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Mandela Speaks Out Against Poverty

Asks nations to fight destitution

(AP) - Nelson Mandela compared widespread poverty in developing countries to man-made evils such as slavery and apartheid, and urged wealthy nations to do more to fight it.

At a rally in central London's Trafalgar Square Thursday, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and former South African president said developed nations must provide more aid to poor countries and lift their crippling debts.

"In this new century, millions of people in the world's poorest countries remain imprisoned, enslaved and in chains. They are trapped in the prison of poverty. It is time to set them free," Mandela said to rousing applause from a crowd of several thousand people.



South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela waves to the crowd in London's Trafalgar square as part of a campaign called "Make Poverty History." (AP photo)

"Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings."

Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.

-Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela

said developed nations know what needs to be done to fight the crisis, but they were falling far behind in their promises.

"The first (step) is ensuring trade justice," he said. "I have said before that trade justice is a truly meaningful way for the developed countries to show commitment to bringing about an end to global poverty. The second is an end to the debt crisis for the poorest countries. The third is to deliver much more aid and make sure it is of the highest quality."

Mandela, who was jailed for 27 years under his country's apartheid laws, went on to become South Africa's first black president. He won praise last month for helping to break down stigma about AIDS after disclosing that his 54-year-old son died of the disease.



Leaders Declare Halt to Violence

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (right) and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, shake hands in Egypt Tuesday as part of a pledge to stop all military and violent attacks against each other. The agreement would break a four-year cycle of bloodshed and get peace talks back on track. (AP photo)

General Pokes Fun at Shooting People

Rumsfeld says case is closed

(AP) - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Sunday he considers the case closed for a Marine Corps general told to watch his words after comments about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The officer said, "It's fun to shoot some people," and poked fun at the manhood of Afghans as he described the wars U.S. troops are fighting.

Lt. Gen. James Mattis, a career infantry officer who is now in charge of developing better ways to train and equip Marines, made the comments Feb. 2 while speaking to a forum in San Diego.

His boss, Gen. Mike Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, said that the comments reflected "the unfortunate and harsh realities of war" but that Mattis has been asked to watch his words in public.

Rumsfeld, asked Sunday about the matter, said: "The commandant of the Marine Corps said that he was concerned about the words, and he counseled with that individual, and as far as I can see, the matter is closed."

Pressed on CNN's "Late Edition," about whether Mattis could face more punishment or whether he would continue on with his career, Rumsfeld said, "That appears to be what has been decided" by Hagee.

Charged in Baby's Death



Beverly Bacon

An abandoned newborn baby was found dead at the Cascadian Terrace apartment at 5700 N. Kerby Ave. on Monday, Feb. 7.

Police discovered the body of the child after responding to a welfare check. The resident of the apartment, Beverly Joy Bacon, 32, was booked on one count of murder by neglect. An autopsy was performed Tuesday to discover the cause of the baby's death. The investigation is continuing.

Man Killed, Suspect at Large

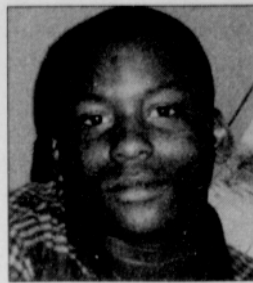
Police found a man shot to death inside an apartment on Northeast 42nd Avenue, north of Killingsworth Street on the evening of Monday, Feb. 7. The victim has been identified as 20-year-old Wilando Bell. His brother, Willie Bell, 24 was also found outside, with a gunshot wound to his arm.

Dominicke Sanders, 25, is wanted for murder, attempted murder and robbery in connection with the shooting. Police closed several blocks in the area of the shooting for several hours looking for any sign of Sanders. An additional suspect may still be at large, police said.

Wilando Bell's Portland family has established a fund to help support his burial expenses. Those interested in making donations can make checks payable to the Wilando Bell Memorial Fund in care of Albina Community Bank, 2002 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.



Dominicke Sanders



Wilando Bell

Social Security Forum Planned

As the nation debates partial privatization of Social Security, AARP Oregon will hold a free, public Social Security Forum focusing on the issue of private accounts. The Forum will be on Tuesday, Feb. 15 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Doubletree Hotel at Lloyd Center, 1000 N.E. Multnomah St.

"We all know that Social Security needs to be strengthened," said Jane Sharp, volunteer leader of AARP Oregon. "However, we need to make sure that the solution isn't worse than the problem."

In Oregon, about 306,000 women, 242,000 men and 31,000 children rely on Social Security benefits in the state. The average benefit for retirees is \$930.

"We have an obligation to current and future generations to make sure that benefits will be there when they are needed—that's why it is our responsibility to advocate for Social Security reform, not to dismantle it," said Sharp.

Sharp noted that it is generally agreed that private accounts won't help Social Security's long-term financial solvency.

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