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World News Briefs

FBI: Sydney Siege Gunman had Raised Incitement Concerns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five years before he held 18 people hostage inside a Sydney cafe, Iranian-born Man Haron Monis attracted the attention of the FBI as someone who had "the potential to incite others to violence," according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

A November 2009 memorandum from an FBI office in Australia to the agency's counterterrorism division said that while Monis was not believed to be a threat to national security, "his ongoing offensive and nuisance behavior has the potential to incite others to violence."

A shotgun-wielding Monis took customers and workers captive in a December 2014 siege at the Lindt Cafe in Sydney and demanded to be delivered an Islamic State flag, an incident that fueled anxiety about the extremist group's expanding influence across the globe. Police stormed the cafe 16 hours later, after Monis fatally shot one of the hostages. Monis was shot dead by police and another hostage was killed in the crossfire.

Though it's been established that Australian authorities failed to detect that Monis was a threat, despite years of warnings, the memo shows how the FBI was itself concerned about his rhetoric even before the Islamic State group emerged as a prominent international force and well ahead of the siege. The documents are heavily redacted, and it was not immediately clear what additional action, if any, was taken in Australia or how widely that assessment was shared across Australian law enforcement.

The memo, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, was drafted as the FBI considered whether the self-styled cleric with a long criminal history should be able to have a U.S.-based Internet service provider host his website. The memo noted that Monis, who also went by the name of Sheikh Haron, maintained on his website "inflammatory and fundamentalist material regarding the Islamic religion, jihad, suicide bombings and terrorism." A "veiled call to jihad against President Barack Obama" had also been observed on the site, according to the note.

Underage Migrants Live in Shadows Across Europe

Outside the train station in Rome, teen migrants sell drugs from school backpacks and trade sex for cash or clothes. In the capital of Sweden, they steal food from supermarkets and sleep on the streets. From makeshift camps along the northern French coast, they try to hop at night onto the backs of moving trucks headed to Britain.

All across Europe, there is a growing shadow population of thousands of underage migrants who are living on their own, without families. They hide silently and in plain sight, rarely noticed in the crowd. Nobody even knows how many of them there are — Europol estimates broadly that at least 10,000 kids have gone missing from shelters or reception centers.

These unaccompanied minors are



People run for safety during a minor land slide following heavy rains in Elangipitiya village in Aranayaka about 72 kilometers (45 miles) north east of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Wednesday, May 18, 2016. Soldiers and police used sticks and bare hands Wednesday to dig through enormous piles of mud covering houses in three villages hit by massive landslides in central Sri Lanka, with hundreds of families reported missing.

slipping through the seams of a European system strained to bursting, and they present one of the biggest challenges of the migrant crisis.

The fact that accurate numbers are so hard to come by reflects the shortcomings of the bloc's 28 member states in implementing laws and guidelines that are supposed to protect asylum seekers in general and unaccompanied minors in particular. While the problem is not new, the sheer volume of migrants arriving last year has made it acute.

Like adult migrants, minors are flooding into Europe for both security and economic reasons, the AP found in interviews with more than two dozen. The question is where they end up.

Imran, a 13-year-old from Afghani-



In this photo taken on Friday, April 15, 2016, 13-year-old Imran, his nickname, an unaccompanied minor from Laghman in Afghanistan, leaves the Jungle Book Restaurant for Kids, set up by volunteers on the main passageway through the makeshift migrant camp in Calais in northern France. Imran, who says he has been at the squalid camp for five months, tries most nights to jump into a truck hauling freight across the English Channel to join his uncle in Britain. All across Europe, there is a growing shadow population of thousands of under-age migrants who are living on their own, without families. They hide silently and in plain sight, rarely noticed in the crowd. Nobody even knows how many of them there are — Europol estimates broadly that at least 10,000 kids have gone missing from shelters or reception centers.

stan, has passed through at least eight countries, mostly on foot, and is now trying to make it from a squalid migrant camp in Calais to the U.K. He dresses neatly in a donated sweat suit and tells his story politely.

Only his gym shoes cracking at the

seams and the cloud over his face hint at the hardship of his life, light years from his dreams of going to "doctor school."

Over 200 Families Feared Buried by Mudslides in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A massive landslide triggered by torrential rains buried homes in three villages in the central hills of Sri Lanka, and more than 200 families were missing Wednesday and feared buried under the mud and debris, the Sri Lankan Red Cross said.

Sixteen bodies have already been recovered and about 180 people have been rescued from the enormous piles of mud unleashed at around 5 p.m. Tuesday, according to military spokesman Brig. Jayanath Jayaweera.

More than 300 soldiers were deployed to search for survivors in the villages of Siripura, Pallegage and Elangipitiya in Kegalle District, about 72 kilometers (45 miles) north of Colombo, Jayaweera said. Heavy fog and continuing rain, along with electricity outages and the instability of the ground, were complicating rescue efforts.

Some 220 families were reported missing on Wednesday, the Sri Lankan Red Cross said in a statement. Officials said the situation was unclear.

State broadcaster Rupavahini showed images of huge mounds of earth covering houses, while torrents of muddy water gushed from hilltops above. Villagers said 66 houses had been buried or damaged, according to local journalist Saman Bandara.

Colombia Battles World's Biggest Drugmaker

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's government is giving pharmaceutical giant Novartis a few weeks to lower prices on a popular cancer drug or see its monopoly on production of

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5-18-16



the medicine broken and competition thrown open to generic rivals.

Health Minister Alejandro Gaviria's remarks in an interview Tuesday are the strongest yet in an increasingly public fight with the world's biggest drugmaker that could set a precedent for middle-income countries grappling to contain rising prices for complex drugs.

Memos leaked last week to a nonprofit group, written from the Colombian Embassy in Washington, describe intense lobbying pressure on Colombia, a staunch U.S. ally, from the pharmaceutical industry and its allies in the U.S. Congress.

In one memo, the embassy warns that breaking Novartis' patent for the leukemia drug Gleevec could hurt U.S. support for Colombia's bid to join the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade zone and even jeopardize \$450 million in U.S. assistance for a peace deal with leftist rebels.

The memos followed meetings between Colombian diplomats and officials from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and a Republican staffer on the Senate Finance Committee whose chairman, Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, has close ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

Gaviria, an economist by training, said the pressure shows the forceful steps that the pharmaceutical industry is willing to take to protect its commercial interests.