

News

World News Briefs

Japan Police Search Home of Stabbing Spree Suspect

SAGAMIHARA, Japan (AP) — Japanese police on Wednesday searched the home of the suspect in a mass stabbing spree that left 19 people dead at a facility for the mentally disabled.

The suspect, 26-year-old Satoshi Uematsu, was transferred earlier in the day from a local police station to the prosecutor's office in Yokohama.

The attacker left dead or injured nearly a third of the approximately 150 patients at the facility in a matter of 40 minutes early Tuesday, Kanagawa prefectural authorities said. The fire department said 25 were wounded, 20 of them seriously.

Uematsu turned himself into police about two hours after the pre-dawn attack in Sagamihara, a city about 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of central Tokyo.

He had worked at the facility until February, when he delivered a letter to Parliament outlining a bloody plan to attack two facilities for the handicapped and saying all disabled people should be put to death.

Witnesses Say South Sudan Soldiers Raped Dozens Near UN Camp

JUBA, South Sudan (AP) — South Sudanese government soldiers raped dozens of ethnic Nuer women and girls

last week just outside a United Nations camp where they had sought protection from renewed fighting, and at least two died from their injuries, witnesses and civilian leaders said.

The rapes in the capital of Juba highlighted two persistent problems in the chaotic country engulfed by civil war: targeted ethnic violence and the reluctance by U.N. peacekeepers to protect civilians.

At least one assault occurred as peacekeepers watched, witnesses told The Associated Press during a visit to the camp.

On July 17, two armed soldiers in uniform dragged away a woman who was less than a few hundred meters (yards) from the U.N. camp's western gate while armed peacekeepers on foot, in an armored vehicle and in a watchtower looked on. One witness estimated that 30 peacekeepers from Nepalese and Chinese battalions saw it.

"They were seeing it. Everyone was seeing it," he said. "The woman was seriously screaming, quarreling and crying also, but there was no help. She was crying for help." He and other witness-



AP PHOTO/SHIZUOKA MURAYASHI
Police officers enter into the house of Satoshi Uematsu, the suspect in a mass stabbing attack, in Sagamihara, outside of Tokyo Wednesday. The suspect was being transferred Wednesday from a local police station to the prosecutor's office in Yokohama.

es interviewed insisted on speaking on condition of anonymity because they feared reprisals by soldiers if identified.

France's Religious Leaders Unite After Church Attack

PARIS (AP) — France's main religious leaders have sent a message of unity and solidarity following a meeting with French President Francois Hollande a day after two extremists attacked a Catholic church and slit the throat of an elderly priest.

Hollande was presiding over a defense council and cabinet meeting Wednesday after speaking with Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish leaders.

On Tuesday, the attackers took hostages at the church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, in the northwest region of Normandy, during morning Mass. After the priest was slain, both attackers, one a local man, were killed by police outside the church.

Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois, called on Catholics to

"overcome hatred that comes in their heart" and not to "enter the game" of the Islamic State group that "wants to set children of the same family upon each other."

The rector of the main Paris mosque, Dalil Boubakeur, said France's Muslims must push for better training of Muslim clerics and urged that reforming French Muslim institutions be put on the agenda, but without elaborating.

California Wildfire Forces Shutdown of Famed Big Sur Parks

BIG SUR, Calif. (AP) — California's signature parks along the Big Sur coastline that draw thousands of daily visitors were closed Tuesday as one of the state's two major wildfires threatened the scenic region at the height of the summer tourism season.

To the south, firefighters made progress containing a huge blaze in mountains outside Los Angeles, allowing authorities to let most of 20,000 people evacuated over the weekend to return home. In Wyoming, a large backcountry wildfire in the Shoshone National Forest put about 290 homes and guest ranches at risk.

The Big Sur fire threatened a long stretch of pristine, forested mountains hugging the coast and sent smoke billowing over the famed Pacific Coast Highway, which remained open with few if any flames visible to motorists but a risk that the blaze could reach beloved campgrounds, lodges and redwoods near the shore.

"It is folly to predict where this fire will go," said California state parks spokesman Dennis Weber.

The Los Angeles-area fire has destroyed 18 homes since it started and authorities over the weekend discovered a burned body in a car identified as a man who refused to be evacuated.

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