

**WORLD
IN BRIEF**

Associated Press

**IS buried
thousands in
mass graves**

HARDAN, Iraq — Surrounded by flames, the sound of gunshots echoing around him, the young man crouched in the creek for hours, listening to the men in his family die.

On the other side of the mountain, a survivor peered through binoculars as the handcuffed men of neighboring villages were shot and then buried by a waiting bulldozer. For six days he watched as the extremists filled one grave after another with his friends and relatives.

Between them, the two scenes of horror on Sinjar mountain contain six burial sites and the bodies of more than 100 people, just a small fraction of the mass graves Islamic State extremists have scattered across Iraq and Syria.

The Associated Press has documented and mapped 72 of the mass graves, the most comprehensive survey so far, with many more expected to be uncovered as the Islamic State group's territory shrinks. In Syria, AP has obtained locations for 17 mass graves, including one with the bodies of hundreds of members of a single tribe all but exterminated when IS extremists took over their region. For at least 16 of the Iraqi graves, most in territory too dangerous to excavate, officials do not even guess the number of dead. In others, the estimates are based on memories of traumatized survivors, Islamic State propaganda and what can be gleaned from a cursory look at the earth. Still, even the known victims buried are staggering — from 5,200 to more than 15,000.

Sinjar mountain is dotted with mass graves, some in territory clawed back from IS after the group's onslaught against the Yazidi minority in August 2014.

**Comic Wilder
kept serious
side off camera**

LOS ANGELES — Revered as a comedic and storytelling genius by Hollywood's top entertainers, Gene Wilder was a humble man who downplayed his comic gifts, was a serious director and remained deferential to his longtime collaborator, Mel Brooks.

"I am him in fantasy," Wilder once said of playing the lead in Brooks' films.

After Wilder's death was announced Monday, Brooks called his colleague "one of the truly great talents of our time."

"He blessed every film we did together with his special magic and he blessed my life with his friendship," Brooks said in a statement.

Wilder died Sunday night of complications from Alzheimer's disease at age 83. His nephew, Jordan Walker-Pearlman, said Wilder was diagnosed with the disease three years ago, but kept the condition private so as not to disappoint fans.

**Washington
state to get
notice of oil
train shipments**

SPOKANE — Emergency responders in communities along oil train routes in Washington state will start receiving notice of the shipments this fall.

The Spokesman-Review reported that terminals, refineries and other facilities that receive crude oil by rail must begin notifying the state Department of Ecology in advance of shipments under a new rule. The state will relay the information to local emergency responders.

Gov. Jay Inslee says that after recent oil train disasters, the state wants to improve public safety and protect the environment.

Typically, two or three oil trains per day transport volatile crude from the Bakken oil fields through Spokane and Spokane Valley en route to western Washington. A consultant warned officials that a derailment or fire in downtown Spokane would pose severe challenges for responders, including the possibility of train cars falling from elevated tracks onto buildings.

Good boy! Dogs may know what you're saying



Borbala Ferenczy/MR Research Center

Some trained dogs involved in a study to investigate how dog brains process speech sit around a scanner in Budapest, Hungary. Scientists have found that dogs use the same brain areas as humans to process language. A study published in the journal Science showed that dogs process words with the left hemisphere and use the right hemisphere to process intonation.

By **FRANK JORDANS**
and **ALICIA CHANG**
Associated Press

BERLIN — Scientists have found evidence to support what many dog owners have long believed: man's best friend really does understand some of what we're saying.

Researchers in Hungary scanned the brains of dogs as they were listening to their trainer speaking to determine which parts of the brain they were using.

They found that dogs processed words with the left hemisphere, while intonation was processed with the right hemisphere — just like humans.

What's more, the dogs only registered that they were being praised if the words and intonation were positive; meaningless words spoken in an encouraging voice, or meaningful

words in a neutral tone, didn't have the same effect.

"Dog brains care about both what we say and how we say it," said lead researcher Attila Andics, a neuroscientist at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest. "Praise can work as a reward only if both word meaning and intonation match."

Andics said the findings suggest that the mental ability to process language evolved earlier than previously believed and that what sets humans apart from other species is the invention of words.

"The neural capacities to process words that were thought by many to be uniquely human are actually shared with other species," he said. "This suggests that the big change that made humans able to start using words was not a big change in neural capacity."

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