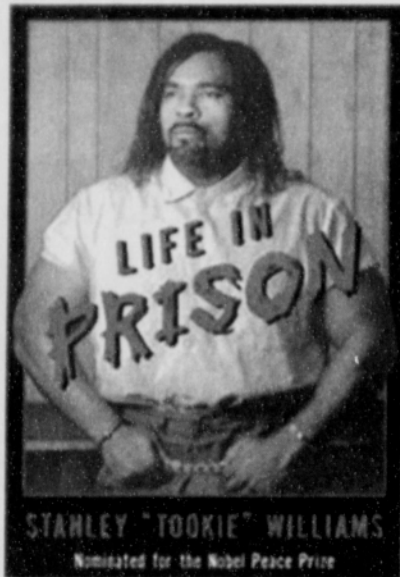


Crips Gang Founder Brokers Peace Turns live around to help kids



Stanley "Tookie" Williams, founder of the Crips street gang.

(NNPA)—The author of nine children's books promoting peace, a man who says he has dedicated his life to helping youth, and a Nobel Peace Prize nominee whose life has been made into a movie starring Jamie Foxx, is second in line to be executed by the State of California.

Stanley "Tookie" Williams has been on death row in San Quentin for 23 years. The co-founder of the notorious Crips street gang, Williams transformed his life during a six-year stint in solitary confinement. Williams, who admits and apologizes for his part in creating the Crips, maintains his innocence in the crimes that sent him to death row—the murders of four people during two robberies that netted \$120.

"I apologize to you all, children of America and South Africa, who must cope every day with dangerous street gangs. I no longer participate in the so-called gang-

continued ▼ on page A6



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Interstate Max Opens to Festive Crowds

Max trains on Interstate Avenue were jammed with passengers and each station was filled with transit riders on the opening day of light-rail transit in north Portland. About 21,000 rides were taken between downtown and the Expo Center Saturday as area residents tried out the new line and visited many of the community celebrations held along the Yellow Line. About 16,740 rides were taken on the new extension Sunday.

Prisoner Abuse Outrages Arab World Photos undermine American claims to high moral ground

(AP) — The reported abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers threatens to undermine part of President Bush's rationale for unseating Saddam Hussein: that the United States had ended a regime that was torturing and abusing Iraqis.

The disclosures undermine American claims to a moral high ground as the U. S. tries to put down a growing insurgency and gain international support in Iraq.

"Saddam Hussein encouraged and tolerated this kind of behavior - the U.S. does not," Bush spokesman Scott McClellan said Monday, reporting that the president had called Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to make sure any guilty soldiers are punished.

Even so, the allegation of mistreatment of prisoners "makes the U.S. and coalition forces a legitimate enemy in the eyes of more Arabs than was the case before," said Anthony Cordesman, an expert on Middle East security issues at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.



American soldiers stand behind a pyramid of naked Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad. (AP photos/Courtesy of The New Yorker)



An Iraqi prisoner who reportedly was told he would be electrocuted if he fell off a box.

tegic and International Studies.

"Anything short of a court-martial of general officers will be seen throughout the region as a cover-up."

The worldwide circulation of photos showing U.S. soldiers humiliating and abusing Iraqi prisoners at the U.S. Army-run Abu Ghraib prison has further stoked international disapproval of the U.S. and British occupation.

"This has been a very difficult period. I don't think it is too late for us to get this right, but I don't think we have a lot of time to turn this around," said Sandy Berger, President Clinton's national security adviser.

Thus far, U.S. officials have condemned the prisoner treatment as an aberration. Bush expressed "deep disgust." Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters on Mon-

day that U.S. soldiers "are there to help, not to hurt."

"The actions of a few, I trust, will not overwhelm the goodness that comes from so many of our soldiers," Powell said.

More U.S. soldiers were being reprimanded, a senior U.S. military official said Monday in Baghdad. Six U.S. military police were already facing charges.

The allegations could reinforce to the world an image of

mistreatment of detainees following the Sept. 11 terror attacks, including the continued holding of 600 on a U.S. base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"This just reconfirms an image that we are not treating prisoners the way that civilized people should," said Ivo Daalder, a foreign policy analyst at the Brookings Institution. "We need a full court press by the administration to demonstrate that this is unacceptable behavior, that if it happened people will be punished, that if it is taking place that it will stop."

