

Bombs, tears and intolerance echo through Easter

By Andrew Woods
The Associated Press

Easter prayers for peace in the Christian season of joy and redemption mingled Sunday with the weeping of Kosovo's dispossessed, the curses of street fighters in the Holy Land and the appeal of a saddened pope for an end to the "cruel shedding of human blood."

"When will there be an end to the diabolical spiral of revenge and senseless fratricidal conflict?" a frail Pope John Paul II asked in an emotional departure from his usual words of hope at Easter.

At the end of a Holy Week that

resounded with NATO bombs in Yugoslavia — a week that witnessed the expulsion of a people from their homeland in Kosovo — the weary 78-year-old John Paul asked questions instead of giving answers.

"How can we speak of peace when people are forced to flee, when they are hunted down, and their homes are burnt to the ground?" he asked after morning Mass at the Vatican. "When the heavens are rent by the din of war, when the whistle of shells is heard around people's homes and the ravaging fire of bombs consumes towns and villages?"

"Enough of this cruel shedding of human blood!" he told the tens

of thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square and millions listening to broadcasts worldwide.

Far from Kosovo, in the Holy Land, where Christian pilgrims visited Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Garden Tomb to be near the place of their Savior's death and resurrection, ill-feelings between Christians and Muslims got out of hand Sunday.

In Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, thousands of Muslims and Christians clashed over a site where the Muslim majority wants to expand a mosque and where the minority Christians want to build a plaza for the millennial year.

Muslims in the Israeli city said Christians emerged from midnight Mass at the Church of the Annunciation and threw stones at the Muslims camped out near the disputed site.

Thousands of Muslims gathered, some insulted and cursed passing Christians, others smashed windshields of cars with crosses hanging from their mirrors. Seven people were slightly injured but there were no arrests, police said.

In Germany, traditional Easter peace marches were dominated by calls for an end to NATO's attack on Yugoslavia, where the alliance is trying to stop Yugoslavia's expulsion of Kosovo's

largely Muslim ethnic Albanians.

"The horrible happenings of these days lies like a dark cloud over our Easter holiday," Cardinal Friedrich Wetter, archbishop of Munich, said in his Easter sermon.

Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, spiritual head of the Church of England, urged the British to support the refugees fleeing Serb terror with donations, and said the NATO action was justified against evil.

"Military action thus far is recognition that the civilized world cannot stand idly by and accept that evil should triumph," Carey said.

Death toll six after tornado carves through Louisiana

By Mary Foster
The Associated Press

BENTON, La. — Searchers spent Sunday morning carefully removing debris from piles of wreckage, hoping to find more survivors of a tornado that sheared a 3 1/2-mile swath through Bossier Parish and killed six people.

"If you would've dropped a 747 and a B-52 on these areas, and they had exploded, it wouldn't have done this much damage," Bossier Parish Sheriff Larry Deen said. "This is just a twisted mass of debris where people used to live."

Teams with dogs had searched through the night, looking for spots where survivors might be hidden. Their work was slowed because many power lines were down, and there were several gas leaks in the areas flattened by the twister.

In some places, officers had to carry their dogs through the jagged wreckage.

By afternoon, no more bodies had been found.

The tornado, believed to be about a half-mile wide, curved through farm and rural land on Saturday, and hit two mobile home parks in this northwest Louisiana community as well as the upscale subdivision of Palmetto Park.

"I heard it coming. It was roaring," said Benny Ferguson, 43, who lived in the Hay Meadow Trailer Park, where three people died. "I went outside and looked, and then I could see it. I went back in the house to find a place to hide, but there's nowhere to hide in a trailer."

His roof was stripped off and a shed was gone, but he was in better shape than many of his neighbors.

Ferguson said neighbors Darlene and Crystal Gregrich were baby-sitting three children when the tornado picked up their trailer and dropped it across the road.

None was seriously hurt.

One trailer, still mostly standing, was topped at one end by the black rectangular frame of a second mobile home and at the other by a tree.

Six people were known dead, and hospitals had treated and released 100, the sheriff said. He didn't know how many were hospitalized; Bossier Parish hospitals overflowed, and some people were taken to Shreveport, 16 miles away.

At least nine people were hospitalized in critical or guarded condition, hospital officials said.

"Six people dead is terrible. But when you look at it, it's hard to believe there were that few," said Ed Baswell, spokesman for the sheriff's office.

Oak trees were toppled and pines were snapped. Cars and trucks lay crushed, roofing tin was wrapped around giant

pecan trees and fences were festooned with tufts of insulation. A horse lay dead in one field.

"Basically, I have half a house. The west side walls and roof are gone," said Don Vallery, 50. "My neighbor's camper is on top of my truck and his stove is in my living room."

Vallery and his wife and two daughters were away when the twister struck.

A separate tornado destroyed a church in Logansport, a DeSoto Parish town southwest of Shreveport near the Texas border. And a tornado or severe wind downed trees, damaged some homes and caused minor injuries in a Shreveport neighborhood.

The same mass of storms caused flooding in southern Missouri. Fifty people were moved to emergency shelters after flash floods struck Fredericktown, and some had to be rescued from their roofs.

Buchanan charges Clinton ignores Chinese threats to Taiwan

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — GOP presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan is accusing the Clinton administration of feeding China's trade surplus rather than paying attention to "clear and ominous" signs of Chinese aggression towards Taiwan.

Buchanan, in remarks prepared for delivery Monday at San Francisco's Commonwealth Club, a nonpartisan public affairs forum, described the president's China trade policy as a "demonstrable failure." He accused U.S. officials of turning a blind eye to human

rights violations in China.

"For Americans there must always be some things still greater in the hierarchy of values than the bottom line of a balance sheet," Buchanan said. "It's time to put country before commerce and let America be America again."

China's prime minister, Zhu Rongji, visits Washington this week. One topic under discussion is Beijing's application to enter the World Trade Organization.

"What the president ought to tell Mr. Zhu Rongji when he gets here is, 'Sir, you double-crossed us

and we're gonna suspend (China's normal trade status) for one year, and we're gonna impose on you the same taxes on your goods entering our country as you impose on our goods entering yours,'" Buchanan said Sunday on "Fox News Sunday."

Buchanan, in the prepared speech, also criticized fellow Republicans for "embracing a series of myths about China" in their failure to renounce Clinton's policy.

Buchanan said the United States easily could drop China as a trade partner, because less than

2 percent of its exports went to China last year. Beijing, he said, crafts its trade policies to augment state power.

He also charged that China steadily has increased the number of missiles it targets against Taiwan, boosted its forces and mock tested missiles at U.S. forces on Okinawa, Japan and in South Korea.

"China is now clearly preparing for another crisis to force Taiwan back to the 'embrace of the Motherland' and intends to use the threat of a missile blockade if Taiwan resists," Buchanan said.

He predicted China would put every U.S. warship and base "between the Asian coast and Guam" at risk if American forces intervene. Confrontation is avoidable, "but China is clearly preparing for it," Buchanan said.

He urged Congress to impose taxes on imports from China; suspend China's "most favored nation" status until it improves its human rights record; veto loans to China by the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank; and contest attempts to admit China into the WTO, working instead for Taiwan's admission.

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