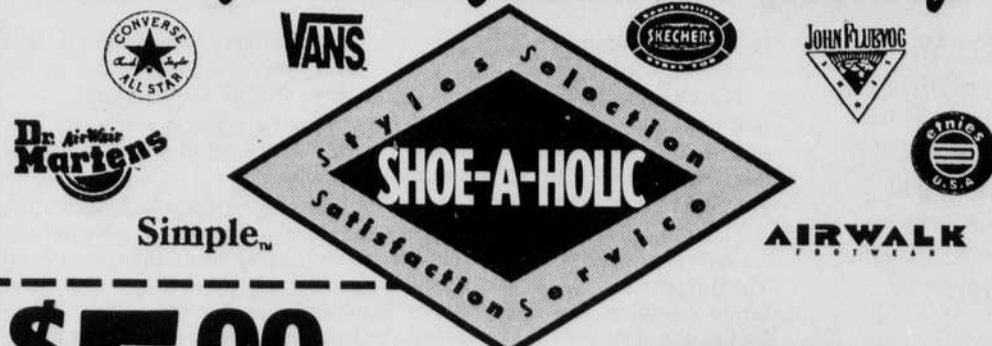
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