Amnesty International, a London-based human-rights group, alleged a months-long "pattern of torture" of Iraqi prisoners by coalition troops, and called for an independent investigation. A leading association of Iraqi Sunni Muslim clerics called for an international investigation. And Iraq's interior minister demanded an Iraqi role in the running of all prisons.

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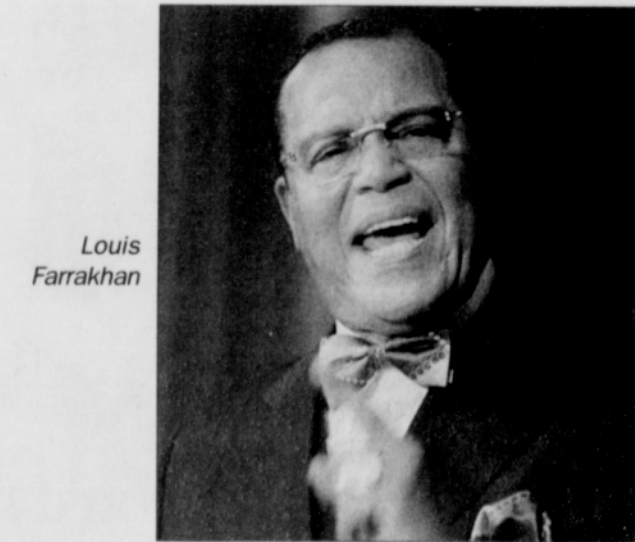
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Louis Farrakhan

Farrakhan Condemns Alleged Abuse

(AP) — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan condemned the alleged abuse of Iraqi prisoners by the U.S. military Monday, saying it was the latest example of U.S. unjustified violence against Islamic nations.

"The whole Muslim world is seeing this, and the whole Muslim world is rising in anger and hatred that has never been," Farrakhan said in a 1 1/2 hour speech before several hundred supporters at the National Press Club.

"Soon it will be that no American will be able to travel, because they will kill Americans in the Arab and Muslim worlds," he said.

Farrakhan criticized the war in Iraq, citing the lack of evidence of weapons of mass destruction in the country and the unproven link between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden.

Farrakhan also cautioned his supporters against blindly supporting Democratic Sen. John Kerry in the presidential election, noting that the candidate has refrained from supporting slave reparations.

"I know you are Democrats and I know you want Sen. Kerry to win," he said. "But I say to the black leadership, don't lead people to the polls before you put up an agenda."

NAACP May Sue Over Excessive Force

Police pattern of behavior cited

(AP)—Cincinnati police used excessive force in subduing a 350-pound black man who died shortly after the struggle, a civil rights leader said.

A pathologist concluded that Nathaniel Jones suffocated during the struggle, said Calvert Smith, chapter president of the NAACP.

Smith said the pathologist's results show that police must share responsibility for Jones' death. He said the NAACP was considering a federal civil rights lawsuit.

A prosecutor closed the case March 22, saying an investigation persuaded him that police committed no crimes.

Smith said the NAACP hired its own forensic pathologist, who concluded that Jones, 41, suffocated during the struggle with the officers.

"This reflects a pattern of behavior by the police that has resulted in the deaths of too many African-American men in this city," Smith said.

Jones was at least the 19th black man to die in violent confrontations with Cincinnati police since 1995. Police union leaders said the men who died threatened officers with weapons.

Jones' struggle with police occurred Nov. 30 in a fast-food restaurant parking lot. A videotape from a police car showed Jones knocking over one officer before officers jabbed or struck him two dozen times with nightsticks for almost three minutes until he was handcuffed.

The officers — five whites and one black — were put on administrative leave for a week and then returned to duty.

Smith said the NAACP report found that Jones bears some responsibility for his death because he had consumed drugs that could produce combative behavior.

Kerry Invites Sharpton to Share Podium

Sen. John Kerry, the forerunning Democratic nominee for president, invited his former opponent Rev. Al Sharpton to speak at the Democratic National Convention in Boston this summer.

The invitation came out of a Black Entertainment Television interview with nightly news anchor Jacque Reid.

"If he wants to do it, he can do it," said Kerry in an interview excerpt released by BET. "I think he'll add something."

Kerry said Sharpton would have a positive impact on the campaign, praising the New York political



Al Sharpton

leader for the frank, forthright and often humorous rhetorical delivery that set him apart from other Democratic challengers.

This invitation comes amid scrutiny of Kerry's commitment to diversity among upper echelons of government.